The Higher Education As A Training For Business

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PREFACE.

Few facts in education are more striking of late years than the growth in attendance at colleges and universities. The rate of this growth considerably exceeds that of the population of the country as a whole. A concomitant fact is the comparatively small number of college students who are seeking the learned professions. The great mass of the young men in college after graduation will be connected with some form of business.

There are those who think that the present situation is a mistake; that young men are wasting their time, so far as a business career is concerned, by spending years in obtaining a college course. Is this a correct view of the situation?

It must not be forgotten that no college can insure an education to a young man. More definitely, no college ever gives an education to anyone. All that colleges can do is to provide the facilities whereby one who
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wishes may educate himself more efficiently than would otherwise be practicable. It is believed that students who wish may obtain knowledge and training in a college course which will fit them to be more efficient than would otherwise be the case in business activity. It is also believed that a liberal education may provide not merely such increased efficiency, but also so much wider comprehension of society and life as to enable one to be useful and to find interest in a multitude of ways not usual with one who lacks such an education. A college education, in short, may enable one to earn a living. It should also teach one how to live. The following few pages are an attempt to set forth what seem to be considerations in these directions.
THE HIGHER EDUCATION
AS A
TRAINING FOR BUSINESS.

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

"Why should I send my boy to college? He is going into business. If he spends four of his choicest years in student life he will be apt to get expensive habits and unpractical ideas; he will learn little or nothing which he can use. After all he will have to begin at the beginning in his business, and he will merely be so much behind other young men who have been at work while he has been idling. Besides, I never saw the inside of a college, and yet my business career has been a marked success. The same thing is true of most men I meet. What is the use of wasting so much time and money?"

These are questions which many a thoughtful father asks himself, and to which a con-
clusive answer is not always at hand. The following pages are an attempt to group some thoughts which may aid in solving the problem. But this should be distinctly understood at the outset—it is not expected that the conclusion will in all cases be the same. Boys are not alike. Circumstances differ. The wise man is one who is able to apply principles to conditions as they exist. In short, some boys intended for a business life ought by all means to be sent to college. Others as certainly should be kept away from college. And there are others of whom it really does not matter whether they go or stay.

MANY SUCCESSFUL MEN NEVER IN COLLEGE.

There is no doubt at all that great success in business may be won and is won by men who have had very scanty schooling. Bankers, railroad presidents, millionaires of all sorts, who know nothing of college education, are as thick as blackberries. And many of these are not merely men who have amassed a fortune; they are often men of great knowledge of the world, statesmen, philanthropists, con-