

Self Restraint.

Some one has said, when asked about the reasons that led to his position as one of the great men of finance and trade, ~~replied~~ that the hardest thing he had to overcome on his journey to success was "Not to do the things he wanted to do."

That man had mastered himself, he had accomplished self restraint. How little of this worthwhile attribute is taught to the youth of our land. Yet self restraint is the greatest stepping stone toward success. Our parents find it so easy and delightful to say "yes", when the welfare of the child could be benefited best by saying "No." Self indulgence is weakening. It is the mother of selfpity when things do not come just as one desires. Life, at its very best, is a struggle, an indurance test. How much better fitted is the child who, in the home, is taught to work and save and be self reliant. With such strengthening lessons he goes into the business life fitted to cope with others who are striving for the same advantageous position he seeks. While the child in the home who is indulged and petted is by that process and to the same extent it is practiced in the home, weakened and handicapped.

In the business world he is dependent entirely upon his own efforts. There he has no one to provide for him as was his custom in the home. He becomes bitter at the opposition he encounters, because he has not been use to it. He concludes the world is against him, that he is being discriminated against. Believing this, he in turn turns against the world. The result is disastrous. In the home one of the things that should be systematically taught is thrift. The reverse is too often the case. The man who is thrifty never gets laid off from his job. He can get along without the job better than the employer can get along without him. Furthermore his life is calculated to be more successful—perhaps we should say, satisfactory. He is not afflicted with nervousness; he sleeps in peace and is refreshed for further efforts by it; his health is better and his digestion good. He is more likely to be judicious in his actions and is in a position to practice manly independence. He is in a position where his can be GOOD behavior. It is a joy to deal with such men. Such men in the business world are sought after; they are dependable. Such men are the ones who have been brought up in the home to make himself useful and to economize. Such a boy going into the business world will be true to any trust; he will keep his word; he will be loyal to those who employ him and he will not be worried to death by imagined insults nor will he be on the lookout for "slights". He will be silent when silence is "golden" and polite to strangers; he will be considerate of those under him in authority; he will be moderate in his desires, in his eating and his drinking, for he has been taught not to be extravagant. He will be cautious, yet courageous, because he has been taught courage in denying himself things he wanted but could not afford. Such a boy coming into the business life is a delight to deal with and depend upon, whether he be driving a taxi, working in a bank; a clerk in a store or a professional man. With all these virtues does it not seem outrageous that parents are not more particular in training their children for GOOD instead of the doubtful?

But parents are selfish. They are thinking more of their own personal satisfaction than they are of the future of their children. This selfishness makes for the congested conditions of the courts and the prisons and the reform schools. And yet the practice of NEGLECT is growing in the land. It is utterly selfish of parents not to equip their children with that attainment which will best fit them in the struggle of life. Life is a struggle. One who has been taught to depend upon others for their welfare are incapable of becoming successful in that struggle. Virtues are inherited but environment warps the finest virtues into grotesque forms.