OF BUSINESS

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RICHARD ROGERS BOWKER

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The Arts of Life

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BY

RICHARD ROGERS BOWKER

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IGNORANT or educated, self-taught or schooled, the boy or girl, the man or woman, "begins life," — faces the world. "The world," it is said, "is all before him where to choose." At first, this does not seem true. The world of present and personal possibilities is but a part of the great world. Yet it is the open door. Every road leads everywhere. A boy with an "aim in life," and will-power behind the aim, has good chance for any goal. The girl's choice, of old, was passive; she had to wait for her world till a man should open the door for her. But to-day her world also is within her choice; she also may have aim, and need not wait the happening man. Now-adays, boy or girl alike may each measurably decide what his or her busy-ness, work in the world, shall be. Free-will steers predestination, and purpose builds in and out from environment, as the rudder of the great ship, answering to will, controls and directs the predestinating forces of steam and wave.

Facing the World

Choice of Busy-ness

It is a prime usefulness of education that it enables the youth to make a fit choice.

Education and Success

It used to be assumed that education was a hindrance to "success in life." The great merchant was to begin by sweeping out the store. The weakling was the proper candidate for college, whence a living might be assured for him in the church or other "learned profession." A college education was thought a handicap against "practical" achievement. This superstition is one of the husks the world has thrown off. The free play of competition has entered all the professions, and all are the better for it. The theological seminary can no longer send out spiritless souls to inspire spirituality, nor the medical colleges weak characters to tell men how to get strong. Competition demands choice of tools. A man should first know to what "calling" he is called, by nature, by his own nature. We need clay for bricks, oak for a ship's keel, willow for baskets, cast iron for stoves, wrought iron for shovels, the finest steel of finest temper for edge tools. There are men of like materials. Competition — not that for money, but that of qualities — is the test of the modern world. It rejects alike tool steel in place of clay, or clay in place of cast iron. So it rejects from commercial success men of too soft nature,

Competition demands Choice of Tools