

**THE UTILITY OF AN ACADEMIC OR
CLASSICAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG
MEN WHO HAVE TO EARN THEIR OWN
LIVING AND WHO EXPECT TO PURSUE A
COMMERCIAL LIFE; AN INVESTIGATION**

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The Utility of an Academic or Classical Education for Young Men Who Have to Earn Their Own Living and Who Expect to Pursue a Commercial Life; An Investigation by R. T. Crane

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R. T. CRANE

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An Investigation

By R. T. Crane

SECOND EDITION.

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1903

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INTRODUCTION TO SECOND EDITION.

The great interest which has been manifested in the first edition of this little book would indicate that it tended, in a measure at least, to fill a decidedly long-felt want, and this has encouraged me to pursue the subject somewhat further. The fact that my book has met with so little adverse criticism I regard as a great compliment. Indeed, there has been but one criticism, so far as I know, which was worthy of notice, and that is noticed briefly on page 32.

In this second edition, therefore, I have added the results of my further investigation to the matter already contained in the first edition.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

	PAGES.
HERBERT SPENCER'S OPINION OF A CLASSICAL EDUCATION,	7-8
OPINIONS OF COLLEGE MEN.	
A statement of the case—Copy of letter sent to college presidents—Replies from Charles W. Eliot, Arthur T. Hadley, Francis L. Patton, Nicholas N. Butler, G. Stanley Hall, J. B. Angell, A. S. Draper, William R. Harper, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, G. MacLean, E. H. Griffin, E. Benjamin Andrews, and G. Starr Jordan—What the replies show—Copy of letter sent to college graduates—Replies tabulated, and certain deductions—Loyalty to the college—Value of the evidence—Prejudice against college graduates—Conflicting opinions of two graduates—Failure to reply—Second letter of inquiry,	8-32

PART II.

OPINIONS OF BUSINESS MEN.	
Copy of letter sent to one hundred business men—Replies from forty-one firms and business men—Criticisms—Certain deductions—Railroad men—Lewis Institute—"Everything else being equal"—"Would depend on the boy"—Not one consistent believer—The usual method of employing—A college graduate's experience,	33-77

PART III.

FURTHER MISREPRESENTATIONS OF EDUCATORS.

PAGES.

President Jordan's extravagant claims—College captains of industry—The testimony of Mr. Andrew Carnegie—Letters from President Thwing—Professor Chaplin's fatal admissions—Reply to Professor Clark, 78-87

PART IV.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT.

Words of wisdom—The importance of starting right—Cost of a college education—Success with and without education—College conceit and pessimism—Object of education—The maximum of happiness—Happiness from success—False pride—When is a man educated?—The best college is the world—College men have no special ability—Educators do not agree—A practical surrender—Colleges patronized by the rich—Top-heavy education, 88-105

PART V.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL MEN.

The value of technical education—Lawyers—A thankless task, 106-110

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PART ONE.

HERBERT SPENCER'S OPINION OF A
CLASSICAL EDUCATION.

Upon the subject of education Mr. Herbert Spencer has the following to say:

"The remark is trite that in his shop, or his office, in managing his estate or his family, in playing his part as director of a bank or a railway, he [the college graduate] is little aided by this knowledge he took so many years to acquire—so little that generally the greater part of it drops out of his memory. * * *

"If we inquire what is the real motive for giving boys a classical education, we find it to be simply conformity to public opinion. Men dress their children's minds as they do their bodies, in the prevailing fashion.
* * *

"A boy's drilling in Latin and Greek is insisted on, not because of their intrinsic value, but that he may not be disgraced by being found ignorant of them—that he may have the 'education of a gentleman'—the badge marking a certain social position, and bringing a consequent respect. * * *

"To get above some and be revered by them, and to propitiate those who are above us, is the uni-