

accepts the proposition with all the unseemly haste of an elderly young lady receiving an offer of marriage. (The writer is a very fierce lady-killer. He has proposed to about twenty, more or less, consequently he speaks as an authority.) Not many ages have elapsed since a lovely bunch of happy and careless would-be engineers grasped their degrees and plunged into the conventional "cold world." The world did not seem to be particularly disturbed by the event, and its waters were not evaporated to any great extent. The ripples soon died away—they scarcely formed—but a merciful Providence provided six and seven-dollar life preservers for such of the aforesaid young engineers as had failed to secure a "pull" and incidentally a better position.

Most of them, however, have learned much that is not taught in schools during their brief "practical experience." But even those whose experience has been the most severely practical, the men who have worked as line-men, ice machine oilers, locomotive firemen, machinists' helpers, etc., are not at all envious of their fellow graduates who, in the language of a certain Prof., have not been obliged to discount their expectations as greatly.

The college man who accepts a menial position is usually consoled by a delightful inward sense of heroic condescension—but if he has enough plain "horse-sense" to supply him betwixt dusk and dawn he never attempts to show his imaginary superiority by word or action. The idea, which appears quite prevalent, that a strong prejudice exists against college men among the laboring classes is probably due to the tendency of some college graduates to "put on airs."

American mechanics and the higher class of laborers are independent and free in expressing their opinions on any subject from expansion to the joys (?) of a pay-day jag. The man who conveys the idea that he belongs to a superior order usually discovers that the aforesaid expression of opinion is not necessarily entirely vocal—ere long little Willie yearns for the soothing cigarette and cultured atmosphere of the Frat. house. On the other hand, if a man shows that he wants to learn the practical side of his work, and is not ashamed of his ignorance, he will receive plenty of assistance and not infrequently he is in a position where he can explain things to his teachers. The situation is clearly set forth by the remark made to a college man by a foreman: "Now, if there is anything that you don't know that I can help you on, don't be afraid to ask me, and if I ask you any questions I shall expect you to help me." The process of assimilation is generally rapid, and frequently the only means for a superficial observer to detect the college man is by the amount of profanity he uses. He either swears much more or much less than the others. The art of picturesque and lurid profanity is not necessarily confined to pirates and