

they seemed so far justified, if men are ever able to prophesy. Was not Jean the foremost boy in his classes? Was he not perfect in his department? Was he not far ahead of all children of his age? He received the unlimited praise of his teacher and school mates and the adulation of the entire town. But Jean was only human, such continued praise wrought a pernicious effect, brought on an undermining influence which in later years proved his ruin. It cultivated in him a restless ambition, associated with hot-headed impatience, to which there was no curb. It brought on a greed for flattery, an appetite for greatness that he could not yet contain. It grew on him until he tried to compass everything, to learn everything, to do everything in a day.

With all this, he would never admit his faults or his weakness and frequently he tried, in order to show his disregard of such inordinate desires, to appear as one of the meekest, humblest and simplest of individuals; but behind all, the glitter of his eye, the firm set mouth showed the true spirit, the ruling desire. In early childhood this weakness was not apparent, except by a close inspection of his habits. To all he seemed the model child, animated only by a natural and commendable desire to excel, accordingly he was encouraged until his fault became deep-rooted and precluded real advancement. Whether this character was inherited in part or altogether developed by his peculiar surroundings, we leave for the speculative reader, but undoubtedly his surroundings and training worked a most potent cause in his development. Naturally endowed with a bright and capable mind, in which no doubt, (as phrenologists term it,) the organ of imagination was prominent, nurtured in a country full of romance and adventure, at a time in the "boom" of the west in which the most trifling man was filled with hope and ambition, overpraise and flattery of parents and friends should develop a morbid state in the child.

In the beginning of Jean's school days, he often worried his mother by grumbling because there were some studying the same book, who were ahead of him. She tried to pacify him, telling him that he had just begun the book and would