When he was 13, he felt that he should help out to provide for the family needs by going to work. What he could bring in would be small, but he felt it was his duty to contribute. He told his parents that he wished to quit school and begin to work. To this they replied, 'But he had custom on his side, hope of his station in life, expected to begin work at his age or earlier.' The parents recoined with him about the need of learning, but he thought that learning was not a matter of going to school; it is an inner hunger. He knew that his own father had not obtained more than the fundamentals at school and yet through study had acquired an unusually good education. Being a strong-willed boy and possessed of an unruly ability to persuade, he left school and found work in a shipping office. Here his penmanship, which he took great pride, was an asset for all copying. His love for long hand, and legibility, rapidity and beauty was of great importance in this field. He worked long and faithfully to improve his handwriting above to look like copper-plate engraving.