

Why is the Orleans library called the Snow Library?



*Read the biography of
David Snow and find out.*

On Sale Now at the Reference
Desk at cost for only \$26.*

Make checks payable to the Friends of Snow Library

*
Additional contributions would be greatly appreciated.



The Friends of Snow Library wish to thank
Thompson's Printing whose generous
contribution made this project possible.

POVERTY TO PLENTY

THE LIFE OF

DAVID SNOW

CONTENTS

Chapter I . . . Cape Cod5	Chapter II . . . Ancestors 8
Chapter III . . . Early Life 11	Chapter IV . . . Off the Cape15
Chapter V . . . Early Attempts at Money-Making 17	
Chapter VI . . . A Western Adventurer 29	
Chapter VII . . . Defeat and Victory 43	
Chapter VIII . . . A New Departure 51	
Chapter IX A Change in Business 59	
Chapter X Place found at Last 65	
Chapter XI Snow and Rich 83	
Chapter XII Sailing my own Craft 97	
Chapter XIII Scraps from my Diary 115	
Chapter XIV Miscellaneous Writings 132	

ILLUSTRATIONS

Portrait (*Frontispiece*)

The House in which I was born 9
Carrying the Barrel to my Clam-House 16
A Narrow Escape 20
Going West 30
Linsey-Woolsey at Auction 34
Bound to New Orleans 36
I Sat Down and Wept like a Child. 48
Peddling Cakes. 56

PREFACE

For several years past I have been repeatedly urged to write a history of my life; but I have had neither time nor inclination to do it until now. I am aware that it is a delicate task for any one to make public their own acts from childhood to old age, especially if their lives have been as active and varied as mine; but I am encouraged by many who have gone before me, whose lives have stimulated me to new resolves to leave no stone unturned that I might accomplish the seeming destiny for which I was created.

In a country like ours, the native-born citizen takes pride in what are called "self-made men,"- persons who, without wealth or early educational advantages, have struggled against misfortune until, by their unaided exertions, they have mastered the situation, and have been acknowledged successful. They may have been reared in a log cabin or lowly cottage, or lived ragged, barefoot, and scantily clothed, toiling daily for a meagre supply of food, and not knowing, at times, from whence their next morsel was to come; and yet they pushed on, confronting every obstacle, facing every storm, until by industry and economy they conquered all.

I am fully persuaded that every young man holds his destiny in his own hands, and may, with Divine help, become about what he determines to be. Mr. Colfax is the son of a poor widow; Mr. Lincoln was a rail-splitter; Dr. A. Stevens, the historian of Methodism, was a poor factory boy; Isaac Rich commenced life by bagging oysters at the North End. There are men all around us who started in life poor; but application to books or trade, accompanied by economy, have made them the leading minds of the land. But if the young man prefers play to study, the social glass to temperance, a life of idleness to one of active industry, he will be sure to reap what he sows.

I never really felt the need of culture until I was nearly twenty years of age. Up to that time I worked hard to earn a scanty supply of bread. When I began to realize the necessity of improving my mind, I give what spare time I could command to reading such books as came in my way; but I had to grope along in the dark with no kind hand to help me; and only an inward impulse which said: "I can and will be something more than a mere 'hewer of wood and drawer of water,'" kept up my spirits. I read history, and was particularly interested in the life of Rothschild, who, though poor at first, by honesty and industry rose to be the greatest banker of the world.

My only object in sending this manuscript to the press while living, is the hope that it may benefit some young man who is acquainted with me. If it should help any struggling one to hope on, I shall be more than compensated for all trouble and expense. If I am ambitious in any one thing, it is that I may stimulate those who come after me to take courage, remembering that what has been done can be done again. Seek not merely fame, honor, or worldly emoluments, for these all perish; but live so as to benefit others. Aim high, and God will help those who help themselves. Hang out no false lights; but be true to yourself, to your country, and to your God.