

In this educating, though not elevating, sphere, he may spend the rest of his newspaper life. If he rises above it, he goes into general reporting. He serves his time at police headquarters, in the trial courts, civil and criminal, dabbles in politics and finance, learns to write columns about nothing and to tell something in ten lines. He becomes a "star man," perhaps.

There may be more excitement in the life of an Arctic or an African explorer than in that of a "star man," but there is certainly less variety. One week this reportorial Bayard is hunting a murderer through dingy tenements; the next he is reporting some big trial; the next he is off in a small tug boat searching the Atlantic for a belated steamship or chasing a Presidential candidate on a stumping tour of the country. The life is so fascinating that many men prefer reportorial to editorial work. They have the leisure to branch off into purely literary work, and have before them as goals such desirable posts as those of the London or Washington correspondents; or they may become special commissioners and rescue fair women from Cuban prisons and interview the Pope regarding their paper's circulation.

Of the editorial places on a great paper to which a man may fall heir there are a score, beginning at the actual ownership and going down. Every morning paper has a managing editor, a city editor and a night editor, each with an assistant attached. Then there are the copy readers, the editorial writers, the sporting editor, the telegraph editor, the racing editor, the dramatic editor, society editor and the book reviewers.

The great disadvantage in newspaper life is the fact that there is so much night work. On the afternoon papers the men begin their labor at about half-past eight in the morning and quit at half-past four o'clock. But as a penalty for keeping civilized hours they must work with great rapidity, for from two to five editions are turned on the street in a day. A chosen few on a morning paper begin labor at ten o'clock and end it at six. The majority are on duty from noon until one or two o'clock in the morning. This owl-like life has its drawbacks, but it has also its fascinations. One soon becomes accustomed to it, and many a man having once acquired the habit of living at night and sleeping in the daytime finds it difficult to adjust himself to the hours of the generality of mankind. I know of one old reporter who gave up a place on an afternoon paper because he could not sleep.