

Selections From *The Autobiography of James Hopkinson*

Important passages:

- G2 & G7 – Reflections on marriage
- G6 – High moral standards (specifically about lying)
- G9 – First introduction to alcohol & cigarettes, perceptions about manhood, consequences
- Note on Money: 1 pound ≈ \$120; 1 shilling ≈ \$5-\$6
- Timeline of Hopkinson's Life:
  - Description of Father's trysts and courtships
  - Childhood (aversion to school and education)
  - Apprenticed
  - Introduction to Religion (meets future wife at church)
  - Becomes a Journeyman
  - Mother dies
  - Married soon after mother's death
  - Opens own shop in Liverpool

Similarities to Now

Immaturity in workplace

Trusting women (G20)

Workmen's protests and revolts

Unionized work system

Drinking, excess thereof

Morality

James is very driven & determined

Predominant church

Respect to elders

Lessons

With God & love, James avoids the pressures of drinking, smoking, and frivolity that dominated his childhood

Relationship w/ Father

Father was very distant...ugly baby comment...rarely home for meals...father's remarrying was almost a footnote in the story...James never talks about his father's feelings for his wife, but his mother's feelings are very prevalent

Questions Raised

Did James live a good life?

What sort of occupation would James have today? Lumberjack?

Purpose of this reading in relation to the rest of the unit and course?

Differences From Now

Meeting women

Police involvement and effectiveness

Process of apprenticeship – time & payment

Industrial Revolution Effects

Urban population soars

Skilled labor less necessary

Non-skilled work phased out for machinery

Necessity of apprenticeship disappears

Hand made goods need to be higher quality

Poor quality goods risk losing business