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James K., Lowe, The Korean Penman

The checkered career of Mr. Lowe may be interesting to some of the readers of The Business Educator who are struggling to become expert penmen and engrossers.

Mr. Lowe is a native of Korea, having been born in that country in 1880. At the early age of seven years he lost his parents. For the next three years he followed the life of a cabin boy on a steamship, then became assistant oiler, and after seeing many different parts of the world landed in San Francisco in 1900. In that vicinity he worked on a fruit farm with the Japanese. While engaged in this occupation he fell in with a missionary by the name of Dr. Drew, and another Korean, who advised him to become a Christian and go to school, so he embraced the Christian religion and attended public school for six years, when the terrible earthquake happened in San Francisco, and not being -fond of earthquakes young Lowe then went to Los Angeles, where he continued school for another year and a half.

After his schooling Mr. Lowe wandered from city to city until he reached Boston, Mass., and remained there until 1910. About this time Mr. Lowe's artistic nature became aroused in the subject of penwork which naturally took him back west again as far as Columbus, where he attended the Zanerian College of Penmanship and graduated in 1912. His next move was back to Boston, where he was engaged by Frank W. Martin as assistant in diploma work. Then he came to Brooklyn and was engaged by Dennis & Baird to assist in diploma filling and other work, where he is now employed.

Since he was a small boy of only seven years, Mr. Lowe has been self-supporting, and has seen much of the world. His success in carving out his own way, attending school, and acquiring so much skill as an all-round penman and engrosser should be an incentive to our boys, born in this country, with far less obstacles in their path. It simply shows the result of well-directed industry.

But Mr. Lowe is not only well up' in pen work; he possesses great mechanical skill and seems to have the knack of making with tools, anything he chooses. He showed us a folding table of his own manufacture, not only adjustable and very useful, but, ornamental as well, and a spacing T square of his own make is equal to any we ever saw.

Mr. Lowe is of gentlemanly deportment, good character, and speaks and writes very good English, although he sometimes, gets a little mixed with our modern "slang."

We do not know of any Korean penman except Mr. Lowe, and he tells us that the "professional penman" is something unknown in his native country. While the Japanese, Chinese and Koreans are very skillful in other directions, ornamental penmanship would naturally be foreign to them, since their written characters do not seem adapted to artistic work.

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