

A MODERN MARK TAPLEY IS "BILLY" PICKERING

He is as Optimistic as Ever
Dickens' Character
Was.

HIS INTERESTING LIFE STORY.

Sailor, P. O. Clerk, Track Walker,
Stable Boy—Now He's a Success-
ful Artist Photographer.

It is generally conceded that the suc-
cess along any line depends upon the
foundation of character, not only ability,
but steadfastness, that determining power

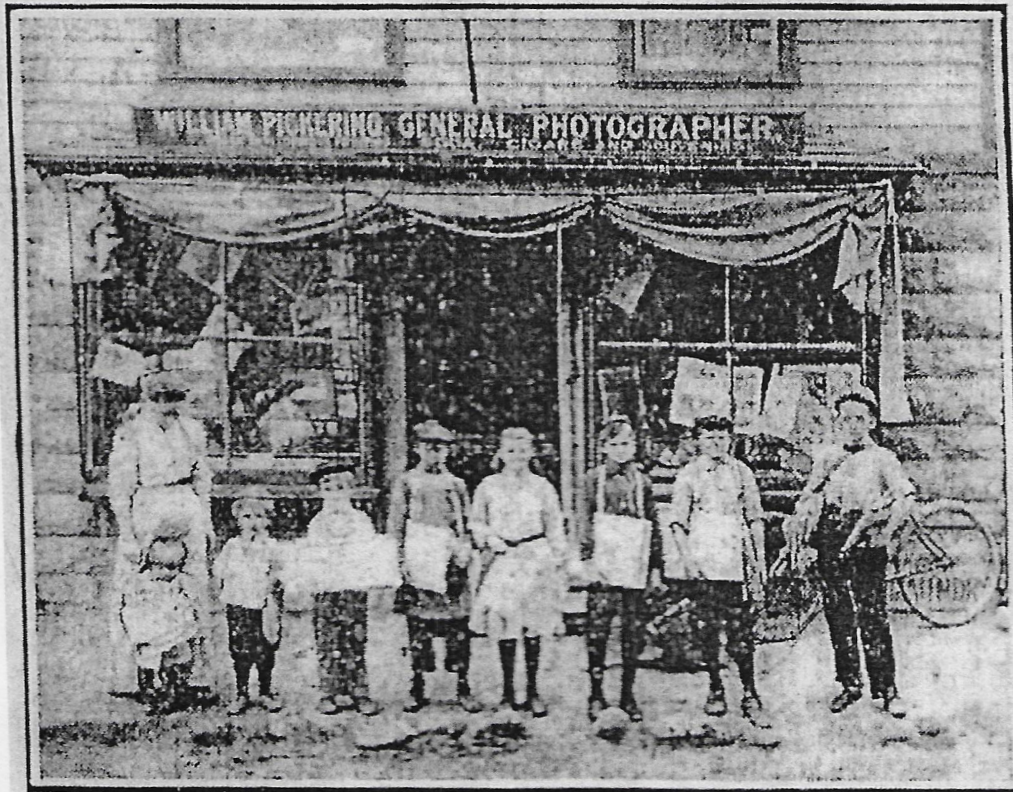


William Pickering.

which finally gets in the wedge that is
the lever to lift the heaviest obstacles,
is required.

These factors, with an unfailing cheer-
fulness, seem to explain why William
Pickering of Roslyn, L. I., locally known
as "Billy" Pickering, is at last having
success meet him more than half way.
His life story is not only interesting be-
cause of his varied life and pursuits, but
it is an example which counts for much
in a time when one is constantly hearing
or reading of men who have lost courage,
grown faint hearted, and are berating

THE PICKERING FAMILY.



All Are Hustlers and All Are Cheerful.

everything but their own lack of faith and persistent effort.

Pickering, who is now 42 years of age, twenty-one years ago came to New York from England, and went at once to Texas, where, he was told, opportunities were better than in the East and North.

The first employment offered he accepted because he knew that waiting for opportunities does not always bring them, and he began as track walker in the service in the Southern Pacific Railroad.

He worked on this line for about three years, when he had his first setback, and just as he had been promised a good position—after he recovered from a long siege of typhoid fever, he was just in the condition to be homesick, and as he was unfit for work, he decided to go to his English home and recuperate.

After a three-months stay he decided to return to the United States, although he was offered his old position in the general post office and through the kindly offices of his sister he had found a sweetheart.

Lure of the New World Strong.

But a taste of life in the new country had spoiled him for living in the old, and he knew he could get a home more quickly here. He did not, however, go West this time. New York city was nearer the incoming steamships, and he hoped soon to send for the English girl who was to be his wife.

His opportunity this time was the situation of coachman and gardener on a small place up the Hudson; his next was at Roslyn, on Long Island, and to that village came his sweetheart, and there they were married.

Among the various places he worked in that neighborhood was Glenwood, on the place of Judge Townsend Scudder, then a young lawyer. Pickering, who was only a stable boy there, says that few memories are more treasured by him than those of the unfailing consideration of his young employer, who never made his work needlessly harder, but lightened it when possible, and who treated him with a thoughtful kindness that made his duties pleasant.

Some of the Work Pickering Has Done.

Pickering has progressed from a sailor aboard a merchantman, a post office employee, worker on the railroads, stable boy, gardener's assistant, gardener, coachman, and general utility man to an amateur photographer with a fifty-cent camera, and thence to a professional photographer, whose work is accepted by most of the daily papers and other publications, and who, in addition to other work, is the official photographer for Nassau County.

Besides his outdoor and interior work he has a thriving newsstand business and a little store where is sold tobacco, cigars, candy and illustrated postals.

While he was willing to begin at the foot of the ladder, he never intended

staying there, nor did the fact that he was doing work he was not in sympathy with interfere with his preparation for something better. He has the bulldog tenacity of the typical Briton, holding fast to a purpose until its fulfillment.

He became interested in photography because he was interested in so many things connected with it. He loved horses, nature and children, and he had an observant eye and adaptation, and his little pocket camera opened the way to a profession he believed he could succeed in because he loved it and was in earnest, and this beget the enthusiasm which breeds success.

Never Lost His Courage.

He always intended to own his own home, and proceeded to get about it without wasting time or opportunities, and he was never for a moment daunted by the fact that a handicap was a family that increased faster than a supporting revenue. He is fortunate in having a wife as cheerful, patient and industrious as himself. The children came fast, but they were all welcome, and an incentive for greater effort. To-day, of the nine children born, eight are living, and it is as amusing as it is interesting to see how each has its place in the working plan for their mutual benefit.

The writer happened in the store late one afternoon, just as the news wagon stopped to deliver the big bundles of evening papers. Before it came to a standstill it was surrounded by young Pickering's, and the way the great packages were handled by these little laddles was a lesson in industry.

Every load was a staggering one, but it reached its corner safely, and the work of untying, sorting and folding was begun at once. There were two who seemed only just beyond the baby age, but what they lacked in size and years they made up in spirit. The elder of these two was inclined to give orders, and, dumping a big package carelessly where the littlest one was gravely folding and counting, said: "Here, get this ready for the wagon." The little brother looked up with eyes that betoken anger, but, after a steady, reproving glance, said: "You 'tend to your work, and I'll 'tend to mine," which he certainly did.

If the children are at school and Pickering away photographing on the big estates where he has a steady patronage, his wife wheels the baby, awake or asleep, into the store, and is as cheerful over the interruption as if she had nothing else to do.

Whole Family Is Always Busy.

There is always a lot of work to do developing for amateurs, and the eldest daughter is an able assistant here, as well as in housewifely duties.

Pickering is just now busy photographing paintings, statues and works of art in the Stanley Mortimer house. Among his patrons are the Mackeys, Mortimers, Bryces, Godwins, Beekmans, Ripleys, Willets, Hogins, and in fact, most of the countryside families, all of whom not only have and use cameras themselves, but have in their employ men who take snapshots of house groups, horses, dogs and various vehicles on the premises.

Pickering's life is a lesson, for it teaches that the family bond is an important factor in success; that children may be helps and not hindrances; that sobriety, good temper and optimism hasten one on the road to prosperity.

It was not that his earlier employments were to be sneered at. Honest work was a stepping stone, even if a little one.

While Pickering worked as gardener's



Roslyn's Newsgirl.

assistant on the Mackay place, as stable boy at the Scudders, as coachman for George Card Pease, he was all the time planning how to move up another round on the ladder. He was never discouraged himself, nor ever by his wife, and today over a very wide area Billy Pickering is not only well known, but universally respected and liked.