

Father's Estimation of His Son

I have great anticipations for that only son of mine.
He is going to be a wonder in any chosen line.
His name will be proclaimed abroad, in every foreign land,
When he gets an education and has grown to be a man.

He'll be an "Abraham Lincoln" in a fundamental way,
With a John D. style of taking in the dough,
But will use some less partiality when ready to donate,
And help to fight the cause of want and woe.
His head's like Daniel Webster's, with a heart like Gene V. Debs,
And built like Jimmie Jeffries—with muscles hard as lead—
A Yankee boy for genius, and Irish blood for wit,
With English bulldog tactics and Scottish brand of grit.

That horticulture wizard will compliment my boy
Should he desire to make potatoes grow.
Or as an electrician I'm sure he'll learn some things
That Mr. Thomas Edison doesn't know.
He'll have Mr. Teddy Roosevelt or Bryan skinned for speech,
Or put one over Billy Sunday should he decide to preach.
If a farmer or a rancher, he'll be honored everywhere
With the bluest shade of ribbon at state or county fair.

Those Philadelphia lawyers won't be in it with my kid
If he wants to follow that particular line.
Or decide to take up music, no one ever has been born
That will sound the notes like that great boy of mine.
If he's a politician he will be a crackerjack.
If he wants to be a doctor he sure will be no quack.
Should he choose to be an actor he will make a brilliant star.
Or president, be all for peace and sudden death to war.

If he's a school professor he will use a better rule
Of explaining how and when and which and what,
So the whole conglomeration can be clearly understood
By a senior, middy or the little tot.
He'll be right in love and honor, hope and truth, and strong in faith,
Have a true idea of justice, and I know he'll set a pace
In the reformation movement, when he becomes a man,
That will chase the germ of hard times from the land of Uncle Sam.

Yes, I've great anticipations for that only son of mine,
For he's going to be a wonder in any chosen line.
His name will be proclaimed abroad, in every foreign land,
When he gets an education and has grown to be a man.

—L. Sherman Russell, Cour d'Alene, Idaho.