CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

My Life and Work

Henry Ford · *1922 · Ford, in collaboration with Samuel Crowther*

We have only started on our development of our country—we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. Later he will say: I was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn, Michigan. Henry Ford, in collaboration with Samuel Crowther, 1922, Project Gutenberg #7213. For grades 10–12. Name Crowther. The book opens with an idea about work and progress, then returns to a farm. Quote this 1922 English, not a later slogan of industry only.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read My Life and Work as what it is—Henry Ford, in collaboration with Samuel Crowther, opening with a claim that the country has only scratched the surface, and only later naming a farm at Dearborn in 1863?

"We have only started on our development of our country--we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. The"

Introduction, What Is the Idea?

The title page says In Collaboration With Samuel Crowther; name him. The book opens not with the birth, but with an idea: we have only started on our development of our country, and with all our talk of wonderful progress have done no more than scratch the surface. Progress has been wonderful enough, but compared with what there is to do, past accomplishments are as nothing. Later, in "The Beginning," he was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn, Michigan, and his earliest recollection is that there was too much work on the place. Teach both, for grades 10–12. Quote the 1922 book, not a later slogan of industry only.

KEY CHARACTERS

Henry Ford
Who writes, with Samuel Crowther, of work still to do, and of a farm at Dearborn in 1863

Samuel Crowther
Named on the title page as collaborator; not to be omitted

The Dearborn farm
Where he was born, and where his earliest recollection is of too much work on the place

HOW TO BEGIN THIS LIFE AND WORK

> *"We have only started on our development of our country--we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. The"*
>
> Introduction

> *"I was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn, Michigan, and my earliest"*
>
> Chapter I

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Only Started, Only a Scratch

INTRODUCTION, WHAT IS THE IDEA?

We have only started on our development of our country—we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. The life opens as a claim about work still to do.

- Keep "only started" and "scratch the surface."
- 10–12.
- This is the introduction, before the farm.
- Quote this English, including the dash as printed.

> *"We have only started on our development of our country--we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. The"*
>
> Introduction, What Is the Idea?

02

What There Is to Do

INTRODUCTION, WHAT IS THE IDEA?

The progress has been wonderful enough—but when we compare what we have done with what there is to do, then our past accomplishments are as nothing. The standard is the work remaining.

- Keep "what there is to do."
- Wonder is admitted, and then measured.
- 10–12.
- Not a later advertisement only.

> *"The progress has been wonderful enough--but when we compare what we have done with what there is to do, then our past accomplishments are as nothing. When we"*
>
> Introduction, What Is the Idea?

03

Born on a Farm at Dearborn

CHAPTER I, THE BEGINNING

I was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn, Michigan. The life has a date and a farm, after the idea.

- Keep the date, and Dearborn.
- Do not start only with the later factory.
- 10–12.
- Name Crowther when you describe the book.

> *"I was born on July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn, Michigan, and my earliest"*
>
> Chapter I, The Beginning

04

Too Much Work on the Place

CHAPTER I, THE BEGINNING

His earliest recollection is that, considering the results, there was too much work on the place. That is the way he still feels about farming. A boyhood judgment becomes a later theme.

- Keep "too much work on the place."
- He will later tell a legend that his parents were very poor; teach the distinction if you come to it, as he writes it.
- 10–12.
- The farm is not a backdrop only.

> *"and my earliest recollection is that, considering the results, there was too much work on the place. That is"*
>
> Chapter I, The Beginning

05

Ford, and Samuel Crowther, 1922

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #7213 is My Life and Work, 1922, by Henry Ford in collaboration with Samuel Crowther. Name both. Quote this book, not a later company history or a slogan of industry only. For grades 10–12. Later chapters on machines, wages, and manufacturing belong to the same argument; one map cannot teach them all.

- Name Crowther.
- The introduction's idea comes before the birth.
- Not a film of the Model T only.
- Work, a farm, and a claim about what is still to do.

> *"We have only started on our development of our country--we have not as yet, with all our talk of wonderful progress, done more than scratch the surface. The"*
>
> Introduction, What Is the Idea?

Work still to do

Progress measured by what remains

A farm at Dearborn

A life told with a collaborator

Machines later, a farm first

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. The title page is "In Collaboration With Samuel Crowther." Name him.
2. The book opens with an idea: we have only started, and have done no more than scratch the surface. The Dearborn farm comes later.
3. Born July 30, 1863, on a farm at Dearborn; his earliest recollection is that there was too much work on the place.
4. The 1922 book, PG #7213, for grades 10–12. Quote it, not a later slogan of industry only. One map cannot teach every later chapter.

Quotations are verbatim from the Ford, in collaboration with Samuel Crowther, Project Gutenberg #7213, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/ford-my-life-and-work/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.