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# Sand

by Eugene V. Debs

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There is no quality in human nature more admirable than "sand." The man who has lots of "sand" is the successful man. No obstacles daunt him, no allurements turn him aside from the path he has marked. Grant's declaration — "we will fight it out on this line if it takes all summer" — has become a proverb because back of the statement stood the man of "sand."

"Sand" means grit; it means the power to hold on. When an engine is called upon to exert its greatest strength it needs sand to give it a better grip on the track. When men are called upon to exert their greatest mental and physical strength, "sand" is necessary. Men who have plenty of "sand" in their boxes never slip on the path of duty. Wet weather and greasy tracks do not effect them, their "sand" will not let them fail.

The man of "sand" is a moral hero; no wavering on his part when duty commands his action. Be it at the bedside of the suffering or in the wild rush of the midnight train, the man of "sand" does what he is called upon to do, quickly, calmly, boldly. No quiver in his iron nerve. Death alone can conquer the man of "sand."

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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