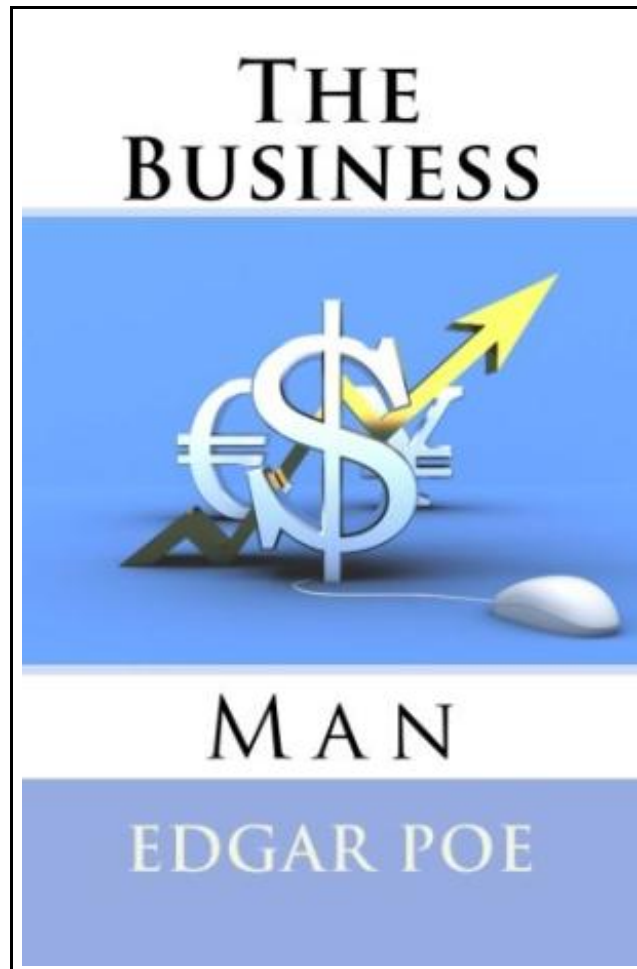


## The Business Man



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***(Lula Graham IV)***

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 24 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.1in. x 0.1in. The Business Man is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe about a businessman boasting of his accomplishments. It was published in February 1840 in Burton's Gentlemen's Magazine. The story questions the concept of a self-made man. The narrator of the story is Peter Proffit, a methodical businessman by his own admission. He says a nurse swung him around when he was a young boy, and he bumped his head against a bedpost. That single event determined his fate: the resulting bump was in the area dedicated to system and regularity, according to phrenology. Proffit goes on to say that he despises geniuses and that they are all asses; the greater the genius, the greater the ass. Geniuses can not, he says, be turned into men of business. At the age of fourteen, his father forced him to work as a merchant, which Proffit could not stand. He says that though most boys run away from home at the age of twelve, he chose to wait until the age of sixteen. What finally convinced him was his mother's suggestion that he work as a grocer. Instead, he becomes a Walking-Advertisement for a tailor. Feeling swindled by his employer over a penny, however, he moves on to start his own business. Proffit goes into the Eye-Sore business. When he sees a large home or palace being built, he buys a nearby or adjoining property and builds a mud-hovel or pig-sty so ugly that he is paid 500 the value of the lot to tear it down. One owner, however, offers less than 500. In retaliation, Proffit lamp-blacks the house overnight. For this, he is jailed, and ostracized by others in the...

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