

THE LOYAL EMPLOYEE

AN ARTICLE WORTHY A SECOND READING



DEAR DAUGHTER: As you are about to enter upon your first work away from home, and, as you know, I am very anxious that you should make a success of this work as well as your life work, I have concluded to offer you a few suggestions. There are many things that I might say to you—should like to say to you—in such a letter, but I shall most likely confine myself to one subject—one that is not likely to be touched upon by anyone else who feels inclined to offer advice.

I take it that all educational institutions have some points in common; that your superintendent will have some of the trials, cares worries, etc., that your father has had in the past twelve years; that he will have many true, loyal, helpful employees, as I have had; it is possible that he may have a few fault-finding grumblers though I sincerely hope he may not. You will have a chance to be one of the former; to stand by him, to help him, to make his load a little lighter, his work a little better. It may be that you will be tempted sometimes to be of the kind to criticise, to look for mistakes, to complain when things go wrong and you feel inclined to blame someone else. Most of us have such times. If there is a disloyal employee in the institution she will be very anxious to make all her troubles known, but very quietly. She will be industrious and insidious. The chances are that she will be many years your senior, possibly someone who has had hard knocks, who has had to rustle for herself, and with ill success, until she looks upon anyone who is over her as an enemy. Often she is to be pitied, but that does not make her any the less harmful. She has allowed the fault-finding habit to grow upon her until it has become a part of her. It hinders her work, bothers the superintendent, and is sure to react against her. She may be agreeable and pleasant in some ways, and one to whom you will want to be friendly, but if she approaches you with a tale of woe against the administration, let her know in some way that you do not care to hear it.

It is probable that your superintendent may make mistakes, possibly grave ones, but it is more than probable that he will be the first to see them and the most anxious not to repeat them. Because he does not make an open confession of them is no reason that he does not see his mistakes. In any case the chances are that he is much better suited for his position than are any of his employees. It may be that some will think he has made mistakes when he has not. They cannot know