

THE BUSINESS OF LIFE

There are many so-called failures in life. It requires little thought or effort to be a failure, hence the large army of failures—both men and women. On the other hand it requires effort and disciplined thought to succeed. In speaking of successes we do not wish it thought that we measure successes from a monetary standpoint—far from it. It is what a man, or woman, boy, or girl, does which stamps him, or her, a success in life. In all the annals of human life, there never was a greater success than Abraham Lincoln, but no one ever mentions his name in connection with money.

The greatest problem in life is to get started at the right thing early enough to succeed—for life is very short at best. Many people have spent half of their lives before finding their real bent, or forte. Countless thousands have lived and died without finding out just what they were best fitted for, and consequently, were delegated to the ranks of the failures. It is the part of wisdom to make a choice of a vocation during the golden period of youth and then stick to it with all the tenacity of your being. Determine early to be a success, to do something for the glorification of yourself and your fellows, and pursue that idea unswervingly and eternally—to the end of your days.

Throughout the educational circles of the world the idea of educating both the head and the hand is forcing consideration. No one decries higher education, provided it is on a proper basis. Much harm is done by so-called higher education when its recipient leaves his college or University with the idea that he is too good, or too smart, to work, or that honest labor is degrading. Such an education is a curse rather than a benefit for any country. On the other hand higher education which sends real men and real women forth to assist with brain and hand in the battles of the world are among our greatest blessings. Would that our universities turned out more of the latter!

Some of our greatest men, our "empire builders," have enjoyed but little schooling advantages. But they had purpose and desire to do, to achieve, and back of that desire they possessed the courage of conviction. They worked with both head and hands, just as we do here at Chemawa. They made successes of themselves. In almost every instance such men made their choice of what they would be early in life and followed it in spite of all obstacles.

When a young person spends a few years of his youth at a certain calling or trade and then abandons it, he or she, loses in many ways beyond the power of calculation. A good portion of the best of one's life has gone into eternity. Wasted time and wasted life are gone forever—there is no recall.

We beseech our young readers, both at home and abroad, to ponder these matters deeply and consider the course that you think yourselves best fitted for with promises of fair success, and, having made your choice, stick to it with "might and main," early and late.