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OPPORTUNITY

Mamie Frisk, Grade Nine

The word "opportunity" is derived from the two Latin words which mean at port. A boat was to the Greek what the automobile and railroad train are to the man of to-day; when a thing was at port, it was ready at hand waiting to be used, so we get our meaning of opportunity—a thing at hand ready to be used. The old Greeks expressed the idea of the word opportunity very aptly in this fable:

Opportunity came to men's doors under the guise of a man whose head was bald in back and who had a tuft of hair in front. When he came knocking and the people answered, he would come into their dwelling if asked. They had to catch him quickly before he went by. But if they shut the door on him he was gone forever, for no one could catch and hold him fast, if his back was once turned. ~~Only when~~ he faced them could he be held by the lock on his forehead.

It is well to grasp every opportunity that comes your way and make good use of it. If Lincoln had not grasped every opportunity that came his way he would never have become a lawyer. He made use of all opportunities. One day a farmer gave him a barrelful of odds and ends. Lincoln found some law books at the bottom of it and he studied them. When he had no paper or pencil to do arithmetic with, he took a fire shovel and a piece of burnt wood. He made use of every opportunity that came his way which he knew would enable him to learn more and by so doing he rose until he became a president.

If Washington had not made use of every opportunity he never would have been able to become a general and help free America from England's rule, and we would not have been a free nation today.

If Jefferson had not taken the opportunity to buy Louisiana, perhaps all that land would have belonged to some other country. What would the United States be today if the heart of the Mississippi Valley belonged to England or France? Then, too, if either country had secured the Louisiana territory instead of the United States, would we now own all the Rocky Mountain region and the Pacific Coast?

If we want to accomplish anything we boys and girls must make use of every opportunity that comes

our way. Grasp it and do not let it slip by.

There is an Indian legend of a young girl who was allowed by a fairy to go through a field of corn and pick a fair and ripe ear without turning back again. There were many fair and ripe ears, but she went on thinking she would find one that would be better still. Soon she came to the part of the field where the ears of corn were dried and shriveled up. She was sorry that she had not picked an ear when the opportunity was hers. And so it is with any person going through life who let slip by many good opportunities, hoping to get a better one later, and they are the ones who usually come out at the end with all opportunities lost.

SOMETHING DEFINITE

Students attending our Indian schools no longer can say they have nothing definite to work for. Since that remarkable and epochal document known as the "Declaration of Policy" has been issued by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and approved by the Secretary of the Interior and is now a fixed policy, the emancipation of the Indian is at hand. All Indians of 21 or more years who show competency will be declared eligible to receive their lands in fee simple, handle all funds belonging to them, and at one single bound jump from a ward of the United States to a full-fledged citizen.

No longer will they be classed as children and enrolled by the Government as Indians. It means that the segregation of Indians as Indians will cease, that they will take their place side by side with the white citizen, amenable to the same laws, with all the responsibilities which of a right goes with complete independence. It will take time to accomplish this result, but the Indian youths in our schools now have something very definite for which to work. Their work at school and general record will count much for or against their being declared competent to be granted absolute charge of their property and funds.

Last Sunday many visitors from neighboring sections were in evidence on Chemawa's grounds. We are all pleased to welcome them here, as their presence denotes an interest in the school.