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BE A BIG FISH

In most ways the world's affairs are carried forth on practical lines. Practical lines are nothing more nor less than business lines—lines of endeavor which are followed as a matter of good sense. There is little or no sentiment in business. In the main business means getting the necessities of life. In the animal kingdom the beasts of the field prey upon other beasts weaker than themselves. The big fish eat the little ones. According to the same law—self-preservation—the human family pushes it endeavors and devotes its efforts mainly to securing those commodities which sustain life and afford ease and contentment and culture in some degree. The fittest survive and enjoy the best and the most of everything—at least this statement is true in the main.

At first thought it may strike the reader as unfair that one class of human beings should enjoy more than people of other walks or stations in life. It should not seem strange to people who believe in reward for effort or merit, for without pay or wage, or remuneration of some kind, nobody would work. Those who depend upon their muscles to gain them a livelihood are doomed to be compelled to use those muscles in the years to come, more and more, and harder and harder, regardless of how their backs ache or of the years that have silvered their hair. While people, outside of a few cannibal tribes, do not eat one another literally, they do figuratively, for the wiser ones use for their own ends their fellows who are not so wise or who have failed to prepare themselves for those forms of endeavor which would have lifted them out of the commonplace, muscular class.

Ah! The last sentence is the crux of the whole matter. It draws attention to both ends of the human dilemma; it points to the fact that those people who make preparations, who fit themselves intelligently for a certain avocation, are almost certain to be masters of the efforts of their fellows (those who failed to fit themselves) to a certain degree. We may say that this is not right. Well, we are not sure of this, for those who fitted themselves to be captains and leaders are entitled to such positions because they made the necessary efforts to prepare themselves. The positions occupied by those who fitted themselves for leadership

in the industrial world are in themselves a reward for effort. And we declare that effort and merit should be rewarded.

Now, from the above statements of facts and the deductions therefrom does it not appear to our students that both wisdom and the matter of self-preservation dictate to them a course of study and industry during their days at Chemawa? When they leave school they will find a little "preparedness" a mighty fine thing to possess when it comes to waging war against the rest of the world for the necessities of life—for those things which you may foolishly think the world owes you, but which you are not going to get without effort of some sort—in preparing now to make yourselves leaders, or in the ranks of those at the present "strong in back" but a little off in their logic. The world deals in laws more than in sentiment, as all are destined to learn who try to escape the efforts necessary to meet conditions as they may arise later in life.

Aim to be a big fish, not the little one who is swallowed, tail and all, by the big fellow. Remember that an education is of great value no matter from what standpoint one may view the subject.

No-one can have an education handed him—all must work and study to educate themselves. You educate yourselves. Nobody can make of you an educated person without your most loyal and enthusiastic co-operation. If you could walk to the store and purchase an education as you would a pound of cheese it would cease to be of greater value than cheese. The millionaire and all others would buy educations. As it is, education is of the greatest value because you can get it only by personal effort. There is no doubt of its value or your need of it—so, get it.

BIRD FRIENDS

Careful, scientific investigations have established beyond question the fact that birds are among the most important agents provided by nature for keeping down insect and rodent pests. Even owls and hawks of most species render a valuable service in this respect, as the people of Pennsylvania paid dearly to learn 30 odd years ago. Some 180,000 hawks and owls were killed for the bounty then paid by the state. Within a short time rodents increased to such an extent that they damaged crops and killed domestic animals worth more than \$1,000,000.