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ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY

It is difficult to state with certainty that a given one of Supt. Hall's assembly addresses is better than those that have preceded it, but to the writer it seemed that the recent address which we are publishing was fully on a par with any of his talks to our students—any way, it was splendid. The address follows:

If you have a wild longing to break loose and rove (as several have already done this year); if you feel that responsibility is unbearable; in a word, if your ambition and purpose seems to have deserted you, don't desert your post, but hold on to your job. It is the opportunity of your life to exert your will and determination. Hold on and everything will come right.

All worthy doing—patient, careful doing—reacts with happy effect upon the doer. This is an old truth, but it will be new to some, and many who think they know all about it need to have it laid on afresh and rubbed in. According to the intelligence and persistence and fidelity a student or any-one else puts into his work puts something into him. He gets a reward worth more than money; namely, strength, experience, discipline.

Often we are led to think that many of our students are dodging opportunities as they go through school, at least it has been my experience that many pupils seem to expect these opportunities to come around again and again. If they do not get their lessons perfectly, or something more interesting takes their attention at the time they should be studying a lesson, they think they can make it up later or secure assistance from the instructor. But perhaps the right opportunities does not come and the lesson remains unlearned. There are many opportunities coming to you day by day. Seize them as they come; do not wait for some big opportunity. The chances are that the little ones are big ones in disguise or that you do not know the big ones when you see them. Right now, under every condition, is the time to take advantage of your opportunities.

If the three hours you have in the classrooms are spent in leisurely skimming over the lessons and trusting to luck that you will be called upon first, or if you are depending upon the teacher to follow the

line for recitations and count the verse, word, question, or problem which would fall to you, memorize it for the time, how much useful knowledge can you store away? If in your arithmetic you merely work for the "answer," trying the problem forward, backward, or any way in order to get the figures that stand for the correct result, do you think you will ever develop ability to reason out or calculate with understanding the practical propositions that you will meet in business or in ordinary every-day life? If you mechanically read or memorize your lessons in history, will you get an actual understanding of the relations of the present generation and all its civilization to the past ages? To answer these questions "no" is the only answer. So in all your lessons mechanical and vague study will bring but little useful knowledge; will use up much valuable time, and it will bring you nothing that you can feel is your own to keep. On the other hand, if you face each lesson with a definite purpose you can make it practical, you can make it serve you, and it will become a part of your own thoughts. To accomplish this you must get in and dig, dig to the bottom, for it is there that you will find the treasure. You will realize, sadly, if you are fortunate enough to go to high school, that a superficial preparation is a great hindrance and the chances are it will be against your success. You may appear to have a fairly good fund of knowledge, but the keen competition of the white students in the public school classes will soon prove the kind of study you applied and the methods you followed while here in school. Remember, it is digging, not skimming, that saves time and brings results.

After a season of freedom from study it is always hard to fit into the requirements and discipline of the daily routine. If it were not for the monotonous grind and drudgery in attaining our purpose the effort would always be a pleasure. But the drudgery and grind must come; they are three-fourths of the process. In all your academic work do not halt at the disagreeable point. Consider that the exercise develops your mental powers as the drill develops the muscles and you will soon find your tasks easier and your progress greater. Take an interest in your work from the beginning. Do not wait until you see the last half of the year coming around to make up what should have been a steady advancement. Get into the heart of your work right now. Put in the foundation faithful daily work and the end of the year will find you stronger and richer, both in knowledge and character.