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REPUTATION AND CHARACTER

A careful reading of the following article will benefit anybody. It was addressed to the students in general assembly recently by Supt. Hall and it bears a message:

There is nothing that a person should value like a good reputation and character. Our very greatest men and women have regarded their reputations as their most precious possessions and under no circumstances would they permit their names to attach to a proposition of any kind that was not of a very high character. In business great sums of money are frequently paid for the use of a name, because the owner possessed a great reputation for integrity and square dealing. In order to gain a good reputation for honesty, square dealing and all-round dependability it is necessary not to be satisfied to do things by halves or leave any job or proposition half finished. Nothing but completion will satisfy the demand.

It is those students who have the imperative demand for the best in their natures and who will accept nothing short of it to make marked progress; who set the standards, the ideals, for others, and who stamp their individuality upon those with whom they associate. No-one with such ideals can be induced to do a questionable act or half-do a thing. Such a person knows that his success and happiness depend upon the pursuit of high ideals and keeping himself up in quality. For he knows that if he should make a "bad break" it would taint his ideals, lower his ambition and make an easy path by which to ruin his reputation.

A student with the right kind of stuff in him, with good red blood coursing through his veins, will not give up the struggle but will allow nothing to enter his life to taint his reputation, or deteriorate his ideals, or lower his standard of quality in word or action. What success in life will a student make who is satisfied with the cheap, the botched, the slovenly, and who is a shirk, a deserter? People who are worth while have a very high sense of the way to act as well as how to do things. They know well that the only way to achieve distinction and maintain a good reputation is to have the backbone, the persistence and determination not only to follow out an ideal, and by

so doing elevate their own life to a higher standard, but be the means of influencing others by example.

In our school affairs do you notice that the dependable students or workers always push things that come to their hands a little higher up—a little farther on? It is this higher up, this little farther on, that counts in the quality of your work. It is the constant effort to be square with yourself that conquers.

How many students are here at Chemawa who by their acts can be counted as mediocre, or who lack the will to be first-class—students who apparently only exist and have to be pushed, encouraged and almost driven to take their lessons or vocational work, students, who, unless they rise above their present states, will never be anything but bunglers, who will never fill any position right, because they are simply drifters, take no pains to be first-class, put no conscience into their work, and are never given any responsible place to fill, either in or out of school, altogether by reason of their utter unreliability? Such students have secured a bad reputation.

Aside from the lack of ambition, or desire, or effort to be a good student, there are other things that help to make such students stand low with their associates. Dissipation, bad habits, neglect of health, failure to study, all make poor students. A boy weakened by dissipation, whose understanding has been dulled, whose growth mentally and morally has been stunted by self-indulgence, is almost a wreck, indeed, and is not even half a man.

Every fault which you allow habitually to control you, pulls you down, puts you at a disadvantage, and practically debars you from honor, position, prosperity and happiness.

There is a distinction between a student's reputation and his character. A reputation is based on what people think of him and character is what he really is, but it is only in rare instances that people can be fooled and then only for a very short time. So, really, reputation and character go hand in hand.

My thought that I leave with you tonight is: No student can ever hope to accomplish much who does not have thoroughness and accuracy indelibly fixed in his life habits, for the habit of doing things poorly ruins the career of a student even though he has the mind of a President Wilson.