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THE CONQUERING HABIT

On the evening of January 25 Supt. Hall addressed the students assembled in chapel on having a high aim, or purpose, in life. It was a good lesson for all present to learn and take to heart, students and others. The article follows:

Students, there are certain things that lead to success in life, and there are also other things that produce failure. Every one of you have either a high aim, a low aim, or no aim at all. There is absolutely no question but each one of you can be what you want to be. The world stands aside for a determined man, or boy. It never concerns itself about a man or woman, boy or girl, with low aims, or no aim at all, unless it is to avoid them or step on them and flatten them out. But if a high aim or purpose is your desire no time must be lost in acting upon it. You must start when your ambition is fixed—when you feel in the mood—for labor is hard and laziness is easy. It's mighty easy to drift along, but to get above the drifting stage you are required to do hard, unflinching, intellectual work and deny yourself a lot of things that you like but which are not worth while. High character costs something and comes high, yet it is valuable and it pays to have it, although so many reject the terms and will not pay the price.

It is only after the main aim, or purpose, is fixed that your character begins to build and then you must avail yourselves of that all-powerful aid—habit—by enlisting in your behalf application of proper spirit, your work, your manners, your temper, your thinking, your study, your self-control, and even your gait. It is easy to form a habit or prevent a habit, but mighty hard to break one when formed. It is vital that you form correct habits and crush out the bad at the very beginning, for the longer bad habits are permitted the more hopeless the correcting of them. You cannot afford, if you expect to profit by high aims, to be slipshod in thinking, careless in work or study, or to be lazy. It is necessary to be patient and persistent in nourishing good habits, for when they become fixed they will become your salvation in your success. When you work, work; put your mind and heart into it. Do everything the very best; get ahead of the other fellow if possible. Master every detail and all diffi-

culties. All this is easy when the habit of conquering takes possession of you.

Do you know, students, that each one of you are what other boys and girls help make of you? Most characters, I think, are formed more or less by associations. Nearly every failure here at school is caused largely by another's influence. Every one of you have friends—they are of two kinds, those who help you and those who pull you down. These friends mar or improve your character, and in your desire to succeed the influence of such friends must be reckoned with. It is human nature for people to like each other and we absorb from our associates whatever good or bad they have to give.

The wise students—boys or girls—will not permit this force to work against them and undermine their determination to succeed. The real time to choose companions is right now, for a great deal depends on what kind of a boy or what kind of a girl each of you select to run with. If you are a student of pure thoughts and habits and persist in doing the right thing it will not be long before you draw the same kind of students as your friends. Those who have impure thoughts and impure habits will soon hunt up those of their own kind. However, temptation comes along daily and it is mighty easy to yield and give up; the really strong will not surrender but will triumph over any obstacle.

You want to acquire the conquering habit and it won't be long before you find that strength comes from repeated victories. And then you are on a good road to success. There are but two ways of meeting hard problems. One is to give up—give up a fight that would sooner or later place you above the average man or woman, or grapple the difficulty and get on top of it with both feet. Master the problems, and hard things generally, each day as they come up and see how strong you will get as you conquer, and the joy you will have in doing things right.

Students, commence tomorrow morning—every one of you—this conquering habit, for it is the only road to success; without it you are doomed to failure and defeat, with it you will be a master of men, and the world needs just such characters.