

3 MAY 8
COPY 1956

The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XXIII

Wednesday, APRIL 6, 1921

No. 26

BE A CONQUEROR

People have very little use for the weak-kneed, the faint hearted; but the conqueror who carries victory in his very appearance, who overcomes opposition such as appalls weak minds, who does not skip his difficult problems, but conquers everything which gets in his way, is always in demand. People who accomplish but little have a faculty for seeing difficulties in the way of everything they undertake. Their imagination conjures up obstacles which rise in their pathway and paralyze their courage. They begin to look for excuses as any plan of action is made—and of course they find the excuses. There is always an "if" or a "but" to keep them from taking the necessary steps or making energetic effort to get what they want.

No person can rise to anything very great who allows himself to be tripped up or thwarted by impediments. Their achievements will be in proportion to their ability to rise triumphantly over the stumbling blocks which trip others. When we hear some one whining that they have no chance, complaining that fate has doomed them to mediocrity; when we see such an one finding something in the way, we know that there is very poor chance of that person progressing very far. We know that they are not made of the material that progresses. When a student or any one else, tells us that luck is against him, that he can see no way of doing what he would like to do, he admits that he is not master of the situation and must give way to opposition—that he is not big enough or strong enough to overcome it.

So many of our students, and students elsewhere, have not the inclination to buckle down to solid study or hard work. They say they desire success, but it is evident that they do not want it badly enough to pay the price. They prefer to drift along, take things easy—the desire to have a good time overbalances ambition.

Obstacles will look large or small to you according to whether you are large or small. A good many boys and girls see much hardship in buckling down to serious and constant work in order to complete their school course. They lack the stamina and grit necessary to succeed and upon the very first rebuff they give up. Such students are always looking for

somebody to help them, to give them a boost, to make things easy. Students of this class do not yearn for an education, but would accept it if it could be gotten without much effort. The young person who stops to weigh and consider every possible danger or objection, then magnifies what he sees, never amounts to a hill of beans. He is small and made for little things. He walks around an obstacle and goes as far as he can easily, but when the going gets hard he stops.

The strong, up-and-a-coming boy or girl, the positive, decisive one who has a program for each day's work, and who is determined to carry it out makes his way regardless of difficulties. It is the weak-kneed student, the easily discouraged one, who turns aside.

Let us impress upon the minds of all that people who achieve things, who get things done, do not spend their time haggling over perplexities or wondering whether they can overcome them. They hold the end so persistently in view, and it looks so grand and desirable, that the work incident to its achievement, no matter how perplexing, is of comparatively little importance.

We meet these trouble-borrowing calamity howlers, difficulty-seeing people, on all sides. There is usually one or more such people in every class, literary society, Y. M. C. A., and so forth, who is ever seeing difficulties which do not appear to others, and if anything ever depends wholly upon a person of this class you may be sure it is foredoomed to neglect or failure. Nearly every invention, discovery, or achievement which has blessed the world would have failed had the "calamity howler," the objector, carried his point. The youth who is bound to "get there" may see difficulties alright, but he is not afraid of them because he feels that they are no match for his determination.

You will find as you go along that the habit of minimizing annoyances and difficulties, of making the best of everything that comes to you; of magnifying and enlarging upon the pleasant and agreeable and reducing to the very least possible importance everything that is disagreeable and unpleasant, will help you wonderfully, not only in your work here and else-

(Continued on page 4)