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BE A STRONG CHARACTER

All over this fair land of ours the great demand of today is for strong, vigorous, positive men and women, men and women who not only make up their minds, but do so with firmness, after considering all the circumstances and conditions of the matter they are called upon to decide—do so once and for all and then throw it off of their minds and pass on to something else. Such persons usually have superior executive ability. They are able not only to make a program, but also are able to carry it out. They can not only decide upon a course, but can also execute it to a finish.

If you are a vacillator, if you boys and girls, our readers generally, have acquired the habit of hesitating, of weighing and considering, and then reconsidering, never knowing quite what you want, you will never be a leader or progress very far on your own initiative. This is not the stuff from which leaders are made, for whatever else a leader may lack, he at least knows his own mind. He knows what he wants and makes straight for it. He may make mistakes; he may fall down now and then, but he always gets up promptly and pushes on.

The person who decides quickly can afford to make mistakes, for no matter how many are made such a person will get on faster than the one who is timid, vacillating, and so afraid of taking a wrong course that he dares not start out to do anything. Those who wait for certainties, who stand on the brink of the stream waiting for somebody to push them in, never reach the other shore. Haven't you come in contact with fellow students who are forever hanging trembling in the balance, who never know which way to turn, who are the prey of conflicting opinions and the victims of pressure great or small, who follow the counsel of the last person who advises them? Such persons move along the line of least resistance and do not feel within themselves the power to decide things. The very reputation among your friends and acquaintances of being cursed with a yielding disposition, of being easily influenced or moved from your convictions, or of being unstable in your opinions, is positively fatal to all confidence.

A great many of our young men and women seem to have a mortal dread of deciding things. They do

not dare to take responsibility because they do not know where it may lead them, or to what. They are afraid that if they should decide upon one thing today something different and more attractive may come up tomorrow and cause them to regret their first decision. These habitual waverers so completely lose their self-confidence that they dare not trust themselves to decide anything of importance. Many of this sort of people ruin naturally fine minds by nursing the fatal habit of indecision.

We know of a young fellow who is a great worker, of fine character, and a splendid friend, but he has the reputation of being changeable, whimsical and uncertain in his judgment, always ready to reconsider anything he has on hand, or to go over what he has already done, hence he has never won the confidence of those who know him best. Everybody who knows him regrets his weakness, but will not trust him with anything of importance.

Such wavering and inconsistency of mind are fatal to character building. No-one who is thus cursed will ever have any close-knit fibre of character or stamina timber. Such things ruin one's confidence in himself and are destructive of all mental effectiveness. One of the sad things we observe at Chemawa and elsewhere occasionally is magnificent ability held down by some little weakness, when perhaps most of the faculties are strong and vigorous. Thousands of people are struggling along from hand to mouth with ability enough to have taken them to the heights but for one lack in their natures—ability to decide quickly and finally. Many young people with good health, education and fine ability lack power to decide conclusively what course they will take. These young people are in danger of wrecking their lives by their hesitation. If they would only make up their minds to burn their bridges behind them and concentrate their powers on one definite course they would immeasurably strengthen their chances of success. All of their resources would rush to their assistance, shield them against obstacles, and make victory more certain. But while there is doubt in their minds, and they hold the path of retreat open, we doubt if they will ever amount to much. Young people, if

(Continued on page 4)