

BE A STRONG CHARACTER

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indecision runs in your blood, arouse yourselves and strangle this insidious foe to your achievement before it saps your energy and ruins your life chance. Do not wait until tomorrow—begin today. Compell yourself to develop the opposite quality by constant practice of firm decision. No matter how simple the thing you are called upon to decide do not vacillate. Throw all the light possible on whatever you have in hand for decision; weigh and consider it from every point of view; call your common sense and best judgment to your aid before reaching a conclusion, and then, when you have made your decision let it be final. Let there be no going back, no re-considering, no opening up of the matter for further discussion. Be firm and positive.

Persist in this course until the habit of firm decision becomes fixed and you will be surprised to see what it will do for you, both in increasing your confidence in yourself and that of others in you. You may make mistakes, but the strength and reliance you will gain in your own judgment will more than compensate for them. The power to decide firmly goes to the very marrow of ability. If you cannot decide firmly you will always drift—you will never be anchored solidly.

On the other hand we see young people succeeding apparantly out of all proportion to their ability and we do not understand it at all. We cannot understand why a boy or girl who was always at the foot of his class in school has distanced us in the big school outside, for he did not seem to have half the ability we possessed. We really laughed at them at school, but somehow they focused their energies upon one thing and kept plodding along until they were among those at the head of the big class in life outside. The very consciousness of being dull and stupid has spurred many a boy and girl on to make the most of what ability they had. The humiliation of being told by teachers and others that they are not bright often makes them determined to be somebody.

Discovering, or having impressed upon them, how limited their abilities are, arouses them oftentimes to make great efforts, and not being versatile they do not have the temptation to dissipate their energies on a score of things, but simply develop their one talent and make the most of it. Deciding things on their own judgment, they are successful.

We hear a great deal of talk about genius, talent, luck, chance, cleverness and fine manners playing a large part in one's success. Leaving out luck and chance, we grant that these elements are very important factors in the battles of life. Yet the possession of any or all of them, unless accompanied by a definite aim, a determined purpose, will not insure success.

The success of a dull, or even an average student, and the failure of a brilliant one is a constant surprise. But if the cases are closely analyzed we shall find that the explanation lies in the staying powers of the seemingly dull boy, the ability to decide things, to stand as firm as a rock under all circumstances, to allow nothing to divert him from his purpose, while the brilliant but erratic boy, lacking the rudder of firm purpose, neutralizes his powers and wastes his energies, dissipating them in several directions.

Students, no-one save yourselves can solve your riddles. You stand or fall on your own judgment. Your happiness, your well being, your success, your destiny is within yourself.

ITEMS FROM THE TRADES

The new brooder house for the baby chicks is finished.

Have you noticed which boys are the happiest at Chemawa? It is the fellows who are the busiest all the time.

Some fine potatoes were delivered to our root house recently on contract. The truck driver and crew had a busy time for that forenoon.

The tailors are doing some fine work on the suits for our seniors. That can hardly be called news as the tailors always do fine work.

Our ice plant is again in operation after the temporary shut down occasioned by the failure of a company to furnish brushes for motors.

Green onions and rhubarb from the garden are surely appreciated now, so is the cauliflower. The early garden looks fine since the rain. Yes, it did rain; it is not July yet you know.

There has been a great deal of work done on our lawns of late and there is every indication of still greater activity in the work of beautifying our lovely grounds. Mr. Ross now has the assistance of Mr. Bettles and the campus has simply got to keep clean and send forth blossoms in variety and profusion.

It is a fine thing for the boys of our forging and auto shop that they have the opportunity to work on so many different makes of cars. The experience gained is a great asset and its value will be more appreciated when these lads have completed their work at Chemawa and go out to find a job for themselves.

We are indebted to the painter, Mr. Sanders, for the re-hanging of the ceiling pieces and borders on our auditorium stage. There has been a great deal of difficulty in the past with this scenery because it was not properly hung. Now it is all adjustable at any height, which is a great assistance in stage setting, etc.