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SUCCESS AND FAILURE

Students, there are certain things which lead to success in life, and there are also other things which 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 woman, boy or girl. It never concerns itself about people with low aims or no aims 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 fired, 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 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 avail yourself of that all-powerful aid habit by enlisting in your behalf application of proper spirit, work, manners, temper, thinking, study, self-control, and even your gait. It is easy to form a habit or prevent a habit, but mighty hard to change 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 to exist the more hopeless becomes the task of correcting them.

You cannot afford if you expect to profit by high aims to be slipshod in thinking, careless in work and study, or to be lazy. It is only by being patient and persistent in nourishing good habits, that when they have 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 difficulties. All this is easy when the habit of conquering takes possession of you.

Do you know, students, that each one of you is what the other boys and girls make of you? We

believe that most characters are formed more or less by association. 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 may 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 student, boy or girl, 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 hangs on what kind of a boy or what kind of a girl each of you select to chum 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, but the really strong student will not surrender but will triumph over any obstacle. You want to acquire the conquering habit and it will not be long before you find that strength comes from repeated victories. And then you are on the highway to complete 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 much stronger 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.

The farmers are digging potatoes. The tractor and the new digger leave the potatoes in fine shape. We are anxious to finish the job before we have a rain as the digger does not work so well in wet ground.