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The Chemawa American

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

Vol. XXIV

Wednesday, October 19, 1921

No. 3

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

It is said that two qualities are essential to greatness—power and promptitude. The former is the fruit of the latter. A man or woman who is impressed with the value of time will make every moment count to such an extent that his or her life will invariably bear the stamp of power. It is a rare thing, students and readers, to find a really successful man or woman who has not strongly developed the habit of promptness. A person who is constantly behind time, who is invariably late in keeping appointments, and who is habitually late in paying his bills, creates distrust in the minds of those who have dealings with him. He may be honest and his intentions may be right, but we all know that good intentions and honesty do not carry us very far without we put them into practice.

So much rests on the cardinal principle of promptness, for a person who is not prompt in all transactions or engagements cannot be relied upon no matter how well he means. Honesty of purpose alone will not compensate for tardiness. Many a young man has failed because of this fault.

Boys, girls, remember that there is no more desirable quality than punctuality, and no other so indispensable to a person in business life, or to any one who would save his own time and that of others. We may ruin ourselves by a lack of promptness, but we have no right to waste the time of others. The habit of being on time, like all other habits, is due to environment and early training. It is the man or woman, boy or girl, who says "wait awhile" when they are directed to do a thing, who delays on an errand, and never do anything without being told, who arrive just a little too late for the opportunities in life which were waiting to be grasped and made the most of by those who had prepared themselves for them.

A person who is punctual to the minute with everything he does practically doubles his time. Promptness begets confidence. The reputation of always being on time is a most enviable one, and the youth who has attained it possesses, as a rule, the qualities that mark forceful men and women.

The key that will unlock great opportunities for you must be forged by yourself. No outside power, no help from others, can fashion it. The golden opportunity

which practically every boy and girl at Chemawa is seeking is in yourself. It is in your own efforts—in yourself alone. So, after all, students, in your efforts to prepare for life, "Begin right, and right away." This motto is one which would save many a youth from disaster. More people come to grief through indolence, lack of promptness, dillydallying, than from almost anything else. There is nothing else quite so destructive to energy which does things, or which so paralyzes the faculties, as the habit of dawdling.

Every moment's delay in getting down to an honest effort in preparing yourself while at Chemawa makes it harder and harder to start. The person who expects to do anything of much consequence must be prepared for it. Many a man is earning a small wage today because he did not think it worth while to prepare for something better. He was not willing to pay the price for the training which would advance him to a good position. He never thought it worth while to utilize his school days to improve himself and make good at school. He followed the school routine, but failed to take advantage of the opportunities offered. And now the small wage, slipshod appearance, and doleful outlook on life, tell the story.

We see people all around us holding what may be termed menial positions; kept back by lack of early training. We see them failing because they did not think it worth while to prepare for a higher occupation. So many prefer, apparently, to slide along the route of least resistance, to get along as easily as they can, to paying the price in preparation for something better.

How many human wrecks, how many incomplete and wretched lives we see because people did not think it worth while to prepare for much of a career. They thought they would get just a little education—just enough for practical use. They did not think it worth while to dig down deep and lay broad foundations.

If our boys and girls expect a rich, golden harvest, it is necessary they prepare for it now while they have the chance. One cannot take out of his life what he has not put into it any more than you can draw out of a bank what you have not deposited.

So we urge each of you to go at your work at Chemawa with a stout heart, with courage and enthusiasm; work and keep it up—stick because it is your duty to do so. And remember that many of our grandest men and women started out poor and had no other capital than pure grit and invincible purpose, and that those who hold out and endure to the end will reap a good harvest and be what the world calls successful.