

# The Chemawa American

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## THE NE'ER-DO-WELL

There is extant a famous document which declares that all men are created "free and equal." It is an interesting paper to which we refer—one which should be read and studied by all true Americans, resident in these United States. Created "free and equal!" The statement calls forth a feeling of pride which causes some self-elation and almost makes egotists of some of us. It is a consoling thought, this idea that we are "free" and that we are the "equal" of, say, anybody. How we love ideas. We meditate on them and bring ourselves into a state of mind wherein we feel as do the mighty—kings and big-bugs have nothing on us—for are we not as "free" as they and their "equal?" Ah, well! But let us see:

Men are created free and equal, but remember that after birth all are slaves to circumstances in a greater or lesser degree—for all must live; normal physical requirements make their demands and enslave us to a certain extent. As regards the matter of "equality," that, too, is true only at birth. As "all babies are beautiful" in the sight of fond parents and doting aunts and grandmas, they are also "equal" until they learn the art of coherent speech and begin to give vent to ideas—if they have any.

Now we are getting down to the meat of our text. We are discussing the Ne'er-do-well, who like others was created "free and equal." In some respects this Ne'er-do-well was as other folks—he certainly was at birth. However, as time passed on he showed a grievous lack of something. No doubt he had ideas; perhaps many of them. Maybe he had too many ideas. Most Ne'er-do-wells have ideas, but usually they are of no consequence. It is the kind of ideas which count and render their possessor "equal," if not "free."

Bad, or wrong ideas, usually create Ne'er-do-wells. Say what one may, there is no denying the fact that the great medicine for the Ne'er-do-well's cure is education. Education makes clear the errors of wrong ideas and if enough education is taken the Ne'er-do-well is cured before he himself is aware of it. Education which is genuine has nothing about it upon which the ideas of a Ne'er-do-well may thrive, for the reason that true education sets forth sound ideals and

stands for principles which raise one above Ne'er-do-well-ism.

Education which is worthy the title causes ideas and ideals of the highest character to be born; it creates a love for and an understanding of the better things of life; it creates and fosters an ambition in the human breast to possess them; it shows the way by which possession is possible; it makes one fit and capable to labor at some chosen avocation of a worthy character; and, lastly, it makes one "equal," and keeps him so, and so far as it is humanly possible, it makes him "free."

Education which teaches that by the acquirement of a little learning its possessor shall never have to labor, shall ever be able to escape the responsibilities of life, shall be able to live in ease and idleness, is a most dangerous thing. Those who strive for a little of this false teaching will in time probably become Ne'er-do-wells.

Chemawa stands for the best, as it only is good enough. Our great school aims to educate properly and fully—nothing is to be done by halves or quarters. Chemawa does not wish to hatch out a "sitting" of Ne'-do-wells. We want, as the years go by, to be able to point to successes; to see an array of former students of our worthy institution who have, by taking advantage of what Chemawa offers, literally made themselves the "equal" of any and all—we want no failures, no Ne'er-do-wells.

It is said that no man thinks he is ignorant, and it may be true to a certain extent, but the wise ones realize their ignorance on certain subjects and along certain lines, and the realization causes them to labor for education. Education is a Ne'er-do-well killer. Join the educated "equal" class and enjoy the greatest freedom possible.

## FRESHMEN NOTES

The seventh grade held their class meeting on the evening of October 25, 1922. They met at the laboratory for election of officers. The house was called to order by Nicholas Shiskin, who acted as president. The following officers were elected:

President, William McMaster; vice-president, Katherine Brooks; secretary, Moses George; treasurer, Jacob Atkins; sergeant-at-arms, Olie Strom; yell leader, Charles George. They chose for class motto, "Service."