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SACRIFICE

Self-sacrifice is necessary for self-advancement and self-good. Do not forget that. Many, large numbers, in fact, of our boys and girls say that they are really and honestly ambitious to succeed and we believe they are sincere.

We wonder just how many sacrifices they are willing to make in order to realize their ambitions—to attain that position in life which they claim to desire so badly? Students, are you willing to withgo little luxuries and pleasures, to forego many of the desires you have been accustomed to gratify? Have you the grit and stamina to stand all sorts of discouragements, and to work on and on without losing heart? How much criticism and scolding, how much misunderstanding, can you stand, anyhow?

Have you the pluck and perseverance to go on when others fall down or drop out, to continue the struggle when your friends have given up and advise you to do the same? Do you know that pure laziness is at the bottom of more failures than all other factors combined?

We have noticed that the people who do not succeed in this great land of ours, where opportunities abound on every hand, are not willing, generally speaking, to pay the price in hard work, in concentration on their ambitions, should they have any. It takes nerve and a large amount of energy and work to win anything worth while. Right now is the time to get out of your head that anybody will do your work for you. It can't be done.

Success is founded on drudgery, sacrifice—on painstaking, persistent labor. The boy or girl who has not the grit or will power, or courage, to stick and strive for the thing wanted will always find plenty of excuses for failure. They always have an alibi. There are always too many things in the way, too many obstacles to overcome. There is always something the matter with the school, the teacher, the shop equipment, or the system employed, or the like.

Some students never seem to realize that the trouble lies in themselves. Do not blame your own faults, such as lack of energy, your indolence and indifference, on others. Put the trouble, whatever it is,

where it belongs—on yourself.

The great trouble is that so few people are willing to sacrifice the nearest pleasure, the closest comfort, a good time, for the future, and by failure to buckle down to the business of preparing for the future, throw away priceless opportunities for education, for self-improvement, and shirk responsibilities which might open the way to a great career; they avoid experiences which would give them stamina and courage, make them wise, efficient, successful. Because of this lack they go through life shallow, superficial, ignorant, and end their days as a total failure.

Everyone who has reached distinction, who has lived the life really worth while, who has tried to make the most possible of himself, and has given his best to the world, has had to sacrifice a good many things which would have been pleasant and enjoyable, some of which are along lines brought to the attention of our readers in former articles.

We are all, every one of us, so constituted that we cannot respect ourselves unless we do our part, our share of the work. No one who dodges, or sneaks, no one who shirks, can ever respect himself; he has that innate feeling of being dishonest.

Students, let us emphasize the fact that not one boy or girl in a million will bring out the best in him- or herself, will ever grow to the height of their possibilities, if they lack ambition or fail to apply themselves, for where there is no struggle, no self-help, there is no growth.

You cannot develop without exertion, or grow without effort, without a struggle to upbuild. It is this that develops courage, confidence and self-reliance. The exercise of your powers is imperatively necessary, together with resolution, determination and grit, coupled with a vigorous endeavor to achieve one's ambition. Remember:

1. No person succeeds whose character is built up in idleness.
2. People without ambition, and an honest endeavor to attain it, are weaklings—nobodies.
3. There is only one way to build up a strong, vigorous character, and that is by honest purpose and hard work—with gratitude expressed for all help given.