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A GOOD REPUTATION

Young people, there is nothing that you should value more than a good reputation or a good character. Our very greatest men and women have regarded their reputations as their most precious possessions, and under no circumstances would they permit their names to attach to a proposition of any kind which was not of a very high character. In business great sums of money are frequently paid for the use of a name, because the owner of the name possessed a great reputation for integrity and square dealing.

In order to gain a good reputation for honesty, square dealing and all-around dependability one must not be satisfied to do things by halves or leave any job or proposition half finished. Nothing but completion will satisfy the demand. It is those students who have the imperative demand for the best in their natures, and will accept nothing short of it, who will make good in any activity, who set the standards, the ideals for others, and who stamp their individuality upon those with whom they associate. No-one with such ideals can be induced to do a questionable act or half-do a thing. Such persons know that their success, happiness and satisfaction depend upon following high ideals and keeping themselves up to the standards which their ideals demand. They know that if they should make a "bad break" it would taint their ideals, lower their ambition and make an easy path by which to ruin their reputation.

Young men and young women of the right stuff will allow nothing to enter their lives to taint their reputation, deteriorate their ideals, or lower their standards of quality, either by word or action. What success in life will our students make if they are satisfied with the cheap, the botched, the slovenly production or achievement?

Aside from lack of ambition, desire, or effort to be good students, there are other things that help to make such students stand low—dissipation, bad habits, neglect of health, failure to study. A boy weakened by dissipation, whose understanding has been dulled, whose growth mentally and morally has been stunted by self-indulgence, is in deed almost a wreck and is not even half a man.

Every fault you allow to become a habit which gains control of you, pulls you down, puts you at a disadvantage, and practically debars you from honor, position, prosperity and happiness.

There is a great distinction between a student's reputation and his character. His reputation is what people think of him, while his character is what he really is. It is only in rare instances that people are fooled in these two qualities, and then for a very short time only. So, really, reputation and character should both be of the best and go hand in hand.

Bear in mind that no-one can ever hope to accomplish much unless he possess the qualities which demand thoroughness and accuracy, and has them indelibly fixed in his life in the form of a habit. The habit of doing things poorly will ruin a student in time, even though he possess a super-mind.

People who are worth while have a very high sense of the proper way to act as well as the proper way to do things. They well know that the only way to maintain a good reputation is to have the backbone, the persistence and determination not only to follow up an ideal, and by so doing elevate their own lives to a higher standard, but be the means of influencing others by example. In all affairs of life you will notice that the dependable workers always push things that come to their hands a little higher up, a little further on. It is the higher up, a little further on that counts in the quality of your work. It is the constant effort to be square with yourself that conquers.

How many students have we at Chemawa, who by their acts are counted mediocre or who lack the will to be first class, students who apparently only exist and have to be pushed, encouraged, almost driven to take their lessons or vocational work, students, who, unless they rise above their present status will never be anything but bunglers, who will never fill any position right because they are simply drifters? They take no pains to be first-class, put no conscience into their work, and are never given any responsible place to fill in any department of the school, because of their utter unreliability. Such students have acquired bad reputations.