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AMBITION

Many people seem to think that ambition is a quality born within us; that it is not susceptible of improvement. But we believe strongly that with a great many ambition is a latent quality and that it requires arousing, awakening. For that reason we are continually endeavoring to pound into the heads of our young people the need of stimulating that latent energy with a view to arousing them that they may bring out their latent forces.

We think it is a passion that responds very quickly to cultivation, but it requires constant care and education after it is aroused. If we do not try to realize our ambition it will not keep sharp nor well defined. Our faculties become dull and soon lose their power.

A great writer once said: "What I need most is somebody to make me do what I can." It makes all the difference in the world whether you bring out the best thing in yourself, or the worst—whether you utilize ten, fifteen, twenty-five or ninety-five percent of your ability. Every one of our young readers have an enormous power, latent force, slumbering within them, which could work marvels if they would only awaken or arouse it. It makes all the difference imaginable to you whether you are with people who believe in you, set a good example for you, encourage and praise you, or whether you are with those who are wrecking your ideals, blasting your hopes, throwing cold water on your aspirations by their actions, as well as in other ways.

We have all seen photographs of Indian boys and girls as they used to come from the reservations to our school; and then photographs of the same students when they graduated, well-dressed, intelligent, with the fire of ambition in their eyes. We predict great things for them. There are, of course, some failures but those of strong character resisted the downward-dragging tendencies of their home environment and made leaders of themselves. We wish to observe, however, that if we could interview the failures we probably would find that they never got into a stimulating environment and their ambition died, or that they were not strong enough to rally under depressing, discouraging, or vicious surroundings.

Young people, whatever you do, keep in an ambi-

tion-arousing atmosphere, an environment that will stimulate you to self-development. Keep close to people who understand you, who believe in you, who will help you to discover yourselves. Stick to those who are trying to do something and to be somebody in the world—people of high aims, lofty ambitions. Keep close to those who are dead-in-earnest. Ambition is contagious. You will catch the spirit that dominates your environment; the success of those about you who are trying to climb upward will encourage and stimulate you to struggle harder if you have not done quite so well yourself.

Are you ambitious?

Most of the things which make life worth living, which have emancipated man from drudgery and lifted him above the commonness and ugliness—the great things of life—we owe to ambition. The ambitious persons have ever been those who have achieved the seemingly impossible. The ability to lift oneself out of all perplexities, trials, troubles and discordant environments into an atmosphere of harmony and beauty and truth is beyond price. How many of us would have heart enough, hope enough, and courage enough to continue the struggle of life with enthusiasm if that quality or power of being ambitious was taken away from us?

Being ambitious is especially a characteristic of the typical American. No matter how poor, or what his misfortune, he is confident, self-reliant, even defiant of fate, because he believes in his ambition and has faith that better days are coming.

Just in proportion as you make your ambition real shall you become strong and effective. As each new ambition is realized you are inspired, step by step, to new endeavor. It is in the power to make good your ambition that you will find the hope of this world. Encourage your visions and believe in them. Cherish them and strive to make them real.

Aspiration is the hand that points us to the road that leads heavenward. As your vision is so your life will be. The great thing, young men and women, is to try and fashion your lives after the pattern shown each of you in the moments of your highest inspiration; to make your highest moment permanent.