

BE A STRONG CHARACTER

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they will ever amount to much. Young people, if indecision runs in your blood, arouse yourselves and strangle this insidious foe to your achievement before it saps your energy and ruins your life chance. Do not wait until tomorrow—begin today. Compel yourself to develop the opposite quality by constant practice of firm decision. No matter how simple the thing you are called upon to decide do not vacillate. Throw all the light possible on whatever you have in hand for decision; weigh and consider it from every point of view; call your common sense and best judgment to your aid before reaching a conclusion, and then, when you have made your decision let it be final. Let there be no going back, no reconsidering, no opening up of the matter for further discussion. Be firm and positive.

Persist in this course until the habit of firm decision becomes fixed and you will be surprised to see what it will do for you, both in increasing your confidence in yourself and that of others in you. You may make mistakes, but the strength and reliance you will gain in your own judgment will more than compensate for them. The power to decide firmly goes to the very marrow of ability. If you cannot decide firmly you will always drift—you will never be anchored solidly.

On the other hand we see young people succeeding apparently out of all proportion to their ability and we do not understand it at all. We cannot understand why a boy or girl who was always at the foot of his class in school has distanced us in the big school outside, for he did not seem to have half the ability we possessed. We really laughed at them in school, but somehow they focused their energies upon one thing and kept plodding along until they were among those at the head of the big class in life outside. The very consciousness of being dull and stupid has spurred many a boy and girl on to make the most of what ability they had. The humiliation of being told by teachers and others that they are not bright often makes them determined to be somebody.

Discovering, or having impressed upon them, how limited their abilities are, aroused them oftentimes to make efforts, and not being versatile they do not have the temptation to dissipate their energies on a score of things, but simply develop their one talent and make the most of it. Deciding things on their own judgment, they are successful.

We hear a great deal of talk about genius, talent, luck, chance, cleverness and fine manners playing a large part in one's success. Leaving out luck and chance, we grant that these elements are very important factors in life. Yet the possession of any or all of them, unless accompanied by a definite aim, a determined purpose, will not insure success.

The success of a dull, or even an average student, and the failure of a brilliant one is a constant surprise. But if the cases are closely analyzed we shall find that the explanation lies in the staying powers of the seemingly dull boy, the ability to decide things, to stand as firm as a rock under all circumstances, to allow nothing to divert him from his purpose, while the brilliant but erratic boy, lacking the rudder of firm purpose, neutralizes his powers and wastes his energies by dissipating them in several directions.

Students, no-one save yourselves can solve your riddles. You stand or fall on your own judgment. Your happiness, your well being, your success, your destiny is in yourself.

ACADEMIC NOTES

Miss Southworth is again a member of the school faculty and on duty in room 4. The pupils of the fourth grade are fortunate in having a teacher with Miss Southworth's training and ability.

The academic teachers are concerned now in determining the number of hours the duties of their positions require and in giving a detailed statement for the benefit of the Reclassification Board of just what those duties are. Writing out a detailed statement of each duty and assigning it the percent of time to which it is entitled makes us feel the need of more hours in the day.

Miss Gunn discussed chapter XXI of Classroom Methods and Management in teachers' meeting Wednesday morning. Miss Gunn presented her subject matter in a manner that showed thorough preparation and a logical arrangement of the topics for discussion. Miss Davis discussed chapter XXII and applied the principles as developed in her subject to the actual practice of teaching in Indian schools.

Joe White and Allan Shepard have entered a number of clever posters in the Annual Essay and Poster Contest of the American Humane Association. Joe entered posters in three of the four groups to which he is eligible as a contestant and Allan entered posters in two groups. Since Chemawa has been so well represented by these two young artists we are hoping to have the honor of winning a prize.

Responsibility. The young man who deserted the oil pumps at the siding recently, and left them to flood the storage tank, either does not know the meaning of the word or else was wilfully negligent. No one who pays so little attention to duty and instruction can expect to make any success in life unless his viewpoint is changed and he can realize the seriousness of such negligence. Industry can tolerate a lack of brilliance, small knowledge of fluent and correct language, and some of the other accomplishments of life, but there is no place for the man who consistently fails in the responsibility placed upon him. Think it over.