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TO OUR GRADUATES

Next Sunday evening our graduates and others will listen to the baccalaureate sermon and shortly after that the school will have experienced all the pleasurable emotions which are a part of commencement. This is the last issue of The American for this year which can be devoted to suggestions for our 1923 graduates—there will be but one more issue of the school paper this year and it will be devoted wholly to a history of our special commencement features. Remember:

You may succeed when others do not believe in you but never when you do not believe in yourself. Your own approval of your actions is essential. Whatever you do, resolve that you will do it in such a way that at night you can review the day's work with supreme satisfaction, with the knowledge that you have done your level best, that you have stamped your individuality, your honesty of purpose, your manhood or womanhood, upon your day's work; that you are not ashamed of it, rather that you are even proud of it. Never leave a day that you are ashamed of until you have done your best to redeem any poor work.

Make it a rule of your lives to leave your day with satisfaction; with the consciousness, at least, that you have done your best, that you are not ashamed of it. If you do not happen to have had someone to direct your day's work, you have always an inside, an internal boss or employer, whose approval is infinitely more valuable to you, because if you do not get the "Amen" of your inner consciousness, if there is any protest in your nature against your day's work, anything inside of you that condemns it, this will mar your self-respect. You will not think so well of yourself. Unless you get the approval of this inner self, especially if its protest is frequent or habitual, you begin to go down very rapidly.

You must have the approval of the highest thing in you or you can never be satisfied with yourself, can never be happy, can never live an effective life. It is mighty comforting to secure the approval of people, but you must have the approval of your inner self absolutely if you would live peacefully, happily and successfully.

Don't put too great emphasis upon the applause or approval of people outside when there is an inner protest. You may be a tremendous success in the eyes of those around you, and a total failure in the eyes of yourself in the estimation of this inner consciousness which passes upon your every act, approving or protesting against it. You must have your own approval no matter what other people say; you must know that you are a success or you will never be a happy or an effective man or woman.

It is a wonderful thing to form the habit of never leaving your day's work undone or until it satisfies you, until you can honestly say: "There, that's a good job; it has been done about as well as I can do it. It has my approval." It is impossible to state what such a habit will do for you—doing everything to a finish. We know when we have done a thing right, and we know when it is not right. We must get our own approval. If we have that we can stand all kinds of criticisms and sneers from those around us. Unless you have this inner approval of doing your work right, of being square, you are not a success. You cannot get away from this inner judge, for it is your ideal, your other self, your very best self, and this self is the one you must satisfy in order to live peacefully and harmoniously.

You may have the approval of the world, of society in general, but if there is that inward protest within you against what you are doing; a little voice which is constantly saying "You know that this is not right; you know that this is not success," you are simply posing, you are wearing a mask, you are deceiving, you are not honest, you are not square. So long as this goes on you are a failure, no matter how much money you pile up or how high you are in your vocation. You can never get away from that inward protest, from your inner self, which is not subject to pain, failure, that came into the world to accompany you, and will go out of the world with you, for it is your real self, the very truth of your being, the reality of you—your connection with God, your reflection from Him, just as rays of light radiate from the sun.

Whatever you do, always get the approval of your inner self; always, every day, and thus be harmonious, peaceful, satisfied and happy.