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The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XXVI

Wednesday, May 13, 1925

No. 30

POWER AND PROMPTITUDE

It is said that two qualities are essential to greatness—power and promptitude. The former is the fruit of the latter. A man or woman who is impressed with the value of time will make every minute count to such purpose that his or her life will inevitably bear the stamp of power. It is a rare thing, young readers, to find a really successful man or woman who has not a strongly developed habit of promptness.

A person who is constantly behind time, who is invariably late in keeping appointments, in getting to line-up, and who is also invariably late in paying bills, creates distrust in the minds of those with whom he has dealings. He may be honest and his intentions all right, but we all know that good intentions and honesty do not carry us very far unless we put them into practice. So much rests on the cardinal principle of promptness that a person who is not prompt in all transactions and engagements cannot be relied upon, no matter how well he means. Honesty of purpose alone will not compensate for tardiness. Many a young man has failed because of this fault.

Boys and girls, there is no more desirable quality than punctuality, and no other so indispensable to a person in business life, or to any one who would save his own time and that of others. We may ruin ourselves by a lack of promptness, but we have no right to waste the time of others. The habit of being on time, like all other habits, is due to environment and early training, such as we try to instill in you here. It is the boy or girl who says "Wait a while," when they are directed to do a thing, who delays an errand, and who never do anything without being told, who come just a little too late for the opportunities of life that were waiting to be grasped and made the most of by those who had prepared themselves for them.

A person who is prompt to the minute with everything he does, practically abolishes time. Promptness begets confidence. The reputation of being always on time is a very enviable one, and the youth who has attained it possesses, as a rule, the qualities that mark successful men and women.

The key that will unlock your great opportunity must be forged by yourself. No outside power, no

help from others can fashion it. The golden opportunity which practically every boy and girl at Chemawa is seeking lies within themselves. It is not luck. It is in your own efforts—in yourself alone. So, after all, students, in your efforts to prepare for life "Begin right, and right away." This motto is one which would save many a youth from disaster.

More people come to grief through indolence, than from almost anything else. There is nothing else quite so destructive to the energy which does things, or which so paralyzes the faculties, as the habit of dawdling. Every moment's delay in getting down to honest effort in preparing yourselves while at Chemawa makes it harder and harder to start. The young person who expects to do anything of consequence must be prepared for it.

Many a man is earning a small wage because he did not think it worth while to fit himself for something better. It is education coupled with energy that counts. He was not willing to pay the price for the training which would advance him to a good position. He never thought it worth while to utilize his school days to improve himself and make good at school. He followed the school routine, but failed to take advantage of the opportunities offered. And now the small wage, slipshod appearance and doleful outlook on life tell the story.

We see people all around us holding what may be termed menial positions—kept back by a lack of early training. We see them failing because they did not think it worth while to prepare for a higher occupation. Many prefer, apparently, to slide along the route of least resistance, to get along as easily as they can, to paying the price in preparation for something better.

How many wrecks, how many incomplete and wretched lives we see because people did not think it worth while to prepare for much of a career. They thought they would get just a little education—just enough for practical use. They did not think it worth while to dig down deep and lay a broad foundation.

If you boys and girls at Chemawa, or elsewhere, expect a rich, golden harvest, you must prepare now while you have the chance. You cannot take out of

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