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# The Chemawa American

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## MAKING AN EFFORT

In all schools and colleges there are various kinds of students, some with great ambition, others mediocre, and all of them say that they desire an education. Some are willing to give every ounce of effort; others not willing to work themselves, but wish to lean on the other fellow or depend on the teacher and slip through.

The latter class do not seem to realize that there is a tremendous difference between wishing to get on and determining to get on; between the desire that has no force in it and the desire which grips every fibre of one's being with a determination to win at any cost. These very students had impressed upon them the difference between a drifting, unsuccessful career, waiting for something to turn up, and taking off one's coat and plunging into the making of a career with a grim determination which knows no defeat.

Young people, it does not seem to matter how much ability you have, if you lack the power of determination that knows no surrender, which fixes the goal and never turns back, you certainly will not achieve anything worth while, anything distinctive. No youth starts out right until he feels that it is up to himself alone to make good. Until he has gotten over the idea that he must wait for somebody to give him a lift, to boost or push him forward before he can begin to improve his work; until he has decided that he, and he alone, shall be the builder of his own education or career, the real man or woman will never be built.

We see all around us young people who are waiting to be pushed, boosted, helped, but such young folks will never amount to much unless they show self-reliance and courage. The self-reliant and courageous chap will make good in spite of all handicaps and obstacles, and all influences that will be presented to hold him back.

We have come in contact with young people who are always talking of the wonderful things they would do if they had the chance of others; they had no one to send them to college, nobody to help them make their lives more complete, their achievements worth while. Such sentiments as those get you nowhere.

There are thousands of boys and girls in our colleges and schools of higher education who would never have been there but for their faith in themselves and

their stern resolve, come what might, to get an education. Many of these were not only poor, but had others depending upon them. Yet despite all their handicaps they resolved that they must and would, somehow, sometime, in some way, get an education. You will be astonished to find that the moment you cut off all outward assistance you will be reinforced by a new power from within which you never dreamed that you possessed. But it will never come to your aid until you stop depending and leaning on someone else and stand erect on your own feet.

We think one of the worst misfortunes that can befall any young person is that of being relieved of the necessity of developing self-help qualities. Those thus relieved seldom develop into a strong and vigorous type of manhood or womanhood.

Training in self-help and self-reliance are just as essential for a young person as is training in any of the industries in which a life career is desired. Say what you will, as surely as the sun shines, the supreme meaning of man is the development of power, and nothing but determined effort and self-reliance will develop your greatest strength and bring out the best that is in you.

It has been our observation that there is no satisfactory place in life for a man or woman who has no stamina, no courage in his nature, who is simply material for stronger minds to manipulate for their own advantage.

Young folk, no one in the world is capable of making your life program for you. On you, and you alone, depends your future. Any one who has a definite purpose in view, who is in earnest in his purpose to attain his ambition and make life count, will not ask another to tell him how he can make things happen.

It is push, energy, virility of character, tenacity of purpose, clear grit and will power, that make things happen. If you wait for some one else to set things moving, or to tell you just when and where and how you can do this, you will move forward very slowly, if at all. On the contrary if you are built of the sturdy, self-reliant stuff that does not balk at obstacles, nor cry out for assistance at every little difficulty, you will win the battle in spite of a lot of other possible defects.

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