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VERY FINE TALK

On Sunday evening, Jan. 24, in chapel Supt. Hall addressed the student body. It was a splendid talk—a credit to any man—and we are proud to publish it, as follows:

Circumstances inspire me with a desire to talk on sober things tonight and not dwell on personalities that might arouse your emotions—but with regard to the deeper things of life. What I say I hope will produce in each one of you an overwhelming desire for good. I trust that I have influenced some lives and have kindled lights that will light other lights on and on.

We never know but that we may have neglected an opportunity. Really, I think that I must seek forgiveness for the things I may have failed to do. But I want to say to all of you tonight that if I have done any good and lighted the lives of Indian boys and girls, and influenced them for better things it has been largely through the help of my dear wife, Mrs. Hall (applause).

During your school days your actions have been influenced and controlled largely by your instructors. Your business is to get an education to fit you to use your prerogative as a free agent. And now, within a few short years, you will be called to rely upon your initiative. You, and you alone, hold the incredible power of choosing. No one can restrain you.

Without this absolute freedom of choice you will not be full-grown men and women. Think what a great and also dangerous gift is this power of choice! It means that you have the initiative as well as the veto in every act of your life. There will scarcely be an hour of the day but you must face an issue; judge between two courses, the one right and the other wrong; say "yes" to one and "no" to the other. You will find this feature of life involved in every kind of business and activity. There is a right and a wrong way in everything you face. If you decide right it will be a stone in your structure of character and success; if your decision is wrong never can the act be recalled and the mistake altogether rectified.

Initiative and veto! Suppose that you let your friends do your thinking for you, what will you do when those supporting props are removed, as they will be in a comparatively short time? If you are ever

to be men or women in the true sense—a real type of outstanding manhood and womanhood—the motive must spring from within. It can never be plastered or veneered on from the outside.

The great moving forces in the life of our great nation is not in the sons and daughters of the wealthy class, with the highest advantages of culture, travel, and personal influence—it lies in just such boys and girls as you who finish at schools like Chemawa. All because of the fact that in working for the fulfillment of ambitious plans you develop the strength that wins. The wealthy do not have that motive. So many young people drift, apparently only too willing to leave the navigation of their careers to parents or others—anybody who will relieve them of the trouble. The idea seems to be to dodge the responsibilities that are theirs by every law of life. But, young people, that will not work. To permit yourselves to drift to wrecks instead of successes will be because you do not rightly exercise your God-given power of choice.

How will you use the power of choice? Here is the way: By manly independence, backed by a little judgment. Be yourself the leader, not the trailer. Then you will mold, instead of being molded; you will be helpful, instead of being helpless. The habit of helplessness once started grows and becomes fixed very soon. The first bad symptom is the dodging of responsibility—the effort to unload on someone else. Exercise your power of choice; do your own thinking. Broaden your minds by study and self-improvement in idle hours, and exhibit a genuine intelligence and interest in your work. Think out your own opinions on public affairs and act upon them. In a word, use your God-given power of choice by being alert, progressive, original, effective; having faith in yourself and the courage of your convictions; be a man or woman who thinks and acts, who doesn't wait until an idea loses its driving force before putting it into action.

Taking the initiative is indispensable to success; neither should you be afraid of trusting your own judgment or relying on your own opinion. By following out the "power of choice" and developing its proper use you cannot be kept down. Sooner or later you are

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