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THE ARABIAN PROVERB

At a recent Sunday session of chapel, Mr. Iliff, acting superintendent in charge, used an Arabian proverb as the text for a talk that he gave the students. The proverb was new to us and its fundamental truth was so outstanding that it made an impression on all assembled. Mr. Iliff certainly made it a splendid vehicle for carrying his message, and he handled the subject in a manner that made all of his deductions most clear. It was a fine talk and we requested permission to publish it, which was granted, and we are printing it, as follows:

Yesterday I was in Salem and there I saw a young man who reminded me forcibly of an old Arabian proverb. This proverb is contradictory in statement, but none the less true. You will know from your studies that the Arabs are given to sayings of considerable wisdom. Now, listen to the proverb:

"He that knows not and knows not that he knows not, is a fool. Shun him.

He that knows and knows not that he knows, is asleep. Wake him.

He that knows not and knows that he knows not is simple. Teach him.

He that knows and knows that he knows is wise. Follow him.

I want you to consider with me four individuals who represent the four lines of this proverb. I have told you of seeing the young man who represented the first line. I must say that he was a "sight to behold." He was bareheaded. His hair was slick with "stacomb" or something else equally ridiculous. He had on a pair of white flannel pants that were between one and four yards around the bottom of each leg and he seemed proud of his wisdom, for from his action he had mastered the 58 steps of the "Charleston." In short, he was a fool.

I am sorry to say that there was a young lady with him who apparently was not gifted with any more brains than he had, to judge from her appearance and behavior.

I think it is plain to all of you that I have no use for the "Charleston." To me it is disgraceful and it has no place at Chemawa. I greatly enjoy watching you children in your parties here. They are a credit

to you, and are not to be cheapened by the introduction of the Charleston.

Now consider with me the individual of the second line of the proverb. Occasionally you will meet him. He is a vacant-eyed individual who is harmless, good-natured, not particular about his personal appearance, much given to standing or sitting gazing into space, dreaming. He is asleep. He needs a jolt to awaken him. If he waits and dreams sufficiently long the world's traffic will catch him jaywalking and will hand him the jolt that will awaken him. He has the knowledge, but needs to be awakened. If he is here it is our job to awaken him.

Now, we will consider the individual of the third of our proverb. There is a decided hope for this lad, as he is always wanting to know the "why" of things. He is a lad with a bright and quick eye that sees things, and while not overly concerned about his appearance, he is neat, clean and courteous. He realizes that there is much in this world to learn, that he has a constant desire to learn. Students, there is no length to which his teachers and instructors will not go to assist this young man in acquiring the knowledge he is so keen to gain. He is on the right road and all who meet him will help him on to greater things.

And now for the last mentioned individual. He is a quiet, clear-eyed individual; pleasant, up-standing, sane. He has gained definite knowledge of the affairs of life. He has profited by advice. He is three steps ahead of the other three individuals and miles ahead of the first individual. He has no hesitation in stating what he knows because he has proven and definite knowledge, and he knows how to use it. He is a leader. The world is waiting for him and crying aloud for more like him.

Compare the first and last individuals of this proverb. There is a vast difference between the two. Think about it.

He that doeth well by others doeth well by himself. Let no man do otherwise.

Tomorrow is All Fools' Day. Look out!

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