

The Chemawa American

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

Vol. XXIX

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 1927

No. 3

3 MAY 8

COPY - 1956

FAITH IN OURSELVES

From "Heart to Heart Talks" to the Chemawa Students
BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

To believe one's self capable of accomplishing any reasonable undertaking is the first essential of success in anything. Faith in ourselves is even more important than native ability, for with self-confidence, self-poise, and self-reliance no task is too great and no ambition too high to be beyond the possibility of accomplishment by any one of reasonable intelligence and untiring industry. We must believe ourselves capable of great things, and strive with all the power of our might to realize the object of our desire.

"But," you say, "that may be alright for a white student, but I am an Indian, and, therefore, different from other races. I have no centuries of civilization back of me; I am afraid I cannot learn the ways of the white man. Perhaps the Indian was made to be different. I don't know. I am afraid."

THE EVOLUTION OF A RACE

Let me say to you that the only notable difference between the two races—your race and my race—is one of time and chance. Had not Caesar crossed the Rubicon and had not Constantine been converted perhaps the positions of the two races might now be reversed. Who knows?

It might help us more clearly to visualize the problem and cause us to have more patience with the Indian, and the Indian to have more faith in himself, if we indulge in a brief contemplation of the evolution and development of the white race.

If we turn back the hands of time two thousand years we will arrive at a period in history when the progenitors of the most civilized and enlightened portion of mankind today were benighted savages, living in wigwams or in dug-outs roofed with cow-dung. Change a few race and geographic names in the Germania of Tacitus and his descriptions of the life, manners, and customs of the Teutonic peoples of Northwestern Europe might easily be applied to the North American Indians at the time Columbus landed on the shores of the Western Hemisphere. While the former fashioned their clothing from the hairy skins of wild animals, the latter dressed the skins and decorated their garments with designs in colors and with

brilliant plummage and lustrous furs. The one possessed only a rude skill without art; the other added to his skill both art and poetic fancy. Both races were divided into tribes, with chiefs and headmen; both worshipped the sun and other objects of nature, and paid obeisance to their respective gods of war, the chase, to the goddess of fruitfulness—our own Eostere, or Easter.

When we read that Julius Caesar found the inhabitants of Gaul and the thirty tribes of Britain all naked barbarians, and the Angles, Jutes and Saxons roaming savages we should remember that these people were the ancestors of the founders of this republic and the progenitors of the most progressive, virile, liberty-loving nations of the earth. Four hundred years of intermittent contact with the great Roman civilization had not served to mollify the fierce spirit of those bold Nordic men when, headed by their war chiefs, Hengest and Horsa, they landed on the shores of Britain to found the Anglo-Saxon race. So after all the progress of the American Indian has not been so slow or that of the white man so rapid as is sometimes supposed.

While the white man's ancestors offered up human sacrifices, the Indians' offerings were of a less gruesome nature. If the Indian made war on his enemies, the founders of the Anglo-Saxon race added to the crime of war that of the sea-robber and pirate. If the Indian's heaven was limited to a "Happy Hunting Ground," our Teuton progenitors imagined only "a gross paradise of immortal drunkenness." Both races considered it unworthy of their proud spirit "to acquire by labor that which might be ravished by arms." If the Indian taught the white man the small vice of tobacco smoking, we taught him the greater vice of drunkenness, and if he sometimes substituted the bark of the willow for the real article, we have gone him one better by manufacturing a favorite brand from the leaves of alfalfa.

THE WHIRLIGIG OF TIME

In all this business of race evolution the whirligig of time is a potent and controlling factor.

Some years ago a visitor, while witnessing a competitive military drill at the Carlisle Indian School,

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