

# Weekly Chemawa American

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## VALEDICTORY.

ALFRED LANE.

It has devolved upon me as a member of the class of 1908 to deliver the valedictory address, which I shall do with a full appreciation of the kind relations we have so long sustained toward one another as a class and also with the pupils and instructors of the school.

Fellow Students: As I look into your faces I am reminded of the time when the graduating class which you now see upon the platform, then a handful of inexperienced, puzzled Indian children, had just arrived from the different reservations of the country. What we felt then and even later partly discouraged us. Perhaps you, too, are discouraged. You think you have a long and dreary road before you. But cheer up boys and girls! You will not find it very long; this has been a very short five years to us. Each year seems shorter than the preceding one. You, too, will soon be Juniors, then Seniors, and the troubles of the present will have faded away and you will look back with pleasure upon your school life.

Instructors: We feel that you have taught us much and given us a great

deal upon which we can depend. We know that we have often been hasty, heedless of your feelings and of our own best interests. At times we have caused you great vexation by our childish actions, but in spite of all this you have proven yourselves our true and patient friends. Now honorable instructors, we ask your forgiveness and carry with us remembrance of all the many favors and kind actions we have received at your hands. We thank you one and all.

Classmates: We have been companions and friends for five years. During these five years we have learned to appreciate the advantages of an education. We have had great sympathy for each other in our different trials, and shared each others' joys and sorrows. We now go forth with our diplomas which we shall carry as a proof that we have worthily completed our studies in the academic department and have attained a certain degree of skill at our trades. We now go forth to battle for ourselves, bearing in mind the old motto, "Not finished but just begun," and I hope filled with the inspiration of our class motto, "Onward and Upward." Let us go forth with belief in our own powers.

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