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Chemawa Graduates.

(By T. J. McCULLY.)

It is my purpose this evening to prove to the audience that the work done at Chemawa and other schools of this kind is not wasted.

It is my purpose to prove to you that the graduates of this school are doing commendable and honorable work throughout the world.

It is my purpose to remove the impression from the minds of many that the graduates go back to the tepee, to the blanket, and to the demoralizing influence of reservation life.

There is a great difference between one who has attended school here for a short time and a Chemawa graduate. I admit with sorrow that there are boys and girls who have attended this school and other large training schools who are anything but a credit to the institution which has sheltered and tried to help them. Can this not be said of pupils of our white schools? Are all the boys and girls who have attended the public schools pointed at with pride as examples of what the public schools accomplish?

A boy or girl is brought here from a

reservation, from a life of wretchedness, often from a life of vice. That boy or girl remains here a year, two years, sometimes only a few months. Without doubt pupils of this kind succumb to the influence with which they have been surrounded during their whole lives, with the exception of a year or two—probably even a shorter time—that they have spent at this school. They go wrong and are spoken of as "Chemawa Graduates."

The earnest, hard working boys and girls who have left the school, and who are living lives of usefulness, and occupying positions of trust and responsibility refute the slanderous newspaper stories which appear from time to time, and to a fair-minded person, prove the falsity of the old hackneyed expression that "The only good Indian is a dead one." I shall now give you names and occupations of Chemawa's boys and girls—not all graduates—who have gone out into the world, a world of white men and women, many antagonistic to the Indian race, and, in spite of the tremendous handicap, have made good and are a credit to their race and to the institution that instructed them.

Remember, we are not turning out