

## Address to Under Graduates.

The time has come for the class of 1918, to bid farewell to books, schoolmates, and teachers of the Oak Bluffs High School, and while, perhaps, we have not made the most of the opportunities that have been set before us, I hope that you who now come into our places will be benefited by our mistakes.

One glance at the modern school system today in this country shows it to be no less than one of the greatest opportunities for every boy and girl who can accept it. When you have an excellent opportunity to obtain a high school education it is the time to direct your ambitions carefully in that direction. Do not say that you need no education and can succeed in the world just as well if you do not have it, for this is not the truth of the matter.

You may now be prepared to call my attention to the fact that a certain person of your acquaintance has an excellent position and he attended school only a few years. If you minutely investigate his life you will find he has either educated himself since leaving school or that he is at the present time studying at night every detail of the day's transactions upon which he is not thoroughly informed.

It was that fine spirited man, Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, who once said "It is more important to make a life than to make a living". So when older people ask you as they so often will, either in puzzlement or hopefulness, "John, Mary what are you going to make in the world". you can answer "I am going to make a life, one that will be a credit to my parents."

Now how should one, who has but one life to make, make a true human life? First comes decision. You must decide just what kind of a life it is you want to make.

We read in the Bible how the boy Samuel was awakened in the middle of the night by a voice that called him three times and would not be silent until he answered. You may not your call that way. It may be loud or it may not come to you in the stillness of the night. The call of many a boy or girl to a life work was simply having his or her interest aroused by something curious or wonderful in the world. You have been told how Watt, studied the possibilities of steam by experimenting with his grandmothers teakettle. The words spoken by a friend may make a way open for you to decide the making of your life. It is said that words of en-

Couragement spoken by Rutherford B. Hayes caused William McKinley to make the study of the tariff his his special research. McKinley thus wrote his name indelibly on the pages of history. Discouragement and disappointment have sometimes urged youth to success. Had Theodore Roosevelt not had to contend against nearsightedness and feeble health when a boy, perhaps he would not have won those victories in life which handicaps inspire in people of pluck.

The essential thing is to be watchful. John B. Gough's terse statement is familiar; that most people possess three hands a right hand a left hand and a little behind hand. If you would be called you must not be behind hand. Day by day and task by task you will learn what you are good for.

Next comes preparation; Dr Parkhurst has rightly said "The most important thing a young person ever does is to get ready". You will hear today many people decry a liberal education. Many of the great positions in the world today state as first requisite a good education.

The government is fairly begging for young men of ability, character and education. It would seriously impair America's prospects of success in this war if the supplies of highly trained men and women were unnecessarily diminished.

Figures show us that the average income of a college graduate in this country is three hundred percent more than that of the non-college graduates. College men are only one in a hundred in the population, but they have held more offices of high responsibility than all the ninety-nine together, and more than that a trained man is not only in the fairest way to success, but he has all along the finest and rarest pleasure the ability to live with himself and not feel lonesome. A cultured man has a mind that makes living enjoyable.

The third and last essential is perseverance, in other words stick-to-iveness. General Samuel C. Armstrong, who founded that great school at Hampton for the education of the negroes, used to say "Doing what can't be done is the glory of living." He used to explain this by a story which contained what he called his "rule of conduct". "Once there was a woodchuck. Now woodchucks can't climb trees. Well this woodchuck was chased by a dog and he came to a tree. He knew that if he could get up in this tree the dog couldn't

couldn't catch him. Now woodchucks can't climb trees, but this one had to so he did." He had to, so he did was the motto of his life.

Doggedness is a synonym for perseverance that I like. It indicates the steady almost sullen persistency with which a great purpose must be fulfilled.

But underneath all life as its foundation and behind all living as the background must be uprightness. Money is good, but who remembers who was the richest man in Greece when Socrates lived there, or in Rome in the days of Seneca, or in America when Washington was the father and Lincoln was the elder brother of the nation? It is chiefly character that makes a life.

"I'll tell you what character is," said Mr. Moody to a preacher, after hearing a rather ineffectual sermon from him on the subject, "It is what a man is in the dark." Uprightness might be inverted and defined as right side upness.

It makes a man dependable to others, but better than that it makes a man dependable to himself. What every boy and girl needs is to be dependable and each needs a certain amount of automatic goodness, if he is going to make a true life. A person may be upright in one of two ways.

He may be held up from the outside or from the inside, he may be supported right by the strength and conscience of others or he may stand erect because he is true within. To use a homely figure, a boy's body may be made erect either by suspenders or physical exercise. So it is with Character.

The Fifteenth Psalm sums it up in a fine phrase. "He speaketh the truth in his heart." Your conscience is not a door-bell to which people can come to. It is not a matter of hearsay. In that still and secret place where one lives alone with God, there dear boy or girl, is alone the place of the making of a life.

An address to under graduates would be rather incomplete without some reference to our class motto "Thrift." The government is asking young and old to be thrifty. Do you question of what use it is? Here are some of her sayings! I have been the bedrock of every successful career and the corner stone of every fortune.

He who possesses me has contentment in the present and surety for the future. Once you have me no man can take me away. To obtain me you need put out no capital but personal effort, and when all you invest in me I guarantee dividends that last thru life and after.

Stanley Inoch Rodgers Jr.