

We have trapping in classes to reveal yourself to yourself. Arithmetic is a positive science. Any person in the world can learn arithmetic. There are only four things to learn. Addition, multiplication, subtraction and division. All the branches of Math are simply application of these four principles. All school can do for a boy is to teach him to read. Colleges and Universities can only teach you to read along little higher lines. Boys ought to read books adapted to their age. Read biographies. You boys sit on better seats, at better desks and in a better building than they have at Eton. I've been there. Millionaire aristocrats in England want their boys to learn to stand hardship. There isn't a church in Bell Buckle that isn't better than the church at Eton where Edward VII went to church.

Monday, September 1, 1902

Lesson: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, etc."

Now is the sowing time. Many a fellow says, "If I had my life to live again I'd do better." I don't believe he would. God is so anxious to make a man that I believe he would give us youth back if we would do better.

God is lavish with seeds. If every acorn grew into an oak the world wouldn't hold them all. Boys are seeds for men and they are everywhere.

Boys don't sow to the flesh. Many a fellow is ruining his health drinking cold drinks.

Don't take patent medicines or any old woman's remedy. An old negro told me about his gathering herbs and making a medicine for 15 cents a barrel. The man who bought it, bottled it and sold it at a dollar a bottle.

Let us Pray.

A number of boys were reported for speaking in the Senior Room. Seniors have a great deal of work to do. They must not ^{be} interrupted. No senior will be certified into any college. He must stand his entrance examination.

The reason I came to Bell Buckle was that I wanted to be with Dr. Clary. He is a member of our faculty. Whenever he tells me a boy is seriously ill, I shall telegraph your parents. When I was a little boy at Bingham's School our physician was Dr. Morrow. The loafers told us that he was no account. It was because he wouldn't give them anything. It is a blatherskite that speaks disparagingly of anybody. Robert E. Lee, in a letter to his son said, "Never under any circumstances speak disparagingly of anybody."

Boys take care of the library books. That library cost ten times as much as these grounds and buildings.

Tuesday, September 2nd, 1902

Lesson: "Will a man rob God, etc."

Prayer

I don't want you to stay out of doors today. There are some boys here that if they were in a ten acre dry lot and only one little mud puddle no bigger than this, they would stick their feet in it. My son, a gentleman knows how to walk. If you don't know how to walk without clicking your heels, practise it. I was passing a boarding house one day and ^{heard} the boys going up and down stairs clear across the street. When I stopped and spoke to the boys about it, they tried to defend the noise. I made them walk up and down stairs for three hours. They learned to walk quietly. I'd have mauled them if they hadn't.

If I am in any sort of a public meeting, at a dinner, or elsewhere, and I have to talk loud in order to be heard I wouldn't talk at all. I want these boys to talk to each other today but you must not be disorderly. "He that asks equity must do equity."

I have told you how you might fight. It's a coward that strikes a man in public. If I were to rush up here to hit Fred Whiteside (laughter) don't you know these teachers would hold me. The man that does what he fears to do is courageous. The man that goes into battle without fear is a fool. I saw three hundred men, professors, etc., and a man made a rush at another in their presence. Wasn't he a coward?

During the war a certain French Colonel gave an order to advance. The men began to cuss and swear. The colonel said "No cuss, no cuss, give them bayonet." If you want to fight, say to the fellow "I resent your insult." Then take your man and go down to the woods where the woods where the weeds are tall and fight it out. If you come back with eyes black, nose bloody, and nose set around under one ear and assure me that there were no witnesses and I see you are near the same size, I won't say a word.

There was a boy in school named Dan. A strong deep chested fine looking fellow. He told some lies on me. A Scotchman named McKeithon told me. I watched my opportunity and told him I wanted to talk with him. We went to the woods. I told him he had said some things about me that were untrue. He said "What shall I do?" I said "You go to the fellows and correct it." He did it. Wasn't that better boys? When I was teaching in Culleoka, there was a bully there. I weighed 120, he about 180. He took a machine that cost me \$125.00 and ruined it. Next year when I was away he did the same thing again. I was riding one afternoon and met him. I got down and hitched my horse.

(There were no courts in those days. Every fellow took care of himself.) I told him that we had to settle that matter about the machine right there. He wouldn't get down but he apologized and promised to repair the machines and he did.

What made Dan wilt? What made that big coward at Culleoka wilt? Shakespeare gave it when he said "Conscience makes cowards of us all." I'll just tell you now that the bully that falls into my hands will suffer. You shan't bully these little boys.

I want to be a gentleman and I want you to be a gentleman.

An old negro named Doc used to live on our place. He was high tempered. His wife was high tempered. They lived together like Jupiter and Juno.

The old woman made a roaring fire, swept the floor, and made up the bed with a snowy counterpane. She was expecting a visit from her husband, Doc. He came through the snow, stepped into the room.

Jule called out for him to stop, she got the broom to sweep the snow off Doc. That made Doc mad. He jumped on that snowy bed with his muddy boots. Now Doc was the carriage driver and had an elegant suit of clothes with brass buttons. Jule got a shovel of coals and started to put them into the clothes chest. Doc grabbed the baby and stuck its hand in the coals in order to appeal to her motherly instincts and save his suit of clothes.

I was reared near a community of Quakers. They took Christ's teaching literally. They wouldn't resent even a blow and if the people of that community wished to speak of a man as a bully or a coward, they would say of him, "He would strike a woman or a Quaker."

Boys gentlemen try to say pleasing things. I like to make even a black sheep feel happy.

I wouldn't kill even a snake. If his life is any pleasure to him, let him have it.

Boys did you ever see two strange dogs introduce themselves. The first introduction is the spirit of a bully.

If I had to room with a gambler, a murderer or an ex-convict - and I have roomed with them - I wouldn't allude to unpleasant things.

If I were to room with a man that couldn't read or write, I wouldn't bedevil him about it.

No boy here must do what anything that every other boy with equal propriety cannot do.

Wednesday, September 30, 1902.

Lesson: "And seeing the multitudes he went up into a mountain, etc."

Blessed just means happy. Christ is telling us how to be happy.

(here he commented on the Beatitudes.) Prayer.

We are beginning our third week of school. There have been some fine records made. I have received a large number of letters. Some of them from uncles, aunts, and cousins. Now I have told^{you}/what sort of letter to write home and now an old grandfather writes me that he is so glad his little grandson can stand hardships. A great multitude of the letters that have gone home are manly letters. A manly fellow has power but a great big baby has no power.

Those of you who have done your two weeks work faithfully ought not to be homesick. I wish you would read your bibles. President Roosevelt in making a speech a few days ago quoted from the bible and missed it. A leading newspaper took him to task and the newspaper missed it.

Now in your bible you will read about Daniel who went off to a boarding school and never did get back. If a boy had never seen Latin he certainly can learn one word a day.

Some of these boys want to go back in a lower class. Boys that means a year longer in school, a year longer in the university, and a year more of bachelordom.

If I were a girl I wouldn't marry a fellow that couldn't read Caesar. Would you? "Dogged if I wouldn't live an old maid 'till Methusaleh came back in the earth before I'd marry a fellow that couldn't learn Caesar. Boys haven't I made the best talk I know how to make to get you to do your work?"

There are boys who took my advice that are now in U. S. Senate, judges of courts and in^{all}/the high walks of life; and there are those who didn't that are now in the penitentiary. My old teacher never used a book. He would sit up and make goose-quill pens while the boys recited. The first Latin sentence I ever read was "Tempus fugit." The old teacher would point his finger at a boy and say, "Genitive of tempus?" Tempe. Next, Tempo, Next, next, next, etc. Finally a fellow said "temporis" "Right." Now you seven boys come here and the hickory switches played a tune on the window panes as they flew to pieces on the backs of those boys.

After a few days there were no more switches in that schoolroom for morethan 3 months. Every boy from that school that went to the universities took highest honors.

Thursday, September 4th, 1902

Lesson: "Ye are the salt of the earth, etc."

(Here he gave a description of the manner of getting salt in the olden times.)

Boys in a boarding school you have every particle of time that there is andyet there are fellows here that haven't learned Mensa and dominus. If you had gone to old man Bingham you'd a learned it. Mr. Bingham was a small wiry Irishman and he never failed to thrash

a fellow when he missed. Some of you boys will be hewers of wood and drawers of water all your days.

A little boy ran away yesterday. His mother is dead. His father is in New York winding up his father's estate. I could have him arrested but I am not going to do it. Poor little fellow, he hasn't any money.

You know, to stimulate nervous energy is a curious law. Some think that it is caused by exciting the nerves. It may be done in many ways. (A wasp, a bee, a hot iron, a mustard plaster, will excite mental action. Now teachers, the best way I know is the way my teacher used. Take a switch and apply it to the surface and you will excite mental action.

I could begin at the beginning of old Stoddard's Latin Grammar and repeat it verbatim et literatim et punctuatim.

I learned Greek Grammar in the same way. Always before breakfast. I don't remember that I ever looked at a Greek Grammar after breakfast. You may think my pride is a queer kind of pride but I wouldn't be a conductor on one of these street cars for anything. I wouldn't ring that bell and thus publish to the world that "this man has paid me a nickel and I am not going to steal it." That's what it means.

I would rather be picturesquely independent and plough a blind mule on a rocky hillside all my life. I'd pull my own bell cord over him and ring the nickels out of him too.

"Let us pray."

Friday, September 5th, 1902

Lesson: (Brother Curry opened school.)

"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes;" etc.

Let us Pray.

Mr. Webb - This is Friday morning. I sometimes get greatly discouraged. There isn't anything that discourages me so much as that I have tried to show boys the way and they won't be shown. Now in the Caesar class I have tried for three weeks to get boys to learn one word and some haven't done it. One word is the unit of language. You can't make a smaller division than that. If a boy had learned one word a day, a noun one day, a verb the next and so on, in eight days he would know all the parts of speech. If he would learn one rule in grammar everyday in one session of a hundred days he would know a hundred rules and there are not that many in the Latin Grammar. A boy ought to learn as much in the Senior year as he does in all the other years of school put together. It is a progression. An English lord asked a blacksmith what he would shoe his horse for. The smith said, I will shoe him for one penny for the first shoe and two for the next, four for the next, etc. It nearly ruined the young lord to pay a part of it. The judge said he must pay for his folly.

The little Roman babies knew Latin.

The man said to his horse "i" "i" and the old dray horse moved on. The milkman said "Sic" "Sic" and the old cow stood still. The little boy said "Hic", "Hic", "Hic," and his little bench legged fice learned Latin. The little boy with a long whip tended the geese and the geese learned Latin. Ha, Ha, Ha.

Now I want a Senior to tell me if that boy taught those geese two words at a time. No, you can't teach boys but one word at a time. My son, listen I'll tell you the kind of boy I like. I like the fellow that if he were to see the White House, St. Paul's, or St.

Peter's would say I couldn't build anything like that now but I can learn it.

I saw a boy try to ride a horse. The first time the horse kicked up just a little he dropped his bridle rein and jumped up on the horse. The horse understood and he just bucked a little and that fellow flew off. That fellow was a wealking.

A fine looking rosy checked boy of twelve was in my school. He came to me and said: "Mr. Webb, I haven't enough to keep me busy." I said: "Well, when the class is called, I'll see about it." He knew the lesson. I gave him a lesson and told him to come back and recite it as soon as he learned it. In about five minutes he was back and knew it. He continued to do that and in three months he knew every rule in Bingham's Grammar and all the forms. He joined the Caesar class and went to the head of it and stayed there.

My son you have been here long enough to know that we want a strenuous life.

Now I want to come to another subject. "Reviewing." A boy that don't review his work can't stand an examination. If you struggle through your Caesar lesson this morning and go to your class and recite and don't review you can't read it in a week's time.

Don't let yourself think you are dull. Study hard and review.

I would review tomorrow. There are some boys here that are going to obey my advice. Some are not going to do it.

To the Girls.

Now an ounce of prevention is worth ten thousand pounds of cure.

If there is any monstrosity, it is a girl that loves to hang around the depot.

A public place is not a place for young ladies. If you know your lessons and make a good recitation the boys will respect you.

They can't help it. When I meet a girl that giggles and chews wax I feel guilty of insincerity when I lift my hat to her. I do lift my hat because she is in the shape of a woman. When a girl is in that age that she believes every silly and flattering thing a fellow says she ought to be put in a convent with an old maid at her elbow. Don't you ever go to see a girl in whose presence you don't feel embarrassed. We don't allow boys to go to see girls. Now we don't want girls to go to see the boys. The boys asked Mrs. Snoodles to invite the girls and Mrs. Snoodles wants a popular boarding house and invited them. If I were a girl I wouldn't use my charms for a commercial value. I wouldn't marry a girl that runs around at night to build up a boarding house.

John Wesley told a young preacher "The Lord can live with a woman you can't."

I couldn't live with one that lounged around the depot. I couldn't live with one that chewed wax.

Sunday afternoon, September 7, 1902

Song: "Jesus Saves."

Lesson: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, etc."

Prayer.

I take it for granted that a thoughtful boy after hearing that sermon on last Sunday on Daniel looked up the story. I said one day to the boys that the bible furnished an object lesson for a man in every emergency of life. A boy asked me if I could find anything about a young boy that went off to a boarding school, I told him "yes," Daniel. Daniel rose to be the prime minister of the Babylonian Empire that then ruled the world. Like many other boys he complained of his fare. His mother no doubt had taught him not to eat swine flesh nor drink wine. Daniel didn't whine around the other boys but went

straight to his teacher.

Another thing I would have you notice that Daniel and his companions had to stand an examination. They came off with first honors and were given government positions. You say that every fellow can't rise. That there must be someone to do the rough work. When I was captured and put on a ship in a hold with hundreds of others. The captain gave me a stateroom, a pen and ink. I made a roll of the prisoners. Wasn't that better than staying down in the hold.

Some of you boys are bad boys. Now I want you to revolutionize your lives. Every now and then a boy makes a confession to me and says that in an unguarded moment a fellow led him astray. I always want to ask who led Cain astray. Now the point is this that Daniel had the worst sort of companions. Daniel had the only great safeguard. That is a high noble character.

After awhile Daniel had a test. His enemies said if he prayed again they would throw him into a lion's den. He came out of the lion's den without a scratch.

One man on God's side is a majority. You can't hurt a man that's on God's side. Yes he may die. A young surgeon on board a ship that was sinking. He put the wounded men in a boat. There was no room for himself. He ordered them to push off and went down with the wreck. What better could he have done with his life?

It isn't necessary to live but it is necessary to be true. I would rather be dead than be a coward. My boy if you've got a wicked heart, get it right.

Let us get our hearts right with God.

Monday, September 8, 1902

(John M. Webb came in from Nashville this A.M.)

Lesson: "Happy is the man that getteth wisdom."

My son I'd like to have money. Money is a tool. I like to have tools to work with.

I'd like to have people respect me. Roosevelt was once a boy and had to learn "amo." Now he had the greatest position in the world and I have to honor him. I wouldn't vote for him. No. I don't believe in his politics. Her ways are ways of pleasantness. Boys do you believe God's word? Answer me. (Yes Sir) Then accept it.

"Let's Pray."

Monday is a curious day. If you lose one day out of a week there is twenty per cent of your time gone. One year lost out of five. Boys can you afford it? Tell me. (No sir.)

Suppose I start out to go to Holly Springs. I meet a man - looks like a man. I'll tell you how I know whether he's ignorant or not. I ask him how far it is to Holly Springs. He stares at me with his stupid eyes and says "taint fur."

My son, you can't afford to miss an example in mathematics. Already I am writing letters home to your fathers and mothers. I am writing about the worst records. Unless some of you do better I shall write them that the experiment is a failure. You are not worth spending money on.

Don't let anything stand between you and head in your classes.

When you get head write to your mother and say "Mother I'm head in my class." You'll make the bird sing in her heart for days.

Mr. Blakemore of Martin, Tennessee, brought his little nephew here. The uncle said that the little fellow had no mother. After a while he said "I hope he won't give you any trouble," no I said "He won't give me any trouble, I won't promise you that I won't trouble him." He didn't have any money but he managed to get it and came near

beating the uncle home. His uncle bought him a ticket again. He came back Saturday night. I told him to come back next Monday morning. Yesterday he borrowed money somewhere and went to Chattanooga. My son, you had better not break these boy's rules. You'll suffer for it. A big fellow got on the football grounds. The boys tried to remove him. He showed fight. They wore him out with buggy whips. He came whining to me about it. When I found that he had disobeyed the rules I told the boys to give him another with my compliments. Boys if you loaned that little fellow money to get away you did a very wicked thing. His father and I are trying to keep him out of the penitentiary and you are trying to put him in.

Tuesday, September 9, 1902.

(John Webb opened school.)

Lesson: "Let each one esteem others better than himself. Rejoice in the Lord alway."

Prayer.

Wednesday, September 10, 1902

Lesson: "A man's heart adviseth his way, etc."

Yesterday the most remarkable man of this century was in Knoxville. He can ride at the head of any army; his inaugural address is a masterpiece of literature. Boys what do you think he put as the foundation of character, in that address? Answer me. (Truth.)

No Roman of character ever told a lie. All the Greek and Roman writers love truth and condemn a lie. I'll tell you how you can tell a coward.

He does things on the sly.

Luke Wright an old schoolmate of mine at Bingham's School is now governor of the Phillipines. I knew him when he couldn't decline mensa. Why are the Filipinos not considered a civilized people?

They do things on the sly.

Luke Wright gets twenty thousand dollars a year. I never knew him

to vary a hair's breath from the truth. The negro says, "I won't rat on you." A rat is the most sneaking thing in the world. I respect the thief that got a pistol somehow in the penitentiary and made the guard stand there 'till his pal dynamited a hole in the penitentiary wall and let his comrades go. He went out last and got away. I hope they never will catch him. I despise a miserable coward. When I pay the toll-gate keeper and see a little fellow there. I always pay him some toll too. I was in Texas a big handsome fellow came up and asked me if I knew him. He was the son of the man who used to keep the toll-gate out here beyond the bridge. Now he owns an estate worth about \$25,000. He said the first money he ever had, I gave it to him.

A boy tried to put an end to night school last night by cutting the electric wire. I ran night school when Mr. Edison was a baby. All these boys together can't break up night school. Now I am going to telegraph his father this morning. That boy shan't recite another lesson 'till his father comes. Truth is always better than falsehood.

Thursday, 11, 1902

Lesson: "Happy is the man that understands wisdom etc." (Prayer)

I am going to release all the boys from night school except one.

Now I want the teachers to divide the boarding houses and go to see whether the boys are in their own rooms. If a boy goes off to a boarding school and acquires the habit of sleeping late of a morning he never will rise above mediocrity.

Now a package of cigarettes was picked up on the school grounds.

If any boy brings cigarettes to this town, I shall expel him from school. I won't stop to discuss it. I simply say that it shall not be done.

I will say that there are a large number of boys here that are gentlemen.

When Adam took Cain off to boarding school he told the teacher that Cain's old grandmother had spoiled him. Boys do you see? Now I am having some seats made for this school room. If you cut one of them with your knife, I shall expect you to pay me \$7.50. If you are such a savage as to cut a mantel, a chair, or a bedstead at your boarding house, we don't want you here.

Friday, September 12, 1902

Lesson: "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby, etc."

Boys I would review every bit of Latin tomorrow morning that I had gone over during the session. You will never take honors at any university unless you review. Now you new boys that have come in may use your long guns tomorrow afternoon.

Sunday, September 14, 1902

Lesson: "Enter not in the path of the wicked," etc.

There are a great many things we have to learn, my son. It is a positive discourtesy to go into any meeting where the seats are free and occupy the rear seats. It isn't treating a teacher, a preacher, or any public speaker with respect to sit as far away as possible.

Prayer.

All that a grain of wheat can do is to absorb his environment. If I put a grain of wheat out here on a hard packed road, it will be a sickly plant.

If I were to take my family and move into a community where the people are ignorant and wicked, I can't raise them to a high plane without helping everyone else. It is a curious fact. The object of an education is to put beautiful thoughts in your mind. Just as a man thinks, so is he.

There was a conspiracy in the company to kill my Colonel. I was his adjutant and slept in the tent next to him. One night a little

boy rushed in my tent and said "Get out they are going to shoot into the tent." The colonel and I fell flat on the ground. After a while the Colonel ran out, called the bugler. The officers came running. The Colonel ordered company B to be arrested. There were fifty men hung by the thumbs 'till they fainted.

Directly after the war there was a man who had worked and labored and mortgaged his farm to educate his brothers and sisters. His house, barn etc. were burned. The Ku Klux Klan was organized. They wanted me to join them. I wouldn't join them because they went in disguise. I told them that they would be betrayed. They said "No" The very captain of the Klan got the Yankee Governor to appoint him Attorney General. He betrayed the whole company. He is an Attorney General today. I see him sometimes when I go to my old state. I never speak to him. A northern General asked me what I thought about men who would go about doing things in disguise. I told him that I thought they were arrant cowards. I also said I despised the Boston Tea Party in my very soul. One evidence of bad company is that it then demands secrecy.

There is isn't anybody on the earth that don't want to see you a man. There are many more good boys here than there are bad boys. Some one told me today about a profane boy. I knew I would find it out. My boy the crowd you run with will betray you everything. There are boys here that wouldn't betray you for any amount of money.

Now you are rooming together. I would try to be agreeable to my roommate. I have seen a fellow take up all the fire. I have seen him take two or three pieces of chicken when he knew there was not enough to go around. I have known boys to make a combination and pass the chicken away from that fellow till when it got to him there wasn't any left.

Monday, September 15, 1902

Lesson: I Psalm Prayer Roll Call

Tuesday, September 16, 1902

Lesson: "The preparation of the heart of man and the answer of his heart is of the Lord."

Prayer

Most of the boys here are earnest students. There are some here that are failures. I have written several letters already to parents about them. I'm sorry but I shall have to write more of them.

Mr. Gates who bought the land N R.R. was denied a place at the best hotel at England because of his profanity and because of his spitting on the floor. If you were to spit on the street in Paris you would be regarded as a barbarian and possibly you would be arrested.

Mr. Sharp of Mississippi told me that there is not a R.R. in the U. S. that will employ a man who has cigarette marks on his fingers.

I have written to a father that his boy has used profane language here and that it must be corrected. A boy told me when I asked him about

profanity that every boy at the A and M College in Mississippi

swore. I didn't believe it. I turned to my desk and wrote to his mother. When I finished I read him the letter. He burst into tears and said, "Mr. Webb that letter will kill my mother. She taught me better than that."

I told him that I was just trying to reinforce the teaching of my mother. You may call it egotism if you like but

I never used a profane word in my life. Did it discount me any?

I think not. I had all the honors I was entitled to. If you have

the language of a tough, that says to us that you had a mother and a father that had the language of toughs. You are their representative

to the world. Some morning I am going to call the roll and ask

every boy if he has used a profane word and if he has heard one used. Now nearly every boy would rather confess it than to be stamped as a liar by these boys.

Right here at the end of this first month I am going to clean up this Augean stable. I am not a Hercules but I can clean it up. I sent away twenty five boys in one day for profanity. There are plenty of young men of character. The world don't have to get toughs for employees. A young man who kinda fudged through the senior class writes me letters after letter wanting me to recommend him for a position as teacher in a preparatory school. I am not going to do it. I wrote him that his scholarship was not good enough. He said when he was in senior class that he was going to be a lawyer and that lawyers needed only a smattering of Latin and Greek. Would I like to risk my life and property in the hands of a man that couldn't read Caesar or work high school arithmetic.

My son this is the end of the first month and I am trying to get you on your feet. Now these fellows that made a spurt at first and are slipping back now, I want you to warm him up. The way of the transgressor that sits foot is hard and God made me to make it hard.

Wednesday, September 17, 1902

John Webb opened School. Lesson: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow," etc.
Holiday today boys.

Everybody rushed out yelling as loud as he could.

September 18, 1902.

Lesson: The parable of the landlord hiring the man at the market place.

Prayer

I wonder how many boys in this room have been careful about taking their baths since they left home. In order to be a student you must have a healthy body. Now twice a week you ought to take a bath from head to heels.

Now everytime I go to a barber shop I ask the barber if he has dipped his scissors in boiling water since he cut the last fellows hair. Often he dips them into the water before my eyes. I do this so that the barbers itch won't get a hold on me. Boys I wouldn't have the barber's itch for all the money Pierpont Morgan has. I wouldn't sleep with a boy that didn't bathe at least once a week. A boy ought to change his underclothes twice a week.

I saw an old gentleman of seventy, gigantic in body and as active as a young man. I asked him the secret of his health. He said that he ate with moderation and with regularity. He slept regularly. He took a bath and changed his underclothing every day. I saw a young man with a complexion as clear as a girl's. He told me that he took a bath every morning in cold water and he never used a narcotic or a stimulant.

I am told that there are cigarettes here. Maybe the butcher on the train is selling them. You teachers notice the boys at foot - you needn't bother about the boys at head. A boy that smokes cigarettes never ranks high. If you find their fingers discolored, send them to me. I'm an expert at that. All the boys at Mrs. Hillard's stand up. (The boys stood up.) Now teachers give me the record of each of these boys. (Only one of the boys was making a record in his classes.) Now I don't think you can find another house in Bell Buckle that has as poor a record as Mrs. Hillards. My son I do admire a manly boy and love him. If there wasn't any God, I'd bow and worship him. I despise a miserable trifling do-nothing.

Now you teachers are convenient. Just go to Mrs. Hillard's about three times a night, Will you? (Teachers, yes sir.) If you find a boy out of his room report him to me and I'll thrash him.

Friday, September 19, 1902

Brother Curry opened school.

Lesson: "Love your enemies" etc. "As ye would that men should do to you" etc.

Prayer

This Friday morning

Its the farmer's sons that make presidents, senators, etc. Somehow the commercial spirit gets a hold on boys in the city and they do not rise above it.

It used to be that people had no servants. They had to do Sunday's work on Saturday. The girls had to help with the cooking; the boys had to chop wood and go to the mill. Most of the Northern schools teach on Saturday.

Now I'll tell you why we give you Saturday. I believe that a boy ought to have a day in which he has no nurse nor teacher to look after him. Now Saturday morning you ought to review your whole weeks work. If you missed a rule in a Latin or a principle in mathematics, I'd get it down so I'd never miss it again. I believe I'd rather use my Saturdays than to lose a year in school. Its pretty tough here isn't it? (Yes sir.) Just think of it you can get through this school a year sooner through; through the university a year sooner - and you can get married a year sooner. Isn't that an incentive?

Now I think if you get through your work tomorrow and have an hour or two to spare I'd get a splendid book and read it. Sometimes people make fun of our school house but there never has been a man here of any literary attainments who didn't compliment our library. In the afternoon I wouldn't look at a book. The greatest thing that a man ever learns is social adjustment. Associate with the boys; join in the games.

Cecil Holt took the prize at Vanderbilt in Math examination last week. Now his name is known in a dozen states. Now you boys in Literary Societies listen. John Sims was chosen to represent Princeton in a debate. Josiah Sibley, Yale College. Both of them entered this school when they were just little boys. Now I'm going to tell both sides. There are fellows who were here with them that are now in the penitentiary. My son, you say, "Another talk." Yes. I am trying to prevent these little disturbances that come up in school.

Sunday, September 21, 1902

Song 181 "I am thine, O Lord." (Mr. Webb is absent.)

Lesson: "Let love be without dissimulation." (W.R.Webb, Jr.)

Prayer

Brother Curry made a talk.

Boys, I believe in the sacredness of human life. I believe we are born into the world children of God not as was once believed the children of the devil. My highest ambition for my children is to raise them in such a way that they will never know themselves other than as Christians.

There is a crisis in our lives when we begin to choose between good and evil. When we choose the best and the noblest we go right on in the way that God marked out for us.

Although we are full of imperfections we belong to the royal line of sons of God.

Monday, September 22, 1902.

John Webb opened school.

Lesson: "God came from Teman, etc."

Prayer

Did anybody ever see such beautiful weather? It is simply ideal. Boys did you ever go to a school, public or private, where the boys could go in and out when they pleased? (No sir.) Did you ever go to a school, public or private, where the boys that knew their lessons could sit out under the trees. (No sir.)

Boys must not talk on recitations. A man must have adaptation. Now if you are allowed to talk part of the time, don't try to talk all the time. I had a senior who led in some hazing. I took him in the whipping room. He said he understood that seniors would not be whipped. I thrashed him and didn't thrash any of the other boys because he ought to have known better. Ny son, don't lets have any more punishment in school. Don't think yourself an exception from my rule in this school.

I had a boy that looked as wise as an owl but he sat foot. I told him he had to move out from foot. After class he came to me and said, "You don't know who I am or else you wouldn't have spoken to me in such a manner." "I am John D. Brown's nephew!" I said "Albert if John C. Brown's nephew don't move away from foot I'll thrash him." John C. brown's nephew went head the next day. Another fellow came to my room and told me that he was General Sparrow's grandson. I told him that General Sparrow's grandson was as poor material as I ever saw.

A little boy was reproved by his grandmother for saying ugly words. He was very penitent. He cried and cried. His grandmother told him he must ask God to forgive him. The little fellow prayed, then the grandmother said, "Now my little boy I have forgiven you and God has forgiven you. Run out to play. The little fellow looked up through his tears and said "Grandma how did you know?" Oh, a little bird told me. I'll bet it was one of them damn little English sparrows.

Tuesday, September 23, 1902

Son Will opened school. Lesson: Paul's shipwreck. Prayer.

I want to talk to you a minute about damage to property. I want the teachers to go to the rooms and see if they are neatly kept. At West Point there are no servants. The students do all the cleaning up. The inspection officer comes around with snow white gloves on and inspects the arms. If the gun were to soil those gloves the owner would be expelled from West Point. My son what is the reason for this? The U. S. wants to develop gentlemen. There was a boy who used to stay at the back and did his own work. He stood the best examination at Annapolis. Now he travels all through foreign lands. When a man goes abroad as a representative of our Government, we want a man that is neat and tidy in his appearance. I wouldn't live with a great big fellow that isn't as neat as a negro. Some boys think it smart to damage property. I expelled a boy for being so untidy in his room. He married. It was an unhappy marriage.

A boy went out and wrote his name on the school house. I had a new plank put in and had several coats of paint put on it. The bill was only \$27.00. His father said that he wouldn't pay it. "Alright," said I, "your boys name is stricken from my roll unless it is." If you won't pay the damage done to your room, you won't darken the doors of this school house again. The boy that cuts up his chair is like a

bird that defiles its own nest. Only a pigeon ever does it. Now boys isn't that enough on that subject forever? Tell me boys, isn't it? (yes sir.) A gentleman is one that tries to be agreeable. Will you get that please. Don't do things on the sly. You wouldn't go to my house and jump on my bed and cut up my mantel if I were present. I have gone into other rooms where there are pictures on the walls. In others I have seen Greek verbs written out in a beautiful hand or maybe the declinsions of Latin nouns, etc.

Wednesday, September 24, 1902

Mr. Clark opened school. Lesson: "The Lord doth build up Jerusalem" etc. Prayer.

Son Will - "I want to say something about your getting water at my house. Don't go after water unless you take a bucket with you and get it full of water.

Thursday, September 28, 1902

Lesson: "The preparation of the heart of man," etc. (School opened by Will Clarke) Prayer.

I would like for boys to read Dean Swift. He wrote "Gullivers Travels," and other books. I understand that we have a war going on down at Mrs. Hillard's between the "Big Endians and the Little Endians." Some of the boys want to sleep under the cover and some on top of the cover. The record will be taken tomorrow.

Friday, September 26, 1902.

Lesson: "O Lord our Lord, How excellent is thy name in all the earth." What does your name mean? Does it mean integrity and uprightness, or does it mean slickness? Your name will go down in life standing for the character back of your name. You can afford to be unpopular. You can afford to be criticized - that don't amount to a row of pins - but you can't afford to be known as a sneak. It isn't physical strength

that makes the man but it is the moral and intellectual strength that makes a man. A man is measured by what he does; God is measured by what he does. My son, the biggest thing that God has ever created is a man.

You can't fool the world. You may fool me. You may fool some people but you can't fool everybody. The world is too smart. Any fellow that does anything on the sly is an arrant coward. The world says so and the world is right. A babe and suckling is the weakest thing that is born on earth; yet God says it is born for dominion. The great steel ship is governed by one man. One man standing by the helm has absolute control over the great Leviathan.

Alexander H. Stevens didn't weigh a hundred pounds yet he was chosen by the armies lead by Lee Jackson and all to consult with A. Lincoln. When he came back and said that peace could not be made then the armies began to fight satisfied that that was the only way it could be done. Prayer.

When I came to you at the opening of school, I told you that there would be 180 boys here at Commencement also that there was a certain per cent of worthless fellows. I've told you that the reason we have trapping is to reveal yourself to yourself. This is the sixth week of school and I have a list of boys that are sitting foot in their classes. I am going to writ e their parents today. They couldn't hold a position in a butcher shop. You wouldn't let them keep score in a football or baseball game.

Your father sent you here in order that you might have better opportunities than those offered by the public schools. Now you might as well be in the jungles of Africa with an African teacher with lips two feet thick.

When I first went to Tennessee to teach - with my first mustache - the first time I called a class they refused to come. Said they wanted to recite in the afternoon, but they did come, and I would have been a failure if I had let them have their own way.

I can look at a man's back - not a boy's back - and tell whether he is a success or a failure.

Tomorrow I'd get that arithmetic and I wouldn't let any girl's face come between me and that arithmetic. I wouldn't let any foaming milkshake or red apples or a pipe come between me and that arithmetic. The boy that slips back in class one time will slip back another. One boy stayed in Caesar five years and never did get out. He made a failure in life.

Intelligence backed by moral integrity is the greatest power on earth. You'll never walk these streets in athletic suits. (Put those boys on night school and Saturday school that come out on the street in athletic suits.) These boys shall not appear on the street in the costume of a sport.

Sunday, September 28, 1902.

Song: "Come ye that love the Lord."

Lesson: "Behold a sower went out to sow," etc.

There are departments in all the Universities which make a study of organic life. But they don't know what it is. That principle that enables a man to walk and see etc. is called life but no man knows what it is.

Great scientists have made a study of life as it is revealed in nature. It is interesting to study where we came from but it is more interesting to know what we are, whither we are drifting, and what we are going to do with it.

Your body may be a fine one but it don't amount to much. I could dip 85% of it out of a mud puddle.

The great thing is the development of the intellect. Now if you go away not knowing how to concentrate your mind on anything you are a failure. Every thorn tree is a degenerate. Nature started out to make a leaf or twig or fruit but for some reason it aborted and became a thorn. I haven't time to tell you what Mr. Darwin says about it but if you don't improve your opportunities you are a degenerate. God doesn't force religion and right on any man. My son you can't afford to look back over a wasted life. My son you can be poor but you can be manly enough to refuse treats that you can't return. I wouldn't accept any sort of a treat if I couldn't treat back.

I am going to tell you how to choose an occupation. You must choose an occupation in which you can be of the most service to your fellow men. Not the one that you can get the most money out of but the one in which you best help your fellow man. My son the quicker you adapt yourself to your environment, -

You didn't see me much last week, I was out trying to get this county to cast one prohibition vote, - they never did. I rode miles and miles and made speech after speech but the other fellows got their man in.

My son, I wish you were all Christians. Some of you may never be but you all can be gentlemen. You can have gentle feelings.

I don't believe in a fellow looking always to a future life but I believe in living today in such a way that you will live forever.

BOOK II

Monday, September 29, 1902

School opened by Mr. Price. Lesson. The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.

Prayer.

Lets take record today. I want the boys to locate the trifling set at once.

(Method of taking record

<u>Name of Boarding House</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Ab.</u>	<u>Dis.</u>	<u>Av.</u>
Mr. Alley	7	2	9	1 2/7
etc.				

This record of all the boarding houses is made on the board.)

The first indication of savagery that I ever notice in any people is the treatment of woman.

Did you ever see the wife of an intelligent man out cutting wood and the like?

The first evidence we have of civilization is the protection of woman.

You can't treat the man at the boarding-house with disrespect because you know he'd choke you to death but you are disrespectful to the lady of house, and you are an arrant coward.

An intelligent man picks up a lady's handkerchief. I wonder if these Seniors have read Terryson's Lays of the Round Table.

Away back yonder in the dawn of civilization men began to protect the women.

I knew a good woman at Cullooka whom we called Aunt Ming that used to get a

good cow-hide and wear the boys at her house literally out when they didn't

behave. She was a strong woman and a woman of strong character and the boys

were treated well at her house until they misbehaved. This morning I am

going to the boarding house keepers and get the names of the boys that are

misbehaving.

September 30, 1902

Lesson. Many people shall go and say, come let us go up to the hill of the Lord.

Prayer.

(It is raining to-day.)

This is going to be a hard day on teachers and pupils but the work must go on. Boys must be quiet to-day.

Call the roll.

Oct. 1, 1902

School opened by Jno. Webb.

Lesson

Prayer

Roll Call

Oct. 2d, 1902

Boys a man's life is a failure unless he takes an interest in God's word.

Lesson. I have called thee in righteousness.

Sing unto the Lord a new song.

Let the inhabitants of the rocks sing.

Prayer

Roll Call.

Friday, Oct. 3, 1902

School opened by Son Will.

Lesson. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me etc."

Prayer