

fell from the train. That mother returned home with a dead son and a dead father.

I don't want any of you to have as a Christmas present a wounded hand. I want you to go home and come back with a sound body and a sound heart.

I'll let that subject rest. I want you to have a glad Christmas. I'm glad you are here. You've stood your examinations and I understand there are some good records.

Those of you who are going home, may I say a word to you. The loud mannered fellow as soon as he gets on the train will begin to talk loud. I traveled on trains before the Civil War. This year I've traveled already over three thousand miles. I never saw a person get hurt who stayed near the center of a coach.

My son, life is a splendid thing. It's the biggest thing in this world.

Wednesday, December 24, 1902

Lesson: "Blessed are the poor in spirit," etc.

We will meet here for study next Monday morning. You will be in your rooms every night as usual.

Tonight you may invite anybody you choose to come here to this school house and have a good time.

Sunday, January 4, 1903

Lesson: "He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love," etc.

Prayer

This past year has been the most remarkable financially that the world has ever seen. Every man who wanted work could get it. The

R. R.'s have not had cars and engines to haul their stuff. In '93 men were everywhere looking for work. The past year has been the most remarkable in applied sciences. It has been a most remarkable one with respect to schools. The schools were full last year.

Marconi sent messages back and forth from Canada to England.

Immense waterfalls have been harnessed and electricity is being used for fuel.

It has been a red-letter year.

In old times when people made calendars they noted special days with a red letter. That's the origin of that expression.

There never was such a demand for Bibles as before.

Manufacturers have not been able to supply the demand for God's Word.

There never was such a movement in missionary work.

The standard of the workman has been raised.

No R. R. or other great organization will employ a man who drinks, smokes a cigarette or enters a house of ill-fame.

I saw in last night's paper that Seay, the leader of the temperance in this state, will be elected Speaker of the Senate without opposition. My son, that's a great improvement.

Now, my boy, the object of all science, art, literature, and machinery is just to make a man.

The great masses of people are just the product of heredity and environment but God gives every man a will power and every now and then a genius arises that you can't account for by heredity or environment.

I despise a coward. God put him in the shape of a man and he's not a man. Would you like to know how you may find out whether you are a coward or not?

Whenever you get the consent of your mind to do thing on the sly you are an arrant coward.

If you have done anything on the sly, let your will power come in and stop right now.

The Bible says, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

When I was a little boy not big enough to handle a gun, I used to take my old black and tan hound. A rabbit would jump up and I could almost outrun it myself but that old poky dog would strike the trail and in a drawling tone he followed it but after awhile he'd catch that rabbit. That's what it means. It means your sins will hound you down.

My son, I had rather be a gentleman than anything else. I'd rather know myself to be a gentleman and all the world to think I wasn't than for all the world to think me a gentleman when I wasn't.

I want to get on the right side of every question that comes up this year.

I don't know when I have felt such a personal bereavement as I did in the death of Dr. Freeman. Plain, simple, and unpretentious but you couldn't mention his name to a man, woman, or child in this community without seeing respect written in their faces. His was a noble life. I sometimes wonder why God lets a man like that die. He was scientific, generous, noble in his thought.

I had a poor fellow working for me the other day and when the news came that Dr. Freeman was dead that man told me that his wife was sick one night and a certain doctor he went after wouldn't go out at night but Dr. Freeman got up and went out and got his horse. He was sick but he went out and spent the night when he knew he wouldn't get a cent for it. I would like to live a life like that.

Don't disappoint your friends this year. Don't disappoint yourself. Be a man.

Monday, January 5, 1903

Lesson: "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God," etc.

Prayer

Now my young friends, it's a little uncomfortable but I have been out ever since daylight and have not been to the fire. So you will have to remain quiet for awhile. A sad case has come up and however sad it is I must meet it.

Some boys coming from Nashville last Saturday night were indulging in a drunken revelry. A gentleman, a stranger to me, told me about it and he described the boy that had the whiskey.

He said he was a dark eyed, dark haired boy with a Grecian nose. Now look over these two hundred boys and see if you know him. Don't you see how easy it is to find a fellow?

They didn't like whiskey but they thought it was smart to get drunk. They bought a Negro's whiskey. I wish I could get hold of that Negro. I could put him in the penitentiary for selling these boys whiskey.

Now boys tell me which do you think is the guiltier party: the intelligent boys that can read Caesar that bought the liquor and drank it or the ignorant Negro that sold it? (The boys)

It's gone all over the state now. The disgraceful conduct of a few boys has brought reproach upon this whole school.

One of them got so drunk that he vomited all over the coach. Don't you suppose their parents will be proud of them?

Whose money do you suppose those boys spent?

If you eat a man's stuff, that means you are a friend to him, don't it?

If you were traveling in Arabia and a Bedouin robber comes along and you can get him to taste your salt, you're safe. You may uncock your pistol then. If you are with savage Indians and you can get them to smoke with you, you're safe. Don't you know that these boys didn't earn that money they spent for that whiskey.

Now you four boys, Allison Newsom, Conn Faree, Herndon Young, and William Nichols, go to your rooms. Now listen, if you leave your rooms I will have you arrested and put in jail as witnesses against that Negro. You didn't know I had that power, did you?

An old gray haired man on the train said to the boys, "Do you boys know that old teacher at Bell Buckle that tells the boys not to do things on the sly?". Boys, don't do things on the sly. It's a coward that does things on the sly.

Someone said that the boys smoked cigarettes on the train. Boys, I've chewed tobacco forty years and I've smoked pipes and thousands of cigars, but no human being ever saw me smoke a cigarette.

There isn't a train from Washington to El Paso that doesn't carry some of the old Webb School boys who are my friends and who want to see the good name of this school protected.

Tuesday, January 6, 1903

Lesson: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble," etc.

Give me your attention. I want you new boys to listen to me. These old boys have heard what I am going to say many a time but I am

going to keep on reminding them. I want the old boys to corroborate a statement I am going to make. Boys, did you ever hear me say that a fellow is judged by the company he keeps? (Yes, sir.)

If I go to Shelbyville and hang around saloons, would you go to school to me? Answer me? (No, sir.) Then if you go there you shan't come to school to me. Turn about is fair play.

Boys, I could show you an old ragged drunkard right out here on this road some day whose father gave him \$60,000 in cash when he married. He would jump at the chance to work for me for a quarter.

When I was in the army, I was first orderly-sergeant. One of my duties was to issue rations. I was a beardless boy who weighed just a hundred and eight pounds. Sometimes they would give me a piece of beef that five men could have eaten and I would have to divide it among a hundred men. These diplomats would try to bribe me in order to get a larger share than was due them. Oh, it was a hard place! I prayed God every day to make me just in my dealings with those men. Now, boys, I want to tell you the biggest compliment I ever had paid me. Those fellows, ignorant though they were, used to come to me to write their letters for them and then they would read the letters they received. But I want to tell you about the compliment.

I was shot and away on a furlough. While I was away sick there was a vacancy and I was elected first lieutenant. Only one man voted against me and he voted for himself.

Oh my boy, you may call me an egotist if you want to but I'm willing to be called anything if I can influence you to be better. Now my boys, let me tell you when I was in the army in Northern Virginia when the ground was frozen and the snow everywhere I used to go to a stream every morning and break the ice and take a bath. I attribute my strong

constitution that has enabled me to worry with school boys for forty years (laughter) to that fact. Of course I began when the weather was warm. My boy, if there is a fellow in your room that won't keep clean, you just let me know and I will take him down to the creek and break the ice and take him in. I'd rather have a dirty shirt and a clean skin than to have a fine suit and a dirty skin.

Just before Christmas I told you that there was not a train from here to El Paso that hasn't some of my old students on it. I begged you not to drink and act a scalawag on the train but I told you that there was some little fool that would do it. Now you know what happened yesterday. I have received four telegrams about those boys. I'm sorry for them but I must be true.

Boys, didn't I tell you I would judge you by the company you keep? (Yes sir.) Now isn't it odd that those four fellows were all together in one room. Didn't I get the leader first pop? How did I do it?

If I were to have a watch stolen in Nashville and I were to go to the police and I described my watch, they'd have it in an hour. How do they know it? If you are a thief it would show on your face. Your face registers the thoughts of your mind.

I am going to lay down this principle right now to these new boys. I'll judge you by the company you keep. Inside of a week I will know you. If any misconduct arises I can pick out the boys in a few minutes. It has been nearly fifteen years since any boy was expelled before yesterday.

Did any of you ever see an advertisement of this school, boys?
(No sir.)

There are people right here in Bell Buckle who never saw my

circular. I never hand them around. How in the thunder do they find their way here? Isn't it odd? Listen boys, I ride horseback from Virginia to Texas and stay with a personal friend every night. There's Don Dockery's father, who used to be with me at Bingham's School in 1857. Your fathers went to school to me many of them.

Wednesday, January 7, 1903

Lesson: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love," etc.

God controls everything. He is imminent in everything. We call it law because he acts uniformly. He acts uniformly because he is all-wise. I would act uniformly if I were all-wise but I have to keep on learning.

My son, if you haven't been there you'll get where there will be no help save from God. Boys, join me in the Lord's Prayer.

This is the beginning of a new term. The boys who don't get here on time in the morning will be kept here three hours Saturday. We must get a move on us.

You must pay your bills promptly. You are not a member of my school till your tuition is paid. I boarded for sixteen years and no one ever asked me for my board. I was always prompt to meet my obligations.

Teachers, how many boys were late this morning? (Six) Keep them here in perfect quietude for two hours next Saturday and if they are late again I'll put them on night school.

Listen, I want every old boy who was here last year to stand up if he wants any company in his room during study hours. Don't you see boys nobody wants you in his room in study hours.

I have been eighteen years trying to raise some fine sheep. Just the other day an old man who is a fine judge came to me and said I had the finest flock of sheep he ever saw. I was proud boys of that compliment. I am proud of my sheep, my mules, and my colts.

How much more is a mother or father proud of a son that they are rearing. I want you to go back home with such character, such culture, and such attainments that your parents will be proud to introduce you to any company.

If you father is the greatest engineer, lawyer, doctor, preacher, or anything, his life is a failure if he has reared a bad boy. My son, society is going to put you right where you belong. Don't you forget it.

At one time when I had sons of statesmen, bishops, etc., in my school, a quiet fellow came from Louisiana named Albert Lowden. His father wrote me a letter that had capitals and small letters all mixed up just as if he had stumped his toe and spilt them. He told me that he was a blacksmith and that he and his wife had saved their small earnings for years to send that boy to school.

If ever you see any of the men who went to school to me at that time they will tell you that Albert Lowden by his scholarship and manly character was easily first among his fellows.

Every boy that don't want any visitors in his room during study hours to stand up. (All the boys stood up.) Listen now study hours begin at sundown and continue till twelve o'clock next day with the privilege of eating and sleeping all you please. I wish you would go to bed at nine o'clock and sleep at least eight hours. Nine o'clock is my bed time.

I want you boys to be neat in your appearance. Be neat and clean. Keep your shoes blacked. I would have mine blacked every morning if I didn't have to wade around in the mud after my stock.

Mr. Clark, will you make me a list of the boarding houses this morning? Now's as good time as any.

This building cost only \$2,000. Our library cost about \$15,000. Now that library has been there 17 years without a lock. You have access to it at any time, but there isn't room for you to sit down in there and you must not speak to anyone unless the library is open. When Mr. John Webb comes, he will open the library and you can get any book you want simply by giving your name and the number of the book.

My son, the rules of this school are going to be obeyed and don't you forget it. This school has been running too long. You can't break it up. I don't want these new boys to be repelled but I want you to understand that you are to obey. There are not many rules here. They are few and simple. We expect a boy to have some sense of propriety.

Thursday, January 8, 1903

Lesson: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

This morning I saw a little lamb born. Tell me how that lamb knew how to suck. Whenever a fellow talks about evolution, ask him to explain that. With a God, it's easy to explain; without Him it's a mystery. God framed the worlds and He taught that little lamb where his breakfast was.

Join me in the Lord's Prayer.

Now, William, read out the names of the Beginning Class that

made "very good" in Latin on the last examination. We want you to join one of the Societies. You secretaries, take the names of these boys as they are read out.

Friday, January 9, 1903

School opened by John Webb.

Lesson: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses," etc.

Prayer

Friday morning!

I'm sorry for the poor fellow that spends his money and gets nothing for it. Now on Saturday if you don't study half a day, you are a weakling and you need a nurse. If you are through your reviewing by noon, get a book out of the library and read it.

Another thing. I want you new boys to understand another thing. You are to make your acquaintances inside of school. I don't want you to make the acquaintance of loafers. I'll judge you by the company you keep. Birds of a feather flock together. The old Latins had a saying, "similia cum similibus" "like with like."

That class of fellows will betray you every time. Whenever you go into a crowd that is going to do wrong, somebody is going to tell.

After the war was over a band of Ku Klux was organized in our community. I refused to join because they went about in disguise. Listen boys, the captain of that band betrayed them. Those fellows had to scatter everywhere.

That fellow in 1870 had Federal soldiers about him all the time to protect his life. He was appointed U. S. Attorney by the government and holds the position to this day. I have seen him on the train

many times but I never speak to him and never will till he acknowledges he is a Judas Iscariot.

Boys, I want you to take home a good report. One that will bring joy to your mother's heart.

If I had all the women of the world that had ever lived to stand before me and I had to be born again and had to pick a mother, I would pick the same one.

Boys used to laugh at me about being tied to my mother's apron string. I was always tied to her apron string and I'm tied to it yet.

Tuesday, January 13, 1903

Lesson: "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for battle," etc.

A good many years ago a farmer's boy, a little slim fellow, entered school. When he finished, I urged him to go to college. He went. Now he has an elegant home. He married a beautiful cultured lady. It was a pleasure to be in his home.

I had only left that home an hour when I met a seedy unkempt fellow. He was a country fellow also. He had worked hard at school the year he was with me, but the next year his people concluded not to send him back to me but sent him to a state school that didn't cost so much. He was greatly disappointed. He told me with tears in his eyes that he was an employee but didn't even get a holiday Christmas. These two boys were equally gifted but one had an opportunity and the other didn't.

Tobacco ought not to be used by the human family. It isn't food. It isn't clothing.

I founded this school in 1870. It is a private institution.

There are no trustees for you to appeal to. There are some new boys here that have never learned to obey yet.

A few years ago I got into a game of "Shinney" with the boys. In the excitement of the game I inadvertently stepped on the wrong side and a fellow hit me a rap over the head with a shinney stick. The doctor had to sew up my head and I saw stars for a month. Did I do anything to that boy? Not a thing. I had disobeyed and I paid the penalty.

If you go into a game of "mumblepeg" and it comes your time to mumble the peg you mumble it if it costs you your nose. I'd rather be without a nose than to fail to do what I agree to do.

If I were elected chief devil and accepted the position, I'd keep hell hot. However, I'm not a candidate for the position. In other words I'd do what I agree to do.

Now boys, I've been talking about your rules. Now I want to talk about my rules. As I said, this school was founded in 1870. Ask your fathers if the rules were obeyed when they were here. Our rules are few and simple and they are going to be enforced. One of them is that you must not smoke outside of your own room. I don't care who you are, if you break it you'll pay the penalty. Another thing you shan't stay here if you smoke a cigarette. The most destructive element that the devil ever invented for the destruction of boys is a cigarette. A boy had epilepsy right in my school room from smoking cigarettes. I've never kept a boy in my school since that day who smoked a cigarette. If you contracted the habit before you came here, you may smoke a pipe or a cigar in your own room.

My son, I don't say these things to be dogmatic but I want to be

emphatic and I say again these rules are going to be enforced. You new boys that have just come here I want to know there isn't a larger per cent of students in any institution in the world. There are boys here just as manly and just as noble and with just as high sense of honor as you will find anywhere on the earth.

Truth is the first one of the cardinal virtues. I'd rather tell the truth and be expelled than to tell a lie and keep my seat in school.

January 15, 1903

Lesson: "Therefore let us not sleep as do others but let us watch and be sober," etc.

I want your attention. I'd like to have a clean house. I have to wade around in mud after my stock but I try to keep my shoes clean when I'm about the house. A few years ago I went to a certain room repeatedly and finally I said, "Boys, if you can find a Negro cabin in this country that's as dirty as this I'll excuse you; if not you'll go home." They went home.

Now what do you think of a fellow who keeps his room clean, who keeps his person clean, and who always looks nice that is foul in his conversation? He turns loose the vile thoughts that come into his mind. My son, if you use profane language, it is only a question of time until I find it out.

Not so long ago I had a fellow in my room who had been using profane language. I talked to him about it, quoted the Scriptures on the subject, but he sat bolt upright and defended it. I turned to my desk and wrote a letter to his father about his case and enclosed our circular which states that profane boys are not desired. When I read the letter to him, he burst into tears and said, "Mr. Webb, that letter will

kill my mother." My son, if you do little sly things you never will develop into a great man. There was a big green fellow in my neighborhood whom the girls used to laugh at on account of his awkwardness and greenness. Just a few days ago I heard him spoken of in one of the greatest literary assemblies in the country. It is often said of him that he never was known to use any expression that with equal propriety might not be used in the presence of ladies.

Some of you have language that isn't worthy of any assembly. I'd rather have your seat empty than to have your influence here. We want to rear great big noble hearted men. We can't make one out of you if you use bad language.

Teachers, is night school in session now? I expect you'd better start it tonight. Go around to the boarding houses, don't knock at the front door but knock at each boy's door and if you find every fellow hard at work just go back in ten minutes and don't knock that time and you'll get the whole thing on night school. Don't think you can fool me. Why, when I was a young teacher, long before I reared my first moustache, I used to have charge of a dormitory where there were a large number of boys. One night the principal waked me up and told me there was a disturbance among the boys. I got up and dressed very leisurely. When I went around to the rooms every fellow was in bed and snoring. I just went to each room with a basket and took every pair of shoes that had snow on them. They had been out snowballing. Boys, wouldn't you have been ashamed if you had had to come to my room after your shoes?

Now we are here to learn. If we're not here for that purpose we are not here for anything. We want you to get a move on you. Mr. John Webb, are the seniors at work? Are any of those fellows laying out?

Teachers, move 'em up or move 'em out.

I'd rather have fewer and better students. Young teachers, if you let your class go to pieces on account of laziness, the world will rightly judge you a failure. Boys, you must get a move on you - pleasantly, if possible, but you must get a move on you.

"What did God give you a head for? To go by, didn't he?" Well, if He had intended for you to go by the other fellow's head, He would only have made one head for both of you and given it to the other fellow. If any fellow has the bacilli of laziness, I want a disinfectant for it. Do you know one? I do. It's a great big whole-hearted determination to be something and to do something.

We have trapping in our classes just to show you how you stand in relation to your relation to the other fellows.

Go head or bust!

Friday, January 16, 1903

Lesson: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes," etc.

I know coughing is a necessity, but I'm not going to have a dozen fellows coughing when I'm trying to read the Bible. It's will power that determines the royal man and you shan't indulge in that sympathetic coughing.

You boys that are just beginning Cicero, sit down and read those few pages over and over tomorrow morning until you catch Cicero's style. Why, when I was reading Virgil, by the time I had reached the fifth book I could read pages without looking up a single word. Those new words that you've just gone over, if you don't read them over you'll forget them in a week.

If you can't stay away from the drug store where they are selling that fizzing stuff and away from the store where they keep those red sticks of candy, you need a "black mammy" to take care of you. Those things are just invented to catch your nickels. Most of you boys are broke already. Harry Applebaum, ain't you broke? (Yes sir) That's a chronic state with you, isn't it, Harry? (Laughter)

January 19, 1903

Lesson: "If ye do good to them that do good to you, what thank have ye," etc.

I believe if I were not sick this morning I would like to call your attention to the beautiful discussions we had yesterday from Dr. Burrough (Editor of the Midland Methodist)

Tuesday, January 20, 1903

Lesson: "The Parable of the Talents"

It positively makes me ashamed when I have to write to a father that his son hasn't done a thing since Christmas.

We set before you the true genuine prizes of life. We never offer prizes of any kind. I never did such a thing in my life. It will be the same thing the next time you hear from it.

BOOK IV

Wednesday, January 28, 1903

Lesson: XIII Chapter I Corinthians

I love to see the playground where every fellow does his part. It is certainly a lively scene.

I have seen Senator Seay rise to speak and every person would be perfectly quiet because of his personal dignity.

At one time he was laughed at for his "Sunday School Politics" yet the Adams's Bill that has just gone through the Legislature is just an amendment to the bill Seay introduced. Though a young man he now speaker of the Senate and I delight to honor him and if I can I am going to try to make Governor of this state.

Don't lets work for thanks. "Duty is the sublimest word in any language" said Robert E. Lee.

Did you know that they would have hanged General Lee at the end of the Civil War if it had not been for his supreme character. Horace Greeley who was the bitterest enemy to the South said, "No we mustn't hang mew of such lofty character." When Horace Greeley ran for President I voted for him. The only Republican candidate that I ever voted for. I wanted to pay tribute to him for his broad mindedness.

I love to come out victor in a wrestling match. Did you ever try it? I want to be victor in every contest and not victim.

I would read my Caesar over and over until the same thought would run through my mind that went through Caesar's mind.

If you want to be regarded as of good blood let your language be elegant and your character be manly. That's the only blood that is worth anything.

There was a swaggering fellow sitting foot in my class I reprim-

manded him. His father wrote the boy to tell me that "he was of the best blood of the land." Best blood that sits foot, "said I." I'd rather have my veins stuffed with frogs spawn than to have that kind of blood.

My son move the boys up from foot. They've been there long enough. There was an old colonel in our army when soldiers wouldn't obey him. One day they laid down in the shade of the trees. The old colonel called three times at the top of his voice, "attention!" Nobody stirred. Finally the old colonel said, "If you don't fall into line I'll march off the whole company and leave you lying there." I have a letter in my pocket from U. S. Senator Carmack in which he states that when he was here the boys used to be anxious to get good speeches and that if I would send him the names and home addresses of whatever boys wished them that he would take pleasure in sending them. Give your names to Mr. Price and he will attend to it. It was very thoughtful of Mr. Carmack to do that I am sure.

Thursday, January 29, 1903

Lesson: "Bear ye one anothers burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

What you actually do is the measurement of a man.

When you read the "Autocrat at the Breakfast Table" you will find that there are three John Smiths. J.S. As he thinks himself. J. S. as other people regard him, and J. S. as he really is.

Habit makes character. Character makes destiny. Have you, as a student, the ability to concentrate your mind on one subject.

Now this passage has given me more encouragement, possibly in my work than any other "Let us not be weary in will doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Friday, January 30, 1903

Lesson: He said unto me these things are faithful and true. The Lord God of the holy prophets sent me to show the things that must shortly be done.

My son do you know the propesies of this book? How can you know unless you read it and read it every day?

How many men all over the country are disappointed in life when they don't ever look at the rules laid down in this book for their guidance.

Prayer

Well, is this Friday morning? (Yes Sir.)

I wish I knew what to say to the weak shrinking fellow that gets discouraged. If I knew what to say, I'd say it.

A boy that can learn English can learn any language in the world.

If you were in France today and were hungry don't you know that you would soon catch on to what word meant bread. You would learn simply by listening. Why don't you listen to the boys when they are reading Caesar, Homer, Virgil or when they are talking about Mathematics.

The word gentleman means gentle not loud nor boisterous. Every boy in this school stood up and said he didn't want any company in study hours.

Now here comes a boy who looks like a gentleman dresses like a gentleman and walks like a gentleman and he goes into another room and raises a disturbance.

Whenever you raise a disturbance in a boarding house you will have to settle with me.

Most boys had rather settle with anyone else in the world than me but you will have to do it.

If it wasn't such a sad thing for the boy and if I didn't have a conscience it would be a happy riddance if you would pull out of school.

I'd love to help you. I'd rather feed sheep for a living than to fool away my time with a great big boy that hasn't the instinct and feelings enough to make himself agreeable to his roommate.

Boys I'm tired of a woman coming to my room every night and telling me she can't sleep. They look to me for protection and I am going to give it to them.

There was a gentleman on the stage yesterday with hair whiter than mine. He told me that when he was in my Caesar class he went home at Christmas and had a good time when he got back to school, as he told me yesterday, he squatted down at foot to stay. He told me that I was gentle with him for a few days then I asked him what he meant and the next day I told him he had to get away from foot. He got away too.

Now he is a fine physician with an elegant home and a large practise. When I was at Culleoka some toughs stole the fireworks that the boys had bought. About \$54.00. I made it cost them about \$1500.00.

Boys you can't down truth and right. When you go home and tell great tales about this school you do yourself and injury. People know me. The fellows that made a record before Christmas and are doing nothing now, William, are you through with them? (No sir.)

If you can't move them turn em over to me and I'll take the greatest joy in moving them.

Have you night school going on? (Yes Sir.) Let's eincrease it.

An old woman got up before day on Monday morning and called here servants. "Come get up. This is Monday, next day's Tuesday, next day's Wednesday. Half the week gone and nothing done yet." (Laughter.)

Now one fifth of this session is gone and some are doing nothing yet.

My old principal in N. C. weighed about two hundred and fifty pounds and was about 6 feet 7 inches tall. A fellow came to school. As soon as he got off the stage he remarked that he had thrashed teachers everywhere he had been and he was going to do it there.

When he had seen Mr. Horner he changed his mind but said he would thrash that fellow Webb. True to his word he tackled me. I knew that if he thrashed me that that meant I would have to leave that school. I didn't leave either. (Here he told the story of the settlement between a Dr. and a lawyer that used to go to school here.)

Boys you'll be overlooked for a long time but God don't overlook you. The boy that sits foot and works hard all the time gets more benefit from his work than the fellow that goes head easy.

Sunday, February 1, 1903

Song: "Come ye that love the Lord."

Lesson: "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

What a man does once can be done more easily the second time and what he does a hundred times becomes a habit and a man does it unconsciously. There was a time when you couldn't hit your mouth but now you never miss it. Isn't it a curious. Habit fixes character and character determines destiny.

Now the Bible says that wine is a mocker and how careful we ought to be to avoid it.

The greatest law in this world is self-mastery. The masses of mankind are weak, they follow a leader just like sheep. So legislation slips in to try to check the appetites of the weaker natures. At one time in the worlds history legislation went so far as to dictate to every man just what he should eat and how he should dress.