

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.

After a while a class of men rose up against what was called the "Sumptuary laws."

Now in my short memory the reaction from the "sumptuary laws" was so great that there was no restriction whatever upon the appetites of men. You could pass along the road almost anywhere and get whiskey for ten or fifteen cents a gallon. It is simply marvelous how temperance legislation has grown. There are not but 60 places in Tennessee where liquor is sold and under the new law that has passed it will be possible to keep it out of all towns but 8 in the state. Why all this legislation. It is simply to remove temptation from you. It is said that the old Greeks used to make their slaves drunk in order that their children might be disgusted at the sight.

Now habit that I was talking about. A boy can make a systematic arrangement of his time and his studying may become a habit.

I used to get up my lessons in the afternoon for the day following then at night I could read if I wanted to. In the morning before breakfast was my time for memorizing things. I can repeat today the rules that I learned in old McClintock's Greek Grammar. The thing once mastered thoroughly was put behind forever.

Isn't that a grand thing. Oh my son learn the power of concentration. Another thing that I learned in boyhood was to rise early. I'm glad. Our family rose early. Then when I went to school to a teacher that would make me dig up a stump. If I got there late. That wasn't any joke, digging up a stump. When I went to college I used to recite one lesson by candle light in the morning. When I was in the army the bugle would waken us and we would have roll call by daylight. Today I am in misery if I try to lie in bed after daylight. It's just habit.

Suppose you would read just one hour every day for 360 days in the year and suppose you read twenty five pages an hour. In one year you read 9000 pages. 300 pages to a book would make 30 books of choice literature in one year. Think of it.

February 3, 1903

Lesson: Paul's speech before Agrippa

Paul was a true gentleman. He began his speech in the usual courteous manner in which one is accustomed to address a court.

Prayer.

February 4th, 1903

Lesson: "Do all things without murmuring - Finally brethren whatsoever things are true --

Prayer

We've had a month of our second term. Now I would like to know if it has taken a whole month for some of you to go to work. Have you had a boy here that's not at work. If so, let's get rid of him at once. We don't want idlers.

February 5, 1903

School opened by Mr. John Webb.

Lesson: "God is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.

I want to mention your speeches. Every boy can make a speaker if he tries. You simply want to talk to people. If you can talk to one person you can talk to two and so on. Some people think that when one stands up to speak to a mass of people he should "holler" at them. That's a mistake.

The man that can speak well if he does everything else fairly well will make a leader.

John Mitchell just a plain laboring man was at the head of the great labor movement simply because he is a good speaker.

I've said these things to boys before you were born. I've said them to young preachers and then go to hear them and they would holler. They will stay in the back woods all their lives and ought to.

God didn't put the same kind of a unusual instrument in each man's throat. For instance, Brother Burrows that preached to us a few Sundays ago is an elegant man but he has a very unfortunate voice.

On one occasion a preacher was taking a subscription and Dr. Burrows subscribed ten dollars. The preacher not seeing who it was that spoke said: "Thank you sister." However he talks in a natural way and he is entertaining speaker.

Now I want every boy to have a speech but nobody but a Senior shall recite poetry. You don't know how to scan poetry yet.

When I was a boy I read Scott's "Marmion," "Lady of the Lake," "Lockinvar." Later in life I traveled over the country that he described. I saw Scott's home. I've seen many that's better. I've seen many a library that was better.

Now every boy get a speech and in about two weeks we will call for it. Now someday before long we will have a holiday and the boys who don't know their speeches will stay here all day and every Saturday after that until he knows it. Look up every word in your speech. Do you know the diacritical marks.

Let your gestures be natural. A curved line is the line of beauty. Your gestures should be graceful. (He gave here illustrations of meaningless gestures.)

Friday, February 6, 1903

School opened by Son Will. Lesson: "Paul's Shipwreck."

Boys is this Friday morning? Yes sir.

Some of these boys have kept up their reviews to date. Set out for high scholarships.

Are there any bullies in this school? Let me tell you what I have observed. When I was in Culleoka there was a crowd of fellows that got to taking the little boys hats and carrying them off. There was a big strong country fellow in school who was as sensitive as a cat and who was as active as one could wish. I said, "Newt Foster lend me your hat." I put it in the stage and told the crowd that had been taking the little boys' hats that if they would take Newt's hat out to the street I would let them off otherwise I would thrash every one. Newt stood there. His eyes flashed fire and the whold crowd wouldn't touch his hat. Didn't that show that they were cowards. I wish if there are any bullies here in school we might have another such demonstration. When I was in the army the fighting bullying fellows would never fight in battle.

If there are any little boys in school whose lives are being tormented, I wish they would let me take their part.

I wonder if there is any vulgar literature in school. We have many good books here that you are welcome to. I don't want boys here that indulge in that sort of thing. I wouldn't sleep with one of them.

February 8th, 1903 (Sunday Afternoon)

Song: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Lesson: "No man can serve two masters," etc.

Meat is made to preserve life. Clothing is made to protect life.

Life is greater than these things.

Prayer.

I read you a lesson in which Christ the greatest teacher this world has ever seen says, "Take no thought etc. the Greek reads "not unduly solicitous."

Some boys are not comfortable at a social entertainment unless they are well dressed. In fact they sacrifice time, money, education and everything else. Christ says that sort of thing is all wrong. If a boy starts in life with a determination to serve God he will begin to do the first thing well. The world needs that sort of man.

God gives me ten commandments as a chart for my life. Four of these commandments represent my duty to God. (Here he gave an interpretation of them.) It is just <sup>as much</sup> a command of God's to work six days as it is to rest the seventh. The other six commandments show my duty to man. Christ the greatest teacher that the world ever saw says, "Seek first the kingdom of God" and it seems foolish that any boy should start out in life without it.

I don't have to go to books for my illustrations. I could speak of boys you know from now till night. Everywhere I go I find men that used to go to school to me. In every case the man is just what the boy promised to be. Isn't that odd? Every man, listen my young friends, that is a man is stirred in his very soul to know what he is going to do. Christ is the greatest teacher in the world and the only one that never made a mistake. Now he says "Don't lay awake at night worrying about it." Boys, Boys, Boys. I have seen old men eighty and ninety years old who had spent all their lives in God's service and I never, never saw one who didn't have a plenty to eat. Curious, strange and wondrous as it may seem I've seen one man with a dozen children in an ordinary walk of life and take care of them well.

A fellow that can't turn his hand to cutting wood, currying a horse, milking cows etc. just because he knows Latin and can quote Browning, Shakespeare, Byron, is a contemptible thing to me. I feel like taking hold of his head and rubbing his nose against a brick wall. (Here he told of two men that he knew when he was a young teacher. One was poor but honest, the other was very rich but very dissipated. There isn't now a child of that poor old fellow who doesn't walk in carpets and not a descendent of that other fellow that is respectable.

There is not a boy in school who can't read the sayings of Christ and understand them. Tonight you can sit down and read the gospel of Matthew after supper. Tomorrow night you can read Luke and so on. By Wednesday night you will have read all the sayings of Christ that there are.

I knew a man who was Chief Justice of his state. He was wealthy. His opinions were quoted in England and elsewhere. I saw his son later in life with a negro leading him about blind as a bat. His eyes were eaten out by a venereal disease. His father had warned him against those things. Oh, if he only had sought the kingdom of God in his youth.

But you say, "Mr. Webb don't rich men make money?" Why yes lets see a minute. If one generation comes on the earth and makes a little estate and dies and so on down to you and me.

Monday, February 9, 1903

Lesson: "The Rich Fool."

I would like very much for boys to go to church. If the boys on night school would rather go to church at night they may speak to Mr. Will Webb.

Tuesday, February 10, 1903

School opened by Mr. Clark. Lesson: Prayer

The first mental faculty to be cultivated is attention. When a child is born its attention cannot be attracted. After a while if the parents see that the child notices nothing they know they have an idiot child. If you haven't learned to concentrate your mind wholly on what you are doing if when you are pretending to look out a word your imagination is roving elsewhere you haven't even started on the road to great intellectual development. The boy who cultivates the faculty of attention soon learns to adapt himself. If he goes to an entertainment he soon learns the nice points of etiquette. If I were to go into a great Catholic Cathedral where the people are crowded in and everybody kneels in prayer but me I haven't learned adaptability and I'm not a gentleman. Last night I was just a little late - I'm sorry and when I entered the preacher had just called the people to prayer and there were boys sitting bolt upright, looking around, paying no attention.

You have never heard me say anything against the Catholic people. They show the greatest reverence and respect for religious exercises. You boys who are Protestant boys who condemn the Catholics might learn something of reverence from them. If I couldn't kneel with the Catholics I wouldn't go into their cathedrals.

If I couldn't stand with the Presbyterians, I wouldn't go to their churches. Its positive ignorance that makes you do those things.

Wednesday February 11, 1903

Lesson: "Let not your heart be troubled ye that believe in God believe also in me."

Prayer.

I would be very glad if you would do your work so you can go out to hear Mr. Morgan tonight. He is one of the greatest preachers of the South.



He was educated here. He stayed at the "Bach" and did his own cooking and then worked his way through Vanderbilt without any help whatever from home.

Thursday, February 12, 1903

School opened by Brother George Morgan.

Lesson: "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is they name in all the earth," etc.

Prayer.

Brother Morgan: Mr. Webb told me I might make any reamrks I wanted to to you boys. I want to mention three or four principles that are cardinal virtues.

First I want to speak of integrity which is the foundation of all character. Next just what you are working at now i.e. intelligence. Then industry and I might add economy. Those three things goodness, intelligence and industry.

Mr. Webb: I want to indorse what Mr. Morgan has said.

Friday 12, 1903.

School opened by "Son Will"

Lesson: "Parable of the Sower."

Sunday, February 15, 1903.

Mr. Webb is sick today. Brother Morgan conducts the services.

Lesson: Bless the Lord O My Soul and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Prayer.

Brother Morgan. I Timothy 4-8. But godliness is profitable to all things etc. The intecedent question of every enterprise is "Is it profitable." It is a legitimate question. We are under

obligation to God to get and to contribute the greatest amount to the world. I like this text for it. Paul, an old man, talking to Timothy as young man just entering the threshold of life. It is fortunate for every young man to have an old man to advise him. It is also a fortunate thing for a young man to take an old man's advice. Timothy might have said "Paul your life is a failure." Even then Paul might have answered "I have been everywhere seen all conditions of men. Now I am here in this dungeon soon to die but I am the richest man in this world. Godliness is profitable to all things.

Boys I am going to tell you what I think godliness is. It is living in obedience of every known law of God.

God has not given us a talent but what he means for that talent to be developed to its highest possibility. What is wealth? The only real value in wealth is potential profit. What is education? It is after all only a light to shed its beams upon the teachings on the principles of this book. Every furrow plowed, every book read, every sermon preached if it does not make a deposit to character is useless. Therein lies the dignity of labor.

The boy that can pillow his head at night with clean hands and pure heart, Oh, that is one of the profitable things.

The greatest pleasure comes in the consciousness of knowing that duty is strenuously performed.

Those of you who have read much of Jesus' words know that he has much to say about life. Life! Life!!

I believe in heaven and hell but they are results of life.

In the law of God, He never says "thou shalt go so far and no further except to protect life. That is the negative side.

When Jesus came he laid aside that old moss covered negative law and gave us the positive law of love. It isn't necessary for you to tell Mr. John Webb here not to steal or Brother Curry not to kill.

The kite says to the boy let me go I want to mount upward. Poor kite it doesn't know that the string is the very thing that makes it rise. I think it is a good illustration that God puts no check upon us that is not for our good. Sin is a foreign element to your life. It is like saw dust in the eye. The foreign element must be removed. I can't understand how a young man can look out upon this life anxious to do something without realizing that he ought to give himself to God.

Boys, we don't like to think about it but we are not going to live always.

I want to tell you of one of the brightest jewels in my memory. There was a boy came here to school. He stood head in his classes but he was not religious. I was president of the YMCA. I went and had a talk with him during a meeting we had. He didn't say much but he came again and again and I talked with him. He became a Christian. What a prospect he had for life but he took sick and soon realized that he was going to die. I know I shall be glad when I meet and shake hands with Lewis Webb over yonder.

February 16, 1903.

School opened by Mr. John Webb. Lesson: XV Chapter Luke.

Son Will: Somebody has been troubling those electric lights.

If these lights are not let alone each night school boy will have to bring his own light.

February 17, 1903

Holiday

February 18, 1903

School opened by Mr. John Webb. Let us also seeing were are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses.

If you have your lessons up to noon prepared all right you may go and skate this afternoon. (Appause.)

February 20, 1903

Mr. Webb is still sick. School opened by Son Will.

Lesson: "Jesus said unto them a prophet is not without honor," etc  
Prayer.

February 23, 1903

School opened by Mr. Clark.

Lesson: "the wilderness and the desert place shall be glad," etc.  
Prayer.

February, 24, 1903

School opened by Mr. Price. Lesson: "I am the true vine ye are the branches," etc.

Prayer.

February 25, 1903

School opened by Mr. John Webb.

Lesson: "The grass without<sup>th</sup> the flower fadeth but the word of the Lord shall endure forever," etc.

February 26, 1903

Lesson: Paul's Shipwreck.

Mr. Webb: I wish I knew what I could say that would make life sweeter for every boy. My son if you are doing just as well as the other fellows and are satisfied with it you are just a scrub. When Thomas Jefferson was at college he studied sixteen hours a day. Thomas Jefferson had more to do with the philosophy of government in the last century than <sup>any</sup> man that preceded him.