

The point I want to impress upon you is the necessity of having something to put on the market.

Suppose you were out west and didn't have a cent. If you could play a fiddle there are people that would give you a meal.

Goldsmith, the author of the "Vicar of Wakefield" fluted himself all over France.

Now you are in the Klondike and can't even fiddle. Now then, what are you going to do?

My son, if you have nothing to put on the market and some misfortune happens to you what are you going to do. My boy I haven't talked to you about eternal issue and everlasting life this morning but just about this life.

Lets go out into this world with something to put on the market. You went last night to hear a man that don't know law, medicine, or anything of that kind but he does know poetry, music, and wit and by that he has been able to educate his children and care for his family.

Thursday, April 2, 1903

Lesson. Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that has befallen you.

"If the righteous scarcely be saved where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear" etc.

Prayer.

Boys don't change your underclothing til May. I've seen boys lose their lives because they changed their underclothing too soon.

Some of you boys are careless in your carriage. I looked over the Senate when Conkling was there and I didn't see a stooped man in it. (Here he put a book on his head and showed the boys how to walk.)

Expand your lungs. The lungs and heart are at work while you are asleep.

Friday, April 3, 1903

Lesson: "Let love be without dissimulation, abhor that which is evil."

Abhor that which is evil. The apostle could not have used a stronger term. (Here he gave the derivation of the word.)

The Lord's Prayer.

Well is this Friday morning? How easy the examination is going to be for you if you will give the sweetest hours of the morning to study. I have been saying this every Friday morning since I've been a teacher.

I have never yet seen anyone succeed by any other means than by hard work.

My son, listen to me. The fellow that leadshis class never has any trouble getting a job. (Here he told the story of a boy who went to school to him at Culleoka. He had a drunken father. The boy did his cooking and lived in a wretched hovel. He taught school two years at Pulaski, went to Vanderbilt and graduated there. The day he graduated Mr. Webb told Charles Foster Smith about him. Mr. Smith called him out and told him he could offer him a place at \$75 per month. The fellow laughed and said he had two positions at \$150 each offered to him that day.)

April 6, 1903 Monday

Lesson: "He giveth snow like wool and scattereth hoar frost."

Lord's Prayer

April 7, 1903

Lesson: "Blessed are your eyes for they see and your ears for they hear."

A great teacher makes things so plain and so simple that any one may understand him.

I doubt not that as Christ sat there in the little boat talking to the multitudes he saw a man sowing his grain. (Here he gave an interpretation of the parable of the sower.)

Prayer.

April 8, 1903 Wednesday

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter" etc.

Fear in the sense of reverence

Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man.

April 9, 1903 Thursday

Lesson: "For none of us liveth to himself and no one dieth to himself."

Man is a gregarious animal. He must run in groups. You can't live by yourself. A hermit tries it every now and then.

I want to say to you boys this thing and I want you to remember it the longest day you live.

A boy in his teens is in his gosling age and there isn't but one thing to do and that is to obey the best judgment of mankind.

You will find that judgment in your parents.

The best thing a boy can do is to obey his parents and when he gets away from them the best thing you can do is to obey your teachers.

There never will be in your life when you can wield more influence than you can right now.

My son, I don't like to see a boy start on the wrong road.

If you start a problem in long division and make a mistake at the beginning, I don't care how earnestly you work the result will be wrong.

Knowing how to get on the right side of a question is worth a thousand times more than knowing how to read Nepos and Virgil.

You just can't live by yourself.

Farmer's wives become insane because they don't visit much.

Sheep herders who have to stay out 3 and 4 months on the plains alone often go insane.

Prayer.

Friday April 10, 1903

Lesson: "Put not forth thyself in the presence of a king." etc.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Prayer

I hope you boys enjoyed the music last night. (A Scotch-Canadian band gave an entertainment at Murfreesboro last night 85 from the school)

Here on this last school day before Easter. The Resurrection of our Lord.

Sunday April 12, 1903

Song "Rock of Ages"

Lesson: The visit of the women to sepulchre and the walk to Emmaus.

Prayer

I am glad of the resurrection of the body. It is not stranger to me that I am to live again than I live now. The first life is just as much a mystery as the second life. I can't understand it. I have read Darwin, Huxley and others and they can't explain it. There is an immense poplar on my place. One day a seed fell to the ground. It began to accumulate the materials about it and put them into itself. Now it is a giant tree. What is the force. We say it is life and no one knows what that is. A wicked woman built a mausoleum that she said would stand forever. The stones were so dovetailed that an earthquake could hardly shake it. But a little maple seed got in a crevice and its roots gradually toppled one stone after another.

What gave that seed its power? The scientist will say it is life but he doesn't know what life is. Life counteracts gravity. Man has invented the telegraph and telephone and letters, etc. but he never has invented a single thing that has life. Man cannot ever make a single seed that will grow.

When a Roman child or a Grecian child asked "Mother what makes this spring boil up or what makes a tree have leaves?" The mother would say that it was a nymph or a goddess did it. In other words they attributed it to a supernatural power and you have no better explanation than that today. Only we do not claim so many gods. We cannot begin to understand what life is.

Here he gave an account of Christs reappearance to his disciples. When the apostles went out to preach the Resurrection they were put in presence.

When a man says things that are beyond the experience of mankind they say he is insane.

Peter, James and John were in prison. Now comes the strangest thing in the world to me.

Now the best trained intellect on the earth Paul was putting Stephen and others to death. Now Paul in his zeal started down to Damascus to put others to death but on his way he changed his tactics and the very fellow that was most intense in persecuting the Christians now preaches their doctrine.

The most intelligent man in the world says he saw Christ after that he was risen from the dead. He went right on preaching that doctrine till they chopped his head off at Rome. Everyone of those disciples suffered capital punishment except John and he was banished to that dreary Isle of Patmos. My son there is no fact in history so well attested as that of the Resurrection of the dead. We have no more assurance that Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte and George Washington lived than that Christ lived, died and rose again.

My son, I have passed the meridian of life. It won't be long 'til I shall be carried to the cemetery feet first. When I am deposited there if that is all I never would have worked a lick nor endured the hardships.

But when I think of the life to come where the sorrows will all be brushed away, where there is no more hunger, no thirst, and no responsibility. Oh what a happy thought that is.

Whenever I hear a man say that he doesn't believe in the resurrection of Christ I take it that he hasn't examined the evidence.  
April 13, 1903 Holiday Dogwood bough. Rain and hail.

Tuesday, April 14, 1903

Lesson: "Blessed are your ears for they hear and your eyes for they see," etc.

Prayer

April 15, 1903

(Cold dreary rain today)

Lesson: XII Hebrews.

I do wish boys would read the bible. Paul says we are compassed about with a cloud of witnesses. I think the cloud of witnesses are those who have gone on before you.

Every man has a besetting sin. It stays with him all the time. You are no exception if you have a besetting sin. It may be gambling, or drinking or an evil imagination. Paul says you must get rid of it.

Don't be a witness, be a racer. Take a hand in the game.

To me the most distressing thing in college life is the athletics. Four or five hundred fellows let eleven take the exercise for them. Yes, the eleven get the development but how about the others? When you are an old man I want you to remember that you old teacher said: "Dont ever be a spectator, take a hand in the game."

You can't do your best if you indulge in any sort of vice, Paul says so.

You don't pay tribute to the crowd, the crowd would pay tribute to you.

When I was a boy in North Carolina, President Buchanan came to

Chapel Hill. I could hardly get into the campus. President Buchanan didn't know I was there but I know he was there. I shook hands with President Garfield and spoke a few words to him. I wanted to look into the face of the man that used to be a little boy on the tow-path.

One day General Cobb told our men that he wanted us to take a battery. It was planted on the hill-about a hundred guns. Some fellow said they were not afraid any more than if they were going to eat breakfast. They were cowards. When General Cobb told us that morning at Malvern Hill to fix bayonets I was scared. I was scared when we went up the hill. The bullets began to sing around me and when the third one struck me I was still scared. As I lay there wounded I was still scared. My son, because you are timid that's no evidence that you are a coward.

A brave man is a fellow that goes on even when he is scared. Boys, don't ever go to see a girl in whose presence you are not abashed. But if there is one whose beauty, worth, and culture makes your knees tremble when you are in her presence, then you keep going if you knock your knees off.

A man is a great fool if he don't try to make an estate in a country like this. He's a stark fool.

Professor Brown, one of the most scholarly men I ever knew, wanted to work for me for his board and clothes.

I wrote to his old pupils and tried to make some provision for him. He is now in the poorhouse. Over eighty years of age and now has to clean out the sewers. He used to make oodles of money and didn't save it.



Thomas L. Klingling whose speeches made in the House we used to read when boys at Bingham's School was in the poorhouse in North Carolina.

St. Louis has spent about 20 millions of dollars on a World's Fair. I am going to see it myself.

The object and purpose is that you be on a cloud of witnesses and that your money be spent on their enterprises.

A little boy came to school to me. That boy's whole suit wouldn't cost two dollars. He was barefooted. He got it into his heart to be something. He said he wanted to learn astronomy. As soon as he learned <sup>that</sup> Astronomy involved Math, he went to work at it.

I told him if he would work half a dozen Arithmetics I would put him in Algebra. He got there. The fellows laughed at him but that boy led his class in Algebra, Geometry, Analytical Geometry. Comic Sections, etc.

April 16, 1903

Lesson (Revelation - last chapter.)

I am so glad we will be judges according to our efforts and not according to our success.

Prayer

Bermuda grass carried to the jungle today.

Friday, April 17, 1903

Lesson. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good.

St. Paul was the greatest linguist and logician the world has ever seen. I cannot account for his wisdom unless God gave it to him.

I wish I could implant it in a little boy's heart so that it would cling with hooks of steel to abhor that which is evil and to cleave to that which is good.

"Not slothful in business." I despise to see a poke.

Prayer

April 19, 1903

Song, "I am thine O Lord." Lesson: "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork" etc.

Prayer

Duty is a word I wish you would look in the Century Dictionary for. I wonder what God made the Humming Bird so beautiful for. There are more than 600 varieties of Humming Birds differing in the color of feather ~~of~~ two.

I wonder what God put the beautiful tints in the sky for.

This 19th Psalm is said to be the most wonderful piece of literature in the world. In this psalm the Sun is compared to a bridegroom. He has put on the finishing touches.

I wonder why God made the little flowers so beautiful.

Again I hear such beauty in music I can hardly keep still. In the fine arts the whole thing is founded on beauty. The female face is the most beautiful in the world. Why did God make it so?

We ought to think over these things.

When I came to Bell Buckle I got interested in the cemetery. I wanted to see a beautiful burial place for our dead. Christ was buried in an elegant sepulcher. I was talking to a man from whom I expected to get a contribution for the cemetery. When I had finished he said, "if my folks want to make a pot of soap out of my dead body, they are welcome." It was a very coarse expression. It grated harshly on my feelings. When I think of the years and years we spend studying

beautiful language, I wonder why a boy will use coarse, rough, unrefined expressions. Why is it that you can't impress a boy with the lines of beauty? It is to me a matter of amazement. Why is it that a boy whose mother has tried to impress him with what is beautiful and elegant, prefers rough, uncouth language.

Under the Republican form of government you can't get the best man in office. All you can hope for is a good average man. The representative generally represents the character of the people that elect him. Yet, my son, the legislature will not allow the use of profane language.

I am glad that I live in a country where the standard is so high that no man, however humble he is, will never allow you to use profane language in the presence of his wife and daughters.

Another thing I want to speak of is fighting. That is not one of the fine arts.

We are of Anglo-Saxon blood. The old Anglo-Saxon, up to the time in which I have lived, used to settle all matters by a fist-a-cuff, even titles for land. One of the traces that is still left is that men will fight to keep women from hearing profanity.

In what way can beauty be impressed on a boy? Maybe he is not a musician nor an artist etc. Why, by filling his mind with beautiful literary models. Read Shakespeare, Kipling, etc.

I want you to look up the word beauty in the biggest dictionary you can get hold of. See all its meanings. Remember that the Greeks when they wanted a word to express the universe they chose *κοσμος* which means beauty in the abstract. The Romans took the word mundus which means beauty in the abstract.

Why this talk on beauty? Why a very plain man and man in the ordinary walks of life came to me and said that these school boys swore in the presence of his wife. That fellow is devoted to his wife and he asked me if he ought to put up with it. I told him "No!" Said I, you just bring him to me or get his name and I'll remedy it. Boys, there's not a man that treads shoe leather that can swear in the presence of the woman that gave up her name for mine. My young friends whenever you see a fellow who swears in the presence of your female friends, you needn't feel afraid to tackle him. He's an arrant coward.

When the confederate army started into Pennsylvania, General Lee gave orders that no woman should suffer the least indignity. I never heard a case where those orders were violated. My son, education is

Monday, April 20, 1903

School opened by Brother Curry

Lesson: Psalm 121

Prayer

I have quite a lot of letters I have written since I got up this morning. Not one of them concerns my own business. When you get away from here and want a testimonial from me, always state who your teacher was and what year you were here. It will then be a comparatively easy matter to do, but when you ask for a testimonial and don't state those things I may have to look over books of 15 or 20 years to find your record.

My Son William, how are these boys getting along with their speeches? I wish every boy here knew his speech like a book agent.

Wednesday, April 22, 1903

Lesson: "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward," etc.

Prayer

I want you to remember that there are just five weeks left. Boys lets do our best for the remaining time.

Friday, April 25, 1903

Frost this morning.

School opened by Son Will

Lesson: Paul at Ephesus.

Monday, April 27, 1903

School opened by Son Will.

Lesson: "Let love be without dissimulation" etc.

Prayer

Is ~~Galm~~ Brewer here? His father has withdrawn him from school.

I am very sorry. He is a good boy and I sincerely hope he will return.

Tuesday, April 28, 1903

School opened by Mr. John Webb.

Lesson: "Trust in the Lord ....." Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass.

Prayer

Roll Call: "Keep your seats this morning."

Wednesday, April 29, 1903

School opened by Mr. Clark.

Lesson: "Paul's Shipwreck"

Prayer

Mr. Webb: School closes in four weeks.

Wednesday, May 6, 1903

School opened by Mr. John Webb.

Lesson: "Above all things have fervent charity among your selves."

Lord's Prayer

The world is constantly looking and watching for a rising young man. I am myself. The world wants to think well of you. Don't repel that feeling toward you. You must not keep bad company. You mustn't go around in the costume of a sport.

Thursday, May 7, 1903

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

This was written thousands of years ago when people did not know what alcohol is. There never was a human being that started out deliberately to make a drunkard.

Prayer