

You have reached that culmination of your high school life. An eventful epoch in your lives. A step toward the place where you must take your places as actors on the stage of life; where as players you enact all scenes between the morn of laughter and the night of tears; where you body forth the false and true, the joys and griefs the careless shallows and the tragic depths of unversal life. You are the players, much of your destiny is dependant upon yourselves. It is my province to advise with you this evening on those things that will be helpful to your trials. Out of an abundance of experience were I to stress four certain things I would first name INDUSTRY., truth, honor and fortitude. For all things worth while are accomplished by industry. Hard work has accomplished the present progress of the world, it just didnt happen so. Those men who have achieved their places in history did so by hard labor and industry. And may I say further, that of all the things we do in this life, the most satisfying is to work. At the end of the day when we go home to our families if we carry the realization that some task has that day been begun and accomplished we feel a content of mind that nothing else will bring. Dont think it is the brilliant of mind among you that will go far, it is he among you who will work that will accomplish his place in life. My lawyer friends who have reached high places where the plodders, the workers. When his friends were asleep, he was toiling upward through the night. It has ever been so, it will always be thus.

And then honor and truth are like the Gracci twins of old, they go hand in hand, and are the "jewels" of their mother. Truth is not the best policy, it is the only one. It eliminates so much explanation and embarassment. It saves time and it gives satisfaction. One lie or deception calls for many more to bolster it up. The truth needs no fortification, it stands alone unassailable

Honor is the respect and the esteem of your neighbors and friends that truth brings to you.

Honor is the debt that respect pays to truth. It is the thing that all should strive for. It is that which holds your friends, that brings you others. To have a place of honor in your several communities should be the goal of every youth. It is the nearest to the sublime to be had in this life. Without it one is an outcast, a craven thing. Without it the worthwhileness of life is doubtful. Without it life is a failure. It is yours for the asking, the taking and the living. It is a thing that lives within your own bosom. No one else may bring you this, it is purely personal. It is of your own making. Make it your prime objective.

And then comes fortitude, the strength of honor, its shield, its armor. It is the patient endurance for right under the wrongs of persecution and distress. The firmness to stand up for principle and for your ideals. It is essential to the expression of truth and to the retention of honor. To see your friends fall away in those times when you stand for a principle you conceive to be just and still stand for that principle, that is fortitude. Don't mingle it with stubbornness, don't mistake it for rebellion; the Ephremites were rebellious and stubborn, but they had not the fortitude to stand up to battle for their rights. Honor and fortitude go hand in hand, without the one the other is lost in the battle. Fortitude is the firmness to stand up for a righteous cause.

And next I would speak to you of restraint, of that mastery over your own impulses and conduct.

Give thy thought no tongue, nor any unproportioned thought thy act. Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar, those friends thou hast and their adoption tried; grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel. Give every man thy ear but few thy voice; take each man's censure but reserve thy judgment. Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan oft loses both itself and friend and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. This above all; to thine ownself be true and it will follow as the day that thou canst be false to no man.