

Kindness, mercy, charity, sympathy, all those qualities that tend to mutual helpfulness, that helpfulness which is more than half of a Christian life,—kindness is all I have time to refer to, and that only briefly. School life, in work and play abounds in opportunities for its exercise. To reach all it should be a spirit radiating from the teacher and permeating the whole class. Selfish pupils must be led, not driven to do the unselfish thing again and again, until they know the joy of it, and until their selfishness becomes dwarfed through want of exercise. The mean boy must be led to acts of generosity day by day, until enlargement of the heart becomes chronic. In all, the spirit of kindness should prevail. This can be for I have seen it, and I know of no more elevating influence.

In conclusion, if you forget all else remember this: Every thought and action of your pupils leaves its impress on their characters. How they write a line of dictation, how they put down the solution of a problem, how they sit at their seats, how they stand, how they march to and from their classes, the spirit in which they work or play, nothing is lost upon their character. Character, character, the eternal part of man, the part capable of infinite development in this life and the next. Character, for which the Great Teacher gave His life in loving sacrifice, and for which we as true teachers must give our lives in loving, faithful service.

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