

engaged in their professional work, have equally with you finished the course and earned the diploma, so soon to be awarded,—all of these, I say, have reached your present vantage-ground, not through the caprices of chance, nor by any unexpected turn of the wheel of fortune, but by persistent, long-continued and well-directed efforts of your own. What you have thus achieved by these persistent efforts is an example of what awaits you in the life before you. All is to be accomplished by wise forethought, well-defined and well-established plans of work, and unswerving courage in carrying out those plans. You have doubtless already decided pretty clearly for what especial line of life's work you are respectively adapted. Settle this as well in advance as your situation will allow, and having thus determined it, let no light nor trivial circumstances turn you aside.

It is too common with the young to regard the positions which they accept as merely temporary and as stepping-stones to something beyond. This thought may do you no harm if it does not make you neglect or slight present duties, because they are thus regarded as temporary. If you will always bear in mind that there is no preparation for future usefulness and success in any calling at all to be compared with the well-formed habit of finishing and perfecting the work of to-day, then will the stepping-stones on the way of progress be real stepping-stones, leading ever onward to advanced positions and higher and nobler achievement.

Now, if life is to be what we make it, it becomes all to build upon such a foundation as to make the most of it, and to make success as sure as it can be made by any human effort. I say success, and I say it advisedly and thoughtfully, for success in life in its truest and broadest sense is that to which we must all aspire. Of course I do not mean success in any merely outward nor material sense, but success such as will involve the proper performance of every duty, and thus include,

with the life that is, the life that lies beyond. I say, then, that for establishing such a life it is necessary to build upon a sure foundation. And what is this sure foundation to which I would direct your attention? It is the firm rock of truthfulness and integrity in all of your dealings with your fellow-men upon which I would have you build. And this can never be done without strict attention to what may be called little things. There is a plain and simple line of demarcation between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, honor and dishonor. Never lose sight of that line, and never excuse a course of conduct, nor a single act, by saying that it is *nearly* right, or only a *little* over the line, upon the wrong side. Let every utterance, as well as every act, be truthful, both in the letter and the spirit. There is so much of prevarication, of slight divergence from the path of rectitude, of excusing one's self for what one considers these minor variations from truthfulness, in all the great world of affairs, that I cannot too earnestly warn you against it. All of this, venial and trifling as it may seem at first in its earlier stages, constitutes a series of sure and effectual lessons in the school of crime. No great defalcations are made, no serious crimes of any kind are committed without passing through the graded lessons in this dangerous school. It is sometimes said of certain kinds of business that they cannot be conducted upon the strict basis of absolute frankness and integrity. Whenever you are satisfied that this is true of any occupation, let me warn you to shun it at whatever cost. Where you cannot carry with you a strict adherence to your highest ideals of truth and duty you should never venture, be the prizes what they may. But is it not true that the various occupations which are so often disgraced by the unprincipled and the unscrupulous may not be carried on in accordance with the strictest principles of integrity and honor. Indeed, the highest success in these occupations, in even a material or worldly