

Chapel, November 29, 1925

Robert H. Wright,

My mind has been running for some little time on a number of things that confront the student body of any college at this particular time as I look over the world and its organization and read the records of what seems to be taking place. And as I realize the multitude of things that come into human life at this particular time to pull people away from the great purposes that are worth while, my heart goes out in sympathy to the boys and girls of today. I realize, young women, that it is more difficult for you to select out of all the things that are offered to you, not only in college, but all over the world, on the news stands, at the moving pictures, over the radio, by the automobile, and in every way, shape and form. The things that are offered to this generation of boys and girls, it seems to me, makes the question of teaching a much more serious and a much more responsible position than has ever rested on the teaching forces prior to this time. After all, it is the teacher who must help the one who is taught to select out the worth while things and reject the things that are not worth while. We are trying in the operation of the college to so carry it on that it will be of real genuine service to you.

We had trouble in fixing holidays two or three years ago and fixing the schedule for the opening and closing of the college, so last year we took the students into our confidence, as we do in practically everything we attempt, and had your representatives to help work out the college year schedule; I mean when we should open college, what holidays we should give and when we should close, how long we should give for Christmas, etc.. We did that because we want this college to be of service to you and we do not want the student body of this institution to feel that we are imposing something upon you that is not right. We want, if it is humanly possible, to get the whole-hearted cooperation of students and parents in the operation of the college. If we make this organization so you feel that you want to get by with something, then the organization is working to your damnation, and we don't want to be instruments in the tearing down of young life.

One of the crying needs in this world today is for a citizenship that will get behind the laws of the nation, the state, the county, or the town in which the individual lives, and give the most whole-hearted support. I am not at all sure if right there is not where we are breaking down in government in America today. The child comes along in the town and does not believe that the police is his friend, but feels that the policeman is his enemy, and that anything he can do that the policeman does not see is all right. Now, when a child feels that way toward a public officer, the child is developing anything else in the world than what we call good citizenship. If the college is so organized that the students feel that there are certain regulations that they must get by, then the college organization is doing those students a real injustice.

I came pretty near not making this talk this morning, though I have a page of notes here, because I notice so many vacant places and I was afraid some one would think that I was making this talk for that reason. It is the end of the second month and they have accumulated a chance for four absences and they have gone home. That is all right. I am not talking about those folks who are not here. I did not even have them in mind when I prepared this talk, so let's hold our minds to the great point before us -- the importance of whole hearted cooperation and support. Now I believe this college has it in a marked degree, but I do believe there are students in the college who are trying to see how much they can get by with, and I believe, young women, that some of the parents are aiding and abetting in this kind of thing. I am not talking against your parents. They are the best friends you have on this earth. The best friend anybody ever had is Mother, but I do want you to see clearly and to realize that the operation of this college sees a good many things that you don't know we see.

I have made up a story this morning. It is not a true story, and yet similar things have taken place. I meet a person coming to the college and say "What can we do for you today?" His answer is, "I came for my daughter to take her home for Thanksgiving". That is all right, only we don't go home for

Thanksgiving, and papa ought to have known it. "Have you sent in a permit?"

Answer, "No, but I can write one.". First, you were supposed to inform your parents that Thanksgiving holdiday was to be spent here. Second, if parents want you to go home, they are supposed to write notes beforehand, so we can have it organized.

Question, "You know we do not want the students to go home for Thanksgiving?"

Answer, "Yes, but her Mother is sick, and we want her to come home." And this, father says with a smile on his face, because he knows if Mother is sick, he can take his daughter home. He smiled because his wife was sick. "When will your daughter be back to college?" "Friday morning in time for her first lesson."

But he is taking her home because her Mother is sick. Cook came to the lady of the house and said "I want to be off Friday of next week". "You do, why what is the matter, Maude?" "I want to go to a funeral." "Maude, how do you know there will be a funeral, maybe your friend won't die." "O, there will be a funeral all right, he is going to be hung." Maude knew what was going to happen, but father takes his daughter home because his wife is sick, and knows his daughter can come back the next day after Thanksgiving. Now, we are not fools, we know that father and daughter have been conniving together to get around a regulation, and that is crooked. I don't care who does it, that isn't coming clean and ringing true as a good citizen. It doesn't make any difference who connives to get around laws that way, whether they be college laws or any other kind of laws, deep down in their hearts, they are not good citizens, and that kind of daughter is not fit to teach the childhood of North Carolina. Understand, young women, this is not a true case, just an illustration, but I want to get it before you, because I see things of this kind taking place and I know that the spirit of evil is entering into the hearts of you young women and I don't want this college to be an institution that will help to train for for that kind of citizens. I had rather let you have Thanksgiving, and Friday and Saturday and the following Monday than to let this college be that kind of an institution that would train you to try to get around a thing.. But if we were to give you that

much vacation, we would have to start three days earlier in the fall, and it would cost the student body and the college not less than \$5,000, but it had better be spent that way than for Thanksgiving or any other holiday to be an instrument of developing in the students of this institution a spirit of trying to get by the laws.

I heard a girl the other day trying to drop a study, and I found that she had missed four recitations and rather than stand an examination she wanted to drop the subject. It is the same thing -- trying to get by a rule. I had rather such a person as that would leave the college and never come back than to use the few regulations that we have to put in here for the operation of this institution as a means for training her for that type of citizen.

I am glad to say that the great bulk of the student body is the other type, and I thank God for that spirit every day of my life. It is the spirit that is going to save the civilization of this country, and it is the spirit that will make you right minded women.