

January 28, 1926

CHAIRMAN
APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE

Chapel

Turning a failure into a success. Yesterday morning I had planned a talk that would take the period. The period ended five minutes too soon. By mistake the bell was rung five minutes ahead of time. You were immediately excused. I could have finished the talk in another five minutes. I knew that the bell was ahead of time because I was watching my watch, but I let you go because you did not know that the time was not up. I did it because I wanted to give you that lesson. If you run by bells, then let the bells run you. That is always the best way to do.

I was talking to you about searching yourself, and I had asked you the question if you had ever really looked at yourself, and then had told you that I was not talking about looking at yourself in the mirror, that I knew you did that. It is all right too. I think you ought to look at yourself in the mirror and it is a mighty good thing when you stand up before the mirror to ask yourself just what sort of young woman is it that I see. But that isn't what I was talking about yesterday when I was asking you if you had ever seen yourself. Have you ever closed your eyes and looked within and just looked and looked until you see yourself not as others see you but as you really are, that self-searching look that goes beyond the physical and into the spiritual self, into that so-called sub-conscious self. I know you can't see your sub-conscious self, back into those heart springs from which human action arises, and just see what kind of motive it is that prompts you to do what you do. If we could do that regularly and then correct the things that we see that need correcting, strengthen the weak places within our individual lives, being absolutely honest with ourselves in dealing with the person we see it would help us more than any other one thing that we can do in our efforts to change failure into success. Self searching, seeing the good and the bad, and

there is plenty of good in every one of us, correcting the bad, seeing the weak places and giving them the strength that they need, coming away from that searching with an inborn determination that we will go forward in the right way. Young women, if we can do that then we will thoroughly understand the significance of this statement that we can take our mistakes and use them as stepping stones to higher things. We can use our own mistakes and our own knowledge to help us the next time across the muddy place in life by using them as stepping stones. I wish every human being could ^{do} ~~think~~ the things that I have tried to outline to you yesterday and today. There is no such thing as failure except a failure within the individual. There may be a record that does not meet the standard of records, that appears to be a failure on the outside, but if you take the weakness that is within you that made your outside record and strengthen it, you will soon make a record that is not marked as failure.

Failure or success in life is something within every individual and if you know you are going to make good you can't fail. Cromwell got together in England an army. That army believed that they and God were working together and the forces of the King could not defeat Cromwell's army. They might drive them, as they did on just a few occasions, from the battle field, but they could not whip them. Those soldiers just knew, whether right or wrong, isn't the question this morning, but within the hearts of those soldiers they said "The thing that I am doing, God is doing, and God can't fail, therefore, the thing that I am doing can't fail," and they couldn't whip Cromwell's army. They could not fail, they might kill an individual soldier, but the spirit of that army went on from victory to victory until Cromwell and his people took possession of the government of England. There wasn't any such thing as failure with those people. They didn't know the word. They knew what they were doing, to them at least, was God's will. God's will could not fail, and therefore Cromwell's army could not fail.

As along life's journey we go day by day
There are two whom we meet at each turn of the way
To help or hinder, to bless or to ban
And the names of these two are "I Can't" and "I Can!"
"I Can't" is a coward & poor pale puny ruff
His eyes are half blind and his walk is a lump
"I Can!" is a hero, depending he stands ^{or} he

Ask some Eng. Teacher for the
poem, or ask Miss Gray
Ben

Just as those soldiers in that army felt, just so every human being if he lines himself up as he should will feel about his life work. You can't make such a person be a failure. They do not know the words ~~ixxxxxx~~ I can not. You have heard that old poem. It is well worth remembering,

Quote Poem

It is well to remember that "I can't" is a coward, a poor pale, puny, imp and half blinded. He can't even see himself and his walk is a limp. He is just bound to fail because that is what he wants to do, but "I can" is a hero. It makes no difference what his task is, he always says "all right I can do it" and that spirit within him will almost every time make him accomplish the task that he undertakes.

Now, if you have had a failure of some kind think over the things that I said to you yesterday and this morning. Get a grip on yourself. Get out from under the banner of "I can't" and enlist with the army that holds up as its banner "I can", and face life's duties and responsibilities with a full realization that you can accomplish the task and that you are going to do it. That spirit deep seated in your life will turn every failure into success, and I want you to be a success in this life.

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