

President Wright,

Dec. 15, 1926

C H A P E L

I am not going to talk to you but just a little while this morning, and I am not going to talk to you about anything that will make you any more homesick than you already are. I am very much pleased with the wonderful spirit of cheerfulness that is running through the school. I don't believe I have ever seen the student body of this college so anxious for examinations. I am delighted to know that you feel that way toward them. It is a wonderful thing to feel that the examinations are not going to be in your way. The thing that I want to talk about this morning is that girl, whoever she is, who is letting something else right now crowd out the big thing. The big thing right now is not Christmas. That will be the big thing after the term's work is done.

People may lead a good life, certainly to all outward appearances, make a good name for themselves, and then in one act ruin it all. Now, don't say that that shouldn't be so. It is so, whether it should be or should not be. If you have kept your eyes open, you have seen that already, as young as you are. I have seen it happen several times. I have known a man with a good reputation, who could get an abundance of good witnesses as to his character, in one act, in one day ruin it all and bring disgrace upon his own name and upon his family, and a disgrace that he cannot wipe out with a life time of right living, and I have known women do the same thing. Now if that is one of the inevitable laws, we had just as well face it, and we ought to keep that in mind all through life. Keep in your mind the main thing and live to that purpose.

Now, I have made it almost too strong for what I want to say this morning, but I haven't made it too strong for living. Last September when you left home, some of you with fear and trembling, and when you got here the fear and trembling

developed into tears, and it was all new and you didn't know whether you could do it or not. Some of you may still feel that way. That kind of feeling stays with some people much longer than others. But you left home with a burning ambition to accomplish a term's work in college and better prepare yourself for a definite undertaking. That term's work is almost up now, and what I want to get impressed upon you is, hold ^{on} right to your purpose until you have written your name at the bottom of the last examination paper and put the period after it. Hand the paper in quietly and leave the room. Get off down to your own room, and if you want to shout, then turn loose, but hold it back until you complete absolutely the last school task. Put every bit of your soul and life into it, young women; that is the way to accomplish life's purposes. I don't care what you go into in this world, if you can't lose your life in it, literally bury yourself in the job, you cannot make a 100 per cent success. And if you let something pull you away from it, just that far you are a weakling.

O, I know how Christmas is. Christmas gets in my bones just like it does yours, and it has been in mine more than it has been in yours. And it is just as strong now as it was when I was just about that ----- high. I know how it works. I have had more experience with it than you have. Don't let that pull you away from your purpose. "But, Mr. Wright, it doesn't come but once a year!" That is true, and it may be a good thing, but next spring will be Easter, and then will be commencement and dresses, and all kinds of things to pull you away from the big thing. The thing I want you to see right now, and especially is this true of the girl who is here for the first time, -- there will always be something to pull you away from life's purposes. Hold to your purpose, stick to your job, accomplish the thing you have undertaken. And do you know, you will have a better Christmas? You will enjoy the holidays more if you can go home without any regrets with reference

to your college work. Then leave your college work. I don't want you to carry it home with you. Please don't carry any books home with you. I think we will take all of the books up to keep some of the very studious girls from carrying them home. Finish the term and leave it, go home and enjoy the Christmas, putting your whole soul into that, and if you have no regrets about this, you will get more joy out of that. After all, what I have said to you is, I want you to know how to enjoy Christmas.