

October 12, 1928

I want to give you two or three things this morning. We are expecting any day this week or next week a photographer to come and make a picture of the college from the air and I want to arrange it when he does come so we can turn you loose and let you be out on the front campus scattered around on the grounds. That means that we might want to bring you together on short notice. Whenever you hear three bells ring it means whether you are in class or in your rooms get right up and come into this auditorium and take your seats. Three bells mean assembling in chapel at any time. No member of the student body is ever allowed to ring the bell three times and stop. They can ring it two or four but never three.

Today is October 12th. I wonder how many know what that day means. Hold up your hands. There are so few of you who know that I am tempted not to tell you. I selected a passage of scripture for you this morning in which St. Paul writing to the church at Rome tells about a certain kind of folks and among other things he speaks of them as whisperers, back biters and that long catalogue of things that I read to you this morning. He said such people as that are worthy of death. I selected that passage of scripture because that kind of thing is going on today if possible worse than when St. Paul lived and wrote to the church of Rome. You have probably seen in today's paper where one of the managers of one campaign is out in defense of the other candidate. It does not make any difference which one it is. Every right minded man and woman is condemning that sort of thing. And yet it is going on in College here. I have already heard some this year. It hurts me because I was hoping that what I said at the opening of college would check that sort of thing. I want to tell you young people that slander is punishable in North Carolina and this little dirty insinuating

kind of thing that goes on is perfectly contemptible. Paul had it right that kind of person deserves to be killed if he cannot be saved he had better be put out of existence. You by whispering ruin the character of some young woman and it takes a life time to live down. I am talking about it this morning not because I have heard so much of it this fall but because it is becoming national and it is a national sin today unquestionably.

In the two political parties--I mean in the two large political parties--there are two very definite types of people but most honorable men running for the highest honor that the American people can confer on any man and yet all over this United States there is simply just whispering, backbiting lies told about both of these folks. It looks like right minded people will have to stop coming out for public office. It is not Christian, it is not Godlike, whether you belong to the Christian church or some other church. It goes on all the time and I want the student body of this college, if it is the only place in the world, I want this student body to come out strong against that thing. You do not get the best there is out of people in that way. You get the best there is by Faith, Hope and Love. Faith in yourself and in your fellow man, hope for both and love for all people and for Jehovah. It takes the heart out of a person who is a dreamer and it is the dreamers of the world who are the great leaders of humanity.

This day celebrates an important event in the life of one of the world's greatest dreamers. He did not know what he was saying was true but he believed it so that he was willing to risk his life and the whisperers went on saying the things about him. They said he was crazy but he convinced a rich woman to help him. She sold her jewels to help him undertake the carrying out of this dream and he followed it and the dream came true and he gave to the world America, the home of the free and

the land where people make their own laws, select their officers and enforce their own laws and where a little child is born it is born with an open road to success in life. He landed at San Salvador on October 12th. Someone has said that in God's efforts to save this world that America was His last chance. I do not believe that because I do not believe any human being can give God a last chance. But I do believe it is a great opportunity and that we people who live in this country with an open road to success, with public schools for every child and with a public school system good enough for the best of us. Each one of us has an opportunity to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling as we are told in the Good Book, with an opportunity to make the most possible out of our own lives and with a chance to dream our dreams and to try to bring them to pass. With a spirit back of us that has never been back of any people on the face of the earth and I believe it is that spirit that has caused the world to go forward as it has never gone forward in one century. Does it not behoove us as American citizens to all pull together for the common good and pull together to help every human being to be the most possible. I think the 12th day of October ought to be the time for every American citizen to take stock and to see which way we are headed. I want us to do that. Let us conclude this service by singing one of our national anthems--"America".

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