

January 5, 1929

I have some rather interesting statistics on last quarter that I think will be helpful to you. There were 131 students in college last quarter out of 891 who had one or more failures. There were 12 who failed fifty per cent of their work. A year ago there were 15. We had a smaller student body and a larger number of failures last year. There were 212 students in college last quarter who had no absences. There were 135 who had only 1. That makes 347. There were 540 who had between one and 5. There were 75 who had between 6 and 10. There were 15 who had over 10. The largest number anyone had was 19. The average per student was $2\frac{1}{2}$. Now that explains why we had such a good record in scholarship. That is my judgment. The chapel absences were better, I am sure, than they were the year before but there were 248 having chapel absences. 151 had only one, 58 had 2, 13 had 3, and 20 had 4. One had 13.

There is not any question about it that the attendance of students on classes and their college duties in a large measure determines whether or not the student will make a good scholarship record in college. You know there are some of these dinner clubs that require their members to attend regularly. Some of these organizations fine them if they are late. And they work on that basis because they say if you do not attend you cannot be a good Kiwanian or a good Rotarian. That is one of their requirements. It is the opinion of approximately all business men because these two organizations and the rest of these dinner clubs are organizations of business men and professional men and they realize that one's attendance is important.

It seems right in keeping with the lesson which I read in your hearing

this morning. You cannot serve God and mammon. Mammon means, of course, the God of riches. If your heart and soul is in making money, in getting in the things of this earth then you cannot serve God. You cannot worship God and worship something else. It is just as true in one's work at college. If you are going to college and want to make that your purpose then put your college duties first. You cannot serve two masters. It simply cannot be done. When you leave college and accept a position as a teacher then make that your purpose. You cannot serve two masters. If you divide your interest, if you begin to serve mammon, I cannot conceive of how a school teacher could serve God and riches. The only interest in your school work would be your pay check at the end of the month. You would be a failure in your profession. But if you will lay aside every attraction that comes between you and your work then you will more than likely make good. I was on the program to speak at one of these dinner clubs recently and the chairman of the program committee saw me on the street and said, "You know you are to speak next Monday." I said, "I know it." He said, "You know, I have to tell some speakers two or three times. That is one of the reasons why many people are failures. Yes, that is the reason so many people fail. A person who takes a job and does not have to be reminded several times of it will make good. A person when he takes a task should assume the responsibility whether he is in business or in a profession. I know a person who is a brilliant lawyer. I asked one of his townsmen what was the matter with Mr. X. He said, "Wright, people cant ever get hime to do what he is supposed to do." In other words he continually puts off and he said that is his trouble and he is never going to make good. You cannot serve two masters. You cannot loaf on the streets and attend to your office. You cannot loaf around town and get your studies up and recite as you ought to. You

cannot spend your time running down street and then have your lessons ready when you ought to.

Robert H. Wright, President