

February 8, 1929

Sometimes a person in doing his duty has a number of very unpleasant things said about him and I am not at all sure that that was not the case when the Psalmist wrote this Bible lesson. We are going to have the wicked always and we are going to have to deal with them. The part of a good citizen is to do his duty regardless of the consequences feeling sure that if he does the right thing it will work out in the end in the right way.

Years ago in North Carolina there was a young lawyer who got it into his head that the state of North Carolina ought to give a better educational opportunity to all the children of North Carolina. The people in our state at that time said we simply cannot educate the negroes and the whites and taking us as a state we had almost taken this attitude for so long until we were crystallized in it. This lawyer took the stand that it was the right thing to do to give the children of North Carolina a better educational opportunity. He went all over North Carolina talking education for all the folks of North Carolina. He said if the thing is right then we ought to do it and it is right to give these children a better educational opportunity, therefore, we ought to do it. That was his philosophy. It was not popular but before he died he was governor of North Carolina and his statue, a monument to him, is on the capitol grounds at Raleigh. It did not look like he had much chance to start with but he knew deep down in his heart that he was right and the people came flocking to him in great numbers. He died on a platform in a southern state talking for public education. The name of Aycock will go down in the history of North



Carolina as one of our great educational leaders. He was willing to do the right thing--the thing that ought to be done by his people. I am not at all sure that we do not need another Aycock in North Carolina today.

When you do the right thing do not let horror overtake you. Recently it has come to me, "She got what was coming to her but there are others in college who are just as bad or worse than \_\_\_\_\_ (calling the name of a girl)". If she knows that to be true, the girl who made that remark, and has not the backbone to tell the Student Government authorities, then she is not a good citizen. You say it is none of my business. Yes, it is your business because you are a part of this organization. If you do not know it to be true then you are doing yourself and your college mates a serious injury. Folks, that is not the way to get rid of a criminal. That is not the way to clean society of the undesirable elements in it. Have the backbone to help purge the community of that something. If you do not know it, do not lend your influence to those as you injury by this kind of gossip. I do not quite understand why it is that we cannot get ahold of one of the greatest fundamental laws of our country. In America a person is considered innocent until that person has been proven guilty and that is one of the fundamental principles of government in this country and it is a fine principle. It says to us to have faith in our fellowmen. It says to us, help to boost, it says to us faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love. Have love for your fellowmen. If a person is guilty, then you owe it to your community to purge the community of that person. If the person is not known to be guilty by you then you owe it to the community to say he is innocent.

If you go into the school room believing that every child is a



little devil then you are going to catch the \_\_\_\_\_. But if you go into the school room believing that every child that is right minded, if you have love and faith in those little folks, then you will find school teaching is a joy. That your greatest reward is not your check that comes at the end of the month. You will have the joy and happiness that comes from working with those little ones and accomplishing something. It is looking for the good and refusing to see the bad until it crops out. Then you can take the bad and deal with it as an individual case.

I know we have in college this year the finest group of young women I have ever had the good fortune to work with. I know we have had some trouble and will probably have more before the year is out. I thank God that I can still love every girl that comes to college here and I have faith in every one of them. I believe there is a great future ahead of each one who is right minded and striving to do the right thing. Altho people said unkind things about Charles Aycock he went on because he knew he was right. And look what a wonderful work he did for the boys and girls of North Carolina. He had faith in his people. That is the road to success. This other road never leads to success. It always leads to evil. I want you girls to be a success, I want you to be happy. Stop decrying. Stop that dirty mean insinuating. That does not get you anywhere. This insinuating does not develop anything that is good in you and it doesn't help to bring the good in other people out. But you say, "Mr. Wright, you dont know," but what I dont know does not hurt me. I know we have cloudy days but the sun always comes back. I know that God is in his heaven and that good will prevail. I know there is a silver lining to the clouds even tho I cannot see it and that the sun will be shining brightly tomorrow and that I can bide my time until I can see the workings of Jehovah. Why, it is a glorious



feeling, folks, to have faith in your fellowmen and to realize that after all good is going to triumph over evil.

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