

Chapel, Friday Morning,  
January 7, 1927

President Wright

The psychology of the subject that I wish to talk to you about this morning may be bad. That is, I may have taken a subject to talk to you about at a time when you are not in a frame of mind to be talked to on this kind of subject. I am not at all sure, however, but that the psychology is excellent.

I believe that this generation of boys and girls, of all the people in the world perhaps, are the most lonesome folk, -- distressingly lonesome. Now, you see why I say the psychology may be bad, because some of you have not yet got over Christmas. And the reason why I say it may be good is that some of you have got just far enough over Christmas to realize it. And some of you wish you were back there so that younger brother could talk to you again, and you realize how lonely life is, and so the psychology may be good. In other words, the psychology is good or bad, depending upon you. But seriously, I have been wondering for some time just what is the trouble, and there is a trouble with our civilization. We all realize that. I do not believe for one minute, and I know you realize this, that this generation of boys and girls is any worse than any preceding generation. In fact, I think you are the best generation of boys and girls that has ever lived. I have that much faith in you. I have been wondering if this loneliness, and there is such a thing as loneliness, I don't mean when you are away from home at college, I mean when you are at home, I have been wondering if that isn't due in a measure to the fact that you do not have any regular duties at home to perform, some definite and specific thing to do each day at home. It hasn't been many years ago when the boy or the girl coming home from school had something to do almost every minute of the time up to the evening meal and then school work until time to retire. That time has gone, the organization of the home is different now from what it was then. There are a few fortunate boys and girls who do have these regular duties and they are fortunate. They don't think they

when you are lonely. If it is something that is worth while, it doesn't make so very much difference what that purpose is; with you young women who are here, it ought to be teaching, but it may not be for some of you. You may not be able to lose your life in the problems that are necessary to make an efficient teacher, and if you can't lose your life you will never find it. There never was a truer saying than that , - one must lose his life to save it. You must forget self and become absolutely lost in the thing that you are doing. If it is the question of service, then put service above self. Let it be a religion in your life that "He profits most who serves best", and not, "He serves best who profits most." Whatever the purpose is, if it is a real worth while purpose, deep-seated in your life, it will take the place of all that loneliness that comes so often to all of you.

Take time for the pleasure of living, take time to be  
friendly and kind;

Be more than a maker of money, grow richer in heart and  
in mind;

Be a glorious comrade and neighbor, know the meaning of  
laughter and tears;

Live bravely, and gladly and fully, and you will not have  
wasted the years.

are, but they are. I am wondering if the automobile, the moving picture and the radio are not in a large measure responsible for this loneliness that we find. It is all a moving picture show, -- let's go some where, let's do something, let's ride up and down Main Street, let's go where folks are, let's go where it is just a moving picture all the time. When evening comes, let's go to the movies, just one thing after another. Or if we do not go there, let's turn on X.Y.Z. of the radio. I believe they don't have an X.Y.Z. and that is the reason I took that. And if we don't like that, then try something else, and the young life of today is growing up in that kind of environment and it is having its effect. It means that when extreme excitement is taken away ~~that~~ there follows almost immediately a feeling of loneliness and we sit down and begin to frown and say, "O, I want to go somewhere, I want to do something." We are training ourselves so that we need extreme stimuli to make us function and right there, in my judgment, is where the great danger lies. It isn't that the boy or the girl of today is doing something mean. It isn't that they are thinking evil thoughts. I believe this is the cleanest generation of boys and girls that the world has ever produced and the most lonesome, and I believe the solution to the problem will be found if we can persuade each one to take some definite object in life, some absorbing something, something that you can give your best thought to, something that you can sit down by yourself and still enjoy thinking about and working on. A person who has a definite goal in life that he wants to attain, a real purpose that he loves to look toward, has allowed something to enter into his life that will take away that loneliness. It won't keep him from going. It won't keep him from riding in automobiles, going to the moving pictures, tuning in on the radio, enjoying the social life of his group, it won't prohibit that. I don't care anything about the fellow who throws himself completely out of touch with his group. I realize that it is working with the group that is going to accomplish the most. But if you have a deep-seated purpose in life, it gives you something to do at that time