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WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR WILL POWER

We take great pleasure in reproducing the following article by Russell H. Conwell from the April number of the American Magazine. It is as full of meat as an egg and should be read by every man and boy in the land:

There has been altogether too much talk about the secret of success. Success has no secret. Her voice is forever ringing through the marketplace and crying in the wilderness, and the burden of her cry is one word—will. Any normal young man who hears and heeds that cry is equipped fully to climb to the very heights of life.

The message I would like to leave with the young men and women of America is a message I have been trying humbly to deliver from lecture platform and pulpit for more than fifty years. It is a message of the accuracy of which has been affirmed and reaffirmed in thousands of lives whose progress I have been privileged to watch. And the message is this: Your future stands before you like a block of unwrought marble. You can work it into what you will. Neither heredity, nor environment, nor any obstacles superimposed by man, can keep you from marching straight through to success, provided you are guided by a firm, driving determination, and have normal health and intelligence.

Determination is the battery that commands every road of life. It is the armor against which the missiles of adversity rattle harmlessly. If there is one thing I have tried peculiarly to do through these years it is to inculcate in the minds of the youth of America the living fact that when they give *will* the reins and say "Drive!" they are headed toward the heights.

The institution out of which Temple University grew was founded thirty years ago expressly to furnish opportunities for higher education to poor boys and girls who are willing to work for it. I have seen ninety thousand students enter its doors. A very large percentage of these came to Philadelphia without money, but firmly determined to get an education. I have never known one of them to go back defeated. Determination has the properties of a powerful acid; all shackles melt before it.

Conversely, lack of will power is the readiest weapon in the arsenal of failure. The most hopeless proposition in the world is the fellow who thinks that success is a doorway through which he will sometime stumble if he romps around long enough. Some men seem to expect ravens to feed them, the cruse of oil to remain inexhaustible, the fish to come right up over the side of the boat at mealtime. They believe that life is a series of miracles. They loaf about and trust in their lucky star, and boldly declare that the world owes them a living.

As a matter of fact the world owes a man nothing that he does not earn. In this life a man gets about what he is worth, and he must render an equivalent for what is given him. There is no such thing as inactive success.

Turning Points in Young Men's Lives

My mind is running back over the stories of thousands of boys and girls I have known and known about, who have faced every sort of a handicap and have won out solely by will and perseverance in working with all the power that God had given them. It is now nearly thirty years since a young English boy came into my office. He wanted to attend the evening classes at our university and learn oratory.

"Why don't you go into the law?" I asked him.

"I'm too poor!" I haven't a chance!" he replied, shaking his head sadly.

I turned on him sharply.

"Of course you haven't a chance," I exclaimed, "if you don't make up your mind to it!"

The next night he knocked at my door again. His face was radiant and there was light of determination in his eyes.

"I have decided to become a lawyer," he said—and I knew from the ring of his voice that he meant it.

Many times after he became mayor of Philadelphia he must have looked back on that decision as the turning point of his life.

I am thinking of a young Connecticut farm lad who was given up by his teacher as too weak-minded to learn. He left school when he was seven years old and toiled on his father's farm until he was twenty-one. Then something turned his mind toward the origin and development of the animal kingdom. He began to read works on zoology, and, in order to enlarge his capacity for understanding, went back to school and picked up where he left off fourteen years before. Somebody said to him: "You can get to the top if you will!"

He grasped the hope and nurtured it, until at last it completely possessed him. He entered college at twenty-eight and worked his way through with the assistance that we were able to furnish him. Today he is a respected professor of zoology in an Ohio college.

Such illustrations I could multiply indefinitely. Of all the boys whom I have tried to help through college I cannot think of a single one who has failed for any other reason than ill health. But, of course, I have never helped anyone who was not first helping himself. As soon as a man determines the goal toward which he is marching, he is in a strategic position to see and seize every thing that will contribute toward the end.

Practical Advice to Ambitious Young People

Whenever a young man tells me that if he "had his way" he would be a lawyer, or an engineer, or what not, I always reply: "You can be what you will, provided that it is something the world will be demanding ten years hence."

This brings to my mind a certain stipulation which the ambition of youth must recognize. You must invest yourself or your money in a *known demand*. You must select an occupation that is fitted to your own special genius and to some actual want of the people. Choose as early as possible what your life work will be. Then you can be continually equipping yourself by reading and observing to a purpose. There are many things which the average boy or girl learns in school that could be learned outside just as well.

Almost any man should be able to become wealthy in this land of opulent opportunity. There are some people who think that to be pious they must be very poor and very dirty. They are wrong. Not money, but the *love* of money, is the root of all evil. Money in itself is a dynamic force for helping humanity.

In my lectures I have borne heavily on the fact that we are walking over acres of diamonds and mines of gold. There are people who think that their fortunes lie in some far country. It is much more likely to be right in their own back yards or on their front doorsteps, hidden from their unseeing eyes. Most of our millionaires discovered their fortunes by simply looking around them.

Recently I have been investigating the lives of 4,043 American millionaires. All but twenty of them started life as poor boys, and all but forty of them have contributed largely to their communities. But alas! not one rich man's son out of seventeen dies rich.

Will Power Your Greatest Asset.

But if a man has dilly-dallied through a certain space of wasted years, can he then develop the character—the motor force—to drive to success? Why, my friend, will power can

not only be developed, but it is often dry powder which needs only the match. Very frequently I think of the life of Abraham Lincoln—that wonderful man!—and thank God that I was permitted to meet him. Yet Abraham Lincoln developed the splendid sinews of his will after he was twenty-one. Before that he was just a roving, good-natured sort of a chap. Always have I regretted that I failed to ask him what special circumstance broke the chrysalis of his life and loosened the wings of his will.

Many years ago some of the students of Temple held a meeting in a building opposite the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. As they were leaving the building they noticed a foreigner selling peanuts on the opposite curb. While buying peanuts they got to talking with the fellow and told him that anyone could obtain an education if he was willing to work for it. Eagerly the poor fellow drank up all the information he could get. He enrolled at Temple and worked his way through, starting with the elementary studies. He is today an eminent practicing physician in the national capital.

Often I think of an office clerk who reached a decision that the ambitions which were stirring in his soul could be realized if he could only get an education. He attended our evening classes and was graduated with a B. S. degree. He is now the millionaire head of one of the largest brokerage houses in the country.

"Where there's a will there's a way!" But one needs to use a little common sense about selecting the way. A general may determine to win a victory, but if he hurries his troops across an open field straight into the leader sweep of the enemy's artillery he invites disaster and defeat. The best general lays his plans carefully, and advances his troops in the way that will best conserve their strength and number. So must a man plan his campaign of life.

No man has a right, either for himself or for others, to be at work in a factory, or a store, or any where else, unless he would work there from choice—money or no money—if he had the necessities of life.

How Long Do You Expect Opportunity to Rap?

"As a man thinks, so he is," says the writer of Proverbs; but as a man adjusts himself, so really is he, after all. One great trouble with many individuals is that they are made up of all sorts of machinery that is not adjusted, that is out of place; no belts on the wheels, no fire under the boiler—hence no steam to move the mechanism.

Some folks never take the trouble to size themselves up—to find out what they are fitted to do—and then wonder why they remain way down at the bottom of the heap. I remember a young woman who told me that she did not believe she could ever be of any particular use in the world. I mentioned a dozen things that she ought to be able to do.

"If you only new yourself," I said, "you would set yourself to writing. You ought to be an author!"

She shook her head and smiled, as if she thought I was making fun of her. Later, force of circumstances drove her to take up the pen. And when she came to me and told me that she was making three thousand dollars a year in literary work, and was soon to go higher, I thought back to the time when she was a poor girl making three dollars a week because she failed accurately to estimate herself.

There is a deplorable tendency among many people to wait for a particularly favorable opportunity to declare themselves in the battle of life. Some people pause for the rap of opportunity when opportunity has been playing a tattoo on their resonant skulls for years.

Hardly a single great invention has been placed on the market without a number of men putting forth the claim that they had the idea first—and in most cases they proved the fact.

(Continued on page 1.)

FIELD DAY EVENTS

Big Stone Gap Wins in Field Events. Base Ball and Volley Ball in Afternoon.

The Annual Meet of the Inter-scholastic Athletic Association of Wise County was successfully held at this place Saturday instead of being held at East Stone Gap as per the regular schedule, on account of not having suitable grounds at the latter place. The field events took place in the forenoon, in which Big Stone Gap was the winner in practically every contest. New records were set for Wise County by Mullins, of Big Stone Gap, in the 100 yard dash and hurdle race. The east end of Wise County was only partly represented, with the exception of Norton, and consequently points on a few events were forfeited to Big Stone Gap without any competition. On a basis of 5-3-1 points on each event the local high school reached a total of 65; Appalachia, 7; Norton, 6; Wise, 1; East Stone Gap, 1.

We give below the scores made by different schools in the athletic contests on Field Day:

Shot Put—Mullins, Big Stone Gap, 33; Rossie, Norton, 31 2; L. Brown, Appalachia, 27.

Base Ball Throwing—D. Brown, Appalachia, 295; Dowell, Big Stone Gap, 289.

100 Yard Dash—Mullins, Big Stone Gap, first with 19.6 seconds; Dowell and Carnes, of Big Stone Gap, second and third.

Running Broad Jump—Mullins, Big Stone Gap, 18.6; Dowell, Big Stone Gap, 18.1; Williams, East Stone Gap, 16.4.

Hurdle Race—Mullins, Big Stone Gap, 13.9; Dowell, Big Stone Gap, 14.4; Polly, Appalachia, 15.

High Jump—Nine points were given to Big Stone Gap in this event, there being no competition.

220 Yard Dash—Points forfeited to Big Stone Gap on account of no competition.

Relay Race—This was also forfeited to Big Stone Gap.

Half Mile Run—Carnes, Big Stone Gap, 2:17; Cohen, Norton, second; Hitchins, Wise, third.

VOLLEY BALL GAME

Norton vs. Big Stone Gap.

At 3 o'clock the volley ball game took place between Norton and Big Stone Gap, which was no doubt the closest and best game played here this season. For awhile it looked as if the Gap girls would capture the game, but Norton by a strong rally finally won out, taking three out of five periods.

BASE BALL GAME

Appalachia vs. Big Stone Gap

On account of an insufficient number of players from the east end of Wise County appearing here to play the west end it was decided Appalachia and Big Stone Gap should play the base ball game. This was the last and best event on the program and the players were greeted with a large attendance. The Big Stone Gap band added much pleasure to the occasion by furnishing splendid music all during the afternoon.

Appalachia again successfully defended their title as champions of Wise County by defeating the home team in an exciting contest by a score of 7 to 4. The main feature of the game was the pitching of Kelly and Cress, who established a strikeout record by punching a total of 32 batsmen, Kelly getting 18 of them to his credit. At several stages of the game Kelly retired the side by striking out three men in order. On account of Lane's sore hand, which was injured in a game previous to this, Appalachia stole bases at will, which counted heavily in the scoring. For five innings both sides battled hard for supremacy only to be tied up. Appalachia opened the sixth inning with Isom hitting to left for three bases. Wakin walked but Polly fan-

ned. Ciphers came to the rescue with a hit to right field scoring Isom and Wakin, and scoring a minute later himself on a passed ball. They also scored three more in the seventh when Lane muffed Collier's third strike and then threw wild to first. Collier stole second and third and scored when Lane fumbled Kelly's assist on Brown's grounder. Brown then stole second and third and later counted on another pass of ball. In the ninth Kelly retired the side by fanning Collier, Cress and Brown. Here Big Stone started what looked to be a genuine rally in their half after two men were out. Kibbourne singled to right. Baker hit to left for two bases scoring Kibbourne, but Carnes ended the fray by swinging three times.

Following is tabulated score of game:

APPALACHIA.									
Players:	AB	R	H	PO	A	E			
D. Brown, 3b	5	1	1	1	3	0			
Isom, 2b	3	2	3	2	1	0			
Wakin, 1b	3	1	0	7	0	0			
Polly, ss	3	1	0	2	0	1			
Ciphers, c	4	1	1	14	1	1			
Culbertson, rf	4	0	1	1	0	0			
L. Brown, lf	4	0	0	0	0	0			
Collier, cf	4	1	0	0	0	0			
Cress, p	1	0	0	0	2	1			
Total	31	7	6	27	7	3			

BIG STONE GAP.									
Players:	AB	R	H	PO	A	E			
Baker, 1b	2	0	1	1	0	0			
Carnes, 2b	5	0	0	0	2	0			
Vernon, 3b	2	1	0	0	1	0			
Mullins, ss	4	1	2	1	0	0			
Lane, c	4	0	1	10	1	1			
Isom, rf	4	0	1	0	0	0			
Kelly, lf	3	0	0	2	0	0			
Martin, p	3	0	0	0	0	0			
Kibbourne, cf	4	1	1	1	0	0			
Total	31	4	5	27	4	5			

Triings: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9—R H E
Appalachia 0 1 0 0 3 3 0 0 7 6 3
Big Stone 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 5 5

Batteries—Cress and Ciphers; Kelly and Lane.

Struck out by Cress, H. Kelly, 18.
Base on balls off Cress, 4; Kelly, 1.
Three base hit—Isom.

Two base hit—Isom, Lane and Baker.

Parent-Teachers' Association Organized at Big Stone Gap.

A praiseworthy movement deserving of the heartiest support and co-operation of every tax-payer in Big Stone Gap is that of the Parent-Teachers' Association which was organized Friday afternoon, May 12th, at the school building. On account of the change in the date after the notice of the meeting was published in the Post, there was not as large attendance as was desired, still it was fairly representative of the progressive element of the town.

Prof. A. J. Wolf opened the meeting with a few appropriate remarks in support of the desirability and need of such an organization.

Mrs. John W. Chalkley was elected Chairman, pro tem. The Association was originally Mrs. Chalkley's idea and was advocated by her in a talk at the patrons' open meeting in September, seconded by Mrs. D. B. Sayers, but nothing came of it at the time. Recently, however, the matter has again been agitated and it has seemed that some such organization was imperative, in view of the growth of the school which now has an enrollment of seven hundred pupils.

Mrs. Chalkley made a short talk and then called upon Mrs. Sayers to explain more fully what the Association hoped to accomplish, and to tell of what she knew of the work of similar organizations in her home state of Ohio. Mrs. Sayers was followed by Miss Nell VanGorder, of the High School Department, who spoke of the crying need of a Get Together movement among patrons and teachers and of the isolated way in which teachers are compelled to work as regards their patrons.

"Teachers need co-operation more than any other class of workers," Miss VanGorder stated, and she went on to say that one object which she hoped would be accomplished was the appointing of Visiting Committees, changed every month, and composed of mothers representing all of the different rooms who would really visit the school regularly and also

visit the homes of the pupils.

The election of officers followed, each in turn, being made unanimous. Mrs. D. B. Sayers, President, Mrs. John W. Chalkley, Vice President, Mrs. Malcolm Smith, Secretary.

A wiser choice of officers could not have been made. Mrs. Sayers, besides being well informed relative to this movement, has great executive ability, abundant tact, is an enthusiastic and progressive patron of the school and is interested heart and soul in the betterment of school and home conditions in Big Stone Gap. She will be ably seconded by Mrs. Chalkley, who has made a study of the best and most approved methods for the betterment of school conditions during her frequent visits to Richmond, Virginia, and who, as the wife of a member of the Board of Trustees, with a small son in the primary, is vitally interested in the school.

Mrs. Smith is also vitally interested in the school and is already Secretary of several important organizations in town, which she serves ably and well.

A wise suggestion, which met with general approval, was that of electing an Advisory Board of twelve representative patrons from different sections of the town to serve during the fiscal year. As the selection of these ladies was felt to be a matter requiring grave consideration, a Committee was appointed to prepare a list of names to present to the Association for consideration at its next meeting. Mrs. J. L. McCormick, who is President of the Women's Civic League, was appointed Chairman of this Committee, with Miss Nell VanGorder and Mrs. A. J. Wolfe.

Mrs. Sayers asked for more time before appointing the Standing Committees for the year. These Committees are as follows: Interior Decoration, Sanitation and Health, Press (Publicity), Truancy and Tardiness, Membership, Visiting (Home and School).

At least one teacher will be appointed on each of these Committees, Mrs. Sayers stated.

The regular monthly meeting of the Association will be held on the last Wednesday in each month, as this seemed to be the most convenient date for both teachers and patrons. The meetings will continue to be held in the school auditorium. As it was urgent that another meeting be held before the close of school to complete the organization, it was decided to call this meeting on Wednesday afternoon, May 17th, at half past three, when it is hoped that there will be a large and enthusiastic attendance of patrons from all parts of the town, whether they have children in school or not, since, in any event, they are tax-payers, and therefore interested in any movement for the good of the community at large. Get Together is the slogan of the Parent-Teachers' Association, since it is solely by co-operation that all we hope for can be accomplished.

Proceedings Of Town Council.

The Town Council met on the 9th inst., for the transaction of regular monthly business.

A contract was ratified between the town and T. G. Morris, permitting him to tap the water line passing through his land for the purpose of securing a supply of water for household and domestic purposes.

The board of arbitrators appointed to settle the controversy between the town and C. S. Carter, with reference to damage to the town's machinery, awarded the town \$31.00, which amount was accepted, as it was agreed the amount awarded should be final.

The matter of making the town assessment for the current year, was referred to the Finance Committee, with power to act.

The mayor was authorized to have bridges within the town limits, painted, where it was necessary.

Council adjourned to meet the first Tuesday in June.