

THE ELON COLLEGE WEEKLY

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IMPORTANT.

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TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1910

THE TALLY.

It isn't the job we intend to do
Or the labor we've just begun
That puts us right on the ledger sheet;
It's the work we have really done.
Our credit is built upon things we do,
Our debit on things we shirk,
The man who totals the biggest plus
Is the man who completes his work.
Good intentions do not pay bills;
It's easy enough to plan.
To wish is the play of an office boy;
To do is the job of a man.
—Richard Lord.

The Old Conflict.

The Pope's recent refusal to meet Mr. Roosevelt because the latter contemplated addressing a Methodist assembly in the city of Rome, brings to mind the old conflict that has been waged within the human race from time immemorial—the conflict between principle and policy, between right and wrong. How many would forego the pleasure and honor of a public reception by the head of the largest church in the civilized world; the public notice such an event would give; how many would forego all this for the sake of addressing a little band of despised Methodists, struggling against mighty odds to establish their religion with its revolutionary principles in the heart of the Imperial City? Let us hope there are many such, and yet we must acknowledge that too often principle is compelled to bow before policy. So severe is the conflict that he, in whom principle is triumphant, often stands forth one of the heroic figures of history and he who allows himself to be swayed by policy lies a wreck in the annals of his country. Among those who have been made heroes by principle are Martin Luther, Sir Walter Scott, George Washington, Reed, Henry Clay, Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee. It is only right that such men should be classed among the world's immortals, because the principles which

they represented are those which remain unchanged by time. Policies vary from time to time; principles remain steadfast and immutable.

The student in college finds in himself the battle ground of the same conflict. Temptations to make grades by unfair means are frequent. Often he is certain that his dishonesty would be known to no one but himself, and in the light of this knowledge he meets and conquers, or succumbs to, the temptation. Should he overcome, he is a stronger student and is more worthy of his self respect; should he fail, he is not only weaker, but is burdened with a sense of guilt and shame. And one of the most miserable beings on earth is that man who has lost his self respect. Unless will, guided by principle, once more assumes command, he is doomed to shipwreck and failure. The only safe course is to follow the guidings of principle, of conscience, and thereby grow stronger and better equipped for life's duties. Says Shakespeare:

"Be true to thine own self, be true;
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Do You Ever Steal?

Many thefts are committed in the business and educational worlds, of which the victims and the one who commits the theft may be unconscious or ignorant of the result. The loss is certain to be evident after a time, but no lawsuit follows. Let us notice some cases in college.

You are just entering upon a new term; your course is a heavy one and you are resolved to do good, honest, thorough work. It is the second evening of the term. The study bell has rung. You have just seated yourself in your room and have begun to dig up a hard lesson in Mathematics for tomorrow. "Tap, tap, tap." "Come in." "Hello, Jones, have a seat." And Jones sits down for a friendly chat. After awhile Brown drops in, and with him Smith, and before you know it two hours have passed. Your friends finally leave you, and you turn again to your books. Four lessons to prepare for tomorrow, and it is now half past ten! You have been robbed. Two hours of precious time taken from you right under your nose, and you even thought you were enjoying the misfortune! Of course you never report the theft, but you miss it just the same; and your teachers deduct that amount from your daily balance on the morrow's recitation. Can you afford it?

There's Dash, a fellow who stands well in his classes and is respected by his fellow students and the faculty. You begin to be a little envious of him and in a talk with one of your friends you make some slighting remark about him. As it happens, this friend of yours has heard some things about Dash that would hurt him if they were to get out. He doesn't

know how true they are, so you musn't tell any one else. But accidentally, of course, you reveal the secret to another friend, and before long Dash is shunned by his fellow students, and from a cheerful, open hearted fellow becomes moody, cynical and careless, finally deserving the opprobrium which is his. He has been robbed of his most priceless possession—his good name. Do you feel any better over it, and are you going to be entirely innocent when Dash has to render his account for the use of his life's opportunities?

Strange that men should value so little and use so carelessly two of the most precious things in the world—time and reputation. Take away either from a man, and you render him entirely useless to the world. He is wisest who not only uses well his own time and guards his own reputation, but regards as sacred the time and reputation of his fellow man as well.

The Vandal in the Library.

Sometimes, when reading a magazine or searching for material in a library, we are disagreeably surprised to find a page, or more missing, which has contained the most important part of the article. Some student who has desired to incorporate that part of the article into a production of his own has ruthlessly mutilated and destroyed the magazine. One guilty of such vandalism is unworthy of the privileges of the institution of which he is a member. Such an act not only disfigures the book or magazine so treated, but deprives hundreds of other students, perhaps, of the information which it contained. Oftentimes the books or magazines so mutilated are of a remote issue and can be duplicated with difficulty, if at all. The practice, fortunately, is con-

fined to a very few of the most thoughtless or careless; because if it were general it would soon render useless the finest library in the world. The loss falls hardest as it is on the small library which is equipped with difficulty and grows slowly. Certainly no college student who feels any interest or pride in his institution and considers himself honest will be guilty of such an act of desecration.

Thomas Carlyle as an Essayist.

Thomas Carlyle, the great English essayist, is noted for his very peculiar style, his imaginative power and his deep insight into the nature of things. His writings clearly reveal that he was well acquainted with mythology, history and the classics. His essays are deep in thought and hard to understand. His style is somewhat artistic, but very peculiar. He uses many quotations from various authors and this shows his erudition. He also has a touch of wit and humor in his writings, and his imagination far surpasses many other writers of his age.

In depth of thought Carlyle surpasses Lamb, Addison and Macauley. His writings, with their minor defects, always bring an inspiring message, and we could give to Carlyle no better name nor one which he deserves more than that of Literary Artist. W. F. W.

Straight Goods.

"See here, Mister Casey," said Pat to the tax assessor, "shure and ye know the goat isn't worth eight dollars."
"I'm sorry," responded Casey, "but here's the law. Producing a book he read the following passage: "All property abutting on Front street shall be taxed at the rate of two dollars per foot."

To Labor.

Whoever is satisfied with what he does has reached his culminating point; he will progress no more. Man's destiny is not satisfied, but forever unsatisfied—not to succeed, but to labor.

1890

1910

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