ESSENTIALS OF CHARACTER.

I. Ideals.

Text: Col. 3:2. Set your mind upon things above. Centuries ago two peoples sailed from Europe for the Western Hemisphere. The first to come were men who dared to attempt and who suffered hardships of a frontier country. These men left their wives and daughters at home. They came principally from Spain. They had the approval of kings. 

Supported by royal decrees and arrayed in purple robes they sailed west over the Atlantic. They conquered the natives of the Antilles. They pushed on to S.A. and in the name of Christianity and the king of Spain they established themselves in Peru. In hopes of a palace filled with gold and silver, the riches of the new world, (that had made every daring man of Spain burn with a desire to set sail), they worked, fought and died in order to attain their ideal—riches. Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru was so satiated with the desire for gold and
his purpose, so well known to the natives, that when he was finally conquered, his mouth was forced open by the Indians, and gold poured down his throat.

The character of these early discoverers and conquerors was molded by their ideals. While they worked under the name of religion, they were moved to action by a desire and lust for money. They disregarded the needs of the multitudes and sought merely to establish their personal power. They built themselves large houses and while they intermarried with the natives yet they at the same time made slaves and servants. Their character has left its impress on 80,000,000 of people in the Western hemisphere today. The results of the development of their ideas plans to reach their ideals, after 400 years of operation, are: that 80% of the population of Latin America is today illiterate; the riches they sought after is still in the hands of the few; while the church they so zealously served is spiritually a
dead institution. Why? because their ideal was selfish though at the same time great.

They sought to extend the visible church and achieve and to maximize their own greatness by riches.

A hundred years later another people sailed from Europe to America. They came not with royal permits. They dreamed of no palace of gold. They fled from Europe with their wives and children to escape persecution and to seek a home in a free country where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

They sought not a land to conquer but one in which they could teach their children the principles of a free government. They settled in the N.E. part of the United States and with slaves rolled up, they cleared off the forests, broke up the ground and tilled the soil. They built school houses and held prayer meetings.
Their motto was: "He who does not work shall not eat".

After 300 years of the development of their plans toward their ideals what do we have today? We have a nation that has surpassed all nations of history or of the present times. The wealth of the nation lies in the hands of the farmers, with the multitude.

Slavery was introduced later on but it was never a part of the ideal government as planned by the early settlers. It has been stamped out of existence by the descendants, straw from the domains. The legalized traffic of intoxicating drink people when they realized its disgrace. Christ's word "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you", has been fulfilled. There is more gold in the Un. States today than Pizarro and Cortez ever dreamed of. Education is more emphasized by public and private institutions, and church, they planted anew, has become the greatest factor in the remodeling of all nations and peoples for good, than any other nation. Why?
Because they who settled the land sought the greatest good of the coming generations. Their ideal was high and filled with altruistic love. The different results of the two peoples are due to low ideals that moved and actuated the one and the high ideals of the other.

Young people you are today setting sail on a brand new enterprise, an industrial, mental and spiritual education, for the richest and best part of the world—Latin America. Shall your descendants 400 years hence review your motives and study your ideals with bowed heads in shame for your mistakes, or will they exultantly sing praises to God in thankfulness and pride, because of your high and wholesome ideals? I believe with all my heart that you young people today are starting principles of righteousness into motion that are some day to revolutionize
existant conditions and that will make your names honorable to all the world. To me there never was such a time as this is in which we are living. In the past Jesus the Son of God could die in Jerusalem and the city of Athens know nothing about it. Now there is flashed around the world the words as well as the thoughts and actions of men. We are bound up in one united whole. Youthful hearts should burn with enthusiasm to develop into the strongest and best characters; because, as Rowe in Lady Jane Grey, says, "Let the heart kindle with highest hopes, For Majesty and purple greatness court thee". There never was an age in which the demand was as great as today for disciplined and well prepared leaders for great service as there is today. Majesty and purple greatness are more frequently found trodden under foot of man who is overlooking true service in his maddened leaps for selfish ends. The majesty and purple greatness that courts the
christian today is found in fallen humanity that is lying at your feet, bleeding and masked by sin and left dying. It is pleading for you to help. You can help if your ideal is set on Christ. You can help if you know how to take the hand of him who has been run over and crushed by the automobile of sin. You can lift him if you will hold on to him and cry out to your ideal King, Jesus, to help you.

Yes greatness courts you, as it courted Ab. Lincoln. It is said that when Lincoln spoke the elocution teachers of the schools, the philosophers of the colleges and the statesmen of the nation were overcome with his eloquence. Why? Because Lincoln though born a poor boy, and lived in a poor man's life always, without a college education--he had fixed his whole heart on a high ideal which pulled him out of self and into greatness.
Your ideal in life should be exalted in character and kind. If one faces the darkness his face reflects the blackness of the darkness. If he faces the sun, his face glows with the brightness of the sun. You reflect that which you face. You become like that which you love. You come nearer every step you take in the direction of your ideal. It is the ideal after which we pattern our life that shapes our destiny. The right kind of an ideal brings peace and adds dignity to all that we may do. A high ideal makes those who are faithful renowned and thus increases his usefulness.

Jacob Riis, the homeless foreign boy, lands in New York. His only friend was also a homeless being, a stray dog. Riis' dog is killed by a police, who in turn permits wrong to pass unnoticed. Riis sees the need of clean, sanitary homes for and of low earning officers to enforce the law. poor who live in the city. He pictures a park around which are built neat tenement houses.

all in the city of New York. Riis worked and died
in the struggle to reach his ideal. He found life inspiring. And the life of Jacob Riis is inspiring to others. He started a movement for better living which is growing as fast as a willow tree. There is nothing so attractive as the right kind of an ideal. It draws out our affections and sympathy and creates a growing interest and love for all things, especially for the lowly walks of life. It plants a regal seed in the heart that will not allow you to stoop to a base act. It opens your eyes to a great vision that makes you long to become friends of the man. One feels that he must work with his hands as well as head and heart. Count Tolstoi, the great Russian philosopher, left his palace and lived with the peasants in a small hut. He could do nothing else and be true to the impulses resulting from his high ideal. Ruskin found his diversion in getting out with
the workman and spend a part of the day in
service with the uneducated workman. A high
ideal puts nerve into the muscle and makes man
a hero. No man ever undertook a more impossible
task than did Livingstone, who single handed, pushed
his way through Africa and opened up that great
continent to the world. A high ideal transforms us. It destroys selfish motives and builds up the
best there is in us.

One of the very first things for every young
person to do is to choose an ideal. What is your
ideal to be? After whom am I to be pattern my life?
Toward what shall I direct all my powers? These are
questions that every student should settle. I have
read somewhere of a ship that was anchored to what
the captain that was solid ice. The ice broke
loose and the ship was carried away with it and
was crushed between other floating icebergs. If you
make the material things, such as wealth, fame,
or power, your ideal, you will someday find that you
have anchored to something that will crush you.
Make your ideal you will find a haven in

Set your mind on things above, where Jesus is. Keep
your eyes on Jesus. Open up the sails of your ship.
The sea ahead of you is clear sailing. Let her go.

Sail on and on and on. You will make port.
amidst joys and shouts of praise, you will someday
sail into the homeland of the Soul. You will see
him face to face, who has been your ideal and will
be your ideal forever. Jesus loved who has
inspired you for life’s great work.