Herbert E. Wright
College English 3
"Thoughts and Achievements"
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I'm glad to report that I have made a good start on my term paper. As you know, I have been working on this project for several weeks. Today, I decided to take a break and reflect on my progress so far.

I began by outlining the main points I wanted to cover. I realized that I was running out of time, so I had to be efficient with my writing. I spent the morning working on the first draft. By the afternoon, I had completed most of it.

I feel that I have made good progress, but there is still much work to be done. I need to revise and edit the paper to ensure that it is well-organized and free of errors.

I am looking forward to completing this project and turning it in. I hope that I will receive a good grade.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. I appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Herbert E. Wright
Chapter I

Antecedents

People say that one's traits are, in many ways, hereditary. If this were true, I should be quite a man, for my recent ancestors on both sides of my family were honest, upright people. My mother's paternal grandfather and grandmother came from Scotland (belonging to Clan MacKenzie) and settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, there establishing a flourishing candy business. They soon became well-respected people and were high up in society, but, as ill-luck would have it, their lands and property were burned by a bad fire, and they died quite poor.

On the other side of the family, my grandfather was born in Hancock, Vermont, and lived there until he was married. He then moved to White River Junction, where he and his wife taught school. Later they moved again, this time to Natick, Massachusetts, where grandfather began contracting and farming. He and grandmother were kind people, always ready to lend a helping hand to anybody in need.

He had five children, my father being the oldest. The latter was not much given to studying, so he gave up school at sixteen. His father started him in the plumbing trade, which interested him but little. He did, however, take to music, and had his brother-in-law teach him all he could about the clarinet, and for the next few years he travelled around the country with a band.

At twenty-four years of age, having $300 saved up, he decided to marry. In order to secure a little more money, he invested in sugar, which was said to be safe, but lost every cent. Nevertheless, he married, but had hardly a table to eat on.

A number of years later, he took up osteopathy, then a new study. He practiced his clarinet in the daytime and went to night-school in the evening. Three years later his wife died, after having two children. By this time he had started his practice and about a year and a half afterwards, married my mother. When I was two years old, he died of the grippe.

My father's family is very proud of some Indian blood in their veins. About six generations ago, an Indian princess was married into our family. She was said to be related to King Philip, the Indian chief.
Chapter II

Childhood

My mother tells me that I was a most active boy in my early years and that after the first five months of my life could not be kept down, either in a high-chair or bassinet. I had to be strapped into bed until I went to sleep.

I had to learn verses for Sunday School. I memorized them easily at home, but when I got up to recite before the people in church, I could not remember for the life of me what to say. I was that shy.

When I went out with my elders, I always looked after them, I am told, carrying their suitcases, and so forth.

When I was about three years old, a little girl came to live with us. She was my constant playmate, being about my age. A few years later, she was about to leave for California. She was all dressed up in her best clothes, with her hair combed nicely. It had never been cut, so I attempted to do this. As a result, she had to be taken down to the barber's, where it was evenly clipped. Thus she had to go West without her long curls.

From a small boy I had been given an allowance starting at five cents a week. My sister and I, cart which was to cost eight dollars. Mother agreed to pay half of it. We had to save by not buying ice cream, candy, and so forth. From that time on I have been accustomed to save a little each week.

I was a very stubborn boy when young. Whenever I did not want to do a certain thing which I was told to do, Mother would drop her work until I did it. When I had done something naughty, she would say, "Where's the good boy today?" Then she wouldn't speak to me for quite a while.

I would plead, "Oh, Mother, please speak to me," and then would begin to cry.

Later she would ask, "Did you want me to let you do that?"

"No Mamma, but something came up out of the floor and made me do it," was my answer.

Since I was two years old, Mother taught me to concentrate with numbers. Because of this, I get along much better in school.

Thus I received my training.
Chapter III

School and Other Activities

I started school at six years of age. Most boys say that they dislike school, but I believe they say that just because everyone else says it. I did not dislike school. I always took an interest in and tried to get all I could out of it.

I remember the fun we used to have in grammar school at recess playing tag or relievio. However hot the day, we would play these age-old games in the school-yard. I remember how we, when in the lower grades, used to look up to the "big shots" of the eighth and ninth grades (there were no junior high schools then) and wish we could play hand-ball with them.

I remember the day when a boy told me that he had a job selling papers and would give it to me if my mother let me have it. I told him that I would get down on my knees and pray to her to allow me to take it. I asked her; she consented. I remember my first morning on the job. It was in late fall; it was cold. I arrived at the store at 5:30 after a sleepless night and got my papers. My boss said, "Now, here are your papers. Each one costs two cents. Go down to the corner of Pleasant and Summer streets and sell them. Come back at about eight o'clock." That was five years ago. Since then I have been in his employ and have earned half enough to send me to college for one year. I know these figures by records I have kept.

Singing in the choir has also helped me financially and otherwise. I have kept accounts of my income from this source, too. Besides keeping records of my finances, I list all the books I have read, of the moving pictures, plays, lectures, and so forth. I have attended, of the marks I have received in school, and many other incidental things.

The change from grammar school to junior high school was marked. It began a new era of my life. New acquaintances, new customs, new studies, and new responsibilities were met when I entered Beebe. However, I passed through the three years there without much difficulty and am now in the first year of high school, ready for three more years of honest work.
Chapter IV

The Outlook

If we could foretell the future as we can remember the past, we could plan our lives and succeed easily, with little work. This would not make us happy, for "Life at its best is a struggle," as I have heard quoted, and, as I have heard someone say, "Life is a struggle at its best," meaning that the best kind of a life is a struggle.

I plan to finish my high school career, as has been before mentioned. If finances and other difficulties permit, I will continue to college, one of the best, I hope, and study as exclusively as I can in some subject that interests me.

A friend of mine, who can read a person's eyes, tells me that I should be a lawyer, and that my eyes resemble those of Taft in his boyhood. He says that I have a logical mind and a quick wit and that these are the only qualities needed to make a good lawyer.

But this does not appeal to me especially. Whenever I hear anyone speak about history from the fall of Rome to 1700, I am immediately interested. Why, I don't know. Whenever anyone speaks of the creation of the world, or of ancient man before the first signs of civilization, or of psychology, I am enthusiastic. Maybe I shall be a doctor or a college professor, for these two professions interest me a little, but whatever my occupation may be, it will take plenty of study and hard work.

I am determined to go through college, though. I haven't planned on any certain one yet. Harvard, Dartmouth, and West Point interest me. The selection, however, is not for me to decide now. I must wait until I finish my present course before I look too far ahead.