My dear students,

I am very pleased today to have this opportunity of seeing you once more and of addressing you this afternoon. I wish you all the best of luck in this venture, which I am glad to understand, that I do not regard you as my school children today, but as my comrades and friends, as my brothers and sisters, as a class of Valdizian educated children, as a class of people who want to improve themselves in Education, as a class of uplifters of Valdizian Village, as leaders of the Bush people in South Africa.

I know that today you do not quite understand what we are aiming at or what we are doing for you. I know it because I have only been a student myself. A student of a child who is very fond of eating, very fond of clothes, silly clothes, bicycles, he likes shoes, he likes sweets, he likes money, he likes fruit, he likes sweet cream, he likes to lie, he likes meat of a fool, he likes home and in some cases he does not like to go back to school. The holidays are always too short. He never gets tired of thinking. I am not saying that to despise a student who does those things. In fact, he is a dear student who does not enjoy them, but he does what I have just said.

If you like eating, this shows that you are healthy, if you like clothes, this shows that you like to keep your an agreeable appearance. If you like bicycles, this shows that you are full of life, if you want exercise. If you like visiting, this shows that you are not a dull child.

But there is something more that we should think about and that is how to make the best of our opportunities and how to make ourselves prominent while at the institution or out into the world. There are no rules that I should lay down for you to follow very definitely. You think that at the institution there are students who are very rough and row and row. There are others who are always noisy. Whenever you go, you will hear them singing and shouting or disturbing very lonely. Others are too quarrelsome so they have very few friends, because they easily get offended and begin to put on a very hard face. Some are thieves and others are liars. Some are neat and tidy, in their dress, others are very dirty and untidy. Some are very brave, others are very quiet and sympathetic. Some are very clever in lessons and others of not at all male Mamel! work. Some are clever and they always make others laugh in meetings, at play or at school. Some are very bright in lessons others are just in the middle.
Some are very good pupils and are liked by their teachers. Others are very good pupils but are not liked by their teachers. Some are such that all the students honor and respect. They never speak nonsense things and do not indulge in talk. Once they stand up to say a thing, the whole school thinks it is right. Their teachers always trust their word. They are always moderate in all things.

Now our question is: "How are students to become prominent students at the institution?" Any advice is a very simple one: it does not need cleverness or too much thought, just be natural, simple, or plain. Don't try to be very clear, but work patiently to be clever. Try to know a thing thoroughly; don't talk the top surface of a thing but to know a thing thoroughly. Don't be superficial; a superficial fellow of its origin or meaning. Don't be superficial. A superficial fellow is a man who puts on bright clothes, tries to impress people with his outward appearance, is too shrewd, tries to look wise, yet he is very very little. Be a man, you must not try to put yourself forward but at the same time you must not allow yourself to be despised by others. Never try to be unpleasing by being grumbly. Always be happy, try to make others happy. Be cheerful; be ready to help. Your teacher must trust you. If he does not, try to find out the cause, if it is your own weakness in character, change it. Associate with a low class student because the teachers judge you according to your friends. Always try to be a better man or girl. Never be discouraged or never think too long over the wrong that you have done. If you keep too long in it, you will go down.

I know of a story of a man who tried to swim right round the ship. In the middle he got tired, he began to think much of his friends, others shouted to him: "Ah! you are drowning, indeed he was finished" but soon he took heart, he forced himself to forget his troubles, he thought of other things, he forgot the sea, his courage came back, he was strong again, he swam without knowing it, he reached the rope again. Those of you who ride bicycle know very well that once you say I am tired when you are climbing a hill it is finished; you'll never reach the top, you'll get down. I think of a story of one man who undertook to climb a very long pole which was fixed in a very deep ocean, he climbed and climbed and climbed. In the middle he began to say I am tired, he! I am dizzy. Go! I am falling. He gave up and he fell into the deep sea and got lost. So never think much of your own weakness or of the wrongs that you have done. Say I'll never do it. Let them laugh but you'll never get me in that again.
In fact you only suggest to yourself that you are tired. This is no kindness. You only make yourself believe what is not there. For example—

You hear a man say “This is not my game or else I’m much.” You ask yourself: “What causes this man to say these words?” You’ll find that in many cases that man really wants to have the meat. He is warming his own heart which really could be too pleased to get the meat.

Auto suggestion can help to encourage or discourage a man at once. Now I would advise you to use it to encourage yourself in times of tests or difficulties. Say I am a friend of all. Say I am a hard worker. Say I am not weak. When you get up in the morning, say I am better today than any other day. Say I am strong in lessons. Say I love my teacher.

As a student you should try to join everything that is done at the school such as Debating Society, P.T. F.W.F, S.C.A. P.B.T.

Football, Tennis or Tennis, Basket Ball, Hockey + sports.

You Cannot all be prominent by doing the same thing. The Lord never made two leaves alike, nor two people alike. Specialise in what you think you are able to do so do it well thoroughly. That’s how you can be prominent. Tshangela was very prominent at St. Conrade only because he was a very swift runner. The Principal knew that if Tshangela retired no school would beat him in the 100 yards race. Seburn is to mile only. Raditshi in hurdles. High jump in Tennis. Zora in Running. Mathematics in teaching. Pata in Loying then in sweetness of tone + in sense. Arose in reasoning. Metaphysics in teaching. In the S.C.A.

Nkula in History. Bokile in Thama in 1 mile race.

These things plus good character cannot let you down as an ordinary student.

Never tell lies whether with friends or with teachers.

Never be untidy in your dress. Wash and be clean on neat.

The tidiness of dress has something to do with the tidiness of orderliness of your mind as sometimes you can think a person simply by looking at the way in which he puts on his dress.

(When I say dress I do not mean new + shining things.) Oh! no! far from that. I mean dresses, work or even dress + well dressed.

Above all keep a kind + good heart.

Valdez’s students were disgrace us by bad character, bad names, bad behaviour, unnecessary pride, quarrels with teachers + Principal + others. Students that you are ideal Valdez’s students. In fact, one who is not able to keep up as a Valdez’s student should keep away from our Company. I hope you’ll have a nice rest at home this holiday but remember you are learners don’t let foolish people drag you down.