

# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION



Box 74A, G.P.O.,  
BRISBANE.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

I do most earnestly plead with you that in these trying times you will remember that the high idealism of our Association must be shown, not only in its Executive and Official actions, but also in the personal actions of its members in relation to all matters concerning the Deaf and Dumb, or their organisations.

This Association is not a tool which individuals can use to attack Societies. Such actions are not only outwith the rights of members, but are practically certain to bring discredit on our organisation. And, equally, it is wrong, improper, and harmful for any section or individual to launch any personal attack under the auspices of the Association.

We are building not only for to-day, but for the future, and I feel sure you will appreciate that the character, spirit, and outlook of those who build will have a great, deep and lasting influence on our Association and upon the position which it will hold in the estimation of not only the public, but also of those sincere well-wishers of the Deaf who wish to see them advance by all means which evidence a sense of character, responsibility and practical idealism in outlook and conduct.

We have to strive to secure better things, NOT to weary ourselves and repel others by fighting AGAINST persons.

The negative is always the weakest side in life. The positive is strongest and highest. The foremost need, to-day, is not to combat individual wrong by bitterness and denunciations.

The first need is to so conduct ourselves toward and among our fellow Deaf that they will believe in our fellowship. From this we will gain influence to imbue them with a spirit of idealism, a keen sense of right, a desire for progress, a passion for unity and service. These things, and these alone, are the only 'worthy, secure, confidence begetting foundations upon which we can build.

Let us not seek satisfaction for our own wrongs, of our own personal quarrels, to the injury of the standing of our Association. Patience, courtesy, and loyalty count more to-day than any personal matter. We have experienced the same kind of trouble that faces you, and we have always found that patience, courtesy, and the entire exclusion of personalities has not only won the case, but has achieved those greater things—won the unanimous support of the Deaf and the goodwill and agreement of the opponent.

This is not a plea of weakness, nor an appeal for anything other than the highest courage—the courage of patience and determinedly choosing the higher and more difficult task in which we do not count what we suffer against what we give and teach. Let us build up the positive good both in our own minds and hearts and in our conduct toward all others (even our "enemies") and the evils, which make bitterness to-day, needs must die because they will have no soil in which to take root. In all matters, appeal to PRINCIPLE, and make your appeal with courtesy, leaving abuse and personalities to those who lay hold of them because they have not the weapons of truth or right on their side. Those now in opposition to the Association will most worthily be won over by seeing in us the things which call to the best that is in them.

Some of you will remember that great friend of Christ, Mat. Miller. He is a striking example of what I mean. No influence could compare with his, no prestige reached so high, no words carried such persuasive influence and power as his, and the Secret of his influence was that he lived in the spirit which we desire all members of our Association to make their own.

The blessing of such a great example being known to so many of you, I believe there is no need for me to say more.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr. Everett Wilson*