

EXERCISE 3

There is a famous speech recorded of an old Norseman, thoroughly characteristic of the Teuton. "I believe

neither in idols nor demons," said he, "I put my sole trust in my own strength of body and soul." The ancient crest of a pickaxe with the motto of "Either I will find a way or make one," was an expression of the same sturdy independence which to this day distinguishes the descendants of the Norsemen. Indeed nothing could be more characteristic of the Scandinavian mythology, than that it had a god with a hammer. A man's character is seen in small matters, and from even so slight a test as the mode in which a man wields a hammer, his energy may in some measure be inferred. Thus an eminent Frenchman hits off in a single phrase the characteristic quality of the inhabitants of a particular district in which a friend of his proposed to settle and buy land. "Beware," said he, "of making a purchase there; I know the men of that department; the pupils who come from it to our veterinary school at Paris do not strike hard upon the anvil; they want energy; and you will not get a satisfactory return on any capital you may invest there." A fine and just appreciation of character, indicating the thoughtful observer; and strikingly illustrative of the fact that it is the energy of the individual men that gives strength to a State, and confers a value even upon the very soil which they cultivate.

The cultivation of this quality is of the greatest importance; resolute determination in the pursuit of worthy objects being the foundation of all true greatness of character. Energy enables a man to force his way through irksome drudgery and dry details, and carries him onward and upward in every station in life. It accomplishes more than genius, with not one-half the disappointment and peril. It is not eminent talent that is required to ensure success in any pursuit, so much as purpose,—not merely the power to achieve, but the will to labour energetically and perseveringly. Hence energy of will may be defined to be the very central power of character in a man—in a word, it is the Man himself. It gives impulse to his every action, and soul to every effort. Thus hope is based on it,—and it is hope that gives the real perfume to life.

Precis:

Title: Importance of Body's Strength and Soul

Nostradamus believes on body strength and soul, rather than idols or demons. According to him a man's character may be determined even from his small actions, and the ultimate result could be found. A good character is depended upon a keen observer.

It is the individual's energy which gives strength to the state and gives importance to that what he cultivated. This type of cultivation is of great value. Energy gives strength to a man to face the difficulties of life courageously. It is not only to give success, ^{and} power, but also gives strength to work steadily. Thus energy of will is a crucial part in man's character. It gives strength to his action, and essence to efforts.

In a nutshell, it is hope that gives the actual colour to man's life. (133 words)

Suggested Title: Strength of Hope