

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.

DATE: A9sa

DAY: 053

Title = Energy of will as a central power

According to the Norseman, the Norseman has a belief in his strength of body and soul. Scandinavian mythology is that it is god carrying a hammer. Moreover, the characterization of men is the manifestation of his strength. However, to form a strong state, energy has an imperative role. Nonetheless, energy compels a man to work hard, it is not the essence of success but the compulsion to achieve goal. Thus it is considered the central power of an individual to act accordingly. Finally, the way to hope or achieving aim in life.