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EDUCATION, FREEDOM, SECURITY

Education is "liberal" in proportion as it assists in the formation of a personal will, develops the faculty of choice, and furnishes that faculty with a rich reservoir of estimated possibilities. It enables the individual to choose for himself, circumspectly and wisely. It is opposed to such education as merely fits the individual for a form of activity that is chosen for him by others, or is the result of circumstances beyond his control. Ideally it means that every career should be a vocation. * * *

Choosing is a burdensome privilege, from which men shrink, and for which they need to be prepared. It means something to speak of "being relieved from the necessity of choosing." There is a rivalry between the cult of security and the cult of freedom — being looked out for, and looking out for oneself. Which goes to prove, if further proof were needed, that American democracy requires effort, and is not a comfortable refuge or a line of least resistance. — Ralph Barton Perry in American Democracy.