

The Skylark

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Andante

Bird of the wil-der-ness, Blithe-some and cum-ber-less,
Wild is thy lay and loud Far in the down-y cloud,

Sweet be thy mat-in o'er moor-land and lea!
Love gives it en-er-gy, love gave it birth.

Em-blem of hap-pi-ness, Blest is thy dwell-ing place.
Where, on thy dew-y wing, where art thou jour-ney-ing?

Oh! to a-bide in the des-ert with thee, Bird of the wil-der-ness.
Thy lay's in heav-en, thy love is on earth, Bird of the wil-der-ness.

act that is still new to him, but he will perhaps inevitably form the habit by reason of that deep and generalized feeling for what is right and what is good, so strong and impelling in him.

Lacking in this fundamental element, your education will be almost useless. Nay, it may prove a real harm to you. Education may only show you more effective ways of doing what is not right and good.

And then you should remember, above all, that what is right and what is good are things that depend, not upon habits, but upon reason. You cannot let your habits perform

all your work. In the face of an entirely new problem, your habits may help you, but they may prove more disastrous to you. You should, therefore, not depend upon your habits alone. Habitual ways of doing certain things in a certain way may be right under certain conditions, but not under other conditions.

At your age this is perhaps hard to understand, but keep it in your mind and light will gradually come to you as you grow in years. Do not form the habit of reading and remembering things so easy that you do not have to think at all in un-

derstanding them. This is a very bad habit, for it means mental laziness and what they call mental flabbiness.

The main defect of our education, then, is failure to form those habits of action that develop from a certain fixed, well-defined ideal of conduct. Habits are just habits. There are no established ideals behind them, ideals that control them wherever they go, convictions that will inspire them and strengthen throughout life. Convictions are the soul of a good character. Habits are just tools with which convictions are made effective.