

once embraced, or change an opinion which, from a full knowledge of facts, he had deliberately formed. In this respect Washington was a model; and his career testifies that there is nothing lost by being firm.

Young Men, if you want to make the most of life, let your character be marked by *decision*. You will effect an immense saving of time, of labor and of trouble by being decided. Why, some people spend half their time in trying to make up their minds on matters that come before them, and after all remain in that pitiable state of uncertainty, the most wearing and unhappy of all states. They continue to vacillate and waver, and one half that they do brings them dissatisfaction and vexation, because it is done without any fixedness of purpose. My friends, learn to act in all your undertakings, whether great or small, with decided firmness. After due consideration, make up your mind about every thing that demands your attention. Let your decisions be like the laws of the Medes and Persians—unalterable: but take care, first, that they have proceeded from a sound head and good heart, —*be sure that they are right*.

The Young Man for an Age like this, with its many questionable maxims, and still more questionable practices, must learn to take his stand upon the rock of *right*,—must resolve to adhere, rigidly, unswervingly adhere, to the principles of equity and truth. The world will tell you that this cannot be done *always*; that to get on in life, you must not be over-scrupulous; that you must comply with, or at least countenance, many little transactions that will not bear to be too closely scrutinized; that, in fact, you cannot be decidedly correct in everything, and be *safe*. But is there no God who controls the affairs of men? Is not truth stronger than falsehood, right safer than wrong? Do we not see in our limited views of the world, that the good as it struggles with the evil is ever advancing; that like a Hercules, it is strangling one