

"keep yourself straight," indicates this. It is also finely illustrated by the mathematical use of the word. A right line is a straight line—the most direct course from one point to another. It matters not whether the direction be perpendicular or horizontal, so that the course be one of undeviating straightness. It is the perfect evenness of the line, its freedom from the slightest bend, wriggle, or curvature of any kind, that constitutes its righteousness or (recurring to the more expressive archaic form) right-wise-ness. It is noteworthy that the true perpendicular line whence we obtain the derivative *up-right*, necessarily coincides at right angles with an equally true horizontal line, a truth beautifully emblematical of justice. It is also suggestive of the moral principle that one duty never interferes with another. The man who steadfastly pursues the upright line of heavenly aspiration, of duty to God, will also pursue with equal inflexibility the horizontal line of duty to his fellow-men. Uprightness necessitates giving to every one his own, to all that which is just and equal. "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely." The

"Ethereal minstrel, pilgrim of the sky,"

is not the less mindful of her "nest upon the dewy ground" because she daily mounts upwards

"To the last point of vision and beyond.

Type of the wise who soar, but never roam,  
True to the kindred points of heaven and home!"

The same idea of rectitude is conveyed by the manifest connection of this word right with the Latin *rectus*, past participle of the verb *rego*, to keep or lead straight, to rule. We may also note, in passing, that the French equivalent *droit* is said to be derived from *directus*, past participle of *dirigo*, to set straight, arrange; an offshoot or derivative from *rego*.

On the other hand, those words which do not correspond or run parallel with the thoughts of the speaker, but twist and strain them, are *wrong* words. For observe here, (in further illustration of the verbal studies we are recommending) that *wrong* is simply the equivalent, and in fact an old form, of *wrung*,