Go forth to meet the shadowy Future without fear and with a manly heart.

Longfellow

But the past is of no importance. The present is of no importance. It is with the future that we have to deal.

Oscar Wilde

To foresee future objective alternatives and to be able by deliberation to choose one of them and thereby weigh its chance in the struggle for future existence, measures our freedom. It is assumed sometimes that if it can be shown that deliberation determines choice and deliberation is determined by character und conditions, there is no freedom. This is like saying that because a flower comes from root and stem it cannot bear fruit. The question is not what are the antecedents of deliberation and choice, but what are their consequences. What do they do that is distinctive? The answer is that they give us the control of future possibilities which is open to us. And this control is the crux of our freedom. Without it we are pushed from behind. With it we walk in the light.

John Dewey