

**PRACTICAL
WISDOM; LETTERS
TO YOUNG MEN**

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Practical wisdom; letters to young men by Various

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VARIOUS

**PRACTICAL
WISDOM; LETTERS
TO YOUNG MEN**

Practical Wisdom

Letters to Young Men

by

**SIR WALTER RALEIGH
FRANCIS OSBORN
LORD BURLEIGH
SIR MATTHEW HALE
WILLIAM, EARL OF BEDFORD**



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SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S
INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SON

PRACTICAL WISDOM

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S
INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS SON

VIRTUOUS PERSONS TO BE MADE
CHOICE OF FOR FRIENDS.—There
is nothing more becoming any wise man,
than to make choice of friends, for by
them thou shalt be judged what thou art :
let them therefore be wise and virtuous,
and none of those that follow thee for gain ;
but make election rather of thy betters,
than thy inferiors, shunning always such
as are poor and needy : for if thou givest
twenty gifts, and refuse to do the like but
once, all that thou hast done will be lost,
and such men will become thy mortal
enemies. Take also special care, that
thou never trust any friend or servant,
with any matter that may endanger thine

PRACTICAL WISDOM

estate; for so shalt thou make thyself a bond-slave to him that thou trustest, and leave thyself always to his mercy: and be sure of this, thou shalt never find a friend in thy young years, whose conditions and qualities will please thee after thou comest to more discretion and judgment, and then all thou givest is lost, and all wherein thou shalt trust such a one, will be discovered. Such therefore as are thy inferiors, will follow thee but to eat thee out, and when thou leavest to feed them, they will hate thee; and such kind of men, if thou preserve thy estate, will always be had. And if thy friends be of better quality than thyself, thou mayest be sure of two things: the first, that they will be more careful to keep thy counsel, because they have more to lose than thou hast: the second, they will esteem thee for thyself, and not for that which thou dost possess. But if thou