And why has he thus been so distinguished? Because he never 
chases to catch flies. Because he has high aspirations, congealed 
with the clouds upon which he rides, and the mountains upo-n 
which he sits. His character, to use the expression, has constituted 
him king of the birds, and he sits as a wise ruler upon his 
throne, directing justice.

From these simple words, "The eagle does not catch flies," a moral 
lesson is taught the human race. The eagle, by his qualities, 
has obtained preeminence among the other birds, and if we wish 
to be preeminent with our own Reid, we must try to possess 
similar qualities. Let us see what these are, in order that we 
may try to ingraft them into our own natures. In the first 
place the moral instructs that only sure guide to prosperity 
and happiness, friendship of purpose and resolution. Without 
this a man can certainly attain to nothing great or good. As 
the eagle descends the object of prey, worthy of its utmost, and 
then darts upon it with a velocity that needs not small obstacles, 
as we must find out some noble object of pursuit, and then 
set out resolutely to obtain it. We must not stop at every 
thing on the way—aide that asks for some attention—nor if we do, 
we will be like a traveller who sets out on a journey to some 
beautiful city, but sees so many things to admire on the way 
that he never reaches his journey's end, and dies with broken hopes.

If we see a beautiful object in the distance, and obstacles inter-
vene so that we are unwilling to approach it, it will never come 
so us. Fixing upon purpose and resolution will alone carry us.