

on the present world, human happiness stands out as a far more important factor in the mundane organization than human righteousness. Therefore, I am sure, religion would gain in popularity if its votaries set it before men as *the* road to happiness, and if they themselves made it a prime duty to reveal practically to a sorrowful world, the happiness which it bestows. Perhaps you do not think that the world is sorrowful. Perhaps you do not feel the weariness and blankness which at times steal over the soul, and make it void. But that only proves what I say. You live in an atmosphere of religion. It is interwoven with your daily life. But think of the millions of starved souls who crave satisfaction and find it only in the gratification of the senses, those lower channels of pleasure which depend upon the state of the bodily system. In strength, in the exuberance of health, the vicious may for a time find satisfaction through the indulgence of passion, but the day comes when the channels are relentlessly shut, and in the darkness of the end, just when the soul would have something to fall back upon, it lies there helpless, facing death and the black horror of despair. I believe if we could only see into the inner hearts of men, especially of those who are living without God in the world, and making a fair show of gaiety, we should find, that behind all the lightsome foreground of pleasure, there loomed up perpetually, this background of darkness, like a thunder cloud which rolls over the city at evening and makes the world colourless. Don't say that this is only my morbid temperament coming out. Ask any one you like to strike on a piano or organ the chord that best represents the undertones of emotion, which in a perpetual harmony make up the separate moments of his consciousness, and in nine cases out of ten, you will find it will be a minor one. By the by, perhaps he won't give you a minor cue, because he will say it makes him