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MEANS AND ENDS.

We apply the epithets great and small to almost everything in the universe, material and immaterial. They are applied to material things according as they occupy a relatively greater or smaller portion of space. But when applied to immaterial things, as mind they are used in a figurative sense, and when we say of a man that he has a great mind we do not mean to say that the space occupied by the thinking, perceiving mind of one man is greater than is occupied by that of another, if we can conceive of mind occupying space, or that one man's brain is larger than that of another; but we mean that the thoughts with which the mind is engaged are pure, noble, elevated, and that it is capable of distinguishing things that differ though intimately related. So that it is rather the quality and power of the mind that we mean to describe than any physical peculiarity. We speak of great men when we mean that their actions are great, noble or commendable. And by great actions we do not usually understand that great physical power has been exercised, or that very great skill and dexterity has been manifested in the use of this power; but we understand rather some feature in the character or motives of the individual that prompted him to such a course of action