

abundant and a thousand fold more accessible. There is enough of the hard and the heavy, God wot, in this burdened world; enough of the laborious and exhausting in this toiling state; enough of the sorrowful and heart-wringing in this valley of tears, without attempting to lessen by one rill, the tiniest and remotest, that river of pleasure which still flows through it, and which with its glad waters ministers to the enjoyment of the human heart.

God has made us with a capacity to enjoy. Many proofs of this might be furnished from all the departments of our nature, and from the agreeableness of these to the works of God with which we are surrounded. It is indeed foreign to the design of this Lecture to enter into a discussion of those states of the intellect and those combinations of the affections which have been called pleasureable, and of the adaptations of the external world to those states and combinations; but it is right we should know and rejoice in the truth, that just as there are light and colour to meet and satisfy the eye, and sweet sounds to please the ear and delightful smells to regale the nose, just as there are conjunctures of the beautiful to charm the fancy, and masses of the sublime to elevate the imagination, and freaks of the abnormal to tickle the grotesque, just in a word as the humorous in the man finds its counterpart in the unasserted but obvious resemblances which objects the most diverse nevertheless furnish,—so it is impossible to resist the conclusion that it is the will of God we should be happy, and that this striking correspondence between the constitution of man and the constitution of things is a proof that such is his will.

And, notwithstanding the Fall, this capacity to enjoy remains. Perhaps it is that peculiarity of the human being which has suffered least from the introduction of sin, at all events it is that peculiarity in human nature which, when brought under the power of the grace of God, is most instrumental in raising up man into something of his first estate; so that he becomes the image of the ever blessed God. This capacity moreover is early developed. The infant enjoys. Not only is it the business of the Nurse, but her skill consists in pleasing and amusing the child.

“Behold the child by nature’s kindly law—
Pleased with a rattle tickled with a straw.”