

with a fiery shaft. God in nature should teach us to understand that the balance of power in its serenity and peace is not the annihilation, but the intensity, of its force, and that the moral equilibrium of a true life is the greatest exhibition of moral energy.

He who would once blast the Samaritans with fire, learned a better use of power through a nobler flame. How beautiful the force of his character appears in the incident so often told of his adventure with the banditti, whom, after they had seized him, he asked to lead him to their captain; and this master-robber, at sight of the old man whose instructions he had enjoyed in days of innocence, wept like a child, and returned to the fold which he had so basely deserted. At first the robber-chief fled from the Apostle's sight. "Why flee from me, my child, thy father, an unarmed old man? Fear not, there is still hope for thee. I will be surety for thee to Christ. Believe, he hath sent me." In these words was a power above any despot's word or soldier's steel.

To such a moral combination of spirit with mildness, fervor with humility, St. John added peculiar intellectual traits and practical faculties. He was by eminence an intuitive mind, seeing into things themselves, rather than receiving his conclusions as the results of elaborate reasoning. His imagination also was intuitive as his reason. He looked upon the world of spiritual truths as we look upon the scenes of nature, and these truths, like the scenes of nature, clothed themselves in peculiar imagery, and appeared in expressive combinations whenever sight yielded to fancy, or imagination worked upon the materials gathered by the perceptions. The Apocalypse may consistently be regarded as the work of his intuitive im-