

tion by the Holy Spirit has no foundation, and must be given up as a delusion. If there were such a being as the Holy Spirit, the spiritual work in man's soul, attributed to Him by the Bible and evangelical theology, would be impossible.

Here again the skeptical views have largely influenced the creed of vast numbers who depend for guidance upon the wisdom of the scientific critics. The magic spell of such names as those of Huxley and Tyndall has reached out into all the earth. There has been an apparent shaking of the foundations. The harm to Christendom has doubtless been immense. But on the other hand, viewed absolutely, the great doctrine in itself has not been in the least unsettled. The canons of naturalism are utterly unsound, and are coming to be so regarded by all men who think logically and for themselves. Agnosticism is a baseless dream which annihilates itself in the very assertion of itself. There is demonstrably a spiritual universe superimposed upon the material, and lifted in character and value infinitely above it.

Though it be granted, then, that the material system of the universe is a system of mechanism, yet this, so far from warranting the inference that all spiritual influences, in regeneration and sanctification, in special providences and answers to prayer, are thereby necessarily excluded, prepares the way, on the contrary, for the better understanding of all these. The lower system is the fit instrument of the higher. Just because of this system of mechanism the universe becomes infinitely plastic under the wisdom and power of our own spirits and of other spirits, including the Divine Spirit. If the rivers ran up hill one day and down the next, if the heavy bodies on the earth fell downward one hour and flew upward the next, if fire expanded water into steam one moment and froze it the next, our spirits would be powerless for the accomplishment of the great ends for which men strive. Never was a falser word uttered than that of John Stuart Mill, when he said: "All phenomena, without exception, are governed by invariable laws, with which no volitions, either natural or supernatural, interfere"; never a shallower challenge sent out than the "prayer-gauge" challenge of Tyndall. It is simple matter of fact that this system of mechanism in the physical sphere prepares the way for the spirit of man to revolutionize the face of nature and for the greater Spirit of God to carry forward all that vaster work of omnipotence and omniscience embraced in Providence and Redemption.

Naturalism has thus overreached itself and, on its own grounds, made plain the way for the old Supernaturalism. The critical defense has led to investigations that have made clear as sunlight the existence of a moral and spiritual sphere above that of mechanism, and controlling and shaping it for higher ends. Regeneration, Sanctification, and all the old and precious truths and processes related to them, are thus seen to be, if *supernatural*, yet not *unnatural*. Absolutely