

wonderful as that to Balaam, which revealed the animal's capacity to overcome in argument: the ass spoke, and spoke well. Sometimes we discern the future in an instant; with thoughts beyond the ordinary reaches of our soul. At other times we feel that our world is the outer yet beautiful porch of an infinite cathedral, where dwells the Divine magnificence. It is well, in seeking to have a sense of nearness to the miraculous, to imagine that, in full use of every faculty, we look on nature for the first time. The sight of her glory bursting like a splendid vision on the raptured gaze, excites powerful emotions: God is felt to be very near, we reverently worship.

Every miracle has two sides: subjective, in our consciousness; objective, external to our consciousness. Natural means may awake the consciousness, and present the object; or both may be a supernatural effect. The presentment is always to intelligence; and with such force that the spirit is without doubt as to the inward or mental view. Whatever the wonder experienced by Moses and Isaiah, by Peter and John, it was full of undoubted conviction as to the reality.

#### OBJECTIONS TO A MIRACLE, AND REPLIES.

1. A miracle is so highly improbable, that it is more likely the few persons who say they have seen one are deceivers, or deceived; than that all the world besides should never have seen such an event.

Not so. All events, except those personally known by an individual, are contrary to his experience, therefore so far improbable; some very improbable. Daily experience shows that metals, all metals, are ponderous; but a few individuals are aware that the metal potassium is not ponderous. It is well known that ice can remain in the midst of a fire, formerly it was deemed impossible. The rarity of a miracle, rendering it more signal, is no ground for unbelief. An event in science, or art, or history, however unusual and improbable, is received as a fact when adequately testified of by qualified persons. The testimony for Scripture miracles, witnessed by millions of Jews in the wilderness who could not have been deceived; the myriads afterwards who witnessed the prophets' wonders, and were convinced by them; the marvels wrought