

and the use of mediums should be reprobated. Spiritualism fills most of us, however the asserted results may be obtained, with conviction of intense triviality. Fervent prayer, long continued, or very earnest sacred thought communicates a delightful sense of the Divine presence, of access to angelic beings, of fellowship with departed saints, such as St. Paul (Acts xxvii. 23, 24 ; 2 Cor. xii. 2-4), St. John (Rev. i. 10), Cornelius, and many others (Acts x. 3 ; 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10, 15) experienced. These prove that the dead are not dead, that boundless existence opens beyond the grave, and that not until then and after is true life possessed. It is folly for those whose frames are so animal that spiritual experiences are far from them to deny realisations which thousands know full well. We agree with Lord Tennyson, "Out of darkness come the hands that reach through nature, moulding man."

Our best men are interpenetrated, consciously and unconsciously, with motives carrying them on to the future. Their chiefest possession is not the having attained, but that they are attaining. Their great joy is joy of the future. As their faculties enlarge by physical and mental research, the development of strength brings a glow, a flash, an abiding light. They can shout and sing in anticipation of a further coming power. These are thinkers. There are other men whom not merely the vividness of sight, the beauty of colours, the delicacies of life's banquet, make glad ; the feeling is of some energy, transformed into sentiment, which passes into conviction of immortality ; these are the men of genius. Both these sorts of men, the profound and the brilliant, know that the intelligent and responsible part of us, that which is capable of good and evil, grows, when duly ministered to, as the body grows being rightly nourished. Good minds strive for development, regard art and science as of no dignity unless the cleverness is a similitude of moral culture, and the moral culture is that which lays hold on eternal life. Not the forces which are concentrated into power of success, not the new formations of prosperous schemes, not the strength of will and skill, plucking flowers from beds of nettles, but in the tribulation that works patience, in the patience that acquires