

Character in the Face

A French author has written a book entitled "John Ruskin and The Religion of Beauty," but Paul was nearly two thousand years in advance of Ruskin, for he marks a golden circle around the velvet bloom of all spiritual beauty when he uses that wonderfully descriptive and comprehensive phrase, "Whosoever things are lovely."

We have plain indications in holy writ that God is in love with the beautiful. In the description of the architectural splendors of the temple of Solomon we have these words: "On the top of the pillars there was lily work," and when we are asked to inspect the quality of the fabric woven into the veil of the temple we find the sacred curtain true to the divine specifications: "Thou shalt make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet and fine twined linen." And we also remember that almost every precious stone is mentioned in the Bible: the diamond, the pearl, the emerald, the sapphire, the ruby, the topaz, the onyx, the jasper, the chrysolite and the amethyst. In fact, so great is the emphasis placed on the things which are known as beautiful that the words: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" could almost be reversed and made to read, "Worship the Lord in the holiness of beauty."

But God has more than one Bible. Nature, too, is a revelation of the divine thought, and nature is robed in beauty. As a famous English writer has said: "God's greatest gift to man is color." Gaze upon the autumnal splendor of this very hour—valleys, plains and mountains clad in purple, crimson and gold!