

harmony prevails. "Every man assumes instinctively that the system around him contains what his nature prompts him to seek," and when this is applied to man as a physical and social being it is undoubtedly true; but there is a line in man's constitution, marking off in distinct outline his moral and spiritual capacities, where the environment of the natural world fails to touch him, deep and living wants it cannot supply; and yet, beyond that point in man's nature, are his highest needs, his bitterest cries, his profoundest ideas, ever calling out for some answering voice and satisfying power. Nearly all that makes man, man, lies across that wondrous line; his mental, moral and soul nature is there, and out of that nature springs the conceptions, beliefs, convictions and ideas which place the religious demands of the race among the most important and imperative with which we have to deal.

Is it true, then, that all the organic and constitutional instincts of the lower creation, are provided for, and that up to a certain point the wants of man are also amply responded to by the system of things around us, and yet that in the region of our existence which imparts to man his princely position in the scale of beings there is no grand correspondence, no satisfying answer or supply to his deepest needs and profoundest expectations? Then man in his moral and spiritual nature becomes a stupendous falsehood; perplexities of the most bewildering and painful character crowd fast upon us, and the great, grim shadows of an immeasurable and hopeless gloom settle down upon us as the cruel mockeries of our being stare us in the face.

But we are not left to bewail a nature that has been built up on the principle of organized falsehood or deception, and it is a pitiable and humiliating makeshift of some to say that "consciousness is the hideous mistake and malady of nature."

Everything around us is a touching and assuring prediction and intimation that man's religious convictions and his needs, as briefly surveyed in this article, will find a correspondence and substantial response sometime, somewhere and somehow; if not in nature, then in some other way which will bring the desired manifestation and long-expected good. But it is a fact,