

value only to himself. If a whole nation says, "Our intuitions are so prevalent and assured of a world to come that they greatly influence our sentiments, our morals, our whole life," that is a great testimony. If all nations, during all ages, throughout all countries, declare, "With very few exceptions, for which we are able to account, every individual has an abiding hope or fear of the future, according to his being good or bad, which so encourages virtue and restrains vice that it is the greatest conviction and moral power in the earth"—that declaration has the value of a demonstration. It rests on the same basis as do those many other intuitions which make us conscious of unseen and mighty, though unprovable, influences, giving sanction to morals, making laws, and constituting not less the axioms of mathematics than the spirit of art which renders the supreme artist's name immortal, and crowns with imperishable memorial every poet who excels.

There is reason to believe that as consciousness, suspended during sleep, awakes in dreams, in processes of high poetic imagination, and in extensive mathematical and philosophic research, some persons are capable, in certain conditions of mind and body, to project themselves beyond the body. They are without the sense of time and place, but know that they are in communion with things spiritual. The condition is not so much a suspension of being as an elevation; not a waking trance, but entrancement of gladness, or of sweet composure, with a sense of mystery. We need not think of those mostly false and ineffective methods by which in times of superstition men held intercourse with demons. The other real modes, by study of Holy Scripture to enter the minds of the prophets; specially that study of Christ's person and character by which believers are made one with Him, and He one with them, in blissful times; are capable of verification by all who discern the Spirit. To repeat, as some do, their name until they lose sense of their own identity, is not productive of intense personal consciousness with most people who make the experiment, but of a baffling bewilderment. The use of anæsthetics causes hallucination, not reliable expansion; animal magnetism is to be distrusted;