

holy purposes,—leading us, with invisible hands, from earth to heaven. And so of *all* the loved and lost,—“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” This idea seems to many, who accept nothing which they cannot understand, too visionary for belief; and yet, if we were to base all our belief on what we *know*, how limited would be our intellectual and moral vision.

How little, for instance, do we *know* of the process by which animal and vegetable life are produced or sustained, and yet, who doubts that the earth is clothed in her beautiful garments, or that *we* live?

If, then, we cannot explain what we *see*, shall we refuse to believe what we cannot see, simply because it is mysterious? The book of Nature and of Revelation alike forbid it. Let us beware, then, how we set down, as visionary, the belief in which so many find comfort,—viz., that the spirits of the departed minister to us here.

But I have been led on to say more than I intended on this disputed point, and refrain, feeling quite incompetent to touch a subject which has puzzled so many wiser heads than mine, and on which so much has been said and written. And now to return to the little grave-yard. The tombstones are nearly all white, though some have grown gray with the lapse of years. These stones are monuments of severed ties, telling tales whose sequels are written on high; records are they of heart-rending separations, only to be compensated by the endless re-unions of heaven. Thus much for the resting place of the dead, though memory loves to linger over the scene, and imagination to picture the glory of the waking at the resurrection.

There is little of note in M—— to interest strangers. In one part of the town there is a cave, which tradition says the red man once occupied as a rendezvous. The mouth of the cave is reached by a succession of what may be called natural stairs descending in a defile of rocks. Near the entrance is a small cavity in the side of the rocks resembling a fire-place, and said to have been used for that purpose. The burned and blackened appearance of the rock seems to warrant the fact.

Though this cave is not to be compared to many of the