

and that the most important of all, to which our principle applies, viz., *religious faith*. Whatever form religion assumes, it at least presupposes eternal perfection, and yet it is impossible to verify this belief scientifically. Now, here we must presuppose that we have an instance of a living hypothesis. If for any one religion is a hypothesis that cannot by any possibility be true, there is no way of convincing him of its truth, but where it is regarded as a real possibility there can be no doubt that religion offers itself as a "momentous" option; and not only so, but it is a "forced" option, since we cannot escape the issue by remaining sceptical and waiting for more light, because if it is true we lose the good dependent upon it. Hence we are not justi-

fied in refusing to make our choice between belief and disbelief. We have here the right to believe "at our own risk." "When I look at the religious question," says Mr. James, "as it really puts itself to concrete men, and when I think of all the possibilities which both practically and theoretically it involves, then this command that we shall put a stopper on our heart, instinct, and courage, and *wait*—acting of course meanwhile more or less as if religion were *not* true—till Doomsday, or till such time as our intellect and senses working together may have raked in evidence enough,—this command, I say, seems to me the queerest idol ever manufactured in the philosophic cave."*

(Concluded in next number.)

DESIDERIUM.

My life is as a broken lyre,
I touch the idle strings in vain;
But lo! the chords of old desire
Are snapt in twain.

The voice I heard I hear no more,
Though echoes of the voice abide—
Sad sounds as on some lonely shore
The ebbing tide.

The flower will bloom, the grass be green,
And still the wind at even blow;
All things will be as they have been—
I know, I know!

But flower nor fruit nor wind that blows
Can move me more! the spell is sped;
More meet for me the winter snows,
When Love lies dead.

—Ex.

* *Ibid.*, p. 30.