

The Making of Personality

thusiasm for a personality, sincerity is surely the noblest and most rare. It is only through sincerity that mortals can attain anything like a permanent tenure of happiness, and come to breathe that paradisaal air in which fearless intelligences dwell. Sincerity is to conduct what truth is to science, what unselfishness to religion, what devotion is to art, the corner upon whose soundness all other worth depends. As a single error may invalidate the whole fabric of reasoning, so a drop of insincerity may vitiate all the effect of an attractive character, nullifying beauty, weakening love, and involving the personality and all its relationships in disaster. It is sincerity that supplies the preservative ingredient in loveliness, that keeps it stable and sweet under conditions and for any length of time. It guards its goodness from the insidious inroads of selfishness, and its beauty from the deterioration of futility and disappointment.

That comeliness should be so potent a power of loveliness is natural enough, since it is