

mate causes there can be no power which is not exerted. There can be no such thing as a particle of matter in the universe at rest. The powers of the natural world must be ever acting, but the intellect of man may hold its powers in check. Like the great intellect which was at once its author and model, it may rest upon its seventh days, and hallow them.

We get rudimentary ideas of power from considering the changes constantly going on in things material. There we get abundant evidence of passive power, there we get some proofs of active power, for we must always conceive somewhere a power able to *make the change*. And this discloses to us at once the truth that finer ideas of power are to be had in a contemplation of the workings of *mind*. There is nothing absolute or constant in nature save the constant law of change. But through this wilderness of change, mind finds its way. There is an intellectuality which comprehends every change, which watches the vibrations of a molecule, the growth of a hair, or the fall of a sparrow. There is a wisdom which beholds and controls every ultimate of all these changing groups; for there is a law that governs their actions, and where there is a law there is *wisdom*, and where there is wisdom there is a personality. We may call it what we will, it is an *intellect*, a spirit, a thinking, moving *power*. It answers to the Christian's God. Looking from the changes of things material to the operations of the human mind, and then contemplating in the light of reason the operations of that great eternal mind in which was conceived and worked out the design, and in which were laid down the laws of the universe; and again beholding that, constant in the midst of inconstancy, those laws are kept and that design maintained;—looking thus from matter to mind, looking “through nature up to nature's God,” we get the finest, clearest, grandest ideas of power that the mind of man can conceive.

There being but two sorts of action of which we have any idea, viz., *thinking* and *motion*, the powers that produce these actions are the only two divisions of active power. Do