

to appear." "Speak of the angels, and we hear the fluttering of their wings." "Coming events cast their shadows before." These are coincidences and we mark them carefully, thoughtfully, and wonderingly, and the little spark of superstition that may linger in our minds begins to glow, and our whole being becomes inflamed with wonder and mysticism. Calm, calculating thought and reflection would soon cool down the blaze and restore our minds to their proper sanity. Yet coincidences really exist, must exist, and so long as the complicated system of plans, laws and free agencies exists there will always continue to be coincidences. Strange would it be were there none. Leaving aside all spiritual intercommunication and immaterial influences, we can easily explain the fact of remarkable coincidences by the thought that such *must* exist, and that while we always notice the coincidences we do not notice the non-coincidences. It is strange that the thought of some person heralds the approach, but it would be stranger still if such thoughts *never* heralded the approach.

We are continually on the lookout for oddities, monstrosities, and apparent exceptions to so-called fixed laws. The strangeness of the coincidences is a purely personal matter: it is subjective. We are situated in a world wherein are operative many laws regulating matter and life. The powers or forces existing are all causes, and these causes must have their effects. Out of the multiplicity of causes would it not be strange if some of the results did not so harmonize in time and space as to attract our attention, and be such as to be called coincidences? Thus we may consider coincidences to be not signs of luck, chance, or superstition, but the necessary result of natural laws.

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THE difference between one boy and another is not so much in talent as in energy.—*Dr. Arnold.*

EDUCATION begins the gentleman, but reading, good company and reflection, must finish him.—*Locke.*