

The mind receives, remembers, recollects, disintegrates and reconstructs ; to repeat the words already used, it has a presentative faculty, a conservative faculty, a reproductive faculty, an analytic faculty, and a constructive faculty. All these powers are not infrequently acting together in one effort of the mind. Very seldom, if ever, is one such power awake and active alone.

*Extract 3. Means of Culture.*—What is the apparatus of that training which we denominate self-culture ? It is but one—contact with the divine thought. One, yet fourfold, because the divine thought has a fourfold expression in the cosmos accessible to us.

1st. All the glorious apparel of the material universe, its majestic arch of blue, its curtaining clouds, its deep shadowing woods, its verdant plains bestarred with flowers, its shimmering streams, its wide tempestuous seas, all are a revealing of the divine. All its forms of loveliness, all its beauties of tint, all its rhythmic movement, all its melody of sound express the thought of God. Is there a Juno-like beauty in the rich-hued, full-bosomed moss-rose ? Are there vestal purity and grace in the delicate curves of the lily ? Is there impressive order in the march of the seasons ? Is there glory in the morning, far-flaming over land and sea ? Is there awful majesty in the seried host of midnight standing innumerable, rank beyond rank, marshalled in the silent abysses of space ? Is there sublime wisdom in the slow, secular, purposeful, immeasurable evolution of this world and of all worlds with all their forms of insensate and of conscious life ? Then the beauty, the grace, the order, the glory, the majesty and the wisdom were eternal archetypes in the mind of God ; they have been transcribed by his finger in the visible creation ; they are legible by us, because we too are divine ; and they enrich us with their loveliness, and ennoble us by their greatness, and endow us with their wisdom as we contemplate, changing us into the likeness of the things with which we cherish companionship. That mind is beautiful which is stored with beautiful conceptions. That mind is great which treasures sublime thoughts. That mind is wise which has studied at the footstool of eternal wisdom.

2nd. The world of human life darkens with gloom and glows with splendours of which the deepest midnight and the brightest noon-tide are but faint and inadequate types.