

To the scientific mind the most commanding reality in the natural world is "law." Its work is seen, its presence is felt everywhere. Its lines of light make the universe intelligible. It rules in the seen, and in the vaster realms of the unseen, physical universe. We cannot escape from its power, nor fly from its presence. While all else is in a state of constant flux, law remains steadfast and immutable. On the hypothesis of mind, can we throw any light upon this phenomenon?

Take a simple illustration. Simplest keys unlock nature's most important doors. Some scientists assert that the mind of man has power in certain nervous states to move physical objects without physical contact, as for instance, this piece of paper lying upon the table. It is possible, they say, for a man to so magnetize that paper by simple will-power that it will move toward him. Whether this case be true or not does not matter for our purpose. It is perfectly allowable as an illustration, since something analagous takes place in every voluntary motion. Somewhere in the chain that runs from the motion of my hand and the mental act of willing, spirit-will acts, either mediately or immediately, upon the nerve arcs or brain cells, which, as even Maudsley admits, are inert. I hold in my hand this book. It weighs about one pound. I am conscious while I hold it of a *pull* exerted upon it. If I hold the paper in my hand while my friend exerts his will-power upon it, I am conscious of just such a pull. Is it will-power acting upon the book? But we find that all matter throughout all the distant gleaming spaces, where universe-diameters are the units of measurement, as far as we know, is subjected to just such a pull. Is it the pull of a will? Sir John Herschel thinks it is. So does Faraday, Hartmann, Joseph Cook, Dana, the Duke of Argyll, and scores of others. Not a grain of sand upon the shore of yonder lake but is held to every massive speck that glimmers faintly in the long, nebulous leagues of the Milky Way or far beyond. We are bound together in the sacred brotherhood of stars. We are one, for we rest alike in the bosom of one Father. His omnipresent will is the home-tie.