

SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE.

A DISCOURSE CONCERNING LIFE, PREACHED IN THE UNITARIAN
CHURCH, MONTREAL, ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1854.

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"Who knoweth what is good for man in this Life, all the days of his vain Life which he spendeth as a shadow?"—ECCLES. vi. 12.

"I am come that they might have Life, and that they might have it more abundantly."—JOHN x. 10.

THE first of the passages just cited is from the Book of Ecclesiastes — a book which contains a discourse concerning human Life, considered in the light of common experience, and from a Hebrew philosophic point of view. The second is from the gospel of John — a book which evinces the deepest insight into the meaning of that new message from Heaven which came through Jesus for the redemption of men. The first contains the words of a royal Preacher, while meditating on a theme which evidently lay very close to his heart, and commanded his most serious attention. The second contains the words of the divine Saviour, in exposition of one of those significant parables which he sometimes employed as the vehicle of his heavenly doctrine. Each refers to a type of Life distinct from that of the other — remote, but related; yet related only by the fact of a common connection with man. Let them jointly stand as the text of some remarks concerning Life; wherein we shall endeavor to distinguish the two types, and mark the difference between that which is seeming and that which is real — between the Shadow and the Substance of our human Life.

This is a topic of high importance, and one which comes directly home to us all. Men of all ages have felt that it