

Now, the cause of this desolation is a want of reflection,—“there is none that considereth in heart.” Perhaps at no time in the history of the human race did men boast so much of using their reason as in the present; and, perhaps, at no time was reason used to such little purpose in spiritual matters. In physical science, and in mechanical devices our age towers above all others. Our comforts and our conveniences are carefully studied, and skilfully catered to. Hence men who think only of the world, and live only for it, are lost in admiration, and call upon all to bow down and adore the golden calf called “Modern Progress.” Whilst human ingenuity is actively at work in these two departments, the blight of Materialism is destroying all other Arts and Sciences. Painters and Sculptors, devoid of the Religious sentiment, no longer create; they simply imitate, and imitate on the grossest moral range. A dreary superficiality has invaded the schools; the human mind is treated as a piece of mechanism. Unfortunate babes, who ought to be romping in the nursery, are doomed to torture in Kindergarten classes, in which the mind gets its first materialistic set. The school boy, instead of being made to understand thoroughly the first elements of Grammar and Arithmetic, is, machine-like, passed through a fearful array of high sounding classes, and emerges with a profound dislike to serious study. If he should be sent to a college he is wound up, or “crammed,” with answers and formulas of which he understands next to nothing, and goes forth to begin life with superficial ideas of everything. What wonder that so many wrecks strew the wayside of life? What wonder that so many are easily led astray by the sophisms of unbelief? Reason cannot be used aright, because it has not been developed aright. A more simple, but at the same time a more solid form of training, and a constant inculcation of the supernatural, can alone save us from the dead level of barren superficiality.

Did men use aright their reason they would never deny an all-creating God. God is manifest in his works. He speaks to us from every flower, and plant, and tree. His voice can be heard in the moaning of the waves; and his power can be read in the starry firmament. The sun proclaims his majesty, and the moon gives testimony to his might. The laws of nature, which are the foreseen and intended effects of forces created by him, speak of his wisdom; and the seed time, and harvest time, bear witness to his loving Providence. Well could the Apostle say: “For the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, his eternal power also and divinity.”—(Rom. I-20.) Yes, the eternal power and divinity of God can be learnt from the things he has made. Right reason teaches this; and those who do not recognize God as the Creator are, according to St.