

and we shall always be ready and willing to give attention to an honest student's thoughts about it, even when we may half suspect that our own are truer and better.

These words, then; what do they mean? They were evidently spoken in a very serious and solemn mood, and were evidently intended to represent a very serious and solemn reality. We cannot read them—thrice repeated as they are—without feeling that. They warn us severely of something to be guarded against and avoided, and that can only be escaped by taking earnest heed to ourselves; by means of earnest self-discipline; and the something of which they warn us is clearly of a grave and stern character. But it is conveyed, you see, in figures, not in plain, direct language; and we are left to find out *what* it is which the figures convey—*what* it is which they were employed to indicate or suggest. And let us remember at the beginning, one thing,—an important and fundamental principle for our guidance, to preserve us from drifting into mistake and error—viz., that whatever, on the first glance, they may *appear* to shadow forth, or however some may have interpreted them, it is impossible, supposing them to have been uttered

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