generally a good guide . . . The simplest rule in all life is to ask one's self what Christ would have done in the circumstances, and then try to do what you honestly believe He would have done. None of us can always do that—but the better we try the better we shall bear and the better we shall be.

Often the things that seem to be the greatest trials in life turn out in the end to be the greatest blessings. You cannot grow a hardy flower in a hothouse—it is the trials of life that make the moral training, just as it is the poor soil, the winter blast, the unwilling harvest, that make the hardy Scot about whom we said not a little on Saturday night at St. Andrew's dinner."

And on another occasion Gill said to the Editor of "Great Thoughts":

> There is no subject which appeals, or ought to appeal, more strongly to the imagination than that of Astronomy, nothing which lifts men, or ought to lift them to a higher plane of thought, or gives them a better grasp of the infinite power of the Creator: nothing that exemplifies more completely the unity of design that exists in Nature; nothing that teaches more the Christian lesson of humility and yet, at the same time, affords the highest proof of the intellectual possibilities open to man.

Gill's earthly life began in 1843 and he passed into the great Eternity in 1914. He first looked on the world in the City of Aberdeen, which has produced many other eminent men. His grandfather was a watchmaker, his father was a watchmaker and he himself became a watchmaker's apprentice by his father's direct command, and that direction was so faithfully obeyed for such a period as put all thought of a Cambridge degree out of the question, though he had in him the stuff out of which senior wranglers are made. He attended some sessions of Marischal College, Aberdeen, and was there inspired by contact with Prof. Clerk Maxwell which led to a lifelong friendship between them.

Repairing watches did not suit young David's inclination—we cannot drive a sawlog up-stream, and Pegasus resents being harnessed with a common dray-horse, and so it came about that David drifted away from the watch-maker's bench and soared to the stars. Professor David Thomson of Aberdeen exercised a mighty influence over the career of this weary young watchmaker and budding astronomer. As to the mathematical work of the