

would make a statement which would afterward be verified as a truth. His first lecture was delivered in 1816. Its subject was the general properties of matter. Forty-six years after, he delivered his last lecture on a Friday afternoon before the Royal Society. The notes which he took for that lecture show that he realized that the energies of life were failing, and that the mind which had sought to marshal the forces of the universe and pierce to their very centres, must obey their laws and relinquish its lease of power. When we turn to his character as a man we find him no less worthy of note in the private than in the public walks of life. He was affectionate. He loved the associations of his home, and was touched by anything that brought back the recollections of his childhood. He prized the sympathy of his fellow-men—prized it as the greatest reward and honor of his life's work. He had felt that "touch of nature" which "makes the world kin," and every true man was his brother, whose interests were his own. His presence brought peace with it, and his life seemed to have an influence of kindness and a halo of love. When at home his constant effort was to be true to all who trusted him and kind to all who came within his reach. When abroad his thoughts turned often to "England, home, and friends." He had many trials and much affliction to bear, but his nature grew refined and beautiful in the furnace. As the storm wind makes the tree roots take a firmer hold, so troubles made his manliness more majestic. As the tempest's retiring darkness oft spans the sky with an arch of beauty, so the storms that burst over his path but brought the beauty—the rainbow colors—of his character into view. Tyndall, looking back at his acquaintanceship with Faraday, says, "His soul was above all littleness, and proof to all egotism." As the blending of races produces the perfect manhood, so the union of very different qualities formed the well-balanced character of Faraday. In his nature were blended the spirit of the Celt and the perseverance of the Teuton. True-born gentleness shone in his every action, and he was clothed with humility as with a garment, but underneath all flashed