

of philosophy. Many of these experiences, however, seem utterly incapable of any rational explanation at present, and cannot be resolved by any known law. It would be presumption, however, on our part to assume that such experiences were not in harmony with some law, though that law may be to us unknown, or to assume the existence and agency of other intelligences for explaining phenomena which increased knowledge may show to be the result of some hidden properties of matter, or some obscure power of mind.

Here is a mine for the psychologist, explored but in part, a vein but dimly penetrated by the light of the philosopher's lamp. Here is a vast mass of human experiences awaiting the verification, classification, and induction of the student of mental science.

Several purposes have guided the editor in the collection and classification of the materials for this volume. First and foremost has been the aim to present facts, the facts of experience in the form of human testimonies to subserve the cause of truth. All truth is of God, and equally sacred whether written in the pages of Revelation or in the record of the rocks, or in the facts of human consciousness, or in the experiences of men. Of course the fact is one thing and the interpretation of the fact, on the part of the witness, is another, and the expression of that interpretation in language is still another thing. In all theorizing and attempted inductions these considerations must of course be kept steadily in mind.

Another object has been to inspire a deeper faith in the powers, dignity, and possibilities of the wonderful human nature which, as someone has declared, is

"Opened to the infinite
And destined to the eternal."

The editor is not one who believes that men in general entertain too lofty an opinion of themselves. It is true men may think more highly of themselves than they ought when they compare themselves with their fellow men. It is equally true that it is impossible for any man to have too high a conception of the dignity and value, the power and possibility of this wonderful nature which is God's masterpiece of workmanship, and which Christ has redeemed. It is hoped that the glimpses this book will afford of the wonderful powers possessed by humanity may deepen in the mind of every reader the conception of the greatness and glory of our common nature.

Another object has been to present the reader with a volume that will interest and instruct the mind from preface to conclusion. There is a demand for books to-day that will beguile a leisure hour pleasantly without taxing the brain. This age is one of strong mental excitement, and life in town and city is presenting with each generation increased strain upon the nervous system. The tension of the mental nature through business competition, the pursuit of wealth, office, and honor, and even in the round of fashionable follies and pleasures is in many cases tremendous. A book that can with pleasure and profit occupy the attention of the wearied business or professional man should be considered a public benefaction.

The present volume will be found admirably adapted to this purpose. The plan of the work required separate sections made up of short chapters, in many cases mere paragraphs, each complete in itself, yet having a distinct relation to the other parts of the section.