

# ANALYSIS OF THE ALTRUISTIC ACT.

## I.—GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

### a. THE VALUE OF FEELING.

1. Man's mental being is made up of several kinds of powers, which have their *conscious* result in two fundamental kinds—those of perceiving and those of feeling, *i.e.*, feeling pleasures and pains. To those who question this statement and wish other operations of cognition to be added, I answer that these operations do not belong to pure consciousness ; and to others who ask why I do not include volition, my reply will be evident further on.

2. It is feelings alone which are of import to human beings. Objects, the world, God, our intelligence and even our existence we can care nothing about, except as they can cause or feel pleasure or pain ; without which we could not understand them as meaning anything. I do not say that we cannot rise above our personal feelings ; but we could not rise above them without them. It is they which interpret all things to us and make them of import, little or tremendous.

3. The universe is very differently interpreted by the powers of feeling from what it is by those of perceiving. What is great according to extension or to vividness may stir us little as to intensity of pleasure or pain. Feeling ranges all objects, known and imagined, on a scale of its own. The great fact is, the pleasure of pleasure, the pain of pain ;\* the general question, how

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\* As the significance of pleasure and pain and their value, are that upon which the point of the following series of papers chiefly rests, particular attention is asked to a realization by the reader of *what pleasure is*, and what pain is—which can be only studied by experiencing and observing them ; a matter much misunderstood.