

exercise of ordinary time and intelligence, to attempt to comprehend all the subtleties and sophisms pertaining thereto, were about as hopeless and fruitless a task as for a novice, like me, to attempt to demonstrate the fallacy of, or to budge in the slightest degree, those mammoth tomes and cumbrous systems which a learned dictatorial orthodoxy has grafted on the race ; and which, while they stand as firm, are also as opaque as the granite hills of New England.

Although without the excuse for my seeming presumption which comes of being, as all at least assume to be, "unbiassed," nevertheless, I may claim, instead, that my opinions are ventured in the outgush of natural impulse—that my ideas, however faulty and crude, present the virtue at least of "raw material," and have not been made up and warped and perverted by scholastic nursing or other sectarian training—that however strongly I may incline to certain views, my mind is neither pledged nor subsidized—and whatever my prejudices, I have no professional nor party interest in catering, with a view to profit or aggrandizement, to the claims of rival clique or clan or cause. This last consideration is my greatest encouragement—my best apology for intruding my sentiments in the frowning, cynical face of such an imposing array of "cultured" talent as we find enjoying in official capacity both a sacred and profane monopoly of all situations of vantage and emolument—not in the exercise of a calling simply, but employed in the routine business of inculcating ideas rather more ancient than