## T CHAPTER.

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## Entroductory.

CLEARING THE GROUND,

The foundation of a building is the least seen of all its parts; but it is the most important. The degree of importance depends on the kind of building, and the time it is expected to last. A temporary cabin may very well be creeted on the sand; but in building a house one ought to be sure of one's ground.

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The idea of life as a building is quite familiar; and when so viewed, no mere hat or cabin is thought of, but an edifice noble and enduring, requiring therefore a solid foundation.

It is plain indeed that so far as this world is concerned life has a physical basis. In using this expression we have no reference to "protoplasm," as might be supposed by those who are familiar with the "Lay Scemons" of a certain distinguished scientific teacher; but simply mean this, that the physical part of our nature is the substratum of the whole, so that when it fails, all fails. This is true; but is it the ultimate truth? If it be, it is most discouraging. What would you think of erecting a splendid building on a foundation which may give way at any moment, and must give way in a few years at most? Would you think it worth your while to set to work at all?

B