

dictates of prudence and duty. A faithful and energetic mind will master circumstances. But as education is diffused and society develops itself, more choice of object will be offered to various talents: and even now, as far as we can, we should endeavor to put men and women to the task for which nature evidently intended them. More strongly marked character will be thus produced in individuals; and the infinite riches and beauty, with the true use and enjoyment of this world, will become more apparent to every mind. We may promote this salutary change, by dissipating the mistaken feeling which is now associated with the word respectability. Every social function is respectable, which fills its proper place, is exercised in the right spirit, and wields its appropriate talent. All things are parts of one great whole, and express together the benignant harmony of the Spirit of God. Whatever stimulates and gratifies a rational curiosity, though it yield no direct practical result — whatever awakens taste and sentiment, or throws a grace over the coarser realities of life, if cultivated in a holy and loving spirit — is as solid a good to mankind, as the heavy drudgery which heaps up riches year after year — and may be as truly religious — may as directly take the mind to God — as the mechanical routine of a traditional piety, and the cold and listless observances which dishonor many a sanctuary. We come, through this religious consecration of life, to view the entire universe as the dwelling-place of God — conversing through nature, history and the human mind with Him — and sympathising with the filial spirits that He has placed in the midst of it, to behold his glory and rejoice in his beneficence. In nature we witness the serene reflection of his unchanging majesty and