

world. The most rudimentary distinction between knowledge and thought must be enough to discredit the theory of knowledge which commends faith in ignorance.

The battles of thought are not waged with weapons of negation. Realities of existence are within our range of vision as we occupy the philosophic standpoint ; and from mere contemplation of these, we can see how complex and how grand is the task which intelligence takes upon itself, and in performance of which it finds healthy exercise and increasing delight. The past and the future meet before our eyes ; the visible and invisible must find their relations, and our life, even as thinkers, before we advance to the achievements of practical life in accordance with a lofty ideal, becomes conscious of the grandeur of its position, and the greatness of its possibilities. For we are grappling with the most rational enquiry, how the problems of human life stand related to the problem of existence as a whole.

Passing into the midst of what is positive and truly powerful in modern scientific thought, we are engaged with all the manifestations of the grand law of Evolution. We recognize the popularity of the scheme which rests on this law for the explanation of the universe ; looking along the line of biologic advance from lowest types of life to more complex forms of organism, we recognize the grandeur of the representation supplied, and come to perceive how wonderful is life and how marvellous the action of an environment which has itself no life ; but this view closes in upon us and the prospect of completing our view of existence becomes hopeless. Yet nothing is imperilled but the advance of a theory into a region where its advocates find movement difficult and uncertain. All that it has achieved it retains. If there is wavering and perplexity beyond, it is because thought is greater than organism ; and because interpretation of fibres and nerve cells becomes too poor a thing to be accepted as a philosophy of intelligence, and of the mysteries of an ethical life. It is here that the main conflict is still to be waged. This is the controversy between thought ruled by knowledge of the laws of organism, and thought ruled by the knowledge of thought itself.

One serious disadvantage there is arising from the popularity of Darwinian Evolution, for it has become for the time a form of domination, a type of authority, such as invariably hampers free