

The Making of Personality

Kindliness, and enroll ourselves in the order of the carnation, the cult of the iris, the fellowship of the lilac.

What mainly distinguishes these essential ingredients of loveliness is that they are all attainable practical virtues, rather than abstractions, — human rather than divine attributes. Kindliness is practical love, sincerity and comeliness are the every-day forms of the truth and beauty which we think of as eternal. And loveliness itself is a most human essence, rather than an angelic one. We endow celestial beings in fancy with shining, preëminent, and supreme perfections, but reserve the livable properties of this-world loveliness for the children of mortals.

Gentle, warm and generous natures lay a sorcery upon us with a look or a tone, or transport us by a hand-touch beyond the confine of sorrow and dismay, while far more perfectly beautiful but less loving and understanding beings leave us indifferent and unmoved. Time as it passes betrays the lovele