

MIND AND MATTER.

BEFORE we begin the direct discussion of our theme let us do some metaphysical underbrushing. There are but two things in the universe—mind and matter. None have ever asserted the existence of a third thing. These two forms of existence possess qualities which are not only different but opposite. Matter has extension; mind has none. Matter has weight; mind is weightless. Matter is inert; it cannot originate motion. But mind, by its power of determining to use forces which by the law of the conservation of energy are kept within its reach, can originate motion. Matter can only transmit motion. Ulrici says: "Will is the only germinant thing in the universe; all else is *flow*." Therefore, if we are to find the first cause of all things we must seek it in mind, not in matter.

Here we will take our stand upon a plot of ground, which is occupied in common by Agnosticism, Atheism, and even Materialism. All these schools agree when "they assert the existence of a First Cause, or absolute being." Spencer teaches that the existence of an absolute power, *i.e.*, a self-existent, self-sustaining power, is *the highest certainty of science*." We are dependent beings. We did not cause ourselves. Dependence without independence is an effect without a cause. There must be independent being. Backward, backward, far beyond the reach of the human intellect, stretches the receding links of the chain of second causes, and when we can trace it into the clouds no farther, of two things we are certain—it *hangs*, and it hangs on something. Dependence, with the kingly hand of need, lays claim to independence. Quoting Spencer again: "The existence of a non-relative is unavoidably asserted in every chain of reasoning by which relativity is proved." With some this non-relative being is merely a force. With others it is a power that makes for righteousness, and to their credit, be it said, they spell it with a capital P; and with others it is a Person, the intelligent source of the power that makes for righteousness. In the universe there are only persons and