

towards the guiding principle of life namely religion. We should therefore say at once that Holmes was a sincerely religious man : he was humorous often, yet serious at the foundation. If he was a bold enquirer he was also a reverent one. If his theology was broader than ours he was sincerely reverent in his tone. His 'Chambered Nautilus' shews the greatest appreciation of the skill of the Great Designer and of the capabilities of soul growth in every one of us. When accused by a divine of attacking "the self determining principle", the idea of free will and of personal moral responsibility, he replies in these noble words :

"Thought, conscience, will, to make them all thy own,  
He rent a pillar from the eternal throne.  
Made in his image, thou must nobly dare,  
The thorny crown of sovereignty to share.  
Think not too meanly of thy low estate ;  
Thou hast a choice ; to choose is to create."

This reminds us of another reverent poet who tells us that :

"Our wills are ours to make them thine."

and this in a poem addressed to the

"Strong Son of God, immortal Love."

Glancing over the work from which I made the above quotation, I find on another page the following characteristic utterance : "Pectus est quod facit Theologum" "The heart makes the Theologian." "Every race, every civilization, either has a new revelation of its own or a new interpretation of an old one." Democratic America has a different humanity from feudal Europe, and so must have a new divinity. See for one moment how intelligence reacts on our faiths. The Bible was a divining book to our ancestors, and is so still in the hands of some of the vulgar. The Puritans went to the Old Testament for their laws, the Mormons go to it for their patriarchal institution. Every generation dissolves something new, and precipitates something once held in solution from that great storehouse of temporary and permanent truths." Holmes says that we are apt to 'polarise' our phraseology, wrapping up our harsh judgments in polite forms. Holmes is always wanting to depolarise truths, to analyse them, to generalize them, to find out their real meaning, so that the form ~~should~~ not freeze out the matter. The chapter in the 'Professor the Breakfast Table