

has no knowledge of botany, but which is in touch with the infinite, will find more in a flower than he whose technical but unsanctified understanding can fully define its laws and mechanism. As our spiritual vision gains in acuteness, the objective universe grows more beautiful ; a changed consciousness brings a new revelation of outward harmony and unity. God is the essence of nature. We see him in the unfolding of the leaves, in every flower and blade of grass, in the air, the clouds, the sunshine, the sea—all are gilded and beautiful ; each is a letter in the great open volume of the universe. As the sea contains all its waves, so the One Life embraces all lower forms of vitality. Such an interpretation is spiritual theism and has no alliance with pathetism. Outward forms are beautiful in proportion as our consciousness feels their plasticity to spiritual moulding.

" All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
Whose body nature is and God the soul."

External nature is a grand panorama unrolling day by day, and displaying marvellous beauty color and shape painted by the divine artist for the enjoyment of his children. The universe is not soulless but soulful ; animate creation is a vast pastoral symphony the delicious intonations of which can only be interpreted by the inner hearing. The sky, sea, mountains and forests are the visible draperies which in graceful folds thinly veil the Invisible One. As our physical organism is moulded and directed by the soul within, so is the whole creation permeated and vitalized by the Immanent God. When we study the rocks, plants, animals and man, if we delve deeply enough, we find the footprints of the unifying and energising presence. This is not merely poetic imagery but scientific accuracy. A recognition of the continued deific manifestation thrills the human soul with joy and gladness. This in itself is evidence of its naturalness and truth. Nature is friendly ; her correspondence with man is so infinite and reciprocal that it demonstrates infinite wisdom, design, and unity. The barrenness and untruthfulness of atheism is evident from its utter lack of power to arouse human responsiveness.