

of strength that surprises one, so that he cannot be taken at a disadvantage.

There is something in his preaching hard to define or analyze, that evades me and yet claims one's attention. Williams had a good deal of the same peculiar—what shall I call it? It cannot be something in their religion. I have ever considered that as a relic of superstition; still the missionary, so far as I know him, betrays no weakness apart from this.

How it rains! Neither Pluvius nor Indra sends that, but it comes in obedience to a law of nature prevalent everywhere. I have always rested satisfied in tracing out the principles underlying phenomena; but the missionary not only recognizes the principles, but goes beyond my searchings and posits a personal Being who originates, controls and upholds those underlying, regulating principles of nature. A necessary conclusion? Perhaps so; but how can one be certain that the conclusion after all is legitimate? Whence the necessity? One can recognize the existence of laws, but to perceive the Originator and Controller requires sharper sight than mine. And yet it is just here that the missionary is so well assured. The natural man, whatever that may mean, cannot see God, so he says. Still, when one comes to think it over, there is absolutely nothing to prove that there is not a Lawgiver. There may be, and there may not be: the difficulty is that there is nothing either to substantiate or to upset the inference. The missionary may infer if he chooses, and so may I, only I do not, but stop short, saying that I do not know. Is it a first truth? Perhaps so; but how it is reached is more than I can conceive. All knowledge is of experience; all principles are inferential, so I have entertained—well, grant that I am mistaken. Ah! there's the rub.

The rain verily pours! I was very sharp with Seetamma; I must assure her in the morning that I meant no unkindness.

How the wind blows! It is almost a cyclone. That text of the missionary's was strange, and the stranger thing was that I was not proof against it. I did not see his

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