

# THE RECORD

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"IF I FORGOT THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 3.

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#### THE POWER OF SYMPATHY—A FRAGMENT.

Start not, my good friend, this is not going to be a sheet of metaphysical disquisition. We intend to teach a lesson—not write an essay. God is power, he speaks and it is done; He creates a universe and shapes an atom. In the poetic imagery of the East he holds the winds in the hollow of his hand, he weighs the mountains in scales. Power is one of his great attributes. He is its source, and universal author. Man is the vicegerent of God on earth, and to him have been committed powers many and diverse. freighted with great responsibilities. What are the powers of the being called man? When we think of these, it is not of the sinewy arm, the iron muscle—not of mere physical strength, for in this he is inferior to the ox or the ass—but the power which flows from reason and intellect, from the faculties, the possession of which allies with angels and links earth to Heaven—mortality to immortality. We look abroad over the face of nature to see the power of God. We see it

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in the glorious sun, hung in the centre of the universe, darting his rays to far distant worlds, warming them with heat, irradiating them with light, bathing them in beauty. We see it in the distant star poised in space, so far away, that the mighty globe, to which our earth is but as a grain of sand to an orange, shines but as a luminous point. We see it in the avalanche and the earthquake and the destroying tempest. We see it blended with his wisdom in the tiniest plant that grows, as well as in the huge leviathan that requires an ocean for his house. But man also has power delegated from God, to be used in his service and for the promotion of his glory. What is the power of man? In the Bible he is called a worm, but that is only in comparison with the Infinite. He is the deputed lord of this fair world, and all creatures at the bidding of the Supreme obey him. The gigantic elephant, the graceful and noble horse and the sturdy and stubborn ox come to him for their daily service. The fierce lion quails before him and skulks into the thicket.