

To possess this intrinsic worth of character, this divinity in humanity, we must be undergoing spiritual evolution. The body once in seven years is completely changed; the tissues are worn out in that time, the whole frame is new. It is a debated question as to which has greater influence in determining character, heredity or environment. Whatever part each plays, man in a certain sense is like God—he does not change. He is born with indelible, ineffaceable, immutable qualities, and necessarily so, for with them alone he does his permanent work. Unchangeableness is not a proper sign of stagnation; it is the first element of strength. When truth, justice, love, mercy, attend a man's birth, they live with him for ever. It is impossible for some men to lie or to be unmerciful. Deep-seated, calm, in each man's being is a principle of eternal sameness; his personality as God gave it to him, its story untold, its energies untried. Yet let us not forget that in another sense each man's life is the scene of constant development. All the progressive and eager characteristics of a living soul demand it. Our life as we use it changes. In our acquirements, attainments, in what we hope and believe, in what we have said and done, we have brought about an unmistakable, a distinct and everlasting change. Every one of us is doing it, day by day. It must be so, for we have been given the inestimable privilege of ever travelling on to greater and better things. This gives zest, interest and vivacity to life. The present conditions are transient. If that which was done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Forces without and within change us. Our social place, our friends and loved ones, our environment generally; by travel, reading, intercourse, thought, our characters are changed, we obtain new ideas, better discernment, larger outlook.

Now this righteousness of character, this intrinsic worth, will not shine forth as the sun here; there is far more goodness, real value, in human lives and institutions than can ever be known or rewarded here. An indispensable condition of all worth is that it be largely hidden. There must always be a sense of reserved power about it. In physical feats a man works quietly, giving the impression that not all his force is exerted. The broad grand trees were once humbly wrapped in perishing shells. The vigor of the earth that produces