

The subject is barren of certain conclusions, and one on which it is impossible to dogmatise. It has been found very difficult to arrive at any laws as to the connection between the national characteristics of a people, and the natural conditions of their country. Much harder is the problem to discover why, at a particular time, an extraordinary number of persons is cast up, on the wave of existence, whose mental activity, as shown in life practical, and contemplative, seems different in kind from that of the rest of men. I have mentioned together the active and the contemplative types of genius, though there are periods in which practical creativeness appears, divorced from creativeness of any other kind, because I am assuming that essentially the same principle is at the basis of each.

THE GENIUS IS AN IDEALIST,

just because the world has for him a more vivid reality, than it has for others. Without entering into the metaphysical question whether we can see things as they are, it will be admitted, that one person sees a great deal more than the rest of men, and at a certain point this "more" becomes a vision; the difference between the realist and the idealist is only one of degree. Vision is all in all. "We needs must love the highest when we see it," says the poet. "Action takes place in response to the stimulus of the thing seen," says the psychologist. The lion pursuing its prey, the philanthropist advancing through disappointments and increasing difficulties towards a reformed world, are both obedient to their vision. To the genius because of the intensity of his vision nothing is common, or because common ceases to arrest his attention, to pierce, to sting, to make him revise his former conjectures as to the meaning and inner life of things. The genius is not blinded by habit to the truth that all experience is new to him who newly experiences. He is originally capable of greatness both in the field of thought, and of action, though the course of life may lead him to develop only in one direction.

So much may be said about the genius of which I am thinking, but it cannot accurately be defined; however, unmistakable it is wherever found, its origin escapes our observation, its nature defies our logic, its conditions are