

3
souls will feel most deeply their value, as they would be the last to belittle the function of law and society in the moralization of mankind. By its worship, even if it be merely formal, the church puts men in the mechanical attitude of piety; and, owing to the wonderful connection between our mind and our motor mechanism, the muscular exercise reacts upon consciousness and quickens the germs of religious life. No doubt Pascal carried the matter to an extreme, when he counselled men to take holy water and observe ceremonies, as if the rest would come of itself. But the general principle is sound: it is the foundation of the histrionic art; and one of our most eminent psychologists has come to the conclusion that joy and sorrow are the effects, not the causes, of laughing and of crying. But besides its ritual, the church has its articles of faith. The memorizing of these stands in much the same relation to spiritual religion as the learning of the multiplication table to the reasonings of the original mathematician. Lastly, no description could well exaggerate the value of the Bible as an agency for the development