

audible. Such a pursuit takes us beyond the realm of shadows and illusions, and brings us face to face with idealistic Realism.

Whatever is abnormal generates unwholesome pessimism and clouds the human horizon. The mere developments of material science cannot lighten the load of human woe, nor satisfy the cravings of man's spiritual being. The incubus of artificialism is upon literature, society, and institutions. A debasing so-called realism in fiction and real life perpetuates its quality by what it feeds upon. Even education in its ordinary sense is powerless to raise man above the plane of shadows and delusions. When a false philosophy severs nature from her vital relations she becomes coldly mechanical, and even adverse. Unrecognized as a process of divine evolution she becomes unfriendly and often vindictive. The friction which, if rightly interpreted, would turn man back into a path of restoration, becomes so galling that—with its purpose lost—it looms up as the operation of a malicious personality. The subtle refinements which allure us away from the natural type end in a chaotic degeneration. In the degree that institutions and systems take on abnormal shapes, they court decay. Civilization, even when most distinguished for material progress and æsthetic culture, becomes top heavy and falls because it lacks a simple but true archetypal basis.

The term "natural" is sometimes used in a peculiar and degraded sense. St. Paul speaks of the natural man, meaning the baser and carnal selfhood as distinguished from that which is higher and normal; but the former is the perverted and the mis-shapen self, while the latter after the divine type is called "The temple of the Holy Ghost." To be spiritual is to be in the highest degree natural, and it is an abuse of language to use the two terms in antithesis.

He who sees God in nature feels the ecstatic thrill of the infinite presence; the visible universe becomes to him a repository of mystery, harmony and sanctity. This wholesome delight will all be missed by intellectual accomplishment if it be linked to a feeble spiritual intuition. A childlike soul which