

processes of the Divinity. We cannot put forth our hand as we do on the surrounding materialism, and turn to mechanical account any of those physical energies of God, which are all that they who view Him as a principle merely are disposed to ascribe to him. And if therefore we cannot take the other way of gaining Him over to any of our objects or desires; if we cannot bring a suasion or a power of supplication and entreaty to bear upon Him, as we do upon our fellows in society; if, beyond the reach as He is of any mechanical, He be alike beyond the reach of any moral application that we can possibly make to go forth upon the Deity—then does there lie a hopeless and impassable barrier between us and Him who is called the Father of our spirits; and, alike excluded from any use that we can desire to make of Him as a principle and from any more direct service that we might seek to obtain from Him as a person, the Parent of the human family stands at a cheerless and impracticable distance from all His children—seeing that if viewed as a physical energy still they can turn Him to no account, or viewed as a living being still they can hold with Him no fellowship.

9. Nevertheless, let the antipathies of Philosophy be what they may, we hold that there is no repugnance between the soundest principles of Philosophy and the simple credence of humble and unlettered piety upon this question.

10. Prayer and the answer of Prayer, according to the popular and we shall even say the natural understanding, are simply, the preferring of a request upon the one side, and compliance with