

science void of offence, should ever form any plans or purposes which he is not willing to have laid open to the universe at any moment ; and the only reason why he does not expose them should be, that he may thereby accomplish more for the good of the world. Concealed for such a reason, and they do not disturb the clearness and beauty of his character ; but kept out of sight for any other reason, and they mar his transparency.

I remark, also, that objects seen through the most perfectly transparent crystal do not appear as distinct as when viewed through a vacuum, or the air. This well illustrates the imperfection of the best of human characters. Divine grace does not choose to make them absolutely perfect in this world. Perhaps it is no more possible that a descendant of Adam should exhibit perfection, than that a crystal, formed out of mineral matter, should transmit light without intercepting some of its rays. It remains for a higher state of existence to bring out the Christian character in its full glory. In that city whose foundations are formed of the choicest gems, a correspondent beauty and perfection will be developed in the Christian's soul.

Thus far I have spoken of transparent crystals, that transmit only white light ; and these I have made the emblem of the most perfect character. But the light is sometimes colored ; it may be deeply so ; and though the essential transparency remains, objects seen through the crystal will be also colored. Examples may be seen in amethyst, rose mica, and red rock salt.

This fact symbolizes another variety of character, less perfect than the first, yet more frequent. It is not very uncommon to meet with a man whose character in the main belongs to the transparent class, yet he suffers himself to be swayed