

seems as if such persons were aiming to secure both this world and the next, and you fear that they may lose both.

Semi-transparency may symbolize a character still more unlovely and repulsive. The very mineral I have taken to illustrate it — gypsum — was used under the name of *phen-gites*, by some of the most hateful of the Roman emperors — Nero, for example — for the windows of their palaces. So nearly transparent was it, that these tyrants could look out and see what the people were doing, while the latter could not look in and see what was going on there. And this is just what jealous and cruel despots, and others of like disposition, desire. Others they wish to scrutinize with eagles' eyes, while they themselves keep in the dark, and from thence give the assassin's stab.

4. *I pass, fourthly, to describe the translucent character.*

Minerals are translucent when light is transmitted through them, but objects are not seen.

There are two varieties of translucency. In the first, light seems to penetrate the entire mass, but not enough to produce even semi-transparency. The difficulty seems to have been, that the particles, when the mineral was in the process of formation, were not thoroughly dissolved, and therefore could not be so arranged by the laws of crystallography as to allow the light to pass freely through. And yet it seems as if the work had been nearly accomplished. Examples may be seen in fibrous gypsum and rose quartz.

This mineral aptly represents the man who seems to stand about upon the line between the world and the Christian. There is so much that is good, both in his principles and his practice, that you are disposed at times to class him with the latter. But you cannot see through him, and there is too much room left for guile and artifice to hide themselves, and