

the opal and the labradorite. We are delighted with their splendor, but regret that we cannot see through them.

9. *The irised or pavonine character is symbolized by my ninth example.*

Irisd minerals often give a splendid exhibition of most of the colors of the spectrum; but it is produced by a mere superficial film, while all beneath is opaque, as in a specimen of anthracite coal.

The pavonine character, so called from its resemblance to the feathers of the peacock, is so common as hardly to need a particular description. It is the man who has a strong passion for outside display, but has no corresponding sterling qualities within. He may be gaudy as the peacock without; but just penetrate beneath the thin film of external character, and all will be found either hollow or opaque within. Frequently the interior will be found a hiding place for artifice, cunning, and duplicity, and always for vanity and self-conceit. Such a character is frequently a rather harmless one—not so much from a want of disposition as from a want of ability to do much mischief.

There are some minerals—mica, for instance—that are essentially transparent, but show the prismatic colors in their interior. This is called iridescence; but it differs little from the irised character, which is limited to the surface. For the interior iridescence proceeds from a metallic film introduced into some crack or fissure, producing a brilliant tarnish there of the same nature as that upon the irised surface. Example, iridescent mica or quartz.

The iridescent mineral has its counterpart among men; for we meet with not a few excellent Christian men who show an inordinate fondness for external display. Costly and elegant dwellings and furniture, elegant horses and carriages,