

and rich, if not gaudy, clothing, they do not regard as inconsistent with their obligations to conform to the precepts and self-denial of their Master. But this passion for show can be regarded only as a flaw in their character, marring its transparency as iridescence does the pure crystal.

10. *My tenth and last example describes the opaque character.*

We find at least two varieties in this respect among minerals. Some crystals, such as mica, are transparent in one direction and opaque in another.

It is so with some men. In a Christian land, it is not unusual to meet with those who have very clear views of the theory of religion, both doctrinal and practical, and you expect to find their hearts and lives conformed to their belief. But the moment you make the subject personal, you perceive that the opaque side of their character is turned towards you, and all is repulsive and dark. Christ met such a man in the youth whom he loved, and who had kept all the commandments from his earliest days. How clear did his creed and his character seem! But no sooner was the demand made for the sacrifice of his money for the good of others, than the crystal was turned, so as to be impervious to light. Selfishness had too firm a hold upon the heart to be cast out even by the persuasive voice of the Son of God. And so it has ever been, and is now, in the hearts of multitudes.

Another striking exemplification of the character under consideration is seen in the manner in which many men treat some of the important moral reformations now in progress — say that of temperance. Converse with them, and they seem to be strenuous advocates of the cause; but ask them to co-operate with you in plans for its advancement, and you develop a secret and unexpected hostility to the work in