

every form. Public opinion has forced them to profess friendship for it in general terms ; but when they are driven to the wall, and compelled to act one way or the other, you find out that the cause has no more bitter enemies. Their seeming transparency has given place to blank opacity, where guile, and duplicity, and self-indulgence lie coiled up together in the darkness in snaky brotherhood.

The completely opaque mineral, such as coal, transmits not one ray of light, and all within is of course entirely concealed. It fitly represents a character thoroughly bad within and without. The only thing we like about it is, that there is no attempt to assume a borrowed dress in order to conceal the deformity within. The principles are bad, and the conduct is bad ; and nothing but divine grace can transform the dark and shapeless mass into order, transparency, and beauty.

I might go on to multiply symbolizations of character from the scientific history of the mineral kingdom, especially were I to derive my illustrations from other features of minerals besides the optical. But I have probably said enough. Yet a few closing practical remarks will not be inappropriate.

1. *These illustrations may suggest to us some salutary cautions in judging of character.*

Recollect that the transparent character is the standard. Hence, if there be mystery about a man ; if he is jealous of others, yet careful to hide himself ; if his virtues are cloudy and indistinct ; if his opinions are colored by prejudice and passion ; if he is trying to accomplish certain darling worldly schemes, which depend mainly on popular favor ; if there is more about him of cunning plans than of simple, straightforward integrity ; if he assumes different aspects in different positions ; and, especially, if he attempts to conceal his principles, and refuses to take a stand on the side of virtue and