

reserve a class of favors of a purely exterior character, rarely vouchsafed to the suitors who make court to it for that dowry of the extrinsic and the adventitious which it occasionally brings.

It certainly *is* one of the characteristics of geological science, though in a far higher sense than that to which I have adverted, that it promises little and performs much. It contrasts strongly in this respect with those purely mental sciences still properly taught in our higher schools,—for they constitute the true gymnastics of mind, but, like other gymnastics, are to be regarded, not as actual work, but simply as a preparation for it. The use of the dumb-bells opens the chest and strengthens the muscles; but it is left to labor of quite another kind to supply the wants of the present, or to provide for the necessities of the future. And such appears to be the sort of relation borne by the purely mental to the natural sciences. How very different, however, the prospects which they seemed to open to the curious inquirer in the earlier ages of their history, or even in the earlier history of individual minds among ourselves! Mental science must have appeared to many of us, when we first approached it, as a magnificent gateway, giving access to a vast province, in which not only all knowledge regarding the nature of mind was to be acquired, but in which also, through the study of the intellectual faculties, we were to be introduced to the best possible modes of acquiring all other knowledge. But have we not been disappointed in our hopes? nay, from the doubts and uncertainties conjured up by the nice dialectics of the science, have we not had eventually to cast ourselves for escape on the simple instincts of our nature? and, ultimately, have we not gained well nigh as little through the process, so imperatively demanded by the metaphysician, of turning the mind upon itself, instead of exercising it on things external to it, as if we had been engaged in turning the *eye* upon itself, instead