

CHAPTER VIII.

OF TRUTH.

I.

THERE are many ways in which the child's mind may become familiar with the conception of Truth, yet there is one way which seems to be marked out as more generally trodden than any other. This is embodied in the term Veracity, or Truthfulness in speech and action. In endless instances, in stories both true and imaginative, the lesson is taught that to speak the truth is almost our first duty, and that the reverse, falsehood, is detestable. Nor is it difficult to find the reason why such paramount importance is attached to this quality of veracity. The common saying that one untruth or lie destroys all the faith and trust that others attach to your word and action indicates this reason.

We need not repeat what we have so frequently dwelt on, that our whole early mental life is built up on the communion with other minds, which are known to us not directly like external things, but indirectly only through speech, gesture, and personal contact.

And similarly, only a small portion of our own inner life in the shape of physical sensations is our common property with others. As all mental progress de-