

VIII.

The foregoing remarks explain why, in quite recent times, thinkers belonging to very different schools have united in the endeavour to establish what may be termed a reasoned creed which should support the moral ideals of Humanity by a rational indication of the position which Morality holds in a comprehensive view of the universe, and especially of human life. But though this has been the endeavour of many philosophers, they have failed to come to any agreement, and have, consequently, not succeeded in rendering any of their various schemes generally acceptable to large numbers of reflecting persons—in fact their views have not gained Reality, lacking as they do the first requisite of raising an ideal from a merely personal to a real existence, viz., the consensus of our fellow-men of all ranks.

Many causes have contributed to frustrate the success of so noble and high-spirited an enterprise. And one of these may be usefully considered in connection with the special view of the human mind which we have tried to establish in these pages.

A reasoned or a reasonable creed means a view or doctrine of the world and life which carries conviction to the mind of thinking persons. Such convincing force may be gained in two ways. It may be gained by the immediate experience of many persons, and in this way become a habit of thought. Of this nature is the evidence of our physical senses which picture to us the order of the external world. This forms