

7. But the point of deepest interest is that step of the process, at which the character of right or

finds some very clear illustrations of the difference that there is between a desire and a volition. "A man desires that his children may be happy, and that, they may behave well. Their being happy is no action at all; and their behaving well is not his action but theirs." "A man athirst has a strong desire to drink; but for some particular reason he determines not to gratify his desire." Here the man has the desire but not the will. In other cases he may have the will but not the desire. "A man for health may take a nauseous drug, for which he has no desire, but a great aversion." Desire, therefore, is not will; but only one of the incitements that often leads to it—though it may at all times be, and actually sometimes is withstood. It is, however, because desire is so often accompanied by will, that we are apt to overlook the distinction between them.

I may here observe, that to frame a volition is sometimes expressed more shortly by the phrase, to will. I will to put forth my hand, is different from, I desire to put it forth. There may be reasons why I should restrain the desire—so that though I desire it, I may not will it. For this application of the verb to will, we have the authority of the best English writers. "Whoever," says Dr. South, "wills the doing of a thing, if the doing of it be in his power, he will certainly do it; and whoever does not do the thing which he has in his power to do, does not properly will it." And Locke says, "The man that sits still is said to be at liberty, because he can walk if he wills it." Dr. South makes a happy discrimination, which serves to throw light upon the precise nature of a volition as opposed to other things that may or may not lead to a volition—when he says, that "there is as much difference between the approbation of the judgment and the actual volitions of the will, as between a man's viewing a desirable thing, and reaching after it with his hand." He further says of a wish which is nought but a longing desire, that