

“Truths would you teach to save a sinking land,
All fear, none aid you, and few understand.
Painful preëminence! yourself to view
Above life’s follies, and its comforts, too.”

Progress in knowledge will also give a man many a forcible lesson of the narrowness and imperfection of human science, so that the wisest are compelled to see through a glass darkly. Not only must they look through a glass which refracts the rays and colors and distorts objects, but they must see them darkly or obscurely.

These various disheartening circumstances, with which the Christian scholar almost always meets, more or less, as he advances in life, do not, indeed, wean him from the love of science; for he finds in its pursuit enjoyment as pure and ennobling as any thing earthly can give. But they do tend to rob learning and distinction among men of much of the charm with which they are invested in the eyes of the inexperienced. They do weaken science and reputation in their power to chain the Christian’s affections to this world; and they lead him to look with strong desire and lively hope to that sweet world of light and love where the grossness of sense will be gone, where no unholy passions will mar and pervert the truth, and where its rays will come pure, with no intervening prism to distort them from their original source.

Vigorous health is one of the strongest bands by which we are fastened to this world; for it is that which gives its full relish to every other blessing, and without which they would all become tasteless or disgusting. The man who enjoys this health has only an indistinct apprehension of his liability to death, although he may be an eminently holy man. But advancing age brings its infirmities and pains to almost every one; and to many it brings occasional assaults of sickness or