

MINERALOGICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF CHARACTER.

Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile. — *John i. 47.*

DECEIT and duplicity, cunning, craft, and artifice, are the characteristics which we attach to guile. The man under its influence does not exhibit his real character, but assumes a false one, to accomplish some sinister end.

An Israelite indeed — such as Nathanael was, who is alluded to in the text — is a man of great simplicity and purity of character; one who fears God, and endeavors to conform his life in all respects to the precepts of the gospel. That trait, which is here described as a freedom from guile, I would denominate *transparency of Christian character*. Its opposite we might call *opacity of character*. And these terms may represent the extremes of good and bad in character.

Those conversant with the science of mineralogy will perceive that I have borrowed these terms from thence. I have conceived the idea of attempting to illustrate the subject of character by the facts of that science; not, indeed, because there is any connection between mineralogy and Christian character, excepting that what is true literally of certain minerals is true figuratively of certain characters. Hence the