

A doubly-refracting crystal is transparent; but it gives two images of objects seen through it. Ordinary refraction produces one, and extraordinary refraction another, by splitting the ray. A good example is Iceland spar, or calcite.

Just so some Christian men, apparently without guile, and found in the main on the right side, do sometimes so split the rays of truth as to give a false image of things. They so speculate and philosophize about doctrines, that the formulae they present have the aspect of heresy, although it is in fact nothing but idiosyncrasy. So, in regard to Christian duties, there is often some extraordinary refraction which gives those duties an aspect different from the common one. The moral reformations and Christian enterprises of the present age, also, seen through their optics, put on features which no other eyes can see. In short, there are peculiarities in their mental or moral constitution that make it difficult for others to act or think in concert with them. The truth is, the leaven of self-esteem and love of distinction is working within them, and so bends the ray of truth that a false image is formed, which these men honestly believe to be the true one.

6. *The sixth character which I shall describe is the phosphorescent.*

Certain minerals, when rubbed against each other, or exposed to a considerable degree of heat or to the light of the sun, and then are removed to a dark place, will emit light for some time, and sometimes beautifully, although previously opaque. This is called phosphorescence. Examples are quartz, fluor spar, and the diamond.

You have probably anticipated me in the character I would symbolize by these examples. For how common is it to meet with men who never seem to feel any interest in any good cause till they are brought under the influence of others!