

theory and practice ;— in one place, proslavery ; in another, antislavery. His moral and religious principles are not settled, or rather he makes them bend to his worldly interest ; and you have no way of determining where to find him in any circumstances, except to inquire what aspect self-interest will require him to put on. Nor will it ever be essentially better until divine grace shall have transformed and rearranged the elements of his character.

8. *My eighth symbol will illustrate a chatoyant character.*

A chatoyant mineral exhibits a beautiful play of prismatic colors as it is turned around. It is not a mere surface phenomenon, but proceeds from the internal arrangement of the particles. The diamond affords, perhaps, the most perfect example, unless it be the precious opal.

Mineralogists make some distinction between a play of colors and a change of colors in crystals. But the difference is unimportant in the point of view in which I am looking at the subject ; and I include both those varieties under the term chatoyant. Hence I should quote, as a third example, Labrador feldspar, or labradorite, which, though less brilliant than the diamond, has the advantage of presenting a much larger surface, glowing with prismatic hues.

I regard brilliancy of character as the trait most aptly represented by the chatoyant property of minerals. I mean chiefly brilliancy of intellect. This may be conjoined with humble piety, without destroying its transparency ; and the character thus formed becomes eminently attractive, and is well symbolized by the diamond, the most precious and perfect of all minerals. But brilliancy of parts is quite apt to derogate from the purity and simplicity of Christian character, so that its transparency is marred, just as is the case with