

In this case there was, of course, the excitability of nerve connected with the remains of bodily disorder. On the other occasion to which I allude, I had been witnessing the demolition of a structure familiar to me from childhood, and with which many interesting associations were connected: a demolition not unattended with danger to the workmen employed, about whom I had felt very uncomfortable. It happened to me at the approach of evening, while, however, there was yet pretty good light, to pass near the place where the day before it had stood; the path I had to follow leading beside it. Great was my amazement to see it as if still standing—projected against the dull sky. Being perfectly aware that it was a mere nervous impression, I walked on, keeping my eyes directed to it, and the perspective of the form and disposition of the parts appeared to change with the change in the point of view as they would have done if real. I ought to add, that nothing of the kind had ever occurred to me before, or has occurred since. On this occasion, no doubt, the daily habit of seeing the same object from the same point of view for years would naturally give great efficacy to the associative principle, and the fact can only be regarded as an exemplification of a physiological process which I shall presently have occasion to speak of more particularly.

(7.) But it is not to phænomena of this kind that I am about specially to direct your attention. The human features have nothing abstract in their forms, and they are so intimately connected with our mental impressions that the associative principle may very easily find, in