

rial substances ; or unless space itself be *a thing*: all which is deep metaphysic, such as I am just now rather inclined to eschew. But, dear Hermione, how am I to answer such a host of questions as you seem to have raised—all in a breath? The Greeks! Yes; they were a strange people—so ingenious, so excursive, yet so self-fettered ; so vague in their notions of things, yet so rigidly definite in their forms of expressing them. Extremes met in them. In their philosophy they grovelled in the dust of words and phrases, till, suddenly, out of their utter confusion, a bound launched them into a new sphere. There is a creature, a very humble and a very troublesome one, which reminds me of the Greek mind. You might know it for a good while as only a fidgety, restless, and rather aggressive companion, when, behold, hop! and it is away far off, having realized at one spring a new arena and a new experience.

*Hermione.*—Don't! But a truce to the Greek mind with its narrow pedantry and its boundless excursiveness. The excursiveness was innate, the pedantry superinduced—the result of their perpetual rhetorical conflicts and literary competitions. I have read the fifth book of Euclid and something of Aristotle ; so you need not talk to me on that theme. Do tell me something about these atoms. I declare it has quite excited me ; 'specially because it seems to have something to do with the atomic theory of Dalton.

*Hermogenes.*—Higgins, if you please. But the thing, as you say, is as old as Democritus, or perhaps older ; for Leucippus, Democritus's master, is said to have