

CHAPTER V

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

THE aphorism sometimes encountered, that “whatever properties appertain to a whole must essentially belong to the parts of which it is composed,” is a fallacy. A property can be possessed by an aggregation of atoms which no atom possesses in the slightest degree. Those who think otherwise are unacquainted with mathematical laws other than simple proportion or some continuous or additive functions; they are not aware of discontinuities; they are not experienced in critical values, above which certain conditions obtain, while below them there is suddenly nothing. To refute them an instance must suffice:—

A meteoric stone may seem to differ from