

CHAPTER XVI.

REVELATION.

I.

POPULAR thought and the most abstract of refined systems of Philosophy have agreed in their varied and ever-repeated attempts to find some central conception or Idea in which to gather up their manifold trains of reasoning into a comprehensive view of the World and Life. Such a central Idea has always either avowedly or surreptitiously been endowed with the attributes of Personality. This circumstance testifies to and confirms the fundamental observation with which we introduced our whole discussion. We there stated that the first entry of the infant's mind into the world of Reality is to be found in its recognition of a personal existence.

Rising slowly out of the dimness and confused medley of purely subjective sensations, the well-defined image of a person started into clear relief on the background of the hazy and fluctuating horizon which we termed the firmament of consciousness.

This latter formed in contrast to the first clear object the accompanying surroundings, which, gathered up into an ever-present Something, figured in the