

makes man responsible for the objects which he chooses to entertain, and so responsible for the emotions which pathologically result from them.

12. If it be by a voluntary act that he comes to see certain objects, then, whatever the emotions are which are awakened by these objects, he may be said to have willed them into being. In like manner, if it be by a voluntary act that he comes to think of certain objects, then may it also be said that he wills all the emotions which follow in their train. It is admitted on all hands, that, by the power which the will has over the muscles of the human frame, it can either summon into presence or bid away certain objects of sight. And, notwithstanding the effect which the expositions of certain metaphysical reasoners have had in obscuring the process, it is also admitted, almost universally, that, by the power which the will has over the thinking processes, it can either summon into presence or bid away certain objects of thought. The faculty of attention we regard as the great instrument for the achievement of this—the ligament which binds the one department of our constitution to the other—the messenger, to whose wakefulness and activity we owe all those influences, which pass and repass in constant succession between our moral and intellectual nature.

13. Dr. Reid, in his book on the active powers, has a most important chapter on those operations of the mind that are called voluntary. Among