

Spirit that lurks each form within  
Beckons to spirit of its kin;  
Self-kindled every atom glows,  
And hints the future which it owes."

D.

### **The Man Who Doubts.**

From the very nature of men and things, most things are, and must be as they are—for, every thing being as it is, there is a cause. This is equally true of things material and immaterial. These we hold as self-evident truths.

While we do not believe anything to be without a cause, we may be unable to tell what the cause is. It is for the few to advance theories and principles, and for the many to accept or reject them. But to do either requires judgement, natural and cultivated.

While we all unite in granting that there is a striking similarity between persons, similarity in form, and a no less comparative similarity in mental powers—all being endowed with the same faculties, capable of development, none will deny that there are constitutional differences—different degrees of power. It is of a person, who enjoys one of the faculties in a marked degree, that I desire to take a view. That is, the man who doubts. The man, who, before he accepts a proposition, whether it be one newly formed, or one long accepted by the masses, must first see the reason for such a conclusion. This is the man I would honor, for it is to him, of all persons, we must look to for reform, for the correction of all the erroneous principles in the policy of government, the fallacies of society, and false theories in science. We cannot correct errors until we know that they exist. And it is only the man who doubts, that will ever find out that errors do exist, and where.

There are principles in every department of science that are to be studied and understood, and it is only by a familiarity with them that we may safely judge. These principles, the man who doubts endeavors to understand it, and is

he who understands them best. It is not the desire of any one to be deceived, notwithstanding the many things that appear to the contrary. But how many are not deceived? There are many things that are not what they appear; they are so studiously made to represent some valuable article, that it is by the closest discrimination only, that the fraud is detected.

There are many things, fallacious, that have become so generally accepted, that they may be termed popular fallacies. The masses "accept the situation," and do not doubt for a minute that the yoke they wear was made for them, and that it does not fit. But the man who doubts asks: "Is this as it should be?" If it is, no one is more ready to admit; but, if it is not, he feels it to be his duty, and takes it upon himself, to denounce it. Numerous sham enterprises have been formed, that would not else have been so effectual, but for lack of consideration. The ingenuity of shrewd men may give to things such a respectable appearance, that it would be more strange not to be, than to be deceived. It is against the seemingly plausible proposition we must especially guard. While we are firm in the belief of the rightness of our views, we should ever be willing to hear the views of others. Knowing our weakness we should have a high regard for this, most useful of all persons, the wise counsellor, the guardian of the right, the man who doubts.

C. M. E.

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### **The Unknown Heirs, or The Contested Inheritance.**

#### CHAPTER III.

##### FROM HONOR TO DISGRACE.

When Mr. Sykes and Johnson arrived at the house of the two brothers, the former knocked on the door and Richard answered the call. He had just returned from a canvassing tour. The boys received their guest courteously, and the conversation turned upon the subjects connected with Richards vocation.