

our heavy ears could distinguish the language of its delicate spirit-tongue. Now that it is hid and almost smothered in a mass of sensual flesh, it can only hear and perceive the coarsest sounds and roughest outlines, because all perceptions come through the comparatively rude organs of the body. But according as we become purer and nobler, this vesture of clay becomes transparent; and could we become perfectly pure, the soul would be, as it were, enclosed in a crystal which would offer no obstruction to its perfect vision.

All true culture is poetic, for all our ideas of the true, the beautiful and the good are founded in poetry. There is poetry in all the relations of life, giving them symmetry and a shadowy reflection of the divine. True marriage is a poem, and the sweet charities of father, mother, sister, brother, friend, as well as all the dear associations about that magical word, Home, are poetical.

The poetries of school friendship! Shall we ever forget them? They but deepen as the years go by. The farther we are borne from the "Consecrated Acre" by time and circumstances, the nearer it seems to us in spirit. Though sundered, common memories, fresh, joyous memories draw us together as with "hooks of steel." We are a circle still, as in the days of "auld lang syne."

"Our hands would touch for all the mountain-bars."

Love, friendship, valor, martyrdom, religion—in fine, anything that causes the sluggish tide of life to set toward heaven is poetic.

Poetry is the life of life. It touches the deepest springs in the human breast, unseals the most secret fountains of feeling, and causes man to live a new and vivid life. It is the essence of all fine endeavors, even though the man may be ignorant of the source of his power. We attribute success to enthusiasm, but enthusiasm is only the unwritten poetry of action. There never was a great or good man but owed his greatness or goodness to the poetic element in him. To poetry belongs the diviner part of our nature, and the more poetry the more divinity.