

resolute firmness wherewith they bid away the speculations of fancy, is only equalled by the child-like compliance wherewith they submit themselves to the lessons of experience.

3. It is thus that the same principle which guides to a just and a sound philosophy in all that lies within the circle of human discovery, leads also to a most unpresuming and unpronouncing modesty in reference to all that lies beyond it. And should some new light spring up on this exterior region, should the information of its before hidden mysteries break in upon us from some quarter that was before inaccessible, it will be at once perceived (on the supposition of its being a genuine and not an illusory light) that, of all other men, they are the followers of Bacon and Newton who should pay the most unqualified respect to all its revelations. In their case it comes upon minds which are without prejudice, because, on that very principle which is most characteristic of our modern science, upon minds without preoccupation. For example, the informations brought home by any instrument of clearer or larger vision have authority to rectify, or it may be to displace all our previous imaginations of the region whose mysteries are disclosed by it. But in the mind of a true Baconian there exist no such imaginations, or at least none which would not give way to the force of evidence, even the smallest that is assignable. The strength of his confidence in all the ascertained facts of the *terra cognita*, is at one or in perfect harmony with the humility of his diffidence in regard to all the conceived plausibilities of the *terra incognita*. In reference to