

De Luc, "that, next to the positive knowledge of things which may be known, the most important science is to know how to be ignorant. 'I don't know' ought to be a frequent answer of all teachers to their pupils, to accustom them to make the same answer without feeling ashamed." The following appears to us a golden maxim, and of inestimable price in what might be called the General Logic or Metaphysics of Theology. "To know that we cannot know certain things is in itself positive knowledge and a knowledge of the most safe and valuable nature; and to abide by that cautionary knowledge, is infinitely more conducive to our advancement in truth, than to exchange it for any quality of conjecture or speculation."* There are few services of greater value to the cause of knowledge, than the delineation of its boundaries. It saves all that fatigue and waste of effort which are incurred, by our stray excursions among the phantasmata of an unknown land. Above all, it puts out every false light by which the light of evidence might be overborne—and the labour of actual discovery is greatly lessened, when the search is narrowed by confinement within the limits of possible discovery. Man has learned much faster ever since Lord Bacon told him how little he could know—or, in other words, since, reclaimed from the territory of impracticable speculation, he has concentrated his efforts within that margin which skirts and terminates the whole field of attainable knowledge. This is a most valuable habit in all

* Granville Penn.