

discoverable truth. An unassuming modesty of spirit in reference to the *terra incognita* of the human understanding, is perfectly at one with the utmost diligence and even daring of the spirit in thoroughly exploring the domain, and, if possible, extending the limits of the *terra cognita*. It was thus that in physics, he who was of all others the most fearful in pronouncing on the inaccessible mysteries beyond the veil, made the freest and most fearless inquiry within the field of accessible knowledge, and signalized himself the most of his species by the additions to science which he made thereupon. And as in physics, so ought it to be in Theology—the utmost reserve in all that is transcendental, the utmost research both into the world that is around, and into the world that is nigh to us—the busiest examination of all that is within the range of our faculties; but, along with this a quiescence of spirit in the light that we have, and at most a humble expectancy for more.\*

\* This mental habitude was beautifully exemplified by Robert Hall, and no less beautifully expounded in the description of it by his friend John Foster. The following are a few extracts from Foster's observations on Hall's character as a preacher:—

“Perhaps it would not have been expected from Mr. Hall's great capacity, that he should be habitually indisposed to dwell or expatiate long near the borders of the remoter, darker tracts of the regions of religious contemplation. Such, however, appears to have been the fact.” “He was amply informed and warned, by his knowledge of the history of philosophy and theology, of the mischiefs of a restless, presumptuous, interminable speculation, a projection of thought, beyond the limits of ascertainable truth.”

“The speculative process lost its interest with him if carried into a direction, or if exceeding the limit, where it could no longer be subjected to the methods of proof; in other words, where it ceased to comprehend and reason, and turned into conjecture, sentiment, and fancy. He seemed to have no ambition to stretch