

experiment in Natural Philosophy. And when we make appliance to mind of those forces which lie in persuasion or prayer, we may be said to make an experiment in Moral Philosophy. The uniformity of nature is alike recognised in both these processes. The influence of one man's wish upon another man's will is but one law of that moral constitution which God hath ordained; and it is one on which very many of the reciprocities of life are made to turn. The fortune of individuals often hangs upon it; and, could we see into the arcana of courts and of cabinets, we should find that the link which connects the askings of one man with the compliances of another is that on which the greatest movements and evolutions of history are suspended. Yet history has her sure and steady march; and an actual philosophy has been framed out of her materials. The efficacy of prayer between man and man forms one of the component parts of that philosophy. It has its place among the other laws and processes of the moral system, and is as much established in the world of mind as the law of gravitation is in the world of matter. Man does no more violence to the immutabilities of nature, by putting forth with effect his urgent appeals to the pliant and susceptible spirit of a fellow-man; than he does by putting forth his hand with effect to the manifestations of chemistry.

17. Prayer and compliance with prayer form the two terms of a sequence in human society; and is assuredly not more fitted to introduce derangement and disorder into that economy than