

to the law of impulse; or to extinguish a flame, and it was done in counteraction to the law of combustion—and all this without exception to the generality of nature's laws, but only by the complication of one sequence with others formerly in operation. But never, may it be insisted by the close observers of nature and her phenomena—never, did they once obtain the experimental view of any familiar sequences in nature having been thus thwarted, or having had an arrest laid upon them by means of prayer to the unseen God. They have noticed this done a thousand times by the visible hands of men—but never once, they affirm, by the invisible hand of the Almighty. Not that they expected to see His hand—but grant the efficacy of prayer to Him—and they would expect to see the effect of its interposition. Instead of which all their experience proclaims a course and a constancy in visible nature from which, as far as their observations go, she never deviates—insomuch that never does the imploring cry of all the families arrest, by the reversal of one law, that loosened avalanche which buries the hamlet in its fall—and never is it found that the prayer of unhappy inmates will arrest the conflagration of a house by the reversal of another law, or stripping the fire of its wonted property and power—and never that mariners are saved by the intermission of another law either in the impulse of the wind upon the waves, or in the impulse of the waves upon a vessel too frail for the onset of the mighty tempest which has assailed it. In all these, and in every other instance, it is affirmed, there is no appearance