

antecedents, *but the first antecedents which are perceivable by us*—after which, the whole succession may proceed in perfect harmony with the laws of nature and the lessons of experience. By an interposing touch, at hidden depths in the laboratory of nature, a favourable concurrence of the elements might be made to bear on the agriculture from without—or, by the same interposition among the inaccessible laws of the vegetable physiology, a healthier or more prolific crop might be made to arise. Yet in neither department, need there be any shift in the *known* successions of the phenomena of nature; and while nought but the most steadfast uniformity can be observed on the panorama of our contemplation; yet, by an operation underneath, may the all-working God, without violence to the regularities of nature, ensure effective fulfilment to the prayers of his dependent family.

25. We hope that more illustration is superfluous—yet we cannot refrain from adverting to the instance of prayer for the continuance or the recovery of health. We appeal to those who are most conversant with the diagnostics or the prognostics of disease—for how short a way back, among the processes of the animal physiology, the investigations of their science can carry them. To answer such a prayer then, God does not need to intromit with the constancies of visible nature—for the primary fountain-head of that influence, which either medicates or distempers the human frame, is placed in a region of profoundest mystery. Here, if anywhere, He may work in secret, and direct the pro-