

1655, described his "admirable and most forcible way to drive up water by fire;" yet it was the germ of the steam engine, which has so much changed almost the whole aspect of society. And when Savary threw his wine flask into the fire, how apparently accidental was it that he was led thereby to discover the mode of creating a vacuum by the condensation of steam! So, too, when the multitude on the wharf at New York were laughing at the first unsuccessful effort of Robert Fulton to work a steamboat, how much more easily might they have been led to believe that he was given up of Providence to infatuation than that he was a chosen agent to work out one of the greatest improvements of the age! The discovery that takes precedence of all others in anatomy, that of the circulation of the blood, brought so much obloquy upon Harvey, and so diminished his practice as a physician, that he was prevented afterwards from publishing other discoveries. The physician who first tied an artery was hooted at. He who first used cantharides was imprisoned by the London College of Physicians. The more recent and highly important discovery of etherization, by one of our countrymen, was made while its author was trying to perfect his favorite art of dentistry. Yet in all these cases there was an unseen Providence who gave these discoverers the right sort of abilities, and placed them in the appropriate circumstances for enucleating the happy thought. Nor does that Providence allow any discovery to come out before the right time, or to be delayed a moment too long.

But, after all, the history of the English Puritans and Scotch Covenanters furnishes the most appropriate illustration of my subject which I can offer. Ever since man's existence on the globe, he has had indefinite yearnings after civil and religious liberty; and many a time has he attempted to