

bending—and the next moment of his floundering in the mud, and hastening with all his might to gather himself up again. They who philosophise upon the laws of succession in the events of Nature, have a great demand for such successions as are immediate. They go busily in quest of the contiguous links, and properly conceive that if any one hidden step be yet interposed, between the two which they regularly observe to follow each other, they have not completed the investigation, till that step also have been ascertained. It is, therefore, so far an advantage in regard to the above phenomenon, that there does not appear to be time even for the most rapid and fugitive intervention—for only let it occur in the presence of lookers-on, and, with the speed of lightning, will it be followed up by the instant and obtrusive glee of a whole host of spectatorship.

14. But this very exhibition may give rise to a wholly different emotion. The provocative to laughter lies in the awkwardness of the fall. Let the awkwardness be conceived to abide as it was, and this other ingredient to be added, the severity of a fall—that a limb is fractured, or that a swoon, a convulsion, or a stream of blood is the immediate consequence. In proportion to the hurt that was sustained, would be the sympathy of far the greater number of the by-standers; and this might be so heightened by the palpable sufferings of him to