

copper, as a medium of that exchange? In what constant use, and of what immense importance, are some of the commonest metals in agriculture, and in the arts; or for the various purposes of domestic life! Nor have any substances more successfully exercised the powers of the mind, in the discovery or improvement of physical truths; or more largely contributed to the benefit of mankind by the practical application of those truths. We owe it to the researches of philosophy, not only that new and highly valuable metals have been discovered; but that the general value of the metals previously known, has been advanced by extended and improved applications of their inherent properties, or by the invention of new metallic combinations or alloys.

If a convincing and familiar proof of the extensive application of the metals to the common purposes of life were required, we need only refer to the case of many a common cottager, who could not carry on his daily concerns and occupations without the assistance of several of the metals. He could not, for instance, make his larger purchases, nor pay his rent, without silver, gold, and copper. Without iron he could neither dig, nor plough, nor reap; and, with respect to his habitation, there is scarcely a part of the structure itself, or of the furniture contained in it, which is not held together, to a greater or less