

an unclouded sky prevailed; navigation, by those who lived on the borders of the ocean; and the general arts of life, by those who inhabited regions characterised by the fertility of their soil, and the abundance and variety of their mineral productions. Of these positions, ancient Egypt, Phenicia, and India are respectively instances: though it is not intended to affirm that an unclouded sky is alone sufficient to produce a tendency towards the cultivation, much less a national superiority in the science of astronomy; nor a vicinity to the sea, an excellence in nautical skill; nor, lastly, a fertile soil and abundance and variety of mineral riches, a correspondent skill in the general arts of life. In every instance it may be presumed that civilization must have advanced sufficiently to have produced many artificial wants, before individuals feel that powerful stimulus which prompts them to take the full advantage of those resources which nature has placed within their reach. The miserable natives of New Holland, though inhabiting a country as extensive, and in parts as fertile as Europe, have afforded no indications of an approach towards that degree of civilization which would lead them to discover and apply its resources.

But, though it would be a vain and useless speculation to inquire in what way the arts and