

and to dissipate the darkness which had, for so many ages, overshadowed the regions of philosophy and science. We cannot but feel a pride, as Englishmen, in the recollection, that a discovery of such vast importance as that of the circulation of the blood, which has led to nearly all the modern improvements in the medical art, was made by our own countryman, whose name will for ever live in the annals of our race, as one of its most distinguished benefactors. The consideration, also, that it had its source in the study of comparative anatomy and physiology, affords us a convincing proof of the great advantages that may result from the cultivation of these sciences; to which Nature, indeed, seems, in this instance, expressly to have invited us, by displaying to our view, in the organs of the circulation, an endless diversity of combinations, as if she had purposely designed to elucidate their relations with the vital powers, and to assist our investigations of the laws of organized beings.