

our early days, we cannot but be deeply impressed with the rapid progress of society, and the multiplication of secular advantages, and the means of comfort and happiness, growing out of the advancement of learning. Branches of science and literature, which, at the beginning of this century, were *tabooed* to all who were not residents within the walls of universities and colleges, and even some branches that scarcely had an existence then, are now the theme of familiar conversation in the workshop, on the farm, in the stage coach, the rail car, the steamboat, and the packet. And so simplified are the elementary principles of many of these branches, as to be brought within the comprehension of the child at the primary school. Instead of the stinted sources of information then possessed in a few small newspapers and periodicals in some of the larger cities, and a few republications of small European works, the country is now flooded with newspapers of all sizes below one that will swallow up an octavo, and with periodicals and books to suit all tastes, all purses, and all fancies, from the penny pamphlet up to the seven hundred dollar volumes of Audubon.

Still more striking has been the progress of the useful arts from the application of scientific principles. In Great Britain, at this moment, steam performs a work that would require the unaided labor of more than four hundred millions of men; and a work as great probably, in proportion to the population, in our own country. Improvements in machinery and in chemical processes have doubtless within this century made a still greater deduction from the amount of labor necessary; and these improvements reach every class of the community; pointing out to them an easier path to competence, and affording them leisure to cultivate their intellectual and moral powers. Then, too, how striking the change in