

which have resulted from a study of those phenomena that govern the appearances presented by material existence, would be an almost endless task. It has destroyed the monsters, superstition and priestcraft; it has aided the progress of civilization; has increased the comforts of the poor, and the wealth of the rich; has given to man the control of the ocean and of the air; established the kindred of humanity, and united the ends of the earth.

It is quite impossible, in the present day, to estimate the amount of mischievous influence exercised by systems of philosophical imposture on the ignorance of the early and middle ages. It is, doubtless, to be accounted for by the disproportion existing between the degree of their philosophical knowledge, and their ingenuity and taste in the elegant arts, and the luxuries of life. With all the susceptibility which refinement engenders, and yet with a total ignorance of religion and sound philosophy, the early nations were so deeply immersed in superstition and idolatry, as to be of necessity the helpless dupes of imposture. To what extent they were misled and bewildered is difficult to ascertain, for the secret recesses of the temple and of the cave have not been thrown open to our view. But this we do assuredly know, philosophy has detected the cheat, and silenced the impostors.

Scientific knowledge, associated with the more powerful energies of Christianity, has raised the human mind from a depth of degradation, the records of which cast a gloom upon our nature; and we now anticipate the arrival of the day when the intellectual and moral power of mankind will be completed by their united influence.

But science has accomplished more than this: it has not only assisted in breaking the chains of superstition, but has provided for that communication between man and man in all parts of the world, which, by allowing an interchange and communication of opinion, cannot fail to destroy prejudice and establish truth. We are not now the servants of the winds and the tides, but their masters; we have learned to combat nature with her own weapons, and in many instances have employed with advantage the very impediments that long opposed our efforts.

To the invention of the steam-engine we might refer as one of the most surprising effects of the application of the human intellect to the study of physics. A vapour is the