

lous operations. But its most remarkable application is that by which it becomes the source of locomotion. It ploughs the mighty waters in its own strength, and virtually connects remote cities and nations, in spite of distance and the obstacles which nature herself has interposed. The railway and the steamboat give an importance to this and succeeding ages which cannot be too highly estimated. In order that despotism should be destroyed, and Christianity be established, a freedom of access between the several sections of the human family is almost essential. The means have been already provided, and the time, we trust, is not far distant, when, by their combined influence, all nations will be united in the bonds of a catholic philanthropy, if not of a common faith.

If the accuracy of these remarks and deductions be admitted, the importance of physics will not be denied. The works of God are in all things our model; and when we attempt to apply natural agents to accomplish our purposes, we only imitate that which is constantly going on in the material world. Men are accustomed to boast of the profundity of their knowledge, and the extent of their influence over natural agents, but their efforts are like those of the child, who blows a soap bubble to mimic the upward flight of the aeronaut. The philosopher is but nature's schoolboy, and his efforts are but attempts to understand and apply the agents by which God governs his material creation. All true science is written on the page of nature; and the man who can explain the phenomena by which he is surrounded, and the character and habits of the causes which give them birth, is in every respect a philosopher. In this nature God has in some degree developed his own character, but he has thrown a shade over it, as though to preserve it from the incurious gaze and profane violation of the indifferent and contemptuous. Mind is not less under the guidance of law than matter; and if there be one principle more distinctly developed than any other, it is the necessity of a means to a result. A casual or careless attention to one or two series of phenomena is not sufficient to determine their origin, and much less to ascertain the nature and activity of those causes by which matter is universally governed. The human mind has never arrived at any important discovery, but by slow and progressive means. We have not a single instance of the discovery of