

have such a poor opinion of the English scientific journals, a different judgment is entertained abroad, as is well proved by the eagerness with which the German journalists seize upon every article issuing from the presses of their British colleagues. The value which is set in Germany upon the scientific pursuits of the English, the rapidity with which translations are made in Germany of whatever English philosophers of some reputation publish, shows abundantly that in that country at least, in *docta Germania*, a far greater value is set upon the productions of English science than is done by Mr Herschel and his friends.”¹

has remedied this defect; and special periodicals exist now in multitudes; but who could say that a third point has been sufficiently attended to—*viz.*, “the ignorance of foreign languages, which prevails both in England and in France: in England the number of those who acquire a smattering of French is very small, and still smaller is the number of those who know enough of German to read a book in that language without considerable trouble” (Dr Moll, *loc. cit.*, pp. 7, 8). A fourth defect existing at that time is worth mentioning, as we have long left the age of such drawbacks; it “is the high price in England of foreign books, in consequence of an importation duty.” The paper duties were repealed in 1861.

¹ Moll, *loc. cit.*, p. 7. Another passage is of interest, as bearing upon the difference between the culture of science in England and in France: “At the time of the French Revolution it so happened, by the exertions of d’Alembert, Clairault, Condorcet, and others, that of all sciences mathematics were the most fashionable. . . . With this view the Ecole Normale was

founded, which, though of short duration, was perhaps of more utility towards the extension of mathematical knowledge than all the universities of Europe together. It was there that Laplace, Lagrange, and Monge were lecturers, and men like Lacroix among the hearers. The study of classics having been in a great measure abolished by the French Revolution, mathematics were studied in its stead; and it thus happened that a number of mathematicians, unusually great, were scattered over the soil of France, and every one thought himself capable *de faire les x*, as they themselves called it, upon any given subject. But most of these investigations were all theoretical, and practical applications were foregone in almost every instance” (p. 11). “Mechanics in particular do not seem accessible, according to the tenets of the French school, to any man not well versed in sublime analysis. . . . Hence it arises that many have acquired a profound knowledge of the higher branches of mathematics, whilst the more elementary part of mathematics, which leads to the