

menced the long line of amateur star-gazers of this country; Luke Howard's study of clouds drew from the kindred spirit which lived in the great Goethe a loving memorial;¹ and John Dalton was induced by the mists and fogs of his native lake country to join in the foundation of the modern science of meteorology.

48.
Union of individualism and naturalism in England.

We now discover the reason why the strong individualism of the English character, which prompted new departures and inspired new ideas in science, as it produced adventures and novel enterprise in life and arts, has not more frequently led to discouraging failures in the latter, or to eccentricity and dreaminess in the former; why it has, on the whole, alike in practical work and in scientific study, been rewarded by signal success. The rare genius, gifted with the power of original thought, who found no academy ready to call him, no schools where he could be trained, no university eager to nurse and develop his

¹ Luke Howard (1772-1864), a member of the Society of Friends, was one of the many lovers of nature and amateur naturalists of this country in whom new sciences—like that of meteorology—are nursed during their unpretentious infancy. He himself gave a simple narrative of his life and doings to the great Goethe, who, attracted by his attempted classification of clouds (about 1802, published in his 'Climate of London'), had addressed some lines to him, accompanying them by a statement in verse of Howard's description of the stratus, cumulus, cirrus, and nimbus:—

“Er aber, Howard, giebt mit reinem Sinn
Uns neuer Lehre herrlichsten Gewinn:
Was sich nicht halten, nicht erreichen lässt,
Er fasst es an, er hält zuerst es fest;

Bestimmt das Ubestimmte, schränkt es ein,
Benennt es treffend!—Sey die Ehre Dein!
Wie Streife steigt, sich ballt, zerflattert,
fällt,
Erinnre dankbar Deiner sich die Welt.”

Goethe subsequently tried to get some information about Howard's way of life, “so that I might see how such a mind is formed, what opportunities, what circumstances, have led him (into ways of looking at Nature naturally, have taught him how to devote himself to her, so as to find her laws and to prescribe these again to her in a natural human manner.” In his autobiographical narrative (reprinted in the last volume of Goethe's Works) Howard refers to the meteoric phenomena of 1783, mentioned also in Cowper's Letters (13th June 1788), and White's 'History of Selborne.'