

and relate chiefly to the progress of chemistry. Chemistry being a science of observation, we can form but a very imperfect conception of its future progress; because, we cannot, by reasoning, anticipate the discovery of those chemical facts which are yet concealed. The progress chemistry has made within these few years, is truly astonishing; and when a more rigorous mode of observation shall be adopted—in short, when chemistry shall be brought more under the control of the laws of quantity—a control which will be exercised, at least indirectly—it is impossible to foretell the degree of perfection, chemistry may attain as a science. But, for many years yet to come, the progress of chemistry must depend solely on experiment; and its cultivators must be satisfied with the comparatively humble office, of discovering the actual chemical changes, which bodies effect on each other.

Since, then, in knowledge derived from observation, an acquaintance with *what exists*, and with *what is done*, is indispensable: to obtain a clear, accurate, and unequivocal conception of natural objects, and of the changes to which they are liable, is the first duty of every observer, and of every experimentalist. Nor is there any observer, or experimentalist, however unpretending, who may not add to the stock of ascertained facts; so varied and inexhaustible