

are the stores of nature. Another duty of every one who engages in observation or experiment, is to become the faithful historian of what he witnesses; to narrate in plain and intelligible language, the event or phenomenon he has observed; so that a just notion of it may be conveyed to others. We say a *just* notion; in the greater number of instances, a *perfect* notion is impossible; because what is seen, cannot be expressed by language. But to give a just notion; that is, a notion which, though incomplete, *has no foreign or false gloss*; is within the power of every observer; and to give such a notion of the facts he narrates, ought to be his chief study. One testimony of so faithful a witness is often invaluable, and worth a thousand vague and inaccurate observations; which are only calculated to bewilder, or to mislead; and thus are worse than useless.

The next rule which an interpreter of nature ought to bear in mind, is *not to attempt too much at first*; but in order to establish a sure foundation for his succeeding labours, be content with obvious and unexceptionable facts; and so arrange these facts, that they may lead to others. To elicit novel and prominent facts, is the lot of few; and any one may happen to be so successful. But all, as before stated, may *investigate truth*; and thus contribute more or less towards the advancement of knowledge.