

winds or soaring through the clouds; despotisms tumbling to dust, and freedom taking their place; ignorance being dispelled, and knowledge being extended. Such are but a few of the bold and surprising results that characterise the present age. The improvement in Geology, Mining, Astronomy, Printing, Navigation, and the great saving of labour through the means of steam, stand forth in bold relief, and are principally all due to the indomitable energy and perseverance of the men of the last century. The triumphs of science and art have been great; commerce has extended its boundaries east, west, north, and south; almost to the utmost bounds of our earth; knowledge is extending her benign and powerful influences to the most obscure and benighted places of the world; theories of education are engaging the attention of every nation and country, and the facilities of acquiring useful knowledge is being made patent to all.

*Agriculturally* this is an age of progress; much improvement has recently been made through the means of science and art. The manufacture of agricultural implements, and the application of chemistry, have been instrumental in drawing larger supplies of food for man and beast from the resources of the earth. Though many of the theories which have been erected and the minute directions which have been framed in the laboratory and in the closet, which the agriculturist was to follow in all their minutia, with confident expectation of reaping a golden harvest, have been weighed in the balance, and found wanting. In order to theorise aright an agricultural chemistry, the best school is nature's laboratory, where months, in place of minutes, are absolutely required to effect chemical changes; and where these changes are constantly influenced, invested, and sometimes even reversed by fluctuations and temperature, moisture, and many other causes.

Science and art are now being brought to bear with more certainty of success on the different elements necessary to advance agricultural operations,—they are guiding lights to accurate practical experiment.

The progress made in agricultural operations during the last hundred years has been great—wild theories have been discarded, and practical truth substituted; the improved system of tillage, draining, management of manures, pulverisation, vegetation of crops, improvement in seeds and agricultural implements, and improvements in anials—have all tended to place the farmer on a better footing.

The farmers of a hundred years ago, except the Lords of the Manors, were grossly ignorant, few, history tells us, were able to read; it is now entirely different—farmers, no matter how poor, are educating their families, so as to be able to apply the various recourses at command. Many of the countries of Europe now produce five-fold more food for man and beast than they did even fifty years ago, which arises through the application of well-directed knowledge to agricultural operations.

*Educationally*, the last hundred years have marked great changes;—many of the fine spun theories which had for their object the advancement of education and the spread of knowledge, have been swept away as unfit to draw out the mind. A hundred years ago it was considered enough to educate the masters and let the servants, of which the most of the world consisted, remain in gross ignorance. Happily, however, this dark cloud which once veiled truth from the understanding of the great mass of society, is now passing swiftly across the intellectual firmament and leaving an unclouded sky, which all may behold behind. The primary object of all enlightened educationalists of the present day is the enlightenment of the mass of mankind,—the people, through whose industry the earth and the sea are made to minister to the wants of man. The time is fast passing away when the people, who make all the improvements of which our earth is the picture, shall continue to remain in ignorance and gross darkness. In this age of advancement nothing is more common than to find the poor man's son, with a telescope of his own construction, observing the bespangled firmament, and recording his observations for the benefit of man. It is no