

those future prospects to be realized hereafter. This spoiled metaphysics of its chief charm, as a separate philosophy ; and Christianity, created and enriched by revelation, took its place in the minds of men : an infinite boon conferred on mankind ; and, in a worldly sense, a great gain to the illiterate believer, thus without previous training or preparation of the understanding, enlightened from above, and no loss in this life to the unbeliever who preferred the darkness of the old way ; but the philosopher saw, that for reputation and usefulness, he must cast about for new paths—that it was absurd to set up a candle where men had the sun to guide them. How, then, was the restless and inquisitive spirit of man now to be satisfied, now that the objects of its greatest concernment here and hereafter to know, had received an illumination which set human reasoning and question at rest for ever ?

Physics, indeed, in respect of its objects, was evident to the senses from the creation of the world, and doubtless admired. Man must, in many cases, have applied it with success. In a less remote antiquity it was dwelt on with delight, and considered worthy the devotion of the most exalted understandings. In the Egyptian temples, we are told, were placed the images even of brutes, that had by their instinct afforded lessons on inventions to mankind. The successful professors of medicine, and of other arts, were in many instances numbered among the gods. To