

something like a crime deserving of such punishment. All cases might be perhaps reduced to three classes.—1st, where the debtor has property to the amount of the debt, in which case an arrest is unnecessary; 2d, where he has no sufficient property, but has been reduced by unforeseen and unavoidable accident or misfortune, in which case the imprisonment is undeserved by the debtor and useless to the creditor; and, 3dly, where he has no sufficient property, but has been guilty of fraud, in which case he deserves some punishment, but not of the indefinite kind which, by the present system, depends in a great measure, if not altogether, on the tender mercy of his creditor. If it be said that to ascertain these matters would be attended with difficulty—would require new legal machinery, and would involve premature investigations of much intricacy—my answer would be, if this cannot be done, let the whole system be done away with, though at the risk of inconvenience, and even injustice in perhaps one case out of a great number.

If I pass by, with slight notice, the two next papers, viz., that by Professor JACK, on the Telescope, and by Mr. ROBERTS, on the first principles of Motion, I trust neither of those gentlemen will consider that I do not fully appreciate the merits of their respective papers, but attribute my silence to its real cause—my own incompetency to offer suggestions on matters so entirely beside my course of thought and study. On such subjects I am content to take the place of a disciple rather than a commentator, as in the former character I may in some degree correct that which I should only expose in the latter. I would, however, venture one suggestion—whether both these subjects do not present materials for farther investigation—whether, after the principles of motion are shown as they exist, by laws which we may discover but cannot alter, the adaptation and combination of these principles, as effected by human ingenuity, would not offer a subject of interest to the writer and his hearers. On the Telescope, I believe we have a pledge for something more from Professor JACK, which I am sure he will redeem.

At the meeting in December, Captain WEBSTER gave us a very full account of the origin, history, and exploits of the Royal Regiment, of which he is a member. The history of any portion of that arm of British power, which has for centuries maintained our mother country in the foremost rank among the