

Fourcroy. In 1778 he gave to Priestley's dephlogisticated air the name of oxygen, meaning thereby the acidifying principle; in 1781 synthesized carbonic acid; in 1784 analyzed water, thereby making first advance toward the analysis of organic substances, and in 1787 published "Methode de Nomenclature Chimique," a system of nomenclature which lasted for fifty years, and is the basis of that still in use. In social reform, as a Farmer-General, he succeeded in having many oppressive taxes of the people removed, even from the Jews of Metz. In 1776 he was made director of powder-works by Turgot, soon quadrupled the output, and improved by one-third its explosive power. It was Lavoisier who made the chemical balance the ultimate ratio, and hence established the basis of quantitative analysis. He analyzed soils and manures, and even doubled the product of his own farm. In 1787 he was the philosophical statesman of the Provincial Assembly of Orléanais. In 1789 he reported to the National Assembly on "Caisse d'Escompte," and in 1790 sat on "The Commission of Weights and Measures"; while in 1791 as Commissioner of the Treasury he established a system of accounts hitherto unequalled, and soon was asked to write a treatise on taxation and wrote "De la Richesse Territoriale de la France." And now the political eclipse: on the 2nd May, 1794, Dupin, in the National Convention, brought some frivolous charge against Lavoisier, and six days afterwards he, with twenty-seven others, went to the guillotine, the brutal reply to a petition for a reprieve being: "The republic has no need for savants." Well, were it for progress if the words of Lagrange, regarding Lavoisier, were writ large everywhere in these days of political bouleversements: "*Il ne leur a failu qu'un moment pour faire tomber cette tête, et cent années peut-être ne souffrent pas pour en reproduire une semblable.*"

But enough has been said to fully illustrate those widespread intellectual and scientific movements which, springing up so largely in France, spread even to the imperial courts of Germany and Italy, and of the autocratic throne of the Czars, and which laid the basis of the marvellous progress in practical science of the nineteenth century. Nor must it be supposed that these influences were extended only to the progress of the pure sciences. Foundling and Magdalen Hospitals were founded; Abbe de l'Épée invented an alphabet for the blind, and Houay founded an institution for the deaf and dumb, and asylums for insane were opened, while Frederick the Great made education almost compulsory in Prussia.

To England must we now look and briefly examine a current of influence, arising from allied but different causes, and productive of a social progress based, perhaps, upon a less exact intellectual and scientific foundation, and more upon what may be called the practical social needs of a people. The deep-laid religious