

shores of France, yet our way is onward; and we shall never more be content to sit down by the deserted hearthstones of our ancestors. Perhaps hereafter some genius as original as Bacon, and equally unheralded, shall reveal to men some better way that is now hidden from our eyes.

If the law in its higher aspects has failed in its development in respect of harmony, or symmetry, or unity, or facility of being understood, that result has been reached through causes that Bacon distinctly pointed out and repeatedly warned us against. Although he recommended the closest, most analytical and most discriminating scrutiny of individual instances, thereby opening the door to infinite diversity, yet he urged, in the most impressive manner, that through this diversity, by means of arrangement, co-ordination and scientific classification, we should re-establish unity and harmony and symmetry, on larger, truer and more intelligible foundations; a process not applicable to poetry and the fine arts, which were not within his scheme, but one which is, above all things, applicable to the law.

No one was ever so great a destroyer as Bacon; but he did not destroy for the sake of destruction, but only for the purpose of building again with lasting materials on a more secure basis. Everywhere he inculcated the necessity of classifying and organizing all facts of external observation, not only with a view to the preservation of knowledge, but also with a view to facilitate the making of new discoveries, looking also possibly to that unification of knowledge, which, up to this time, remains no more than a pleasing dream.

It might have been supposed that the law, being largely experimental, and naturally adjusting itself easily to comprehensive rules, would have offered the most obvious and inviting field for the exhibition of the theories of Bacon; but his teachings have had perhaps less effect on English law than on any other science. The practice of reporting individual cases, which he found established, was an anticipation, to some extent, of his methods of critical inquiry as to individual instances; but the legal profession rejected his doctrine of careful classification and constant and scrupulous revision upon every new accession of knowledge. It is, however, a safe prediction that his doctrines, triumphant in all other fields of inquiry, must eventually prevail in English and American law also, the most intractable of all materials yet encountered.