

scientific research are of such variety and prominence as to elicit from the public mind a continuous stream of high sounding and indeed well merited panegyric on science and those men who have promoted its wonderful advancement. But although the conquests of this branch of learning have been vast, it is as yet in its cradle; the impetus derived from the fruit-bearing philosophy of Bacon is but beginning to give it motion. Like a small stream its utility is limited; it must ere long expand into a wide branching river, and ultimately identify itself with the ocean, whence it may with a liberal hand lavish its rich blessings on the whole world. The intention of this paper is to say something with regard not so much to its utility to man, as to the pleasure to be derived from its pursuit. Science is usually regarded as a something which by its numerous ramifications illuminates mankind, mitigates suffering, prevents disease, augments the fertility of the soil, promotes intercourse between distant lands and a rivalry in the arts of peace and war between nations and communities—a something which in a word civilizes man. But as a fountain of real enjoyment, to which we may resort in our leisure moments, as we would to art or literature, from whose waters we may derive a true ennobling gratification at times when we have failed to find it elsewhere, in this respect it is seldom treated with the importance due to it; but in this respect we claim for science a very high position, and shall now endeavor to bring forward a few reasons in support of this. In looking at almost any other source of enjoyment we cannot fail to notice how meagre and barren, how restricted in quantity and ignoble in kind, they all are when compared with science. In the former we have but one world before us—the latter brings two others within our ken, one revealed by the telescope and one by the microscope. It is true that without scientific aid we can enjoy many beauties, both in the celestial and terrestrial worlds, but we cannot be accused of extravagance if we say that with that assistance the scene is as far beyond that without it as the treasures of

a wealthy mine exceed in value the small lot of ground that covers it.

Let us look in the first place at what science shows us, commencing with the world in which we live. Here the first and great thing which calls forth our admiration is the wonderful manner in which everything is adapted to suit the conveniences of all living beings. The machinery by which the exquisite harmony of nature is continually preserved, is open to our view, when the outer envelope is thrown off we may look into the very interior of the contrivances, and behold the secret springs directing the actions transcribing on your globe. And here we find realities far exceeding in design the boldest efforts of any child of imagination. To one viewing the processes of nature with a scientific eye, it appears like a great drama, constructed by a superior intellect, in which everything is arranged to perfection, all the actors stepping into their places at the exact moment, performing their duties with remarkable precision and retiring at the proper time to give way for others; all are distinct, yet all are inseparable.

And if we are struck with admiration at the marvellous mechanism of the world around us, where shall we find words to express our astonishment and surprise when we turn our eyes above us and behold the glories of the upper air. Here we survey a scene in extent like that beheld by Satan on the opening of the gates of Tartarus, an

“Illimitable ocean, without bound,
Without dimension, whose length, breadth and
height,
And time and place are lost.”

Even the feeling of pleasure and the delights of novelty give way to amazement and awe. Before, we considered ourselves as beings exercising an important influence on the economy of nature, and our world as the greatest of all worlds. Now, it and all things on it are attenuated to a point. We are truly humbled! our arrogant pride, haughty self-sufficiency and intolerant presumption are thrown entirely off when we