

ish our astonishment at the discovery of these huge reservoirs of oil, for both seem to have the same source, from the vast beds of vegetation of the early eras of the globe ; if, indeed, the oil do not often rise from decomposition of coal itself, for it occurs chiefly in the coal measures. We shall no doubt have full scientific accounts of them, after a time, and as they become familiar we will lose the feeling of wonder which they raised at first. Except to the few who are thoughtful, nothing that is not new and strange seems worthy of notice ; but, if we consider aright, what is wonderful in itself is no less so because we have become accustomed to it. It is one great difference between a rude and a cultivated mind, that the one has only a gaping wonder at passing events or discoveries, while the other seeks to find novelty in what is already familiar. The one looks only at a result before him, the other tries to find out causes. The one only looks at things as a whole, the other dwells on details and examines the minutest parts. The one finds food for his curiosity in his first impressions, and when these fade, turns aside without any further interest ; the other discovers wonders in things the most common, insignificant, or apparently worthless. Science got the beautiful metal—aluminium—out of the clay which ignorance trod under foot ; through Sir Humphrey Davy it got iodine out of the scrapings of soap-kettles which the soap-boilers had always thrown