

Amazed, he saw himself, an ignorant,
Obscure, uneducated labourer,
A host of followers attracting, and
Wielding at will the minds of those whom he
Had looked upon as equals, and, perhaps,
Superiors, till now. He did not dream
As yet of turning his vast influence
To selfish ends, but more confirmed was he
In his belief that truth and justice did
Support his cause ; that error and deceit
His opponents did actuate ; and that
They were not so profoundly learned as he
Had formerly been taught them to suppose.
This notion soothed his pride and self-esteem ;
And now all knowledge but political
He utterly despised, and laughed at those
Who spoke of polite learning and the arts ;
Of natural philosophy he could
Not see the use, and those who spoke of it,
He designated natural idiots.
With Grammar 'twas a little otherwise.
Unable to combat his arguments,
And to disprove the stubborn facts which he
Adduced, his opponents would often gibe
Him on his want of acc'racy and ease
In language ; thus endeavouring to detract
Their auditors from th' kernel to the shell.
And if but to repel these puffs of air,