flowing, which was well enough known before, and could hardly have escaped the attention of the most unobservant, but the manner and direction of its flow. There are two sets of blood-vessels in the human body, each set consisting of large vessels opening into the heart, and branching off into smaller and still smaller vessels till they permeate the whole body. One set are called arteries, and the other veins. The opinion before Harvey's time was that the blood flowed backwards and forwards in each set of vessels, first flowing out from the heart to the extremeties, where both veins and arteries are contracted to almost insensible dimensions, and then reversing its course and returning by the same way that it came. Harvey discovered that instead of flowing backwards and forwards, it *circulated*—flowing out by the arteries and returning by the veins; a position which medical men were slow to accept, because they could not detect any communication between the two sets of vessels, the channels of communication being in fact so minute as to be only visible under the microscope.

Let us not be too ready, my friends, to impute folly to our ancestors. In many of those cases where we are accustomed to do so, we should see reason to change our opinion if we were more fully informed. The more we know, the more liberal we shall become.

The illustrations thus far given, which have all been taken from the material sciences, on account of the peculiar definiteness and tangibility which belongs to them, will serve to familiarize us with what may be called the natural history of inventions, and prepare the way for remarks upon originality generally.

Perhaps I cannot better introduce my views than by laying down at the outset the two paradoxical maxims,—

First, That nobody can be original.

Second, That everybody can be original.