

admission that noumena are altogether unknown and unknowable, then it is evident that the demonstration of this fact is all that remains to us of metaphysics, and we seem to be compelled to abandon all further philosophical speculation, and to fall back upon the study of phenomena. But even this does not abolish Philosophy altogether. If it be true, as Mr. Lewes contends, that the great lesson of the long history of Philosophy is the demonstration of the 'impossibility of every form of metaphysics and ontology, it still does not follow that the inquiry by which this negative result has been reached has been barren in the past, nor even that similar inquiries must necessarily be useless in the future. The demonstration of the impossibility of ontology has been reached (if it has been reached at all) by a tentative method. Every means has been tried to penetrate the veil of the senses without success. But though the special objects of the inquiry of Philosophy may have eluded us, the inquiry itself is not without value.

Nor is it just to compare Philosophy with Science to the disparagement of the former. In early times there was not so clear a line of demarcation between the two departments as there is now. Many of the problems of ancient Philosophy we should now rather class as scientific questions, and these as they have been solved have passed over to the realm of Science. One great distinction between the conclusions of Philosophy and those of Science, much insisted on by Mr. Lewes, is that the latter are capable of verification, the former are not. But this may be expressed in another way. As soon as means are found to verify any conception of Philosophy, it is removed from the region of speculation, and called an established theory of Science. It is hard in such a case that all the praise should go to Science for its superior method and certainty, while Philosophy, which pointed out the way in the midst of doubt and obscurity, is taunted with inability to verify its results. We may instance the atomic Theory, which certainly in the first instance belonged to Philosophy; but when atomic weights were thought of, and verification by means of the balance rendered