

pores of our skin are so numerous and minute that a grain of sand would cover 125,000 of them. We perceive animated beings, in certain liquids, so minute that 50,000 of them would not equal the size of a mite, and yet each is furnished with mouth, eyes, and other organs of animal function.

With what awe, with what wonder ought we to look up to that great artificer who has thus formed the sublime scenery of the heavens, this beautiful earth, the exquisite structure of our own bodies, and at the same time is mindful of a peopled world so minute as to be to the human eye wholly invisible.

I shall now shortly advert to a discovery, so wondrous in its power, so majestic in its results, as to throw almost every invention of man entirely into the shade. I mean the Steam Engine. There was published in 1663, during the reign of Charles the Second, a very curious, and now a very rare book, called the Marquis of Worcester's centenary of inventions. Having read it in my youth, I cannot, at this distance of time, recall the manner in which the noble author treats the subject, nor am I quite sure whether he may be styled the inventor of the plan, or whether for the first time he gave it to the world. At all events, the hint is contained there. It appeared that the force with which steam issues from the spout of a tea-kettle, and raises the lid, while the water is boiling, suggested its power. It was many years after the Marquis wrote, ere an engine driven by steam was invented. The names of Savory and Newcomen are used with reference to the construction of the Steam Engine. There can be no doubt that for years it was a clumsy machine, doing very little, compared with its size. It was reserved for one of the most illustrious names in the records of science—a name whose lustre will for centuries survive the dimming process of time. To James Watt belongs the honor, not, indeed, of discovering, but of improving this great invention, so as nearly to render it that perfect and admirable machine which we now find it to be. He found it a dwarf—he left it a giant