

may be said their fruits are the fruits of Nepenthe and their flowers the flowers of Amaranth.

A man is ignorant in these days if he knows nothing about the laws of nature around him. Our age is pre-eminently an age of science and progress. This century is unsurpassed in that respect. Our civilization has sped forward with almost indescribable rapidity. Huts have given way to cities; the virgin forest is filled with the scream of the steam engine. Fire, flood and air—all are the vassals of man. Now, there is nothing so revolutionary as a strain to keep things fixed when the law of progress is on its eternal course. The evil of everything may be traced back to that idea of selfishness—that it is our duty to preserve and not improve. There is the greatest difference among minds. Some, like my friend—for I may call him such—Dean Stanley, lean to the study of man; others delight in abstract philosophy; others again in the physical sciences. I received once a letter from the late Charles Darwin, in which he told me that when he was a school-boy he learned nothing whatever except what he had taught himself by private experiments in chemistry. The master discovered him and reprimanded him in the presence of the entire school, calling him a *poco curante*, “which,” Mr. Darwin added, “as it was a word I did not understand, I thought meant something very terrible.” Nothing is so unfortunate as when different minds despise each other, as they too often do. We, in these days, are able to see that the health and happiness of mankind may depend quite as much upon the researches of the etymologist as upon those of the philologist.

Look at the immense delight of scientific study. God means us to admire the beauty of all things. We are utterly unable to measure the degree of difference in happiness between the man with the seeing eye and hearing ear and him to whom sight and hearing are denied. Consider, too, the usefulness of science. Think of what we have learned by noticing the simplest facts. Nature may delight us all with its innocent enchantments, but it only reveals its meaning to the followers of