

marvellous rapidity, is no precipitate result of late or sudden causes. It is the gradual growth and final fructification of the *tree of Knowledge*, through the total extent of a period which has nearly comprehended six thousand years. Through the reckless and barbarian atheism of lawless unconfederated man; through the mystic incantations and fantastic horrors which mark the fearful rites of idolatrous bewildered nations; and in later times, through all the seductive sophistry and blasphemous impiety of audacious and perverse philosophy; like the vegetative bud which survives the changes of the atmosphere, the intellectual germ has resisted every noxious influence of place and time, and preserved its undecayed vitality, to attain the plenitude and lustre of autumnal exuberance and bloom.

And, therefore, when contrasted with the flaming splendor which illuminates the annals of science in the present age, the page of *ancient history* is not *completely* desolate and dark. Through the mist of intervening ages, the achievements of the peerless *Archimedes* present a monumental prototype of almost every marvellous phenomenon, which, by the aid of science, is created on the theatre of nations in the present day. His caustic apparatus and projectile engines refer the imagination, by a simultaneous and triple analogy, to the sudden flash and heavy roar of the cannon, to the lightning and thunder of the electric machine, and the irresistible energy which results from the concentration of the optic ray. His investigations in the theory of motion, equilibrium, and impulse, have served as a basis for all that we now know in mechanical science, through all its modifications and departments, comprehending the multitudinous motive powers and impulsive agencies of solid and fluid materials. And in bright and glorious addition to all the preceding discoveries, his daring and sublime excursions, in the intellectual region of *pure Geometry*, through unexplored and solitary tracts of knowledge, but copious and luxuriant in the intrinsic and immortal beauty of the *immutable nature of things*; these intrepid flights of reason have directed the research of every subsequent adventurer on that boundless and eternal field.