

of a declining literature were observable everywhere. History was perhaps the sole exception, for Gibbon, Hume, and Robertson produced works which have become, and must always be considered, among English Classics; while these eminent men have, at a later period, had worthy successors in Lingard, Hallam and Macaulay. The stirring events of the American and French revolutions aroused the national intellect from its lethargy; and the first signs of a literary revival were given by the poets Cowper and Burns, whose nervous and natural writings at once shewed the worthlessness of the tame pretenders who had, for a time, imposed on the public taste. A new generation of eminent writers followed, the chief of whom were Scott, Byron, Wordsworth, Campbell, Moore and Coleridge. Under their influence literature was endowed with a new life, with every sign of permanency. The impetus given to the science of political economy by the great work of Adam Smith, has been followed up by succeeding writers with great zeal and research, and his labours and theirs have had a most extensive influence on the commercial policy of England and the whole world. Science has advanced at an equal pace, and astronomy, geology, philosophy, anatomy, and natural history, have been studied and taught with a zeal and success equally remarkable and gratifying. In physical science the brilliant discoveries of Davy and others have changed the whole aspect of chemistry. The steam engine, which we owe to the genius of Watt, has gradually been applied to navigation, to land carriage, to manufactures, and to