

to wait for the results of laborious investigation. They find it hard to stop to gain enough of the theoretical knowledge which will make their practical knowledge useful. A great and glorious future may be opening out before us, but it depends on us now to a great extent how great and how glorious it may be—whether the growth be of a sound and lasting character, or like a mushroom, sprouting in a night.

We live in an age which reverses the old supposition that science has nothing to do with nature or with man. We consider that science may enter into everything rather than be superior to everything. We do not try to prove to men that they are to render themselves independent of the laws of nature, but to render themselves masters of them. Science is like an elephant's trunk, that will pick up a pin or rend an oak. But in order to use this instrument properly, it must be really science, really knowledge, not a vague smattering, not a servile appropriation of the works of others. Every one may be more or less scientific. It is a noble thing to trace the laws of nature, and to rise from the contemplation of nature to nature's God. But let us remember that we shall not be men worthy of the name if we only seek after knowledge for the purposes of sensual ease or pecuniary profit.