

acquisition of various species of knowledge? But we cannot suppose that the different sciences had their beginning when society was organized as it is at present: when from the social division of labour, and the state of civilization, there are many to whom the conveniences of life are measured without toil, and who can follow their inclination in the pursuit of knowledge; and when it becomes the lot of others to exercise their minds only for a means of subsistence; for the arts and sciences seem, in a measure, necessary to social improvement, and appear to have arisen, from time to time, out of the wants of individuals, and to have kept pace with civilization.

In the infancy of society, it is probable that men, then only the wild inhabitants of forests and woods, employed their ken to discover and procure the various subjects of their immediate wants; and natural history was confined to a knowledge of such animals, as were fit for food, and to be procured by hunting and fishing; and such as were formidable, and to be known, that they might be avoided; and to whose superior strength human ingenuity