

see his way clear to overcome some difficulties in the details of execution. Another man does it, and rests satisfied with having practically proved it possible. A third, with less ingenuity but more energy and worldly wisdom, discerns the use of the invention, and from a private curiosity turns it into a public benefit. The particular circumstances of each case must determine which of these three men has the greatest claim upon public gratitude. It is not always the man who first throws out the idea, for this is frequently the easiest part of the undertaking. It is much easier to make shrewd guesses at truth than to prove any one of the guesses to be correct; and a thing is not discovered when it is suspected, but when it is proved. HOOKE suggested the possibility of universal gravitation; but Newton proved it to be a fact. Many persons expressed their belief that lightning was identical with electricity; but FRANKLIN devised and executed an experimental test. The earth had been familiarly spoken of as a globe—in fact it was usually called by the Romans *orbis terrarum*—(the globe of the lands)—a thousand years before the time of Columbus, who was the first to venture upon the attempt of proving its globular form by sailing round it—an attempt which issued in success of a different kind from that which he anticipated, leading not to a shorter passage to India, but to the discovery of a new Continent. A courageous spirit, and unwavering faith were the qualities which constituted his greatness, and made him one of the heroes of discovery.

Sometimes an invention has lain at the feet of men for years, only waiting to be taken up and used; and has been neglected because its utility was not perceived. For instance, Bookbinders had been in the habit of stamping titles upon book covers by a process which was virtually printing, long before printing was applied to books themselves.