

The rapid development of the arts and sciences, for which the fourteenth century was so conspicuous, is not any exception to this general rule, nor do we detract from the fair fame of the giants of those days, when we trace the origin of their great discoveries and masterly performances in earlier times.

It is no more disgrace to Columbus, that, before his first expedition to America, one of his countrymen had said that "voyagers may soon reach another hemisphere;" than to Newton, that he should add—"because everything tends to its centre." We see, indeed, the men, and we glory in the results of their labours; but we do not see whence the impulse—the energy, has been derived, any more than when, gazing with admiration on the white capped billows, which, as in their own strength, rush impetuously towards the land, we recognise the mighty swell of the ocean, from which it in reality proceeds.

Hence, it not unfrequently happens, that the originator of some great event loses the fame which is his due; and thus the hemisphere first seen by Columbus, has been named after Vespucci, while the former has