

of the elect, thus keeping science in a state of theoretical bondage; he must come out before the public to offer them a share of the fruits of his labours, and submit his discoveries to the test. Matter seizes upon every new discovery of the mind, and puts it immediately into practice; the savant looks no more on things in a merely ideal point of view. In all his discoveries, great and small, his sole object is the general weal, the perfection of methods as well as instruments and the precuring to commerce, industry and international communications, all the possible means of increase and progress. In fact, gentlemen, there are no more abstract sciences—to-day they are all practical. We are surrounded on all sides by science and every day we can witness its numerous applications; the modern world is constantly appealing to it for new experiments and further developments. In every other country it is the first subject with governments and educational institutions; to neglect it would be to remain perfect strangers to our own actual wants, and nevertheless, in this country science is not only neglected, but overlooked and treated with the utmost indifference. Where are our chairs and professors of history, that science which criticism and modern discoveries have stripped of its old legends and the childish fictions which seem to have formed the main part of its foundation in days gone by? Without going so far, let me ask if our classical institutions provide the student with any valuable notions of geography and history? And no one can deny, gentlemen, that geography is one of the most indispensable studies for any one connected with the press. The numerous international communications and the discoveries that are being made every day place it foremost among the sciences; the journalist draws upon it for his telegraphic despatches, for his foreign news, and in fact for every current question of the day; its knowledge

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