

for the power.—From whence, we may ask has modern national power flowed? What source, for instance, supplied the energies that rendered the men of our own little island, the arbiters of the destinies of Europe, and have put the wide world within the grasp of their Empire? *Science*—the responses she gave to a *Newton*, a *Watt*, an *Arkwright* or a *Davy*. In the path she has held so triumphantly, all lands, and those especially which her sons inhabit, may follow. It were foolish vanity in a father to make his son a student, in the expectation that he would become a discoverer. This is a fortune that can only happen to one of a thousand of the votaries of science. But when science is easily pursued by thousands, it is certain, that the exertions of many will be rewarded by the discovery of valuable truths.—Then as for fame, and a place amongst nations, what, we would demand, renders a people so illustrious as genius? Could England summon from the slumbers of the tomb those of her sons whose achievements might most draw the observant eye of the nations upon themselves and her, who would be marshalled before us? The doubtful glories of her Edwards, her Henrys, or even her Richard of the lion heart, might fear to meet the searching noon day beam; but the august forms of a Bacon, a Newton, a Milton, could they revisit us, would claim the reverential regard of every people, and a general Hail! bursting from the universal earth, would proclaim them the acknowledged benefactors of their kind.

It is, indeed, among the most pleasing features of the age, that the glory which is immediately reaped by deeds of mere violence and physical hardihood, or which was once so largely reflected by them on the remote descendants of those who had achieved them, burns not

brighter, nay actually pales before, the calm triumphs that burst on the ardent student in his solitary chamber. In Europe, the titled descendant of ancient heroes and monarchs, and he who has himself glanced the proud eye of a conqueror over many a battle plain, may be seen grasping the hand, as of an equal, of the peasant's son, whose sole claims to distinction rest on his successful prosecution of science, or of literature, and honours and emoluments are shared between the two. A new order, a fresh element, in the political constitution, appears, and the lofty position, to which at one time the happy daring of the warrior, or the successful craft of the politician, alone led, as these lose their supremacy in the public eye, is ascended by men looking on mankind with a kindlier aspect, and to exercise, we may surely trust, a more beneficent influence over their fortunes. In the place of the old nobility of steel and parchment, a new nobility—the nobility of genius and science, comes forward to occupy a far more conspicuous and permanent niche in the Temple of Fame.

Are literature and science to possess an influence, or hold a place such as they merit in this new world? The question is important. It is important considered with reference to the general progress of science and literature—of human knowledge, power, and happiness. It is to this progress that the new nations of these fresh regions, in truth, owe their very existence. In turn, it ought to be urged on by the energies to which it has given birth. Were it not so, were they, instead of communicating increased vigour, to hang like a dead weight upon it, it would augur ill for the success of a cause inseparably connected with the best interests of humanity. It is important considered in reference ex-