

gent modern writer,) may confidently be placed that derived from books: no other can stand in competition with it. Imagine that we had it in our power to call up the shades of the greatest and wisest men that ever existed, to converse with us on the most interesting topics.—What a privilege should we think it! how superior to all common enjoyments!—But, in a well-provided library, we in fact possess them. We can question Xenophon and Cæsar on their campaigns; make Demosthenes and Cicero plead before us; join in the audiences of Socrates and Plato; and receive demonstrations from Euclid and Newton. In books, we have the choicest thoughts of the ablest men in their best dress. We can, at pleasure, exclude dullness, and open our doors to good sense alone. Without books, I have been scarcely ever able to pass a day to my entire satisfaction: with them, no day has been so dark as not to have its pleasure. Even pain and sickness have for a time been charmed away by them.

PREVENTION OF INJURY FROM LIGHTNING.

SIR H. DAVY, in his Lectures at the Royal Institution, recommended the following means of escaping the electric fluid during a thunderstorm. He observed, that, in countries where thunderstorms are frequent and violent, a walking-cane might be fitted with a steel or iron rod, to draw out at each end, one of which might be stuck into the ground, and the other elevated eight or nine feet above the surface. The person who apprehends danger should fix the cane, and lie down a few yards from it. By this simple apparatus, the lightning descends down the wire into the earth, and secures him from injury.