

long anterior to the Chistian era, in making impressions upon the brickwork of Nineveh and Babylon.

The invention of printing in modern times, like many other so-called inventions was only a re-discovery, if indeed, the art of stamping pottery had ever been forgotten, or dis-used. The civilization of antiquity has been greatly underrated by some modern writers, who have ascribed to the ancients an ignorance of many arts which were well known to them, and were afterwards lost to the human race during the dark ages.

Mr. Wendell Phillips in his oft-repeated lecture on "The Lost Arts," has shown very plausible reasons for believing that the ancients were acquainted with the use of the microscope, and even of the telescope. However this may be, steam was certainly used as a motive force in machinery, and applied by the inventor to engines for raising water from the Nile a century before the Christian era; the steam not acting as in our modern engines, upon a piston-rod within a cylinder, but being thrown in jets upon paddles, like those of a steamboat wheel or water wheel. If, then, the ancients were acquainted with the principle of printing, the question arises why they never applied it to the multiplication of books, as the idea of the press would naturally be suggested as soon as the art had become known.

It has frequently been remarked that great inventions in the useful arts, appear in history only when occasion calls for them, and an eminent American scholar has advanced the theory that the reason why the civilized ancients did not apply the arts of printing to books, is that the existence of slavery among them rendered it unnecessary. Slavery among the ancients differed in many important respects from that which existed in the Southern States within our recollection. In the latter, the race in servitude differed from that of the masters, and its members were not only but