

basic principles of scientific procedure. It opens the theory in question to the reasonable antagonism of all careful investigators. It invites ridicule. This is interpreted as persecution. Every weak cause needs martyrs. A strong cause never needs anything but honest investigation of the facts. A superstitious church needs martyrs. Every pseudo-science needs martyrs. Every inadequate hypothesis needs martyrs. But the theory that the earth revolves around the sun never needed martyrs; it needed careful and honest investigators.

The study of astronomy, quite as much if not more than that of any other science, teaches us to avoid such loose methods, and saves us from results so open to suspicion. Almost the whole world had accepted the geocentric theory, but the astronomers still regarded it as an hypothesis. Now we have new theories advanced to explain the same or similar facts. These are winning favor, and must stand together with the older hypothesis and win whatever measure of support the facts may warrant. This is the scientific method. This is the astronomical method. It saves us from results so open to suspicion, so worthy of disregard if not even of a measure of contempt.

If the easy acceptance of theories supported only by facts selected by partisans is to be deprecated, so also, and even more, should we be on guard where prejudice against innovation is concerned. We know and see but in part. It is clear, therefore, that, in the long run, the progressive mind and heart will behold all things made new. Margaret Prescott Montague, in the *Atlantic Monthly* of May, 1917, tells how, for about twenty minutes, she once saw her whole life-setting in a new and infinitely more glad and radiant light. Her eyes were opened and she knew that reality is far finer and more glorious than she had ever dreamed.

The expectant attitude towards new aspects and expressions of truth greatly helps progress. Is this not, indeed, that faculty in the artist which we call susceptibility,—an openness into new fields of thought—that attitude in the soul of nature itself which we term creation, but fail to identify with our own faculty, dif-