

In spite, however, of the phenomena to which I have just alluded, there is good reason for maintaining that even in the domain of Mental and Moral Science there has been, upon the whole, an onward progress, just as a cyclonic storm advances at the same time that it rotates.

And whatever opinion we may entertain regarding this department of Philosophy, we cannot but admit when we turn our consideration to the *Material Sciences*, that *here* at least there has been progress and discovery, to an extent which would probably astonish even Solomon himself.

Yet even here it is remarkable how much difficulty is generally found in tracing any important invention to its originator. In nearly every case competitors are to be found who personally or through their biographers dispute the claim.

ARKWRIGHT, who is called the inventor of the spinning jenny, and who made his fortune out of the invention, is said to have borrowed the design from another man who is comparatively unknown. The steam engine was brought into being by a number of inventors, successively improving on one another, though the most important improvements were made by JAMES WATT; and several forms of the locomotive had been constructed before GEORGE STEPHENSON rendered it available for profitable use. There are several claimants for the invention of steam navigation, and the reputed inventor of the "screw" has not been allowed to hold his claim without dispute. No single name stands before the public as the inventor of the Electric Telegraph. The safety lamp was invented independently by DAVY and STEPHENSON. The sextant was invented independently by NEWTON and HADLEY. The invention of the stereoscope is sharply contested to this day by BREWSTER and WHEATSTONE. DAGUERRE, whose name is almost a synonym for photography, was not the inventor of that art. Three great names, CAVENDISH, WATT, and LAVOISIER, have been put forward as the discoverers of the compo-