

served in traversing it. Such is a brief enumeration of the various subjects so graphically described by our author; subjects alike interesting and instructive to all who desire to look into "the wonders of the great deep."

We cannot better conclude than by quoting our author's remarks with regard to the design of his work. "No expression," he states, "uttered, nor act performed by the agents of nature upon our planet, is without meaning. The wind and rain, the vapor and the cloud, the tide, the current, the saltness and depth, and warmth, and color of the sea, the shade of the sky, the temperature of the air, the tint and shape of the clouds, the height of the tree on the shore, the size of its leaves, the brilliancy of its flowers—each and all may be regarded as the exponent of certain physical combinations, and therefore as the expression in which nature chooses to announce her own doings, or, if we please, as the language in which she writes down or chooses to make known her own laws. To understand that language and to interpret aright those laws is the object of the undertaking which we have now in hand. No fact gathered in such a field as the one before us can therefore come amiss to those who tread the walks of instructive philosophy; for, in the hand book of nature, every such fact is a syllable; and it is by patiently collecting fact after fact, and by joining syllable after syllable, that we may finally seek to read aright from the great volume which the mariner at sea, as well as the philosopher on the mountain, each sees spread out before him."

*The Works of Francis Bacon, Baron of Verulam, Viscount St. Albans, and Lord High Chancellor of England. Collected and Edited by JAMES SPEDDING, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge: ROBERT LESLIE ELLIS, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; and DOUGLAS DENON HEATH, Barrister-at-Law, late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Volume II. Boston: Brown & Taggard. Toronto: Rollo & Adam. 12mo. pp. 503.*

We lately noticed the publication of the first volume of this magnificent edition of Lord Bacon's Works. The second volume, now before us, is a continuation of the first part of his Philosophical Works, and contains the *Parasceve ad Historiam Naturalem et Experimentalem*, and the *De Augmentis Scientiarum*, with a preface to each by Mr. Spedding. In the preface to the *Parasceve*, the editor gives an interesting account of what are, to a great extent, the distinctive peculiarities of Bacon's philosophy, the main foundation of which he himself considered to consist in "the compilation of a natural and experimental history;" in fact, it was for the purpose of obtaining assistance in this design that he published his *Novum Organum* in so imperfect a shape.

We have already alluded, in our former notice, to the typographical excellence and beauty of this edition, and to the credit it reflects upon the enterprising publishers; it only remains for us now to express our sincere hope that in the present state of things on this continent, so unfavourable as it is to all literary undertakings, the publication of this work may not prove to them a source of loss and disappointment.

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