

prevented quoting in place, though many statements have been adopted or unconsciously paraphrased.

Our subject, it is premised, will be best presented by an eclectic method, gathering honey, like the bee, from every opening flower. No one system of philosophy or branch of science contains all the truth, nor, however erroneous it may be, is devoid of light and suggestion. Shakespeare tells us we may find good in everything, even a jewel in the head of the repulsive toad. It is lawful to learn from scepticism. Error usually lies in perversions and extravagances. Speculative systems, like a pendulum, oscillate between extremes, or like yachts tacking in the wind, they appear to steer for different landmarks at different times, while common-sense would tug at the oars and move straight in the eye of the wind. Befogged speculation has now and then to cast anchor and find the bearing of reality by soundings.

“Yet I doubt not thro’ the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns.”

In a subject such as we have chosen, it is impossible to avoid some of the issues raised by the speculative system called Evolution. Better progress will be made afterward with our theme, if at once, in no unfriendly, unreasonable or prejudiced spirit, an understanding be had with this influential system. If, to use metaphors after the fashion of Sir Boyle Roche, we take the bull by the horns, what can a novice expect but to be thrown. It will be wise to be moderate and cautious. Whatever strength and justice this modern method possesses, let us enlist that in our service, but beware of its temper and its vices.

It may seem presumption for an amateur with very superficial knowledge to turn critic, but let us remember that the universal insight with which the human mind is endowed is capable of seeing into first principles and ultimate truths; of analyzing, generalizing, comparing and inferring. This insight is not the peculiar property of the logical philosopher, or the learned specialist. The independent public forms the most competent jury to decide upon the merits of disputed questions, when the evidence is before them. They have no pet theory