

countries, and pushed out deep roots. From that moment the impulse of genius made itself felt among men who not long before had emerged from barbarism. An ardent and consuming curiosity bestowed on them an industry which convinced them that lavish Nature only waited the assistance to pour out her abundance; find new routes for commerce, discover northern extremities of Asia, and the arms of the sea that separated the old from the new world, to survey their vast geographical and physical extent, and learn their advantages and their value.

Lastly, it is true to speak of the greatest advantage that the art of observing brings to the human mind by furnishing it with surpassing considerations of a better life, and giving us the most majestic ideas of our Creator to elevate our conceptions, banish all superstition, and lead us to solid and eternal felicity.

This should make the art precious to all men, who are alike called to march in the glorious career of honour and virtue