

explored spot, investigating every phenomenon, experimenting with many a reality and bringing forth light out of darkness, knowledge out of mystery, fact out of theory,—enriching by his research and discoveries the laboratories and libraries of a world.

In less than three years from the time when he entered the Royal Institution, Faraday began a course of lectures on chemistry, at the City Philosophical Society, and he continued to lecture for 38 years at the Royal Institution. In this department of his work, too, he rose to eminence. Difficulties sufficient to have barred a less energetic spirit from success were overcome. His language and his manner received a constant careful attention, till he possessed a style clear, attractive and perfectly natural, which both secured and held the attention of all listeners. He carefully noticed the faults of others, formed his idea of what a lecturer should be, and thus laid broad and well the platform on which he stood for so many years, while a nation freely granted its praise and appreciation. Earnestly believing that in the physical sciences he had found the subject of subjects for lectures, yet he did not rely wholly upon the interest of new discoveries and wonderful properties. He sought to some extent to present in his lectures the “thoughts that breathe and words that burn.” He desired help of the flowing rhetoric, and disdained not the classic touch, for he saw that “the generality of mankind cannot accompany us one short hour unless the path is strewn with flowers,” and yet he would “not sacrifice the real importance and integrity of a subject to noise and splendor.” The plaudits of the throng he never bought at the price of instruction in pure knowledge. He possessed the mind of the philosopher, and made large use of his imagination, was sometimes vague in his style, even inaccurate in his phraseology and speculative, but ever keeping a distinct object in view. Knowledge to him was a great possession and he never trifled with it. He worked at the utmost limits of scientific information and frequently the eyes of his understanding would peer into the shade beyond, and he