

memory, whose luminous prolixity was wont to produce weariness more readily than conviction. I shall, however, best consult my own credit if I do not trust myself further on this subject, but rather remind the Society that the interesting paper to which I have now retailed their attention, was closed by an intimation, that the author might at a future time supply what he had then omitted, and cite, amongst other examples, in illustration of his theme, some of the sententious eloquence characteristic of a late noble Duke. From this I gladly infer that Dr. Brooke has in reserve a portion of his Essay much too interesting and instructive to be postponed beyond such early day as may suit his pleasure and convenience.

At our last meeting the progressive improvements in the modern method of ascertaining longitudes by magnetic telegraph, were explained to us by Dr. Jack, in the same lucid manner, which on many former occasions and on other subjects, has conduced so materially to our pleasure and instruction. The observations of the learned Professor were illustrated by a model of the magnetic telegraph, and by several diagrams explanatory of the mode of observing the transit of the heavenly bodies, and of the co-incident notation of time and transmission of signals by the telegraph. Some of the results of the joint labours of Drs. Toldervy and Jack in this method of ascertaining longitudes, have already been before the Society, and there is every probability that they are exact to a degree which cannot be hoped for by the ordinary methods. In every improvement, however, in practical science, some imperfection in the first experiments is to be expected, and the present case was not an exception. It was first noticed, I believe, by Professor Bond, that the registration of time and the instant of the transit of any given star might be accomplished independently of the hand and the ear of the observer, by aid of certain mechanical arrangements in connection with the magnetic force and the movements of the astronomical clock. He succeeded in applying this idea, leaving, by successive improvements, scarcely any thing to be desired in the precision of the registration. The next step was to insure equal precision in the