

Nor has this progress been confined or limited to any one sphere but has permeated all branches of industry, all science and all art; has sent the traveller forth to discover new countries and the astronomer new worlds. Its influence has affected all classes of society, the learned and the illiterate, the sage and the savage. Man actuated by it has measured the height of the loftiest mountain and delved deep down into the inmost recesses of the earth, has discovered the gold of California and the diamonds of Brazil, has mapped out the heavens and numbered the strata of the earth, has made the lightning subject to his will and utilized the most worthless refuse of the workshop. Its spirit is every where at work, in the silent labors of the student, who, by his midnight lamp is striving to evolve new problems from the hidden secrets of nature, or to find the key to those mysterious laws which the wisest of his predecessors were unable to unlock. Nor has this spirit been confined to the immaterial world, nor to abstract speculations on the origin of matter. It is every where abroad, in the busy active multitude, who, with ready hand and resolute heart are devising new schemes for the civilization and enlightenment of the world, who are building our railroads, digging our canals, founding our cities, endowing our colleges and making the wilderness blossom like the rose.

As a mighty moral agency too, its influence may be seen and felt in all the varying phases of human existence, in improved systems of education, in wide spread plans for the relief of the necessities of the poor, in more liberal forms of government, and in adding to the comforts and happiness of the millions of our race, who for centuries were treated with scorn and contempt, or trampled to the very dust beneath the feet of their more fortunate fellow mortals.

The world is growing older and wiser, but it must be acknowledged that it has been doing so from the beginning. There have been times, indeed, when the deadly blighting mildew of ignorance and superstition, seemed to envelope all the domains of human thought, seemed almost to destroy every vestige of the accumulated lore and wisdom of past ages seemed almost to bury in eternal oblivion, all that genius and experience had been able to gather from the labors and researches of the master minds of our race. Yet these have been, as it were, only breathing spells during which the intellect of man was recuperating its exhausted powers, for entering the lists once more with renewed strength and energy.

All sciences and all professions have had to encounter this severe struggle, have had manfully to face the foes who surrounded them on all sides and sought to bring them down to their own level, sought to mingle