

than ever. The Electric Telegraph, which, with the rapidity of lightning and certainty of truth, sends its messages from one end of the world to the other in a moment of time, startles us with amazement at its wonderful rapidity, and makes us look with gratitude and praise to that God who has placed such elements at the disposal of man. The steam-engine and steam-hoat almost destroy time and distance by the swiftness of their motion; the lightning conductor draws from the very clouds themselves that fiery element which all so much dread, and conducts it swiftly and safely into the bosom of the earth. Chasms which seemed to defy man to cross, and rivers whose breadth and depth rendered them impassible for land transit, have been spanned by bridges the most simple in design and elegant in structure. Events are succeeding events with such remarkable rapidity as almost to stun the human mind in reviewing them. The power of steam is becoming more fully developed every day, and contains an amount of wealth almost impossible for people who lived a hundred years ago to realize; and what has brought all this to the knowledge of man? What has been the original source of all this wealth? I reply, science. People, in talking of education, are too apt to forget, that it is to that, that they almost without an exception owe their wealth and prosperity. The cotton spinners of Lancashire and New York, pocket their sovereigns and admire their gains without for a moment considering to whom, under God's blessing, they are indebted, they naturally attribute their wealth to their own industry, and scarcely ever think of those men, who in the solitary chamber, with their oil lamps and diagrams by their side, sat from sunset to sunrise, endeavouring to reveal to the human mind those mathematical truths which lay enveloped in mist, and thereby rendered useless to man—of those men who set their machines in motion, and opened the paths to riches.

How any right-minded man can review the past, can look at all those gigantic feats which science has performed, and then deny his son the very *elements* of a liberal education, I cannot conceive; why the very plough that you use to plough your fields, the very machine you employ to thresh out your grain; nay, every thing that you use, have either been invented or improved by scientific men, but how many think of this; they obtain the article without knowing or caring to enquire whence it emanated; they only consider their own convenience, without ever thinking of the brain which produced that convenience. That there are not any in this audience so utterly devoid of justice, or so hindered by ignorance, from giving their children all the education that their means will allow, I can readily believe, but still I would take this opportunity of requesting you to neglect no means however stringent, no expense however great, no circumstance however inconvenient, from advancing your children's intellectual capacity. It is to be hoped that the time is fast approaching when there will not remain an

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