

holding a pair of spectacles between his thumb and fore-finger, a watch-maker's apprentice was surprised at the enlarged appearance of a church-spire, and thus was discovered the power of lenses as applied to telescopes, microscopes, etc., by means of which the natural power of human vision has been wonderfully increased, and our prospect into the works of the Creator extended far beyond what former ages could have conceived.

The principle of curiosity has been implanted in our natures for wise and important purposes. When directed in the proper channel, it becomes a powerful auxiliary in the cause of religion and of intellectual improvement. To gratify this principle, and to increase its activity, our earth is adorned with a combination of beauties and sublimities stretched in endless variety over all its different regions. The hills and dales, the mountains and plains, the seas, lakes and rivers, the islands of every form and size which diversify the surface of the ocean, the bays, the gulfs and peninsulas, the forests, the groves, the deep dells and towering cliffs, the infinite variety of plants so profusely scattered over the surface of the earth, the marvellous productions of the mineral kingdom, the variegated coloring spread over the face of nature, not to mention the many thousand different species of animated beings which traverse the air, the waters, and the earth—all of these afford so many stimuli to rouse the principle of curiosity into exercise, and to direct the mind to the contemplation of the Creator.

Those who love Nature can never be dull. They may have other temptations, but they run no risk of being beguiled by *ennui*, idleness or want of occupation. Sir Arthur Helps has well said, "What ! dull, when you do not know what gives loveliness of form to the lily, its depth of color to the violet, its fragrance to the rose ;

when you do not know in what consists the venom of the adder any more than you can imitate the glad movements of the dove.

"What ! dull, when earth, and air, and water are alike mysteries to you, and when, as you stretch out your hand, you do not touch anything the properties of which you have mastered ; while all the time Nature is inviting you to talk earnestly with her, to understand her, to subdue her, and to be blessed by her. Go away, then ! *learn something, do something, understand something*, and let me hear no more of your dullness."

One man walks through the world with his eyes open, another with his eyes shut ; and upon this difference depends all the superiority of knowledge which one man acquires over another. While many a vacant, thoughtless person will travel hundreds of miles without gaining an idea worth crossing the street for, the observing eye and the inquiring mind will find matter of improvement and delight in every ramble. Therefore, let us not walk about with our eyes shut, but let us use our eyes and our intellects, our senses and our brains, and thus learn the lessons which God is continually trying to teach us. I do not mean that we are to stop there, and learn nothing more ; anything but that. There are things which neither our senses nor our brains can tell us ; and they are not only more glorious, but actually more true and more real than anything we can see or touch. But we must begin at the beginning to end at the end. We must sow the seed if we wish to gather the fruit.

It seems to be the plan of Him who made us, who created the vast universe, and who has endowed us with faculties for beholding Him by means of the material creation, that by seeing how widely we are separated from the shining worlds, whose motions