

motive power of the world; or Morse ignorant and unlearned, because he did not appreciate the revolution in the commercial world his telegraph was destined to achieve.

As we would have our posterity judge us, so we ought to place ourselves in their situation—to put out of our minds for a time—all that knowledge which they, however eager in their pursuits after truth, could not have, and which we, however negligent we may have been, could not help having. It was not merely difficult, but absolutely impossible, for the best and wisest men fifty years ago to be what a very commonplace person in our day may be, and indeed of necessity must be. “It is easy enough, after the ramparts have been carried, to find men to plant the flag on the highest tower. The difficulty is to find men who are ready to go first into the breach, and it is the grossest injustice to insult their remains because they fell in the breach, and did not live to penetrate to the citadel.”

Sydenham first discovered that the cool regimen succeeded best in cases of smallpox. By this discovery he saved thousands of human lives; and we venerate his memory for it, though he never heard of inoculation. Lady Mary Montague brought inoculation into use, and we respect her for it, though she never heard of vaccination. Jenner introduced vaccination, and we admire him for it, although some still safer and more agreeable preservative should be discovered. It is thus that we ought to judge the events and the men of other times. They were behind us. It could not be otherwise. The question with respect to them is not, *where* they were, but which way they were going. Did they exert themselves to help onward the great movement of the human race, or to stop it? A person who complains of the men of '39, for not being the men of '89, might just as well complain of a projectile for describing a parabola, or quicksilver for being heavier than water.

There is a small lake upon one of the high passes of the Alps, the waters of which find their way to the Ocean by two different channels. One portion takes the course of the “wide and winding Rhine,” and goes forth to mingle with the stormy waves and crashing icebergs of Northern seas. Another joins the blue current of the “Arrowy Rhone,” and finds its way to the Mediterranean, along the vine-clad hills and sunny vales of France. One finds a home under the cold splendors of Auroral light, amid the freezing horrors of the Arctic Zone. The other blushes in the glow of