

member HARVEY and JENNER; we must remember how individuals have been put in the pillory for wearing so useless an article as a shirt, how chimneys were once denounced, how mattresses were reviled, how stage coaches were considered grievous innovations, how the porters of the Andes, who carried passengers on their shoulders in baskets petitioned against the formation of roads; how, in short, every improvement of every sort, has been denounced at its introduction as injurious.

Little people with little minds should remember who it was that compared himself to a boy straying along the shore and amusing himself with picking up here a shining pebble and there a shell somewhat prettier than usual, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before him: they should reflect that another of a still loftier order than Newton, has taught us, in words that burn, that proud man is

Most IGNORANT of what he is most ASSURED

and that a third, the lightest dash of whose pen is worth all the other two ever wrote, hath told us---“If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.” Ordinary people should let such considerations as those teach them not to wed themselves with too much obstinacy to opinions which they have adopted for no better reason than because they were heir-looms bequeathed to them by their respectable grandmothers. Much that is venerable, much that is admirable, much that is most valuable, we have so acquired. But ancestral notions should be brought out and aired like ancestral dresses. The collector who scrupulously retains all that is bestowed on him must necessarily retain much rubbish, and he who will not sift what his forefathers gleaned will probably be possessed of as much chaff as grain.

Discoveries have in fact so multiplied upon us in modern times that we have almost ceased to be surprised at them, nor does there seem any reason to doubt that the career thus commenced will be persevered in until the stored wisdom of the world consists, not in what is *supposed* but in what *has been proved*. Whenever that period shall arrive, its novelty will no longer be a sufficient ground for the rejection of a system which appeals to experience alone, and every day will teach men more impressively that their knowledge is in reality not quite so great as they have hitherto fancied it to be—and far, far less than their ignorance.

A trial is worth a thousand pages of argument. Homœopathy is not merely an ingenious system which you must take on credit. Here is no room for mistake, if the result of a few experiments, tried fairly, be not satisfactory, the theory is not true.

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