

INTRODUCTION

TO AN

ESSAY ON SCIENCE.

---

THE history of philosophy shews, that when the mind is gifted with knowledge, and energy in its pursuit, an observation, experiment, or idea, oftentimes reveals to it a further amount of knowledge, of which it had not previously any, or only a very vague, conception—oftentimes gives to it the first happy glimpse of a true definition, law, theory, science or method. We have instances of this in some of the noblest and most useful discoveries which have been made, and which at first by a mere chance were seen, and afterwards speculated on, verified or applied. Thus, a chance association disclosed to Archimedes in his bath a method for determining the specific gravities of bodies. Bacon speaks of his *Novum Organum*, as originating in a happy thought, and rather the product of time than of genius. Thus, the endeavour of Harvey to account for the use of the valves in veins,