

and other casualties. The daily newspapers bring us weather charts with isothermic, isobaric, and other lines, on which they found weather predictions or storm warnings. Surely, if counting, measuring, and calculating are the elementary processes of the scientific method, it must be admitted that the latter has permeated our practical life to an enormous extent. Thus the question can be asked, If the calculating spirit is so general, how does it come about that in its application to life and commerce it has led to so much grasp but to so little certainty; whereas in science itself it has led to so much actual and reliable knowledge? How does its application in practice differ from that in theory? The answer to this question is not far to seek, and it will introduce us to a special branch of science, to a special form of scientific thought which again is, if not a creation of the nineteenth century, yet one of its characteristic developments.

That which everywhere oppresses the practical man is the great number of things and events which pass ceaselessly before him, and the flow of which he cannot arrest. What he requires is the grasp of large numbers. The successful scientific explorer has always been the man who could single out some special thing for minute and detailed investigation, who could retire with one definite object, with one fixed problem into his study or laboratory and there fathom and unravel its intricacies, rising by induction or divination to some rapid generalisation which allowed him to establish what is termed a law or general aspect from which he could view the whole or a large part of nature. The scientific genius can "stay the moment fleeting"; he can say to the object