

In fact, the eight chapters of this work which have dealt with the various abstract views from which natural phenomena have been considered in recent times, form an elaborate refutation of the so-called Baconian, of the enumerative or "all case," method. It was the light of the idea which brought life and order into the "rudis indigestaque moles" of badly collected facts, and in many cases even led for the first time to their useful and intelligent enumeration. But now we come to a further important question. Allowing that in certain large but nevertheless secluded spheres of science a few general ideas have been found to apply and work wonders of calculation, prediction, and useful application, how about those complicated phenomena which form our natural and social environment, and where so far no scientific formula has proved powerful or comprehensive enough? Are all these elaborate enumerations and graphical representations in meteorology, in sociology, commerce, industry, and finance, to which we have instinctively and increasingly had recourse during the whole of the century, of no value? Is no useful

smallest of fractions of actual transactions is set down so that investigation can use it. Literature has been called the 'fragment of fragments,' and in the same way statistics are the 'scrap of scraps.' In real life scarcely any one knows more than a small part of what his neighbour is doing, and he scarcely makes public any of that little, or of what he does himself. A complete record of commercial facts, or even of one kind of such facts, is the completest of dreams. You might as well hope for an entire record of human conversation."

Stanley Jevons ('Principles of Science,' Preface, p. vii), says: "Within the last century a reaction has been setting in against the purely empirical procedure of Francis Bacon, and physicists have learnt to advocate the use of hypotheses. I take the extreme view of holding that Francis Bacon, although he correctly insisted upon constant reference to experience, had no correct notions as to the logical method by which, from particular facts, we educe laws of nature."