homme moyen as to studying the deviations from this ideal standard. " How little," says Mr Galton,[1] " is conveyed by the bald statement that the average income of English families is £100 a-year, compared with what we should learn if we were told how English incomes were distributed." A crowd of data furnish for the astronomer the material out of which he has to choose the most probable, the correct figure; a crowd of observations furnish for the naturalist the material from which he has to learn how nature deviates from her types and exhibits variations which are the factors of change and development. Thus, under the hands of Mr Galton, the Law of Error becomes a Law of Distribution, and the whole machinery of the doctrine of probabilities, " excogitated for the use of astronomers and others who are concerned with extreme accuracy of measurement, and without the slightest idea, until the time of Quetelet, that they might be applicable to human measures,[2] become the only tools by which an opening can be cut through the formidable thicket of difficulties that bars the path of those who pursue ' the science of man.' "

Hence while most people regard statistics as dull, they become for the naturalist and student of human nature " full of beauty and interest ";[3] there is scarcely anything so apt to impress the imagination as the wonderful form of cosmic order expressed by the " law of frequency of error." " It would have been personified by the Greeks, and deified if they had known of it."[4]

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[1] 'Natural Inheritance,' p. 35.
[2] Ibid., pp. 55, 62.
[3] Ibid., p. 62.
[4] Ibid., p. 66.