

to the degree in which they appreciate and are able to grasp mathematical methods. The subject is still under discussion, and will belong to the History of Thought of a coming age. It is enough to have indicated the latest lines of reasoning which our century has marked out, and to notice how they form a new and remarkable instance of the growth and diffusion of the exact or mathematical spirit in a department of research hitherto almost untouched by it, prepared though it has been for such treatment by one among whose great endowments a grasp of mathematical reasoning hardly formed a distinctive feature. In former chapters I have had occasion to show how Charles Darwin introduced into the science of nature two novel points of view—the genetic view and the process of judicial sifting of evidence. We may now add that he has indirectly, more than directly, furthered quite as much the statistical view of natural phenomena through which we have learned to find and trace law and order in great realms of phenomena and events usually supposed to be governed by what is termed blind chance. The study of this blind chance in theory and practice is one of the greatest scientific performances of the nineteenth century.

46.
Statistical
knowledge
one-sided.

But whilst acknowledging the great importance which the statistical treatment of phenomena has acquired in our age, and the value of the statistical view of many large departments of natural processes which escape almost every other mode of dealing with them, we must not forget that it is essentially one-sided.

Clerk-Maxwell has suggestively opposed it alike to the mechanical and the historical views, of which the former