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THE service of science to humanity was initiated when the early philosophers began to discover and record the more simple truths of nature. Then, as now, the "sciosophists," defined by David Starr Jordan as "apostles of systematized ignorance," rejected all evidence without attempting to prove or disprove, and condemned the exceptional mind that was compelled by an inner urge to attempt to penetrate into the mists that concealed the unknown.

Through many centuries human thought was confined largely to channels predetermined by the religious and political concepts of the more intelligent. To this privileged group freedom of expression by others was intolerable, and a seeker after truth other than that provided and established by authority was fair game to be hunted down and destroyed. Progress came as an undercurrent of truth that slowly gathered strength and volume, until, like the warm waters of tropical ocean currents penetrating the colder regions, it weakened the congealed crust of ignorance and prejudice, and, combining with the sunshine of scientific research, gradually dispersed systematic opposition to the growing appreciation of natural phenomena and laws.

The story of the onward march of scientific research in quest of truth is not unlike that of the white race in the conquest of America. A few fearless souls penetrated the wilderness and blazed the trails that others might follow; some fell martyrs to their zeal, but more came after; facts were determined, laws established, which in time contributed to the welfare of the race.

Science has made great progress, but its conquest of the unknown and of the unprogressive doctrines of the sciosophists is still far from complete. When we consider the many vital problems that are being discussed and the indifference and limited training of a large proportion of supposedly intelligent people, it seems only well under way. The search for truth and the interpretation of facts and their verification and application must continue, with ever-enlarging conceptions until the ultimate destiny of our race is fulfilled.

Millikan has well said: "The purpose of science is to develop without prejudice or preconception of any kind a knowledge of the facts, the laws and the processes of Nature." The search for truth based on this scientific method is one of the greatest inspirations and incentives to high and thorough endeavor. The

¹ Address of the retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D. C., December 29, 1924.

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