

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1899.

TRUTH AND ERROR.\*

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"If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instruction. I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching."

"Science," says Powell, "deals with realities. These are bodies and their properties. Known realities are those about which mankind have knowledge; scientific research is the endeavor to increase knowledge, and its methods are experience, observation and verification."

While most men of science admit all this as good precept, history warns them that they must be on their guard, lest they fall unknowingly into the dream-land of the 'philosophers;' for our author tells us that "The dream of intellectual intoxication seems to some to be more real and more worthy of the human mind than the simple truths discovered by science."

While rebuking the metaphysicians, our author does not spare those men of science who assert that while science deals with the *properties* of matter the real nature of matter—what it is in itself—is quite unknown: "As though its properties did not constitute its essential nature."

"Would a sane person," he asks, "speak

\* By J. W. Powell. Chicago, The Open Court Publishing Co., 1898.

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