Practical utility of the sciences of Chemistry and Nat. Philosophy to the professional man.

To a person unacquainted with the Science of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, the study of either would appear of little importance, save to the Chemist & Philosopher; yet it is easy to show that both are of great practical use to every professional man. To effect this a general description of the two sciences is necessary.

It is the province of Chemistry to investigate all changes in the constitution of matter. Its field of action is as extensive as the globe. Creation itself is her laboratory. Her empire comprises the Animal, Vegetable & Mineral kingdoms.

Philosophy is defined "the tracing of general facts to their original causes." Its subjects are mind and matter. Former relates to intellectual philosophy, the latter to physics.

Passing over the incalculable value of these sciences in their particular applications, my object is to show they are of practical utility to the professional man, whether physician, civilian or clergyman.
With some exceptions, they are the basis of all human knowledge, & better prepare the mind to understand what is revealed.

From this concise view, it is manifest their province is wide as the world, deep as the earth, high as the heavens. Their objects numerous as the blades of grass, or numberless as the sands. Then where in all this range, will the professional character, want opportunity to turn to practical use this knowledge of either of these sciences? If, if they are justly defined, then the position taken above is self-evident.

It is men of the three professions it belongs to take the lead in society. They will bless or curse mankind accordingly as they are enlightened & virtuous, or ignorant & vicious. Of all it is true, they will have occasion to encourage by their eloquence all improvements, or to frown to oblivion all imposters. In this men generally devolves the duty of attending examinations of schools, academies, & colleges, from the former of which multitudes are forth issuing to fill the common & humble walks of life. A sound knowledge of these sciences is indispensable, justice to estimate & award merit.

It also falls within the province of the professional man to instruct & entertain others: & how can this be done more successfully than by amusing phenomena which he may exhibit & explain, if master of these sciences? In this way he will obtain a kind of useful supremacy over those whom he is to benefit.
The success of the medical art depends chiefly upon that of chemistry. Indeed, what drug or medicine may not be found or at least prepared in a perfect laboratory? A skilful physician, ought know not merely the use of his medicine when prepared, but should be able to prepare it himself.

Conjectures have been made, even, that the astonishing longevity of human life in the coming Millennium, when there shall be no infant of days, and the child shall die an hundred years old, will be effected in part by the perfection of this art. By the aid of chemical agents and philosophical knowledge, it is confidently believed that life itself may be prolonged; and there is a prospect that this mysterious something may yet be discovered.

And, since an ascendency over the mind of his patient, his senses suppressed, is necessary to success in healing the diseases of the body & philosophical accuracy with the laws of the mind & passions will be of great importance.

Paradoxical, though it be, the laboratory & chancery are not entirely separated, but the aids of the former are sometimes called for in the discourses of the latter. It is upon the mind & passions of men the civilizer has most to operate. Hence he derives assistance from intellectual & moral philosophy.

It is justly asserted that there has been too much divorce between natural & revealed religion. But while one class has been too much guarded against the light of nature, another has fallen into the opposite extreme.

In showing their practical utility to the clergy, men I shall have opportunity to establish the position I have taken, that this science enable
him better to understand Revelation. Natural & revealed religion are for the most part in unison. Truly, the latter was not designed to obscure the former, nor the former to repel the latter. The labour in the court of his ministry introduced chemical proc. to illustrate his doctrine & on several occasions gave proof of the soundness of his philosophy. Indeed it is one of the peculiar advantages of an acquaintance with these sciences that they furnish most happy illustrations. & frequently allusions may be made to them with the greatest propriety.

The Christian minister may be able to convince the candid mind of the doctrines of Christianity by the plain declarations of the Bible, not by the inspired of itself. They are told to deny all premises derived from this source. Of the Bible say they, "it may be true it may not be true, it appears like the ravings of a sublime imagination, the productions of phantasy." Although he may maintain the disputed ground, it is sometimes convenient to attack them on their own. It is by sound philosophy, he can toll them then. The attempt is conclusive. If not, having once driven them from their lair, into the open light of day, he may successfully assault & vanquish them upon grounds of the case before unvailing to acknowledge the practical utility of a knowledge of Chemistry. Not only to the occupied man, but it has been illuminated of Chemistry & Philosophy. Their practical hands had "refused to point out in two thousand ways the proofs of a designing mind," & which give stability's impression to the believer.

Dexter Parker.