

that most loudly proclaim his fame, but rather his labors in the field of chemistry, a recreative pursuit, that have entwined his name with greatness and bestowed upon him a world wide renown. An amateur in the use of apparatus and methods, with but a meagre knowledge of chemistry, one who accidentally made great discoveries, Joseph Priestley plucked light from the blackest darkness of ignorance. Groping about in the field of chemistry he brought to light facts that astonished the world and on which a new chemistry has been built. He worked not with apparatus made by skilled workmen, as to-day, but with that of his own manufacture and invention or made under his direction by unskilled mechanics. Gases being the great field of his labors he has been truthfully styled the "Father of Pneumatic Chemistry."

How many of you as you breathe the life-giving essence of the air, think of the man who as secretary to Lord Shelburne, on the first of August, seventeen hundred and seventy, discovered oxygen, the essential principle of all life. That man was none other than Joseph Priestley, the one time stammering preacher of Nantwich. Though the discovery of oxygen made Priestley famous and will perpetuate his name, to him belongs the discovery of the essential of the smelling salts, the boon of the journeying dame, ammonia gas; of laughing gas, that gas which has made the one time painful ordeal of the dentist's chair almost a pleasure; of muriatic acid; carbon monoxide; sulphur dioxide; nitric oxide and silicon fluoride.

His views as to religion may or may not have been wrong, his theory of chemistry at fault, but we dare not contradict the fact that it was for views in advance of his day that he was unduly censured and most brutally treated. It is characteristic of the man that all who did not think as Priestley thought were considered his opponents and were subject to the attack of his pen. He was a man of such