but by the repeated proofs that practical men have given.

Fifth, We can but lament that the professedly wise men of the present day should so much content themselves with the relation of the opinions and experiments which ancient authors have supplied, without producing a single proof of their own researches and practical demonstrations; as if these sages had already dried up the fountain of discovery, or that nothing more was needed to be known; especially as the natural resources of such men in general (particularly those who have a few unmeaning letters at the end of their names) are so much more compatible with the subject, as to time and wealth, than the practical artificer, who have fewer means or opportunities to explore causes and effects, except it be in the execution which he is daily called to engage in. But perhaps the reply with these persons will be, that the vast labour and expense attendant on all such experiments, on a large scale, which is the only plan likely to be useful, would far exceed the abilities of individuals, who might otherwise be disposed to investigate this useful branch of mechanical knowledge. And this objection, say they, has been the only cause why so little has been done to determine by experiment this all-important subject.

Admitting the whole of this plea, that the scale which is nearest to full size on which any experiments are made, to be indubitably the most conclusive, and also that such experiments are always attended with considerable expense, likewise readily admitting that there are some of the sterling sons of art (and Mathematicians among the rest) who are not very wealthy; for it has been proved a mournful truth, that

Artists are seldom born with golden lockets;
Of those most rich in skill, most poor in pockets.