have established for ever a true and lawful marriage between the empirical and the rational faculty [in other words, between knowledge based on practical experience and knowledge based on logic]. . . I contrive [declare] that the office [role] of the sense[s] shall be only to judge the experiment, and that the experiment itself shall judge the thing [should be the judge of the truth or success of an hypothesis]. . . Those . . . who aspire not to guess . . . but to discover and know; who propose not to invent . . . fabulous worlds of their own, but to examine and dissect the nature of this very world itself; must go to facts themselves for everything. . . .

For man[kind] is but the servant and interpreter of nature; what he does and what he knows is only what he has observed of nature's order. . . .

Reprinted by permission of Macmillan Publishing Company from Francis Bacon, Essays, Advancement of Learning, New Atlantis, and Other Pieces, edited by Richard F. Jones (New York: Odyssey Press, 1937; copyright renewed ©1965), pp. 243–264.