

arbitrary divisions of Europe into kingdoms and states at that time must be known. Good maps, on which to trace routes and battles are indispensable; a war cannot be understood or followed without them.

The negotiations and treaties, not only between the great sovereigns, but between the petty German and Italian princes, would have to be noted; and rightly to appreciate them, the constitution of the Empire, and the discordant rights of the Emperor, the secular and spiritual princes, and the free cities would all require careful consideration. The anomalous relations of the Italian states to the Empire would also be observed.

Enough has perhaps been said to explain what is meant by systematic reading, the only fitting way in which history should be studied. Let not any one think that thus studied history will be dry and uninteresting. New charms, new sources of interest will thus arise; even comparatively dull and uninteresting books thus read will have an interest. For thus you will arrive at the core of history; you will see men as they really are; you will appreciate their situations; you will perceive on what grounds they acted, and will be able to see things with their eyes.

History, if worth studying at all, is worth studying thus; yet it may be studied far more deeply than this. Nothing less than this is historical reading at all,—and thus to study it will be as much as most have leisure to do. All may find time and opportunity to read thus some leading historical works, and to gain a sufficient knowledge of the history of their own country, and of some of the most important periods in those of other nations. But those who have leisure and taste for historical pursuits will find themselves amply repaid by a more profound course of study. To study completely the history of a particular period, it is not sufficient to read even in the way I have suggested, one or two histories of it. To do so is an excellent basis, but only a basis. The superstructure, built with the same accuracy, step by step, never laying a stone without being satisfied of the solidity and correct position of the one below it, is a far more extensive work. The course of study required has been well pointed out by Dr. Arnold in his lectures on Modern History. Having selected your period, a short one if possible, you begin by reading one or two contemporary authors, if possible of opposite sides, or natives of different countries, if the period selected be one of internal dissensions, of political or religious disputes, or marked by foreign wars. You would thus be put in possession of the general outline of facts, and, to some degree, with the case of both sides, and with the prevalent tones of thought. But now a somewhat more tedious though most valuable course awaits you. Is a treaty of importance made you would consult Rymer's *Fœdera*; you

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