

and nationality, is an element of future greatness, and time only can develop the latent qualities of the whole when merged into one. History has always shown that when a people can *easily* get a competency or wallow in riches, degeneracy of mind follows. Note Egypt, Persia, Rome.

To the student who has thought out the gradual development of literature, its changes are as full of wonder as are the formation of rocks to the geologist. Early man tried like the child of to-day to draw, and in the rude endeavour scratched with a flint tool on bones found in the caves of Southern France, we may see the beginnings of an art which culminated in the creation of writing. Dr. Isaac Taylor says that "the history of writing forms no exception to that law of development which modern research has found to preside over the destinies of the universe." Printing has been the great medium of development of literature in modern days. The germ of its discovery was innate; but it took centuries to evolve it, and to attain to the degree of excellence it now possesses. Signet rings and seals and the scarabæi found in Egyptian tombs bore elaborate inscriptions evidently intended to be transferred to the surface of substances fitted to receive them. The dies of coin in all countries involve the same idea. What the intellectual exigencies of future generations may be who can tell? Education is spreading every day, and in every country. A love of knowledge, of science, of literature is penetrating all communities deeper and deeper, and will, in the onward march of civilization, be universal. Doubtless men in the future as in the past will continue to develop contrivances answerable to all needs. Photography and electricity may be enlisted yet further than they have already been in the service of letters, and appliances for satisfying the mental hunger of the human race, having photography and electricity as co-efficients, may possibly be thought of which to us now would seem to involve the incredible, but which to our descendants will be things of course, and classed by them among the ordinary conveniences of every day life. Nothing is now impossible.

Lord Justice Fry not long ago wrote an article in the *Contemporary Review* on the subject of imitation as a factor in human progress. He says "how far the manual and technical arts of human life owe their