

their glory and their happiness. They exchanged the love of their wise domestic institutions for the ambitious subjugation of distant countries. Sesostrius diminished the true glory of Egypt by a restless ambition to extend her territory. Look at the ancient Persians. What brought such lasting fame to them among the nations of the world? The equity and strict execution of their laws. It was their sovereign disdain of falsehood and dishonesty in their public transactions. They considered fraud a most degrading vice.

Their respect for education was so extraordinary that no sorrow was ever expressed for young people who died uninstructed. They paid such minute attention to the children of the Sovereign, that at the age of fourteen, four statesmen who excelled, in different talents were employed to take care of and instruct the children. By one they were instructed in the principles of justice, by another they were taught to subdue sensuality; by a third they were initiated in the art of government and by a fourth in the duties of religion. But it will be found that nearly the same causes that forwarded the ruin of Egypt, contributed to destroy Persia a departure from fundamental principles of legislature and morals to which it had been indebted for its long prosperity and grandeur.

Then look at Greece, especially at Athens, the theatre of arms, the cradle of arts, the school of philosophy and the parent of eloquence. Was there ever such another diminutive spot that concentrated within itself so much that was great and eminent in almost every point of view? To be regarded as the mistress of learning the oracle of taste and the standard of politeness to the civilised nations of the world, was no small distinction. But Athens, the famous seat of arts and of letters became dishonored by her disorders. Corruption, lawlessness and crimes. Many of her vices originated in the very nature of her constitution in the very spirit of her turbulent democracy that no Solon could restrain. The republican restlessness increased with every change. Subordination was a thing of the past.

The lower classes claimed it as their right to partake in the diversions of the rich. They aimed to become leaders and have equal rights with the popular leaders of the higher classes. They acquired a passionate fondness for scenic diversions until part of the public funds was diverted to the support of their theatres in which they almost lived. The universal tendency to luxury and idleness prevailed and their splendid works of genius stood aside while their