

maker, that little line between the day of the month and the age of the moon. It tells of many things which may interest the human heart, and afford matter for serious, useful, and productive thoughts to human intelligence. It is from a text of this kind I am about to write. The events which are grouped together as having happened on the same day or month, may belong to very remote countries and far distant periods of time, and be of very different characters; but there is often found in them a unity of ultimate result, which is enforced yet more strongly by that variety, and may serve to illustrate how the mind, even of the most unaided student, is built up with rich materials gathered from the most diversified sources. Heroes, sages, legislators, philosophers, bards, great men, and mighty deeds, or even apparently trifling actions—but nevertheless momentous in their results—from ancient and modern times, are all contributions to the intellect of the student, as the infinite elements of nature are to our physical frame. They all serve to build up that power within us, which, in the unity of its result, has some correspondence with the magnitude and number of the materials that have contributed towards its erection, and which becomes capable of rendering something in turn towards the advancement of that world which has in such different ways contributed to its own formation and individual progress.

In glancing at the chronological hints furnished by the almanac in the present month—the first event which naturally strikes the English mind is, that it was in October (14th) of the year 1066, that by the battle of Hastings, the country fell under the dominion of William the Norman. That able and daring adventurer, at the head of a band of warriors, who, if they possessed not their leader's ability, partook in some measure of his daring, threw himself upon the coast, fought one great battle, and then he became king, and they lords of England. It occupied some years, indeed, to reduce the whole country entirely under subjection; but in that single event we find the turning point of the history; from that time suc-

cess followed success, until at length the vain struggle was brought to a termination; the Norman dynasty was seated upon the British throne. Then arose that feudalism which has left its traces so broad and deep even to our own times in the territorial lordliness which seeks to resolve all institutions and legislation into mere state-contrivances for a dominant class; which introduced and has kept up so much of haughtiness on the one side and servility on the other; which has left so many marks of its baneful influence, obvious to an attentive observer, of the subjugation of the country, and gave the peculiar character and tone which from that time forward the history of England bears.

If we go back to a very ancient time, fifteen centuries earlier than the period I have referred to, what a different lesson is taught us, by the repulse which the Greeks gave to the Persian invaders. It was in this same month of October that the great naval battle of Salamis was fought, in which a small but extraordinary people drove back the myriad hosts of the barbarians which were brought against them. Xerxes appeared to have succeeded in his invasion. A free people were quailing beneath the power and numbers of oriental barbarians. A considerable portion of Greece was overrun by the troops, who had just obtained possession of Athens itself, where only a few old people had been left to defend the city; they were massacred, and the city was in the hands of the Persians. So confident were the invaders of success, that Xerxes had had his throne erected upon a cliff-top, upon which he sat at sunrise, as though he were merely about to look at a pageant, and behold the destruction of those few rebels, as he already deemed them, who had dared to impede the triumphant course of his armament. But when the shock of the conflict commenced, galley was opposed to galley, and man to man, when through the long strife with the unequal number of vessels, worse manned, as well as fewer in number, than the ships of their opponents, as hour after hour wore away, the destruction of the Persian navy became more and more conspicuous,