

old the draperies of *asbestos*<sup>11</sup> were cleansed, and must quicken them into regenerated life. Willingly I acknowledge that no man will ever avoid innumerable errors of detail; with so vast a compass of ground to traverse, this is impossible; but such errors (though I have a bushel on hand, at M. Michelet's service) are not the game I chase; it is the bitter and unfair spirit in which M. Michelet writes against England. Even *that*, after all, is but my secondary object; the real one is Joanna the Pucelle d'Orleans for herself.

I am not going to write the History of *La Pucelle*:<sup>12</sup> to do this, or even circumstantially to report the history of her persecution and bitter death, of her struggle with false witnesses and with ensnaring judges, it would be necessary to have before us *all* the documents, and therefore the collection only now forthcoming in Paris. But *my* purpose is narrower. There have been great thinkers, disdaining the careless judgments of contemporaries, who have thrown themselves boldly on the judgment of a far posterity, that should have had time to review, to ponder, to compare. There have been great actors on the stage of tragic humanity that might, with the same depth of confidence, have appealed from the levity of compatriot friends—too heartless for the sublime interest of their story, and too impatient for the labor of sifting its perplexities—to the magnanimity and justice of enemies. To this class belongs the Maid of Arc. The ancient Romans were too faithful to the ideal of grandeur in themselves not to relent, after a generation or two, before the grandeur of Hannibal.<sup>13</sup> Mithridates<sup>14</sup>—a

11. **Asbestos**; A form of hornblende consisting of fine crystalline fibers, with a silky luster, which may be woven into cloth. It is said that the ancients wrapped the bodies of their dead in asbestos cloth, to keep their ashes separate from those of the funeral pile. Charlemagne, says legend, was wont to astonish his guests by throwing his asbestos tablecloth into the fire after dinner.

12. **La Pucelle**; "The Maid," or "The Virgin;" the common French designation for Joan of Arc.

13. **Hannibal**; The famous Carthaginian general, who when nine years old was made by his father, Hamilcar, to swear eternal enmity to Rome. In 217 B. C. he led a vast army across the Alps, and for a time threatened the empire with total destruction. In 183 B. C. he took poison to escape falling into the hands of his old enemies.

14. **Mithridates**; A ferocious king of Pontus, who for many years waged war against the Romans. In the last war against Pompey, 63 B. C., his son Pharnaces having rebelled, Mithridates, after attempting ineffectually to poison himself, ordered one of his Gallic mercenaries to dispatch him with his sword.