

whether it is borne out by the facts with which you are acquainted. This necessity for an accurate apprehension of a subject will naturally call forth such habits of mind as insure distinct and clear statement. Powers of definition, division, and arrangement will be acquired and cultivated, and the culture and discipline of the mind will be carried to a high state of perfection.

At the outset of the work, you will be led to observe the circumstances which led to the sovereignty of such vast and divided dominions being all vested in the person of Charles V. You would examine his genealogy, and thus perceive how by successive marriages the house of Austria, from being petty lords of the Castle of Hapsburg, became eventually the most powerful sovereign house in Europe, and threatened the absorption of all their neighbours. From this you will see the great importance of attending to genealogies, in the early and mediæval history of Europe. Genealogies, like names and dates, are of no value in themselves. A man may know the names, dates, and genealogies of all the royal houses in Europe, and yet have no knowledge of history whatever; but as dates are requisite to be known in order to a right understanding of the sequence of events, so genealogies are of great value, both as indicating the relationship between the various sovereigns, which often affected in a great degree the political relations of one state towards another, and because many of the wars of Europe were wars of successions,—questions of disputed inheritance where each competitor claimed to be the true heir to the crown,—and a right understanding of them can only be attained by a knowledge of the genealogies and an acquaintance with the principles of succession. The wars of Edward III with France, and the civil wars of York and Lancaster, are instances known to us all. The wars between Charles V and Francis I were in a great measure grounded on claims which each had, or supported in others, to various parts of Italy, particularly to Milan and Naples, and we cannot get at any right view of the questions at issue without a clear knowledge of the descents through which each party claimed.

The extent and geographical features of the Empire of Charles would receive considerable attention, how his policy was affected by it, and what was the effect of the physical features of the several states and provinces on the character of their inhabitants. Physical geography is of great importance in history. "It is," says Dr. Arnold, "that part in the dominion of knowledge where physical and moral science meet together." The valley of the Po, the chain of the Appennines, the northern-Alps, the marshes of Ravenna, have had more influence on the history of Italy than one unacquainted with the facts would readily believe. Again, the