

stopping a moment to consider them, were it not that some little thing led our mind in that direction. For example, a coin referring to that period or to that personage might suffice to make us reflect and finally study very attentively that portion of history.

Take up the daily paper, and week after week you will pass over the column that is headed "News from South America," or China. Why is it so? Because you have no great interest in the affairs of these far-off countries, and you fly to what is nearer home and what may touch on yourself or your friends. But suppose a friend or a relative of yours should go to South America, or to China, or to any other out-of-the-way place, the moment you would come to a paragraph in a paper referring to that particular place, you would jump at once at it and read it over and over.

It is the same with the study of the past. If you have nothing that recalls to your mind the importance of any epoch or event you pass it over, and even if you should happen to read it you forget it at once. But when you are specially drawn towards that point you linger upon it and around it and you impress it upon your memory. And no means in the world so useful as coins to attain this very desirable end.

When a person has studied the past by means of these little pieces of metal, he is enabled to build himself a species of world that exists in his own mind and of which he can say, "I am monarch of all I survey."

The history of the world appears to such a person as a vast desert, here and there a beautiful spot, an oasis with its palms and its fountains, here and there a stately monument looming up from the midst of surrounding solitude—the more magnificent, the greater the desolation at its feet—a pyramid, a sphynx, a kirtchez tomb. Such a person can see and notice and admire the mighty minds that rise and