

there are not many beyond the Humber that have ever reached that standard of erudition." In order to remedy this state of things he is said by some to have then learned the Latin language. As, however, he was sent to Rome when he was four years old, and the Pope took him as his Bishopson and anointed him as King, Hume considers it more likely that whilst at Rome he may have begun his Latin studies. In any case, he knew Latin so well in his later years that he translated Bede's "Church History," Orosius' "Universal History," Boethius' "Philosophy," and Gregory's Pastoral and his work on "The Care of the Soul." To Orosius' writings he also added with his own pen accounts of the northern countries, supplied by a Norwegian whale-fisher. Thus he supplied materials for the education of the clergy, and laid the foundation of our English literature. Unhappily, the Bible would seem to have been then an unknown book. If he had had access to it in Latin or English, what a flood of light would have been poured into his soul, and through him upon his subjects! Still, bright rays of Divine truth did indirectly enter his mind, and made him, as Lord Rosebery said in his eloquent speech at Winchester, "the ideal Englishman, the perfect Sovereign, the pioneer of England's greatness." His own brave resolve, like that our late lamented Queen, was remarkably fulfilled. "This will I say, that I have sought to live worthily while I lived, and after my life to leave to the men who come after a remembrance in good works."

Most significant and appropriate is the colossal statue lately erected to his memory at Winchester. It presents the King of Wessex with his left hand on his shield, and his right upholding a sword point downwards and hilt shaped like a cross held high aloft. Thus it is implied that Alfred was more than a mere conqueror, and that the Cross and the mercy it symbolises were more to him than victory. This touch of Christian character, at the unveiling of the statue, won universal plaudits. Many other circumstances connected with the great Winchester function will not be easily forgotten. One interesting fact of an educational character, not perhaps generally known, was mentioned by Sir J. Evans, in his address on the coinage of Alfred, to which it may be well to draw attention. It was he who first introduced the silver penny, and the schoolboy who repeats that twenty-four grains make one pennyweight may need to be told that he is virtually reciting an edict of the great and good King as to the amount of silver in the oldest pennies.

Only his books, coins, and a jewel, which may have been presented by him to some Bishop in a copy of Gregory's works, and intended to be a marker, have come down to us from that remote antiquity. His body was laid to rest near the Cathedral of Winchester, but no stone now marks the spot. Still, it may be said of him in a much larger sense, in the words of Sir Christopher Wren's inscription in St. Paul's, "*Si quaeris monumentum, circumspice.*" — The School Guardian.