

appeared in print in complete form. This song of nature was conceived and written amid the natural beauties of Dr. Rand's native province, while the poet was regaling in the charms of Summer at Partridge Island, N. S. Our readers, we are sure, will greatly appreciate the poem which is so symmetrical and so suggestive of response to the inspirations of nature and of art.—*Ed. ATHENÆUM.*]

## History as a School of Statesmanship.

In order to show that history is the school in which the statesman receives his training, we have to ask—I What is the problem that presents itself to the statesman? II How far does history help to solve this problem?

In answer to our first question we may say that the greatest problem confronting the politician is that of making law. On the face of it this may not seem a very difficult problem. However when we stop and consider that "making law" is not simply the formulating of a measure in Parliament and placing it on the statute book without regard to already existing laws, but is rather in some sense expressing in statute the teachings of the natural, mechanical, mental and moral laws, we see at once how arduous is the task of the statesman.

An act is passed in Parliament stating that all children at the age of twelve must be able to understand and explain the "Binomial Theorem." The execution of this law would be possible only in some instance perhaps, but this fact would defeat the purpose for which the law was framed. Here we see the law of nature saying that to comply with this measure would overtax the mental power of the child and possibly cause the physical wreck of many a youth.

Then we see that law must regard the already existing laws, if not, all is chaos. A law is not a law unless it corresponds with the thinking of people. It is not a law unless it expresses the moral law. Now we see that the work of the statesman is not so much to create law, because back of every statesman lies a long period of growth and development. Therefore his work as a wise and farseeing statesman is to modify and shape already existing habits and customs into rule and law; to make additions and improvements: and to anticipate growing tastes and tendencies.

This is the problem the statesman has to solve. Then how far will history help him to solve this problem? What is history? One has said that it is the biographies of states. It does seem that the aim of history not to give pleasure or confer fame, but rather to throw light on the course of human affairs. We may say further that the true office of history is to represent the events themselves together with the counsels and to leave the operations and conclusions thereupon to the liberty and faculty of every man's judgment. This being