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WHAT constitutes the power, the wealth, the greatness, the happiness of nations? Not the soil, however rich—the climate, however genial; or the population, however numerous or dense. These form but the inert body of national greatness, which, like other inert matter, must be subservient to the moral power of another body, unless the soul of intelligence is breathed into its own.

Did physical circumstances cause national greatness, Egypt and India, the oldest countries in the world, as well as the most fertile, and which, from their proximity to where the subsiding waters of the Deluge left the Ark, probably were first settled by that part of the human family who remained after the general destruction of the Antediluvian world—which were the cradle of Science, of knowledge, and of the Arts of life—where Astronomy and Geometry had their birth; and where, it is probably not too great a stretch of imagination to suppose that, a portion of the knowledge that the Patriarch of the Flood had received from those who lived in the days when God was more familiarly known to his creatures was handed down by tradition.

These countries, rich beyond parallel in a teeming soil which returns an abundant harvest twice every year, all but spontaneously, with a climate ripening and bringing to perfection all the fruits of the earth, with a population as numerous as the sands on the Sea shore, what are they now? the one ground down and trodden under foot by Tartar hordes; and the one hundred and seventeen millions of the other legislated for, and governed by, the moral power of twenty-two thousand Europeans.

The advantage of historical knowledge consists, to a great extent, in the power that it gives us of judging of the causes of the rise, progress, decline, and fall of Nations, to enable us to regulate the present by, and read the future in the past.

Why are these Nations fallen? Because, though great in the Arts and Sciences, their knowledge was not diffused through the body of society, but confined rigorously to a part of it. CASTE, that