

resolutely through them, stopping only here and there to pick up a chance leaf of rare beauty, and perhaps carry it with us. The great bulk is destined to be buried in oblivion by the snows of the coming winter. The authors, writers, scribblers, ink-spillers of the present day are legion. We do well to discriminate carefully. But the great masters whose productions have outlived the frosts and snows and storms of ages and are bound to live, we must not leave unread nor unstudied. The lucre-loving camp-followers of an army we may ignore, but the officers in command and the general whose vision sweeps the horizon, men upon whose skill hangs the destiny of empires, these we must know. We can afford not to know the names of the individual foot-hills of the Alps and the Himalayas and the Rockies, but Mount Blanc and Everest and St. Elias, Mount Sinai and Mount Sion, the eternal peaks whose storm-topping heads tower up into the clouds of heaven, and that are indissolubly connected with human history must not be to us as a terra incognita.

(3.) I have spoken of the English masters and the English classics. I venture to specify one that has become the greatest of all our classics, that has moulded the thought and affected the style of all our great writers, namely, the English Bible. You may think it strange that I should mention this as one of the subjects of knowledge, for you say, Is it not of our chief text-book? Yes, it is. It holds the first place on the professor's lecture-desk. We open and close the day's work with it. Yet, is it not true that although we read it most, we perhaps study and know it least? I speak of it last because I consider it most important of all. No man to-day is educated who does not know the Bible. I take it for granted that, sooner or later, we shall be able to read it fluently in its original languages, which Chalmers calls "the first vocables of inspiration." I am now putting in a plea for the study of it in English. The temptation to neglect it is strong. The multitude of other studies that seem to have a more immediate claim, is apt to