

consider you very ignorant for having had the "check" to offer him such a token. And ignorant indeed you would be were you to thus lose for one cent's value what might, perhaps, bring you several dollars were you to offer it to a collector or to a museum.

If in one place the ancient coin has no value, in another place it is worth very much. How would the one who makes such an assertion like to have in his possession a couple of those small coins which, though only a shilling's worth in real value, brought the other day a thousand pounds each when sold at auction in the city of London?

However, coins are not valued by their weight or their composition. Often a copper piece, half worn, half eaten with rust, would be a thousand times more valuable than a bright heavy gold coin. These things are measured and weighed by their age, by their origin, by their historical connections, by the circumstances under which they were discovered.

Then our nineteenth century, steam engine, mad civilization friend will tell us that he sees no profit in the study of the past and of the men who have gone before us. Perchance he does not, but others do. And if he knew how to profit by experience, how to learn his lessons, how to improve upon the works of others, how to imitate great examples, how to take warning by the faults of others, he would soon know how useful to persons in every sphere of life, from the labourer to the governor, from the peasant to the general, is the study of the deeds of men and the works of peoples.

Often we may be reading for days the history of nations in general or of a people in particular, and during all that time meet with no event, no fact, no deed, no person that would attract our attention in a very particular and striking manner. We might pass over some of the more important events or some of the most renowned of names without