

tual food than that reaped by tales of enchantment and sentimentality; for by it he becomes conversant with the people of the past, and knowledge steals in unnoticed. By its aid, day after day, a link is added to the chain, until at length it reaches to the time when man was placed upon the earth. In page after page, scenes the most sublime excite our imagination, and implant in our bosoms a desire of walking in the footsteps of the good and great.

On the one page the reader of history is filled with grand and noble sentiments; courage and manliness grow stronger in his breast, when he beholds with what bravery man has fought and suffered. In history he finds the very theatre of bloody contests; and a picture of a battle field flashes before his eyes and drives from his mind thoughts of effeminacy and luxury, and inspires sympathies nobler than the most melancholy romance could excite.

He is a dead soul who cannot be moved by viewing such scenes as those painted in history. He is void of sentiment who cannot look with sorrow at towering cities crumbling away to ruin and decay, or at a proud nation reaching the height of glory only to be doomed to bow in submission to another. Such scenes as those have roused to action the most effeminate, and furnished abundant food for both poetical and prosaic writers. On another page the monotony is broken; Peace and Concord—kind brother and sister—rule supreme. No longer pitiful cries of strife are heard; no longer the father is separated from the family sanctuary; and now the youthful son blesses the homestead by his presence, and all is harmony. Discord sleeps and concord rules. The progress of science is no longer impeded, knowledge and art begin to flourish, and the whole nation wears a pleasant smile. These with a thousand other interesting facts are read on the pages of history; and who will deny that they afford as much pleasure as books of little worth? By historical reading we acquire grand and noble feelings, our memory is strengthened, our cares are lessened, our conversation is enriched, temptations are banished, our task is made lighter, and we enter society with prompt and ready speech.

Ours is styled the age of progress; and the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant,—all try with the greatest solicitude to attain knowledge of science

and art, and devote not a few hours in attempting to disclose those treasures which yet lie buried in clouds of darkness. Every shadow is removed, every barrier is penetrated, every mountain is climbed, every difficulty is surmounted, to arrive at a path which will lead to new discoveries. Every thing is sought for save the end for which we were created and the manner of attaining it, or the duties we must perform. To Him "who willed and immediately brought us into existence" is due pre-eminently our greatest homage, and Him alone should we adore and glorify; yet there are others who demand our respect and honor, our love and obedience; for, none being born without a master, we are all born to obey. The rich must depend upon the poor, the poor must be subject to the rich; the young must look to the old for knowledge, and the aged to the young for support. In youth's sweet hours our obedience is strongly tested, for it is then we are subjected to many masters; but of these there is none to whom we owe so many obligations as to our parents, for day after day we are made the subject of their love and affection. Restless nights they value at nought, if from them we may derive any happiness; for us they become the subject of self-abnegation, and for our sakes they undergo a thousand inconveniences. If then all kindness looks forward for some reward, how great must be the reward which is due to the kindness of loving parents. Theirs is two-fold, the one in heaven, the other on earth; and none but an ungrateful child will fail to return those acts of love which were shown him in his childhood that he might exercise them in after years on those from whom they were received.

Kind parents, knowing that in conscience they are bound to provide for us, according to their means, an education suitable to our standing in life, seldom fail to embrace every opportunity which may present itself. Nay, too often they undergo many sacrifices on their part to provide for us a sufficient knowledge to enable us to refrain from sawning upon others for our daily sustenance; and their greatest pleasure is to see us honest, respectable, and, as far as possible, independent men. As it is their duty to provide, so is it ours to obey their commands by performing our tasks faithfully and well; for he who wastes the time afforded him by his parents, and fails to profit by the opportunities