

purposes without ever having studied Greek. Again the general truths of linguistic science, having once been worked out by the study and comparison of many tongues are capable of being so distinctly stated and so clearly illustrated out of the resources of our own language as to be made clear to the sense of every intelligent English scholar. Nevertheless he only can be said to have fully mastered them, who can bring to them independent illustrations from the same data, which led to their establishment. This work of translation is far from being yet completely done and an inexhaustible mass of materials still remains to be explored and elaborated while more is constantly being developed; and men have to be trained for this task not less than for the investigation of material nature. Again, what a vast literature a knowledge of the language lays before us. It were indeed vain to deny that high culture is within reach of him who rightly studies the English language and English masterpieces alone, knowing nothing of any other. More of the fruits of knowledge are deposited in it and in its literature than any one man can make his own. History affords at least one illustrious example, within our own near view of a people, that has risen to the loftiest pinnacle of culture, with no aid from linguistic study; it is the Greek people. To the true Greek, from the beginning to the end of Grecian history, every tongue save his own was barbarous and unworthy of his attention. No trace of Hebrew or Sanskrit was to be found in the curriculum of the Athenian student. What the ancient Greeks could do, let it not be said that the modern Englishman, with a tongue into which has been poured the treasures of all literature and science from every part of the world and from times far beyond the dawn of Grecian History cannot accomplish. We must be careful however not to hasten from this to the conclusion that there is no longer good ground for our studying any language save our own. In Greece and Rome are the beginnings of all that we most value. There is as it were the very heart of the great past, whose secrets are unlocked by language.

This is the firm and indestructible foundation of the extraordinary importance, attaching to the study of the classical languages. Nothing, that may arise hereafter can interfere with it. Greek and Latin must continue the sources of knowledge as to the beginnings of history and and be studied as long as history is studied. But some say, read our own masterpieces, read Shakespeare, the greatest of dramatists. When it is admitted that for varied in-