

man, along the path of human progress. Stow commences his history by saying:—"Thank God old London was burnt." If the old city had not been burnt the new could not have been built. We need not call evil good, nor darkness light; we need not give all races and times equal praise for their contributions towards the grand result, to believe that somewhere and somehow, in all the past, amid its direst calamities and darkest intellectual nights, whatever was sought or suffered, lost or won, mankind were learning some truth, gaining some experience essential to the advancement of the race. This is the spirit in which we should say:—"Ours is an age of Progress." That which enables us to say it of the day when the Israelites upon the shores of the Red Sea, with strained eyes beheld the hosts of Pharaoh engulfed in the waves, and then for the first time drew the breath of a free people. And equally so, of that period when the long wearied justice of heaven at last smote the idolatrous tribes and scattered them for all time, a remnant among many people. To say it, not only of the age in which Roman power extended Roman law from Arabia to Britain, but also of the time when Goths, Huns and Vandals, Franks and Suevi, poured their desolating hordes upon the fertile fields, vine-clad hills and luxurious cities of Southern Europe. To say it of the time in which vainglorious and superstitious crusaders fought for the Holy Sepulchre;—of that in which Charlemagne wept as he saw the barks of the Norsemen in the Mediterranean;—of that in which Danish pirates wasted and Norman William oppressed Saxon England; and of that in which the nation divided into hostile factions, fought on a score of bloody fields to decide whether a white rose or a red should adorn the crown. When we can thus see that every age has been a progressive one, not always in the same degree nor in the same manner, but really and essentially furnishing its indispensable quota towards the elevation of mankind, then we shall not be injured but benefited by the conviction that this is a progressive age, marked by a civilization that is the nearest approach yet made to that epoch which shall be the product and embodiment of all previous history and attainment,

"The heir of all ages in the foremost files of Time."