

Many may differ from me in regard to these terms as applied to Heraldry; I am one of those who think it a most beneficial though somewhat neglected science, as bearing upon the social regulation of this or any other country. It traces genealogies and honours. It defines the different ranks. It preserves order in the arrangement of public ceremonies—it keeps alive one of the happiest and safest elements in the Constitution of our country—the acknowledgement of ranks and classes—and it stimulates the highest and the lowest to praiseworthy and patriotic emulation.

Look, for instance, at the different grades of distinction in this country; how the noble desires to attain the highest point in his especial order; how the military commander strives to rise above his compeers; how the lawyer seeks for the posts of honour that are open before him; and how even the private soldier pants to obtain a like distinction in *his* class.

The stars and collars and honourable badges of knighthood are all graduated by the Heralds' College.—From the highest to the lowest order, from the Garter to the Guelph, each wearer knows his own place of precedence, and each is held in corresponding acknowledgement and respect. So with those in lower ranks: the modest stripes on the arm of the corporal or sergeant, show the respective precedence of their wearers, above their fellows in arms; and even the war-medal, with its various clasps of graduated distinction, which the humble private displays upon his breast, to denote his comparative deeds of daring for his country, confers on him a mark of honour and reward, of which he is justly proud, and gives him a place above his fellows in the ranks of the chivalry of his country.

Before I come to the more immediate and modern use of this science as practised in our day—the emblazonment of Coats of Arms—I must mention that it comprises many other subjects which space will not allow me to enter upon at length: such as tombs, monuments, and sculptures, especially recumbent figures, which generally being those of knights or others renowned in arms, are represented with shields and armorial bearings. Painted windows, too, come within its compass, and many a benevolent founder of some religious, charitable, or educational institution, has been identified, and his name perpetuated by the Heraldic devices or other family emblems displayed thereon.

But as I have just said, the most prominent feature of Heraldry in the present day, is its connection with the emblazonment of Coats of Arms.

These are several classes under which the different sorts of arms and emblems are generally arranged:—

The first of these comprises the Arms of Dominion—those used by sovereigns, not as their own, but as the Heraldic mark of distinction of their kingdoms. Thus, the Royal Arms of England are not those of the