

in his own person, the Empire of Charlemagne. He fancied that he could reduce the other monarchs of Europe to feudal vassalage, exercise over them the powers of a feudal suzerain, compel them, in sign of their fealty, to build themselves palaces at Paris, to keep their archives there, to attend the coronations of the French Emperor. It was under the influence of this dream that he took the title of Emperor instead of taking that of king. No doubt he thought that Karl was a Frenchman, and imagined that under him Paris was the capital of a French Empire. Of the vast and fundamental difference between the two periods produced by the progress of civilization and the growth of the European nationalities, he could have had no definite conception. He had read just history enough to become the dupe of a historic fancy for which he and his kind paid dear. He is not the only or the last instance of such an illusion. Constantinople was the most important place in the world when it was the capital of the Roman Empire, and the link between its eastern and western portions; it is not the most important place in the world now: perhaps it is not more important to England than Antwerp or Elsinore, either of which may any day fall into the hands of a great European power, while England spends her whole force in keeping her stopper in the Dardanelles. Cyprus was of great importance in the days of the Phœnicians, of the Ptolemies, of the Romans, and afterwards of the Venetians, when it lay not in a dead angle of the Mediterranean but in waters full of commerce, and when its little harbours were large enough to hold the trading vessels of the time. But the much vaunted possession brings little beyond expense and odium now. The moral is that statesmanship ought to drink deeper, or drink not at all, of the Pierian spring.

—Among the events in the history of opinion may certainly be reckoned the appearance of the concluding volume of Renan's series on the "Origin and Early History of Christianity." In France, this work is likely to shape, to a large extent, the