

which had been handed down to us by the traditions of our fathers, or that which we had acquired by our own meagre experience? Almost from our babyhood we have felt the refining effects of literature. What a charm that wonderful story "Jack the Giant Killer" and that charming little poem "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" had for our childish minds. And as we grew older and began to drink in with eagerness the grand and elevating thoughts of the world's literary masters, how our whole nature became to a certain extent molded by them, and with Longfellow, we felt that,

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We may make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints, on the sands of time."

How the study of literature broadens our views, teaching us that it is not necessary that all should think and feel as we do on many subjects which we, in our short sightedness, might deem essential. How it leads us to extend our sympathies to the great throbbing world of humanity around us. Who can read Shakespeare or Milton, Carlyle or Macaulay, without being lifted out of himself into a world of which he had never even dreamed.

Were it for this fact alone,—that we have the Bible with the wonderfully elevating and ennobling effect its teachings have produced on mankind, we must conclude that literature has had a far more beneficial effect on society than has science. How could the important lessons of Old Testament history, the story of the life and teachings of Christ and his Apostles, have been handed down to us, had it not been for the Bible? Were it not for the existence of this wonderful book we might still be dwelling in moral darkness. Which has had the better effect on the heathen world, the teachings of the Bible or the teachings of science? Of course we would all answer in favor of the former. It is a notorious fact that where our so-called Christian Civilization

is extended to the heathen without the teachings of the Gospel, that they are even in a worse condition than before. The very fact that the Bible has been translated into so many languages shows the marvelous effect it has had upon society. Christianity has paved the way for our modern science. Wherever the true Christian religion has been accepted, science has received an impetus, such as it never does, and never could receive, in heathen lands.

Our whole civilization is an outgrowth of the principles of the Bible. It has been said that the two tables recorded in the writings of Mozes contain in general form the vital principles of all modern legal science, judicial, national and international. Dr. Peabody in his work on Roman law says: That actual reformers of the Roman law were all of them nominally Christians. Constantine called himself one, and his improved legislation was under the guidance, and I might say under the direction of the Bishops whom he regarded as endowed with divine wisdom and authority. Justinian, the greatest legislator of all time, was a jealous Christian. Of the series of Christian emperors there was hardly one whose decrees did not bear the impress of his faith, and aid in vindicating the rights of long depressed humanity."

We have spoken of sacred literature, let us now look at profane literature.—What a loss we should sustain were we to be without our historical works. In studying the history of the Ancient kingdoms,—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, we see how these nations have waxed strong and mighty, and how, at last, their glory has waned, it may be through unrighteous government, it may be through the unrestrained licentiousness of the people. The history of England, of the growth of her constitution, of the gradually increasing literature of her people, of the mistakes of both governors