

direct ; but he will soon perceive, that some such method of classifying events, gives him perspicuity while it saves him labour; and is greatly to be preferred before any ready made catalogue. The trouble of making the short necessary notes, is well repaid by thoroughly understanding their signification, and by rendering reference to them pleasing and very satisfactory.

Another help, in connection with the Common Place Book, which might be found worthy the attention, if leisure permitted, is a Skeleton Map of the World (that is a sheet of paper on which the outlines of Geography only should be depicted); on this, certain marks significant of the progress of a country might be made. For instance, suppose that I have such a map before me while reading the History of England—it must be perfectly plain, with the great natural and political divisions alone marked by their proper lines. I colour the British Isles lightly with red ink, and on the various countries where Great Britain has made conquests, or inroads, or held temporary possessions, I mark two red bars (that is short heavy red lines); and on the many places where she had or has colonies I mark three red bars, connecting those bars with a black line, in places where she has lost or given up such possessions. On those countries which have made invasions on Great Britain, I mark two black bars; and on those closely connected with her by Royal blood or otherwise, I mark a red and a black bar. On parts of the ocean where *Naval actions occurred*, I would place one horizontal bar and three perpendicular rising from it, so as to convey the notion of a ship; these marks should be black when I wished to denote disastrous results, and red to imply good fortune and victory. If I wished to be particular, I would number those marks with a fine pen, and in the margin I would range the numbers in a line, and opposite each, would place the date of the year in which the event alluded to occurred. For this method I can give no better authority than the last; it may be too fanciful; but it appeared to me a simple and picturesque mode, of shewing the struggles and growth of an old European Kingdom, with continual reference to *Geographical position*.

I intended giving a pictorial illustration of this method, and also of the *Chart* before alluded to, and to shew how this latter help might be applied to a particular as well as to general history; but I found the time allotted to one lecture mostly exhausted on other particulars, and also considered, that such illustrations belongs rather to a paper exclusively on English History, than to one which is a kind of introduction to the subject generally. *I have already touched on many themes, which would each deserve a separate paper; and it may be wise in some future stage of this Institution to as-*