

fact, only truly powerful when in possession of the materials upon which judgment is to be exercised. The study of the laws by which the Almighty governs the universe is, therefore, our bounden duty. These laws are most important branches of knowledge—their study trains and elevates the mind. But they are not the only ones; there are others which we cannot disregard—which we cannot do without. There are, for instance, the laws governing the human mind and its relation to the Divine Spirit—the subject of logic and metaphysics. There are those which govern our bodily nature and its connection with the soul—the subject of physiology and psychology. More which govern human society and the relations between man and man—the subjects of politics, jurisprudence, political economy, and many others. While of the laws just mentioned, some have been recognised as essentials of education in different institutions; and some will, in the course of time, more fully assert their right to recognition. The laws regulating matter and form are those which will constitute the chief objects of your pursuits; and as the principle of sub-division of labor is the one most congenial to our age, I would advise you to keep to this specially, and to follow, with undivided attention, chiefly the sciences of mechanics, physics, and chemistry, and the fine arts in painting, sculpture, and architecture. But these Divine laws are capable of being discovered and understood, and of being taught and made our own. This is the task of science; and while science discovers and teaches these laws, art teaches their application. No pursuit is, therefore, too insignificant not to be capable of becoming the subject both of a science and an art. The fine arts—as far as they relate to painting and sculpture, which are sometimes confounded with art in general—rest on the application of the laws of form and labor, and what may be called the science of the beautiful. They do not rest on any arbitrary theory on the modes of producing pleasurable emotions, but follow fixed laws, more difficult, perhaps, to seize than those regulating the material world, because belonging partly to the sphere of the ideal and our spiritual essence, yet perfectly appreciable and teachable, both abstractedly and historically, from the works of different ages and nations.

II. THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS.

(From a Speech at Bedford by the Right Honorable Lord John Russell.)

There have been many causes assigned for this rise and fall. Many states have fallen because they were too small to contend against their more powerful neighbors; because it is obvious when surrounding states have 100,000 or 200,000 men under military discipline that the smaller ones with ten or twenty thousand will fall under the superior force of the other. We have the case of Athens and the case of Florence, then I might allude to the great state of Germany and the smaller one of Portugal. I need scarcely allude to England, because this country is large enough and strong enough to maintain itself for ages to come. But there is another source of decline, and which is celebrated in a line of the Roman Satirist, as the immediate cause of the fall of the Roman Empire, which, after stretching its armies into almost every part of the world, fell from the effects of luxury. But there are other causes which it behoves us to consider, which have occasioned the decline of nations. There have been despotic institutions, where men have been forbidden to investigate subjects of science, or discuss any improvement in art—where they have been forbidden, under penalty of fire, from holding any religious opinion different from that of the State. Where that despotism has existed—where that persecution has prevailed, the nation has withered under the influence. Where such principles prevail, the state will always be unstable; but I say there can be no danger to the people of this country on that account, appreciating as they do the liberty of thought and of expression which they enjoy, and who would not under any consider-