

to produce the same lustre from the slate as from the diamond. To a practical ignorance of English literature was added the complete ignorance of any form of science. There was even ignorance of everything that was best in the two languages to which everything else was sacrificed. I remember hearing of the schoolmaster who taught his scholars a good deal of Greek and Latin, but he admitted that he didn't know where Elis was. Seven or eight years of a boy's life in England used to be passed in *not* acquiring the inflection of a single Greek verb. Some could write Latin prose such that would make Quintilian stare and gasp, or such Greek verse that any Athenian school-boy would have died of laughter at it. In those days not a single English grammar school had a science master; now the commonest is not without one. The condition of affairs in the colleges was at this time very much the same. Cambridge, to be sure, had its mathematics, while at Oxford, Latin and Greek were almost exclusively studied. This has all changed now, and in each college we give a due regard to every branch of learning.

I would indeed be a barbarian—or, as my friend Mr. Matthew Arnold calls it, a “Philistine”—if I had in those days been opposed to the classics as such. I did seek to destroy the autocracy of the classics, but not to abolish them. We can never afford to throw aside those languages which contain the noblest literature of the noblest nations of antiquity. I only pleaded then that Greek and Latin should not be *exclusive*; now I plead that Greek and Latin be not *excluded*. Indeed, now they are more studied than they have ever been, as distinctly scientific studies. There are two worlds—the world of man and the world of nature. Man controls nature, but nature includes man. The study of nature means not only a study of nature's laws, but also of man and his ways. We cannot, therefore, do without the accumulated experiences of the past. We are, after all, the children of the past. The past throbs in our present. It gives us our future hopes and our finest memories.

The exclusive dominance of Greek and Latin was due to their