

COINS: THEIR USE AS WITNESSES TO
HISTORICAL TRUTH.

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(Concluded.)

NE would think that little has been ever written and that little could possibly be written on the subject of coins. But this is quite a mistake—perhaps more volumes have been composed upon this subject than upon any other branch of science of a like nature. Not many months ago we read of the sale of a numismatic library, and the sale lasted several weeks. Strange to say, that with so many means of studying the history of nations through the medium of their respective coinage, there are few who know anything about the subject. Perchance they consider it too difficult, or else quite useless.

The study of history by means of coins is not difficult. In fact it is the contrary, for the coin so proves and illustrates the particular event of the history, that it becomes far easier to stamp it upon the memory and to contrast it and compare it with surrounding facts and events. This study is, likewise, far from being useless. In fact we scarce can form an idea of its utility without we make use of it a few times as a medium whereby we may attain our end—the knowledge of the past.

An example: Taking up Goldsmith's History of Rome, we find that in the third year of the foundation of the Eternal City, the great event known as the Rape of the Sabines took place. The Sabines having been invited to partake in festivities in honour of a Roman god, the young Romans rushed out upon them and carried them off to their homes. Goldsmith tells us that the event was recorded not only in the archives but also on the coins of the country. Then