

principle that all knowledge is pleasant, and a source of power. We will be content with a moderate possession, and hope that with even that, very happy and valuable results may be accomplished.

And first let us insist upon a fair acquaintance with European history. The interest attaching to the major part of the principal cities and countries of Europe, unquestionably arises from their connection with great historical events. Every palace is in itself the *locale* of some mighty occurrence—every monument is a piece of biography. Half the ground in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal, is celebrated for battle fields, where the destinies of nations, and the fate of dynasties, have been determined. There is not a town which has not its galleries of pictures and statues, very many of which noble works of art commemorate mighty events, or perpetuate the renown of distinguished sovereigns, generals, statesmen, poets, philosophers, priests, from the days of Cyrus, Miltiades, Solon, Cæsar, Cicero, to those of Napoleon, Chatham, Byron, James Watt, Chalmers and Heber. How humiliating, then, it must be to travellers, to look upon these glorious productions, without being aware of the causes of their existence, in so honourably enduring a shape! How small they must appear in their own estimation, when the only remark they can safely attach to the verbose description of garrulous *ciceroni* is, "Oh, really!" "Well—indeed!" Those guides, who abound in all towns, are quick to perceive whether their hearers do or do not appreciate the information they expect a fee for imparting; and when they find that their instruction—such as it is—is thrown away, they immediately minimize their talk, and the visitor comes away as wise as he went. Thus ignorance begets indifference and inattention. The writer of this paper remembers contemplating the Hannibal Fountain, at Montebello, in Italy, and revolving the incidents of the great Italian wars, when a young cockney tourist accosted him with the question—"Pray, sir, who was this Annibale, about whom my valet is bothering me?" Of course he was told that "Annibale" was Italian for the great Carthaginian "Hannibal," the potent enemy of Rome in the third century before the Christian era. But our friend had never "heard of the gentleman;" and thus he was not led to reflect upon the singular influence which the physical conformation of a country has upon its fortunes. Montebello, from its position, has often been a battle field. Two thousand two hundred years after Hannibal's time, Napoleon Bonaparte defeated the Austrians at Montebello; and fifty years later, another Franco-Sardinian army encountered the Austrians in the vicinity of the same spot. Waterloo, for the same reason, has three times been the scene of a conflict; and there are many places on the banks of the Rhine, the Danube, and the Tagus, hallowed by contests for human freedom.