

country. It becomes much easier to learn and to retain.

It is true that there are very few people who can give themselves to this work. It is alas, reserved too exclusively for such characters as Scott's *Antiquary* to find pleasure and utility in such a study.

But coins not only illustrate history and such events as are to be found in the records, and documents and manuscripts of the different ages. Likewise is there a very powerful link existing between those pieces of metal and the real monuments of the country and of the age. It is generally in the ruins of those time-honored trophies that we discover the hidden relics of the past.

But some one may ask; what use are those old coins—they are of no value to-day and what good can it do us to know that they belonged to the Egyptians or Greeks or Romans or any other people?

Yes, they are of value to-day and it is of great utility to us to know whence they came and all about them. If you will, the Roman copper coin would be rejected if you offered it in change for a five cent piece to nearly any clerk in America. Most certainly the newsboy upon the street would not give you a copy of his paper if the money you handed him was a relic of the past. Little would it matter to him whether Alexander the Great ever had it in his hand or even if it had been once dropped into poor Homer's hat as he begged his bread from his ungrateful countrymen. Still would the newsboy reject the coin and consider you very ignorant for having had the "cheek" to offer him such a token. And ignorant indeed you would be, were you to thus lose for 1 cent's value what might, perhaps, bring you several pounds were you to offer it to a collector or to a museum.

If in one place the ancient coin has no value in another place it is worth very much. How would the one who makes such an assertion like to have in his possession a couple of those small coins which though only a shilling's worth in real value, brought the other day a thousand pounds each when sold at auction in the city of London?

However coins are not valued by their weight or their composition. Often a copper-piece, half-worn, half eaten with

rust would be a thousand times more valuable than a bright heavy gold coin. These things are measured and weighed by their age, by their origin, by their historical connections, by the circumstances under which they were discovered.

Then our nineteenth century, steam engine, mad-civilization friend will tell us that he sees no profit in the study of the past and of the men who have gone before us. Perchance he does not, but others do. And if he knew how to profit by experience, how to learn six lessons, how to improve upon the works of others, how to imitate great example, how to take warning by the faults of others he would soon know how useful to persons in every sphere of life, from the laborer to the Governor, from the peasant to the General, is the study of the deeds of men and the works of peoples.

Often we may be reading for days the history of nations in general or of a people in particular and during all that time, meet with no event, no fact, no deed, no person that would attract our attention in a very striking and peculiar manner. We might pass over some of the most important events or some of the most renowned of names without stopping a moment to consider them, were it not that some little thing led our mind in that direction. For example a coin referring to that period or to that personage might suffice to make us reflect and finally study very attentively that portion of history.

Take up the daily paper and week after week you will pass over the column that is headed "News from South America or China." Why is it so? Because you have no great interest in the affairs of those far off countries and you fly to what is nearer home and what may touch on yourself or your friends. But suppose a friend or a relative of yours should go to South America or to China or to any other out of the way place, the moment you would come to a paragraph in a paper, referring to that particular place, you would jump at once at it and read it over and over.

It is the same with the study of the past. If you have nothing that recalls to your mind the importance of any epoch or event you pass it over and even