

the man of common sense will use the plain and strong language of the work-a-day world. For us who lay no claim to genius, and whose command over words is apt to be uncertain, the simplest and least pretentious lan-

guage is, on the whole, the best. Here, as elsewhere, the advice of Polonius is the essence of common sense :

To thine own self be true ;  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

## HISTORY AND ITS KINDRED STUDIES.

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IN the sense in which the phrase modern history is used it is impossible to define it, because there is really nothing with any distinctive being of its own to define. If it is hard to define "modern" history, it is equally hard, though not for the same reason, to define history at all. It was hard to draw the line between history in the stricter sense, and a crowd of other subjects for whose help historical research was always asking, and which in their turn were constantly asking help of historical research. It was, indeed, hard to conceive of knowledge which dealt in any way with the affairs of men with which the historian might not do wisely by entering into alliance for mutual society, help and comfort. There were few studies which might not ever and anon in some accidental way throw light on historical questions, and the more branches of knowledge the historian is master of, the better prepared is he for his own work. The historian will do his work better for being master of the science of geology, and of the group of sciences which have a close connection with geology. Geology and its kindred studies had always seemed to him to be wrongly placed when they are grouped far away from history, alongside of branches of knowledge which depend mainly on experiment

or on theory. There is a whole crowd of other pursuits which it is impossible to separate from history. The study of coins, and weapons, and antiquities of every kind ; the study of palæontology, as a special branch of knowledge, as distinguished from the study of inscriptions directly as records of arts, the study of genealogy, even the science of heraldry—each has its place, and the place of each is useful and honourable as long as that place is kept. None of these secondary branches of history has thrown more precious light on the main subject than the study of coins ; but the mere gathering of the coins themselves, apart from the facts which they prove or illustrate, hardly rises above the gathering of postage stamps, and in ages to come the postage stamps will prove something as well as the coins. Then it comes that in art, in the higher sense of painting, sculpture, architecture, we reach subjects which claim the rank of distinct branches of knowledge. Geography and chronology have been called the two eyes of history, and assuredly without them history would be blind work indeed. In reading the history of any people, the first question one naturally puts is—What language did they speak ? That is a question which comes before the questions that must soon follow about their mode of warfare, their