

language of the people to whom the money belonged. Thus as years rolled past and as times changed, this mode of unity and this powerful support of commerce became more and more indispensable. And in our day it has reached such a degree of universality that "without money man is of little consequence in the world."

This being a subject that can scarcely be properly treated in the space of one short essay, we will merely confine ourselves to a few remarks upon the utility of coins as an auxiliary of history, and leave for another essay the consideration of the union between the monuments and coins of different nations of antiquity and of modern times.

The study of coins might be considered a life study, yet it is much more easy to place one's self in a position to study coins than it is to study monuments. So much travelling, so much labour, so much exertion is not required. But to study coins with a real profit they must be connected with the history—the true history—of the people to whom they belonged.

You find on the face of an old silver or copper coin the head of an emperor, with figures or letters or other marks surrounding it. Take up the history of the nation and you will therein find by whom and when and how such a token was struck; you learn under what circumstances it came into existence, what battle it commemorates, what city it was made for. To illustrate more clearly our idea of the union between coins and history in general—not yet to speak of the history of any nation in particular—we will cite the following extract from the *Episcopal Recorder*:—

"In citing the historical information derivable from coins, the geographical facts we acquire from them are of equal importance. A case was stated some time ago how an island of the *Ægean*, which had been lost, was discovered by means of a coin (the piece not bigger than a half-dime), and how recent