

Rome with her human-like gods; Britain with the cruel teachings of the Druids; Scandinavia looking forward to her sensual Valhalla and the company of her warrior gods—all dissatisfied alike with the deities their own minds had imagined—are gradually prepared for the reception of the satisfying truths of the Nazarene—the God-man.

Let them see how the Romans in their haughty pride of heart, thinking but of conquering the whole world to their sway and appropriating to themselves all the beauty and wealth of other nations, were but carrying out His plans who alone rules—were but joining in one all known empires, so that a knowledge of civilization and a wise code of laws might be spread—that the light from the Cross might be shed on them and the kingdom of Christ might be enlarged, and His truths more easily and widely diffused. Then let them see how England emerges from the darkness, and receiving influences from north and south alike, grows to be one of the most mighty powers on earth after proud Greece and Rome had ceased to serve His purposes and had sunk into oblivion, and thus true religion and the accumulated wisdom of succeeding nations and ages are preserved and spread over all the earth.

Let them compare modern nations with one another, and see how those which clung to superstition, and persecuted with cruelty the men who held the true faith, were allowed to remain in ignorance and sink themselves in the deepest vices of all kinds; while those who admitted the true light advanced rapidly in civilization. Let them learn how God withheld from men the knowledge of a new world with all its richness and beauty until many of the old nations had grown and flourished, and had departed from the first purity of their faith—how He opened it then and made it ready to use for planting a new nation, which He designed should serve Him in purity and carry out the principles of right and justice.

As they pass down through the ages, let them stop to sip here and there of the sweets of literature, and judge of the great changes that were gradually wrought, as light and truth, and civilization, elevated men's minds; and especially in their own

language, how, from one century to another, and even from one reign to another, what great changes took place in it, as, gradually, printing, liberty of thought and a free press, became established things. If they once taste of the charms of those old Norse legends; of the tales of knight and "faire ladye" of Spenser and Milton; of the brilliant men who basked in the smile of the Virgin Queen; or the fascinating group who gathered in the coffee-houses and about the court of good Queen Anne, and of hosts of others too numerous to even hint at, no fear but they would return of their own accord to drink deeper in later years. Then turning from history as a whole, let them enter into the sorrows and joys, the struggles, the hopes and fears, of those characters depicted in its pages, as into the lives of real men and women. Alexander and Alfred, Napoleon and William the Silent, will afford them contrasts of ambition and real greatness: Leonidas, that of a true soldier, bravely dying for his country while opposing his handful of men to the countless thousands of the enemy; with Darius cowardly flying at the approach of Alexander and leaving his army to the mercy of the conqueror. Semiramis and Joan d'Arc would give them the contrast between a woman leading forth armies for glory and conquest, and one utterly regardless of self, leading them from the conviction of duty and the right of her cause. They would find no lack of interesting characters to study, exciting incidents through which to watch them, with surroundings picturesque enough to please the most romantic, no matter to what age or what nation they might turn. But time would fail to tell of all the amusing, sad, or interesting stories of kings and queens, warriors and statesmen—stories of quiet, loving domestic life, or of the splendor and intrigue of courts. Let them study in this way, and then see if history is not a real interest, as absorbing and exciting as any story ever penned.

The objection may be urged that such comprehensive and detailed views would take years of study. So they would; but why not extend it over the last four or five years of school, joining its pleasures to the drier and more difficult sciences, not at all