

degenerate descendants of the heroes of Thermopylæ and Marathon. Byron wrote in mournful strain :

“The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece !
Where burning Sappho loved and sung ;
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung !
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.”

And Anthon tells us “that the geographical situation of Greece was eminently favorable to the development of intellectual power, and to that peculiarly nice organization by which delicacy of feeling is refined even to fastidiousness.” But climatic influence does not now produce great men in Greece. Her national glory has long since passed away, and only her *sun*—that is, the light of her learning—continues to shine with undimmed splendor. The circle of eternal change, which is the law of nature, admonishes us that the past is gone forever ; that a nation has its periods of infancy, youth, manhood and old age ; and that when the winter of life settles down upon the barren land, the creative faculty of man can neither bud nor blossom. But as the life of an individual may be prolonged by observance of the rules of health, so may the life of a state, by giving attention to certain great principles which may not be violated with impunity. The philosophy of history applies those principles. It gives a reason for the rise and fall of states. It postulates that every effect must have an adequate cause ; and, hence, that any historical event is the natural effect of its cause.

In attempting to give, what seemed to me, the prominent features of one of the greatest of all great events, I shall constantly keep before me the *cause* and the *effect*, my object being to illustrate the educational value of history by showing that the Renaissance was the fountain-head of all the springs of social, political and religious reform which revived, refreshed and invigorated the fainting nations of the sixteenth century. The lessons taught by the study of this period of history are pregnant with great truths, and it is my aim to

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