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THE SONGS OF OUR FATHERS.

— "Sing aloud
Old songs, the precious music of the heart."
WORDSWORTH.

Sing them upon the sunny hills,
When days are long and bright,
And the blue gleam of shining rills
Is loveliest to the sight.
Sing them along the misty moor,
Where ancient hunters roved,
And swell them through the torrent's roar—
The songs our fathers loved!

The songs their souls rejoiced to hear
When harps were in the hall,
And each proud note made lance and spear
Thrill on the banner'd wall:
The songs that through our valleys green,
Sent on from age to age,
Like his own river's voice, have been
The peasant's heritage.

The reaper sings them when the vale
Is fill'd with plummy sheaves;
The woodman, by the starlight pale
Cheer'd homeward through the leaves;
And unto them the glancing oars
A joyous measure keep,
Where the dark rocks that crest our shores
Dash back the foaming deep.

So let it be!—a light they shed
O'er each old fount and grove;
A memory of the gentle dead,
A spell of lingering love:
Murmuring the names of mighty men,
They bid our streams roll on,
And link high thoughts to every glen
Where valiant deeds were done.

Teach them your children round the hearth,
When evening-fires burn clear,
And in the fields of harvest mirth,
And on the hills of deer!
So shall each unforgotten word,
When far those loved ones roam,
Call back the hearts that once it stirr'd,
To childhood's holy home.

The green woods of their native land
Shall whisper in the strain,
The voices of their household band
Shall sweetly speak again;
The heathery heights in vision rise
Where like the stag they roved—
Sing to your sons those melodies,
The songs your fathers loved.

ON THE ADVANTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS.

A common sailor uses his glass without knowing the laws of optics, or even suspecting their existence. But would Galileo have invented the telescope, and have given to mankind the power of penetrating into space, if he had been equally ignorant—if he had been unacquainted with the action of various media, and of variously shaped surfaces on the rays of light? An ordinary workman constructs the most powerful astronomical instruments; but it belongs only to a Herschel or a La Place to improve these means, and to employ them so as to unfold the structure of the universe, and expound the laws which govern the motions of the heavenly bodies.

The temple of science has not been raised to its present commanding height, or decorated with its beautiful proportions and embellishments, by the exertions of any one country. If we obstinately shut our eyes to all that other nations have contributed, we shall survey only a few columns of the majestic fabric, and never rise to an adequate conception of the grandeur and beauty of the whole. Our remote situation, by restricting intercourse, has contributed to create a contempt of foreigners, and an unreasonable notion of our own importance, which is often ludicrous, always to be regretted, and in many cases strong enough to resist all the weapons of reason and ridicule. We should consider what we think of these national prejudices, when we observe them in others: we see the Turks summing up all their contempt for their more polished neighbours, in the short but expressive phrase of Christian dogs; and the Emperor of China accepting presents from the various potentates of Europe, because it is a principle of the celestial empire to show indulgence and condescension towards petty states.

Science requires an expanded mind—a view that embraces the universe. Instead of shutting himself up in one corner of the world, and abusing all the rest of mankind, the lover of knowledge should make the universe his country, and should trample beneath his feet those prejudices which many so fondly hug to their bosoms. He should sweep away from his mind the dust and cobwebs of national partiality and enmity, which darken and distort the perceptions, and fetter the operations of intellect.

A readiness to allow the merits of others will be the most powerful means, next to modesty and diffidence, of recommending our own to attention. If we could come to the strange resolution of attending only to what has been done by Britons in comparative anatomy and zoology, we should have to go back to a state of comparative darkness—for such it must be deemed if we excluded the strong light which has been thrown on these subjects from Italy, Germany, France and America. The only parallel to such a proceeding is that afforded by the Caliph Omar, in his sentence on the Alexandrian Library. This ignorant fanatic committed to the flames the intellectual treasure, accumulated by the taste, the learning, and the munificence of many kings; observing, that the books, if they agreed with the Koran, were superfluous, and need not be preserved—if they differed from it, impious, and ought to be destroyed.

When we consider that the French Royal Academy of Sciences was founded by Louis the Fourteenth—when we