

HISTORICAL LIGHTS.

1. ABANDONMENT, inhuman. *Moslems.* The rapine of the Carmathians [a fanatical Turkish sect] was sanctified by their aversion to the worship of Mecca; they robbed a caravan of pilgrims, and twenty thousand devout Moslems were abandoned on the burning sands to a death of hunger and thirst.—GIBBON'S *ROME*, ch. 52.

2. ABANDONMENT, A mortifying. *Bp. T. Hall.* The infamous Timothy Hall, who had distinguished himself among the clergy of London by reading the declaration [issued by James II. to supplant the Protestant faith], was rewarded with the bishopric of Oxford. . . . Hall came to his see; but the canons of his cathedral refused to attend his installation; the university refused to create him a doctor; not a single one of the academic youth applied to him for holy orders; no cap was touched to him; and in his palace he found himself alone.—MACAULAY'S *HISTORY OF ENGLAND*, ch. 9.

3. ABILITIES misapplied. *Frederick II. and Voltaire.* [France sent Voltaire to negotiate a difficult alliance.] The negotiation was of an extraordinary description. Nothing can be conceived more whimsical than the conferences which took place between the first literary man and the first practical man of the age, whom a strange weakness had induced to exchange their parts. The great poet would talk of nothing but treaties and guarantees, and the great king of nothing but metaphors and rhymes. On one occasion Voltaire put into his Majesty's hand a paper on the state of Europe, and received it back with verses scrawled on the margin. In secret they both laughed at each other. Voltaire did not spare the king's poems; and the king has left on record his opinion of Voltaire's diplomacy.—MACAULAY'S *FREDERICK THE GREAT*, p. 39.

4. ABILITIES, Numerous. *Roman Emp. Justinian.* The emperor professed himself a musician and architect, a poet and philosopher, a lawyer and theologian; and if he failed in the enterprise of reconciling the Christian sects, the review of the Roman jurisprudence is a noble monument of his spirit and industry.—GIBBON'S *ROME*, ch. 43.

5. ABILITIES overrated. *Pompey.* Unfortunately he had acquired a position by his negative virtues which was above his natural level, and misled him into overrating his capabilities. So long as he stood by Cæsar he had maintained his honor and his authority. He allowed men

more cunning than himself to play upon his vanity, and Pompey fell—fell amid the ruins of a Constitution which had been undermined by the villainies of its representatives. His end was piteous, but scarcely tragic, for the cause to which he was sacrificed was too slightly removed from being ignominious. He was no Phœbus Apollo sinking into the ocean, surrounded with glory. He was not even a brilliant meteor. He was a weak, good man, whom accident had thrust into a place to which he was unequal; and ignorant of himself, and unwilling to part with his imaginary greatness, he was flung down with careless cruelty by the forces which were dividing the world.—FROUDE'S *CÆSAR*, ch. 23.

6. ABILITIES shown. *In Youth.* When Philonicus, the Thessalian, offered the horse named Bucephalus in sale to Philip, at the price of thirteen talents, the king, with the prince and many others, went into the field to see some trial made of him. The horse appeared extremely vicious and unmanageable, and was so far from suffering himself to be mounted, that he would not bear to be spoken to, but turned fiercely upon all the grooms. Philip was displeased, and bade them take him away. But Alexander, who had observed him well, said, "What a horse are they losing, for want of skill and spirit to manage him!" Philip at first took no notice of this; but, upon the prince's often repeating the same expression, and showing great uneasiness, he said, "Young man, you find fault with your elders, as if you knew more than they, or could manage the horse better." "And I certainly could," answered the prince. "If you should not be able to ride him, what forfeiture will you submit to for your rashness?" "I will pay the price of the horse." Upon this all the company laughed, but the king and prince agreeing as to the forfeiture, Alexander ran to the horse, and, laying hold on the bridle, turned him to the sun; for he had observed, it seems, that the shadow which fell before the horse, and continually moved as he moved, greatly disturbed him. While his fierceness and fury lasted, he kept speaking to him softly and stroking him; after which he gently let fall his mantle, leaped lightly upon his back, and got his seat very safe. Then, without pulling the reins too hard, or using either whip or spur, he set him a going. As soon as he perceived his uneasiness abated, and that he wanted