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THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY ON CIVILIZATION.

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VI.

A FEW words in regard to the intellectual condition of the pagan Empire. The age of Augustus, we all know, was one of the most brilliant in history. It was an age of learning, elegance, and refinement. The brighter periods of literature have since taken name from Augustus. The age which gave to the world those two great luminaries in the hemisphere of letters, Bacon and Shakespeare, is still called the Augustan Age of English literature.

Greece was still a land of letters. Though plundered of her richest ornaments, and dependent for protection on Rome, Athens could still boast of schools and scholars worthy of her fairest days. Alexandria was also a seat of learning. Regarding the Germans, Celts, and Britons, although comparatively unenlightened, Moshien tells us "it is certain they were not destitute of learned and ingenious men." Among the Gauls, the people of Marseilles had long acquired a shining reputation for their progress in the sciences, and there is no doubt that the neighboring countries received the benefit of their instruction. . . . The Romans, indeed, introduced letters and philosophy into all the provinces which submitted to their victorious arms, in order to soften the rough manners of the savage nations, and infuse in them imperceptibly the sentiment and feelings of humanity" ("Ecl. Hist," i. 36).

After the age of Augustus there was an intellectual decline. "The schooled and lettered amateur," says Renan, "replaced the creative and original student." Intelligent society continued, however, and men like Lucilius, Pliny, Gallio, and the Senecas still lived to adorn the age. After the accession of Trajan this decay of intellect and degeneracy of erudition was arrested, and philosophy and letters were restored, in some degree, to their former lustre. Looking forward from the middle of the first century, Renan exclaims, "Plutarch, Epictetus, Dionysius the golden-mouthed, Quintilian, Pliny the Younger, Tacitus, Juvenal, Rufus of Ephesus, Aretalus, Galen, Ptolemy, Hypsicles, Theon, and Lucan will renew the palmy days of Greece—not that inimitable Greece which existed but once for the simultaneous delight and despair of all who love the beautiful, but a Greece abounding, which will mingle her own