

of the world, where nations meet. He who has done this, without the knowledge of any language but his own, knows what he has lost, and what advantages he could have gained by comparatively little labor; and he who goes abroad, after teaching himself other languages, will never regret the time and labor it has cost him. Even those who never travelled from home, must have seen the stranger in their own land, who, ignorant of the language, felt solitary amongst thousands, whose words, though kind and friendly, were as empty and unmeaning to him as his were to them. They must have seen how his countenance, which wore an inanimate and melancholy expression before, brightened up, when the sounds of his native tongue struck his ear, and that, *frequently*, he who appeared listless and unintelligent, was pronounced by those, whom the knowledge of his idiom enabled to communicate with him, to be an enlightened, highly intelligent man. Let those who have witnessed this, bear in mind, that the time may not be distant, when the ways and vicissitudes of life will place them in the same circumstances, and that they would *then* consider the knowledge of a foreign tongue, even if it were very limited and imperfect, an invaluable acquisition.

If I may be allowed to allude to myself on the present occasion, I will mention that, as regards all the disadvantages to which the ignorance of foreign idioms exposes us, and the benefit we derive from a knowledge of them, I speak from personal experience. How often, in the course of my wanderings, have I been in the company of well-informed men who would have highly enjoyed each other's conversation, but could not do so, because their idioms were not the same, and one was ignorant of that of the other. If I, which has not unfrequently happened, acted as medium on such occasions, they expressed to me their deepest regret at their ignorance of foreign tongues and lost opportunities of acquiring them. Leaving my home early in life, I had to dwell amongst strangers, of whose language I possessed scarcely any knowledge, and the feeling of helplessness I then experienced is still vivid in my recollection. It served me, however, as a stimulus to apply myself diligently to the acquisition of foreign tongues, and I confess that the time and labor I spent on it have been richly repaid.

The far-spread language of the Anglo-Saxon race alone, which I am now using, and which was totally unknown to me not a great number of years since, has been so rich a source of benefit and enjoyment to me, that I sincerely pity those foreigners who remain ignorant of it.

If the knowledge of foreign idioms has been of the highest importance at all times, it is doubly so now, when the easy communications, which the triumphs of modern invention and enterprise have created everywhere on the globe, make the intercourse between the different nations so much