

ENGLISH HISTORY IN OUR SCHOOLS.

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The word *English* in its connection here must be understood to be equivalent to *British*, as including the history of the three nationalities, whose union has raised the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to its present fame, and prestige in the world. While the word *Schools* may be taken to include our higher schools and colleges, although having special reference to our Public Schools, to whose interests this magazine is more particularly devoted.

The study of History has from the earliest times been considered of the greatest importance. The most careless peruser of it cannot but notice the reverence paid to tradition, in ancient times; while the estimation in which the old records were held, sufficiently indicates the innate desire of the mind for a knowledge of the past. Cicero calls history—"The light of truth." The elegant Rollin affirmed, "It is not without reason that history has always been considered as the light of ages, the depository of events, the faithful evidence of truth, the source of prudence and good counsel, and the rule of conduct and manners." Bacon considered it the "chief component part of learning," and philosophy and poetry a subordinate place to it. While it has long been a common saying that "History is philosophy teaching by examples." At the present day, the honors paid to Lord Macaulay show that a very high opinion of history as a study continues to exist, and that the highest awards still await those who diligently pursue it.

And though we would not disparage the study of General or Universal History, yet we would affirm that nothing can be more profitable for the English student than the

study of the history of his own Empire, *primarily and attentively*. For it includes the ancient and barbarous history of Europe in the far past, and during the Christian era has been more international in its character than that of any other country of the old world. At the present time, so numerous are the connections of England through war, treaty, and commerce, with every quarter of the world, that *her* history to day, is that of the manners, laws, products, and commercial worth of the nations with which she has anything to do. And this is the more evident as we consider her greatness.—Upon the circle of her empire the sun never sets. She holds possession of all the capes, and promontories of any value,—and keeps the keys to the entrance of the principal seas. Her colonies are in every part of the Globe. She is the mother of the greatest nation of the New World. In one word, her influence is felt, in every corner of the earth.

But though England's influence is great internationally, and her general history of consequent importance, it is upon Canada of all her colonies, that her greatest and chief influence is felt.—Settled, as regarded the politics of the old country, under more favorable circumstances than the United States, Canada has preserved her loyalty untarnished. While our laws founded upon those of England, and constantly referring to them for precedent, or appealing to them in decision, are laying for us the foundation of a great nation—drawing us more closely, and binding us more firmly to the great centre of the Empire of which we are proud to form a part. Our communication with the old country, by our line of rapid steamers, and submarine cable, cause us to feel