

home, or the genesis of our written constitutions, is to them as much of a sealed book as to a graduate of Oxford or Berlin. This should not be, and a society like this can materially help to correct the evil. We owe this duty not alone to the scholar, but to every citizen of the State.

"*History*," says Bacon, "*makes men wise*," but it does much more, it makes them patriotic. The Greeks fought more bravely as they thought of Thermopylæ and Marathon. We shall live more nobly as we think of our heroic ancestors, who by a contest extending over nearly two centuries, laid broad and deep the foundations of our freedom:—

"They shaped our destiny, we but carve their names."

The right side has prevailed more frequently than most men think. Many wars, almost all modern wars, have ended as a good and wise man would wish, in the victory of the good cause. The war for American Independence created the United States. In the conflict of Europe with the French Republic, Europe was driven back, while the perpetual aggressions of Napoleon I brought about the overthrow of the French Empire.

In the Crimean War, in the Italian War of 1859, in the American Civil War, in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, and others, victory has gone with right, the good cause triumphed.

It is often said that the losing side has inspired the best songs. Witness the Jacobite ditties and the Irish melodies. I do not gainsay the excellence of these strains, I do not grudge misfortune its poetical and musical consolation, but I am certain that the best songs owe their inspiration to the well-won triumphs of right. The song of Miriam and the song of Deborah are not the consolations of a vanquished cause;

"*Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled*" is not the wailing of a beaten host; "*Rule Britannia*" is not the dirge of a defunct nation.

The greatest of all songs is yet to be sung, when Wrong is utterly overthrown, when Right is altogether triumphant.