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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.*

In addressing a Society which has devoted itself for so long a period and with so much success to the pursuits of Archaeology, it cannot be necessary for me to occupy time by saying much either in explanation or in praise of this particular line of study. In fact, the study of archaeology is now generally accepted and understood, not only by its admirers, bnt by the world in general, as an extended and improved form of the study of history. It is the study of history, not only from written documents, not only from chronicles and traditions, but from chronicles and traditions elucidated by contemporaneous monuments, by tangible and substantial relics, the productions of ancient coinage, sculpture, and architecture; and,—in the case of Greek and Roman history,—not only by these, but by an invaluable series of commemorative inscriptions still extant upon marble and bronze.

With regard to some of the great nations, indeed, we have no other means of becoming acquainted with their history, than through such material records. Of the ancient history of Egypt how very little do we know excepting from her monuments. What do we know of Assyria, excepting from casual allusions in the Old Testament, and from her recently discovered monuments? And even in the case of Greece and Rome, precious as are the literary treasures of those nations which have come down to us, we possess very little of strictly contemporaneous history. Time

* This discourse was delivered by the Disney Professor, the Rev. J. H. Marsden, B.D., on the occasion of the opening meeting, at the Annual Meeting of the Institute held in Cambridge, July 4th, 1854.

has swept away full one-half: while, of that which remains, much severe criticism is required in the separation of the trust-worthy from the fabulous, and all, without exception, stands in need of the light afforded by the study of monuments. The day is coming, when it will be confessed that we have learned more of the religious worship and the political relations of the independent states of Greece from inscriptions and coins, than from poets and historians. How much has been brought to light by the monuments, and especially by the coins, of Magna Græcia and Sicily! Take the case, for instance, of the ancient city of Posidonia. Of this city we know little or nothing from written history, excepting that in Roman times it was celebrated by poets for its genial climate and its roses:—

"biferique rosaria Pæsti."

But when the traveller describes to us its magnificent temples, and the numismatist displays to us its long series of beautiful coins, we have unquestionable proof that it rivalled the greatest cities of Magna Græcia in population, in wealth, in commerce, and in the arts; and that under the name of Pæstum it flourished to a later date than almost any of them.

To come nearer home. How scanty would be our knowledge of the state of society in our own island, not only in its more barbarous age, but even during its occupation by the Romans, if we had not the means of ascertaining it from monuments. The state of Britain under the Romans is now tolerably familiar to us: but we have learned it not from books, but from an investigation of their works, their roads, their houses, their hypocausts, their earthenware, their coins, their ornaments and utensils, their weapons, and the vast multitude of other miscellaneous relics which they have left behind.

The monuments of ancient art are of many different kinds: they are found wherever man has existed on the globe; and wherever they are found, there is a field for the archaeologist. Life is not long enough to study them all—nor, indeed, to study those of one nation—scarcely even those of one class. No one, however energetic and hopeful, can enter into these pursuits without feeling the hopeless impossibility of carrying out the separate studies which a

general view of archaeology must comprehend. It requires a greater amount of many various kinds of knowledge than one person can hope to possess. This is, doubtless, the reason why it has not usually been admitted into the ordinary course of study; and it was, doubtless, this consideration, which induced the founder of a Professorship of Archaeology in the University of Cambridge, to restrict the duties of his Professor to the study and illustration of one branch,—that branch being the archaeology of Greece and Rome; a branch more immediately connected than any other with the classical studies pursued in our University.

Perhaps it will not be altogether out of place—although I am aware that it is ascending to a higher point in the stream of time than your Society has fixed upon for its operations—if I briefly allude to the remains of Greek art which are preserved in Cambridge.

In the possession of Trinity College are several Greek inscriptions upon marble, of some importance. The principal of these, is one well known as the Sandwich Marble, having been brought to England by the Earl of Sandwich, from Athens, in the year 1739. It contains a list of contributions to the expenses incurred by the expedition for the lustration of the island Delos, in the third year of the 88th Olympiad. Another is a decree made at Ilium, and brought by Mr. Edward Wortley Montague from Sigeum, in 1766: it was presented to the College by his son-in-law, the Marquis of Bute.

In the vestibule of the Public Library, are certain inscriptions and pieces of sculpture, the principal part of which were brought to England by Dr. Edward Daniel Clarke. One of these inscriptions, which was brought from the Troad, was believed by Porson to be nearly as old as the Archonship of Eucleides, the era at which a well-known change took place in Greek palæography, about 403 B.C. Another inscription is a sepulchral one, brought from Athens, to the memory of a certain Eucleides of Hermione, whom Clarke himself believed to be the celebrated geometrician; and, under that impression, he thought that he had found for the stelé, a congenial resting-place, among the mathematicians of this University. But there is no evidence whatever that this Eucleides was the geometrician, and the probability is decidedly against it.

One of the most remarkable of Dr. Clarke's marbles is a mutilated statue of Pan, which was found in a garden close by the grotto sacred to Pan and Apollo, below the Acropolis of Athens. As it is known that a statue of Pan was dedicated by Miltiades, in gratitude for the services supposed to have been rendered by him in the battle of Marathon, and as this statue is of a style of art corresponding to that date, it is by no means impossible that it may be the identical figure upon which Simonides wrote an ἐπίγραμμα which is now extant.

With regard to the colossal marble bust which was pronounced by Dr. Clarke to be a part of the statue of the Ceres of Eleusis, it is to be feared that he went beyond the bounds of that cautious discretion which is so properly prescribed to the archaeologist. That the figure was brought from certain ruins near the site of the temple of Ceres at Eleusis, there is no doubt, and certain travellers who had observed it there in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, believed it to be the goddess herself. But more recent travellers have held a contrary opinion. They have thought, judging from the position in which it was found, and from certain appearances on the surface of the marble, that it was a cistophora, or architectural decoration, like the caryatides of the Erectheium. It will be allowed, however, even by those critics who withhold their acquiescence from Dr. Clarke's rather too positive assertion, that the bust is a most interesting relic of Greek antiquity.

The Malcolm sarcophagus in the Fitzwilliam Museum, described by Mr. Pashley in his "Travels in Crete," and subsequently brought to England and presented to the University by Sir Pulteney Malcolm, is ascribed by Dr. Waagen to the last half of the second century of the Christian era. The subject of the sculpture, which seems to be the return of Bacchus from India, is treated in a manner spirited and original; and with the exception of one or two *lacunæ*, it is in an extremely good state of preservation.

I must not omit to mention certain Greek inscriptions very recently presented to the University by Captain Spratt, the commander of one of Her Majesty's surveying ships stationed on the coast of Greece. Three of these were discovered by him in the island of Crete, and one of these three is of very early date; the inscription being read from

the right hand to the left. But the most interesting and valuable of Captain Spratt's marbles is an inscribed slab from the Troad. This inscription is valuable on two accounts. In the first place it is valuable as having been discovered among the ruins of a temple, first pointed out by Captain Spratt, which is satisfactorily proved to be the temple of Apollo Smintheus, mentioned by Strabo and other writers, but altogether unknown to modern travellers until lighted upon by Captain Spratt within the last twelve months. That the remains are those of the temple of Apollo, Colonel Leake, than whom we can have no higher authority, has pronounced himself to be perfectly satisfied. In fact, an inscription found there by Captain Spratt, places the point beyond all doubt. The second point of interest connected with this inscribed slab. is the subject of the inscription. It commemorates the fact of a certain Greek, by name Cassander, having been presented by each of eighteen or twenty of the cities and states of Greece with a golden crown. Each city is mentioned separately, and underneath the words Χρυσέῳ Στεφάνῳ in connection with the name of each city, is a representation of the crown itself, which was in the form of a chaplet of olive-leaves. To the custom of presenting a distinguished Greek citizen with a golden crown I need not do more than advert. We all rememember the orations Περὶ Στεφάνου of the two great orators of Athens. And, if I mistake not, the effect of a sight of this inscribed marble, would be the same upon any one engaged in reading those orations, as the effect of the celebrated Potidæan ἐπίγραμμα in the British Museum would be upon a person reading the account of the skirmish at Potidæa, in the first book of Thucydides;—namely, to impress his mind with a sense of the reality of what he is reading, far stronger than any which could be made by the mere fact of his finding it recorded in the book.—"Magis movemur," says Cicero, "quam si quando eorum ipsorum aut facta audiamus, aut scriptum aliquod legamus."

It is only right that I should take this opportunity of stating that Captain Spratt's presentation of these marbles to the University, was made at the suggestion of his friend Colonel Leake.

Of the numerous collection of ancient marbles presented

to the University in 1850, by Mr. Disney, it is unnecessary for me to give any minute description, as the donor himself has already done it in a very able and lucid manner in his work entitled "Museum Disneianum." By coming forward while the space was yet unoccupied, Mr. Disney secured for his marbles a position which future benefactors may look upon with envy, but to which, nevertheless, the example which he was the first to set, on so extensive a scale, fairly entitles him. And we may venture to express to my friend[1] our hope that at a very far distant period, when the beautiful edifice in which they are deposited, shall itself be the subject of curious investigation to future archaeologists, his name may still survive, as that of the earliest patron of archaeological studies in the University of Cambridge.

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[1] Mr. Disney being then present.