

light, upon which the Progress of the world was waiting — that it contained a hidden hand, which would sweep away the papyrus, & the wax, & the parchment; and gather into heaps, as worthless things the styles & reeds of the scribes — and fling to the winds its own printed leaves, until all the knowledge of art, or science, or law, or religion, the past ages had learned from the beginning at Anarath, would drop upon the threshold of every mans door — When instead of here and there one mind, occupied with the investigation of truth — with the study of science — with the inventions of art — every Palace & every hamlet — every mountain, & every valley, would be penetrated by a light that would discover to the world whatever of genius — whatever of Philosophy — whatever of skill — whatever of energy, it possessed to help it along in its onward progress.

But I would not be misunderstood — I mean not to say, that no art — no science — no philosophy of value — or of very considerable knowledge, was known anterior to the discovery of printing —

The Pyramid, to which I alluded before, stands up
in its peerless grandeur - where it has stood for ages -
against ~~whose~~ ^{whose} sides the ^{of the Desert} storms have beat in vain -
at whose base the ~~moisture~~ ^{mould &} the earth worms have
become petrified in the damp of its shadow - there
it stands to day - dispoiled, it may be, of the dead
monarch, who laid him down in its cold dark
sepulchre - but there it stands, an abiding ~~monu-~~
~~ment~~ memorial of the skill - & an enduring Monu-
-ment of the Power, that dwelt in the will, & the
hand of our fellow man, in the ages, when Liter-
ature had scarcely begun to flicker even ~~as~~ ^{a ray}
~~cut~~ light over the path that leads to the temple
of her worshippers.

And in the ruined temples, & buried cities, discov-
ered & explored by the Antiquarians - Turret & Tower -
Pillar & Alcove - Statuary & Painting, speak for those
silent builders of the Cities of the dead; to challenge
the wonder & admiration of the living inhabitants
of earth - and to invite them to excel in grandeur
of outline, or beauty of ornament the work of
their hands.

And even now, Gothic & Grecian & ~~many~~ are terms
as familiar to the Architect, as the names of the
tools that lie upon his workbench. — The best ed-
ifices of our ^{own} day, with all their ~~advantages~~, ~~and~~ ~~but~~
~~copies~~ ~~from~~ the works of the ancients.

Nor may we forget that in the Sciences,
Astronomy had its Hipparchus & Ptolomy.

Mathematics its Pythagorus, Archimides & Euclid.

Chemistry its Geber

Philosophy its Plato & Aristotle &

Poetry its Homer & Virgil & Horace & ~~and~~

Medicine its Hippocrates & Galen

Law its Solon & Lycurgus

Oratory its Cicero & Demosthenes

History its Tacitus & Heroditus —

long, long centuries before the art of printing
was discovered. Of their works, transmitted
on tyle & bark & parchment, we know enough
to retain the knowledge of their teaching, as
belonging, as well to the age in which we live;
and the coming ages that will claim it as
an inheritance — as to the dead past in which
their authors lived & wrote.

And who so thoughtless as to forget - that the Ark of the Covenant, borne with steady hand - by the Children of Israel in their journey through the wilderness, until it was safely deposited in the Temple whose gorgeous splendor has never had a parallel? Who so thoughtless as to forget that ~~it~~ beneath its golden lid, it held, written upon stone, the foundation of ~~all~~ upon which all human law, wherever **Civilization** acknowledges Truth & Justice builds itself. — And who forget the Book & the Reader, in the Synagogue at Nazareth where the Carpenter's son expounded the prophecy concerning himself; which he read from a parchment scroll.

~~But after all these~~ But after all these admissions, it still remains true; that, until after, and long after, the 14th Century, except of mere architecture & some sorts of ^{art.} artifice, and a limited knowledge of ship building - whatever knowledge the world had of the Arts & Sciences, ~~it~~ ^{it} was confined to few individuals.

These were the wise men - the Philosophers - the Prophets - the Priests of the different periods.

When we remember that writing was ~~an~~

art that gave to its possessor distinction of no inferior grade - we may readily understand that the number who could write at all was small.

And when we come to consider that the cost of the material prepared for the purposes of ~~of~~ writing was expensive - we are at no loss to determine why - with the extraordinary cost of material & the high price of such labor as was necessary to produce them - but few could afford to buy books -

At the times of which we speak, a single piece of Papyrus - which you know was the inner bark of a kind of flag - cost 22 cents. A wooden tablet, on which accounts were written, ~~400 years before Christ~~, cost 18 cents a piece - and a Bible as late as 1300 sold for \$100.

Knowledge, ~~consequently~~, for the want of Books, & the ability to read them, was, therefore, communicated orally - so they had the Schools of the Prophets - as that of Gamaleel, at whose feet Saul of Tarsus was educated - and the Schools of the Philosophers, such as Socrates

and Plato taught — But few, comparatively, could attend these — Their number was too small to accomodate many — Besides, be it remembered, it required a long time to complete an education, which had to be acquired, wholly, or for the most part, from the lips of the Teacher — And in addition to all this — not to speak of the expense, which but few could afford — I suppose, in those days, as in our day, a great many children, with the approbation of their Parents, "chose darkness rather than light," because they didn't want to go to school.

All this had retarded the growth of the intellect of the world — If there was any independance of thought — it was so trammelled by its own ignorance, that it could accomplish no results. And, under the prevailing system of education — there could, only here and there at long intervals, be found, an educated mind, bold enough, to break loose from the dogmas of the Teacher; who, by general consent was esteemed an oracle — the very embodiment of

of wisdom - receiving, while living, the mental obedience of all men, & when they died, most probably, a place among the Gods.

The Teacher, consequently, did all the thinking for the world - If he failed to discover a hidden truth - his scholars - disciples, as they were called - would never think of exploring in a quarter, where he had not led the way.

But, in connection with this state of things, permit me to suggest; that, until after the introduction of the Printing Press - except the Jews before, & the Christians' after Christ's time - for ages upon ages, the nations of the earth were groping their way in the darkness of heathen mythology - and it is therefore not surprising - that ~~much~~ of the times of their Philosophers was as much devoted to enquiries concerning the laws of spiritual life as to those which pertained to material things -

They had but little sympathy with the every day affairs of life - except that which related to the affairs of State - and be it known that

no age of the world ever lacked for Politicians —
and while it is true that in the hey-day of Grecian
prosperity; an Athenian ~~was hardly regarded as a~~
~~patriot of whatever pretensions to learning or position,~~
was hardly regarded as a patriot, ~~if he devoted if~~
he gave not a portion of his time, at least, to
farming — yet he engaged in it more as a meritor-
ious service rendered to the state; than from any
disposition he had to employ his mind in its im-
provement.

The introduction of printing commenced a new
era in the history of education. The old systems
of Philosophic Schools — such as those to which I have
referred — gave place to those of more general
adaptation to the wants of the people at large.

The Schoolmaster began to be abroad in the
land. Not immediately, indeed, but in the
process of time, the ~~world~~ masses of the people
began to be instructed —

A mighty work ~~to~~ lay before the little
Press of Mentz. The ignorance — the bigotry —
the superstitions — the intolerance — 400 years

of darkness had ~~mounted~~ ^{accumulated}, loomed up in the path of the world's progress. Encountered, & overcome, they must be, though sheltered behind the Citadel of Kings, gauded too often by the sword, dripping with the blood of the Martyr to truth.

~~But with the strength of a Giant, and with the printed page - a weapon, ^{which} ~~that~~ neither error or Tyranny has ever been able to withstand, it ~~con-~~
~~sumed~~ the conflict~~

But gathering about itself - Gutenberg - Thomas a Kempis - ^{Raphael} Respicius - & Tindale - & Wroolsey - & Wickliffe & ^{John of Prouce} Luther & Melancthon & Geringle & Calvin & Knox - Copernicus & Galileo - Leibnitz & Newton & Bacon, of the 15th & 16th centuries, it grappled its foe with the strength of a Giant.

"For" these were Giants in those days." And such were they, as looked the dungeons, & the scaffold, & death, in the face - with a moral heroism - to which, no battlefield of earth has ever furnished a parallel.

The chain that bounds the volume to the Sanctuary - the monastery - or the school