

classics, in the invention of the Jewish records, and their preservation so that the Saviour's lineage could be traced through them to its source in Adam, in the stern Roman bearing with him in his migration, the carved images of his fathers, and giving them the choicest places in his new home, and, lastly and more markedly, in its power to rouse a slumbering people, when every other resource has failed, and lead them up to new Thermopylæ and Nasebys.

This deep, underlying principle of humanity forms the basis of Genealogy, and gives strength and solidity to the structure.

Again, one of the chief uses of the science is that it preserves pedigree; and pedigree has an intrinsic value in men, as well as in animals, whatever may be thought to the contrary by the unlearned and vulgar. It is a merit in itself and it confers merit on its possessor. How often do we hear it said of a young man who is doing well—"It is to be expected; he comes of good stock;" and of another, who is following evil courses—"You can expect nothing better; I have known his family for years; there is bad blood in him;" and so experience and observation have wrought out the established truth that "blood will tell," and that it is good policy to look askance at a man of evil ancestry. (There are, however, exceptions to this rule: Virtue is of perennial growth in the human soul, and may bloom even in the breast of the convict's son, while boys born to good families sometimes go astray—generally, however, from want of parental care and management, or from other extraneous causes, and not from any predisposition to evil.)

Men's experience, then, has settled that the virtues as well as the vices of the fathers are transmitted to their children. Genealogy, by its researches in heredity and transmission, goes further, and asserts that their traits and predilections, their acquisitions, mental and physical, their modes of thought and even of expression are transmitted also, and teaches that generations whom we thought long since dead still live in us, exist in our existence, act in our actions, and think in our thoughts. Now, if these things are so—and their truth is established beyond cavil—are not the votaries of the science justified in propounding a new axiom, that he is the real millionaire who inherits a virtuous ancestry; since he must receive with it a good name, good abilities, and sound judgment; and these in turn will confer on him a clear title to wealth, honest fame, and all the acquisitions and achievements of the human mind.

Genealogy preserves this blessing of ancestry to man. It also includes, in its province the questions of heredity, transmission, and