

A
LECTURE
ON THE
STUDY of ANCIENT COINS,
IN
CONNECTION WITH HISTORY,
As Delivered Feb. 6, 1829,
IN THE THEATRE OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION
or
GREAT BRITAIN.

By BENJAMIN RICHARD GREEN.

Illustrated with Plates.

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TO

CAPT^N. WILL^M HENRY SMYTH, R. N.

K.S.F. F.R.S. F.S.A.

**TO WHOM THE AUTHOR IS INDEBTED FOR HAVING FIRST DIRECTED
HIS ATTENTION TO THE STUDY OF COINS,**

This Lecture,

IN WHICH THE PRINCIPLES OF THAT STUDY ARE ATTEMPTED

TO BE ELUCIDATED.

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS MUCH OBLIGED,

AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

BENJAMIN RICHARD GREEN.

ERRATA.

Page 7, line 21, *for* considerations, *read* advantages.

Page 10, line 24, *for* is, *read* are.

Page 12, line 13, *for* Romans, *read* Roman.

LECTURE,

&c.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Lecture which I am to have the honor of delivering this Evening, has been written with the view of directing your attention to a department of science, hitherto regarded too much the province of the antiquary. That the knowledge of Ancient Coins has been long esteemed, the many excellent works on the subject, the time that has been devoted to it by eminent writers of the past century, as well as of the present day, were alone sufficient to testify; but certain it is that in an age like the present, when rapid advances are being made in almost every department of Literature, when scientific pursuits were at no period so generally cultivated, or their acquaintance so ardently sought for; the study of Coins has not kept pace with other branches of education; indeed, I fear it is regarded by many as a matter of mere idle curiosity, of no lasting benefit to the scholar, and wholly unworthy the attention of those whose avocations in life admit but of brief intervals for literary pursuits. A partiality for antiquities led me to the study of ancient Coins,

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when I soon perceived that the public did not derive that pleasure and advantage from them, which they were capable of imparting; and finding that even a slight knowledge of them might prove extensively useful, I devised a scheme by which I conceive their utility will be at once apparent, and this knowledge of them acquired with facility.

Previously to submitting an outline of my scheme, permit me to enquire into the circumstances that have hitherto tended to retard the progress of the study, and to account in some measure for the neglect it has experienced.

When any department of science first engages our attention, we must all have experienced the necessity there is for a free access to the subjects of it. For instance, in Mineralogy; those who have devoted any portion of their time to this branch of Natural History, must be well aware of the imperfect knowledge writing alone can convey, and the absolute necessity of our possessing specimens of natural productions, if we desire that our studies should prove of lasting benefit; not that this arises from a supposition that our author is incorrect in his statements, or that he does not express himself in a clear and intelligible manner, but that the very characteristics of Minerals are apparent more immediately through the medium

of our senses: to which I might add the pleasure we experience in seeing how far our ideas accord with those of our author. It is the same with Coins; as our knowledge of them increases, so we become desirous of possessing the originals, or at least correct representations of them, and hence it will be obvious the Student must hitherto have experienced a great check in his Numismatic Studies; owing to the difficulty of obtaining Coins in a sufficient state of preservation for his purpose, or of running into very considerable expence: neither will the possession of a few suffice, it is an entire collection he would consult, and access to cabinets where they abound is an indulgence limited to few. Under these circumstances he has recourse to engraved plates, but even here, unless great caution is observed, he may spend much to very little purpose. It has been a practice with almost all the early writers on the subject, to disregard any attempt at correct representations of the Coins; as works of art they scarcely deserve our notice, nor do they in one single instance do justice to the Coins themselves, while the repeated practice of delineating them on an increased scale, with the view of exhibiting the type to more advantage, or bringing them all to one standard in size, is, I conceive, calculated to convey the most erroneous impressions.

Another hindrance to the study of Coins, is the disgust created by Pedantry—Pedantry is the general reproach with which ignorance revenges the superciliousness of learning; and I must confess, it is a censure which many Numismatic writers of the past century have deservedly incurred. It is too frequently the case with antiquaries to narrow their views to particular points of research, and with little discrimination involve the interest arising from singularity, with the interest of history. Pedantry, ever the attendant of infant science, though so universally despised, yet prevails to a high degree in works of this nature, and that form of erudition, that ostentatious display of learning prevalent throughout, would deter many from a cultivation of this branch of taste.

However, with the Numismatic writers of a later period, the objections I have been stating no longer exist, but it must be observed, that their works are far more calculated for the Medallist, (being collections of rare and unpublished Coins,) than for conveying a popular view of the study. Although for an individual desirous of possessing even a slight knowledge of Coins, existing works would be adequate to furnish him with all the information he could desire; (provided his attention be properly directed,) yet where we would merely obtain the elements of the science, as subservient

to other branches of study; we should be deterred by the voluminous works that would present themselves, added to the necessity of having recourse to libraries of considerable extent. To obviate this inconvenience, Pinkerton's *Essay on Medals* appeared at the close of the last century, and is the only elementary work of the kind in our language, that I am aware of. It abounds with many excellent remarks on the utility of the study, and the various sources of delight and amusement arising from its cultivation, but the confused method of arrangement adopted in several parts, is liable to perplex the student, who cannot fail to discover inaccuracies which prevail; these, however, not so much to be imputed to any neglect on the part of the writer, but to the imperfect knowledge of many branches of the science, at the period when the work was undertaken; doubts then existing on many points which the discoveries of later years have tended to remove: moreover, a work of this nature requires more numerous illustrations than are there to be met with.

I scarce need mention Addison, who has left an *Essay on Medals*, and which, from the high reputation of the writer, has fallen into the hands of most readers; but of this I must observe, that the utility of the study is shewn but in one light,

and that not the most advantageous, viz.; their connection with Latin poetry, as shewn in the poetical imagery, on the reverses of the medallions of the Roman Emperors; therefore this work is calculated to convey but a very imperfect idea of the full extent of the science I am considering.

The objection to the study arising from the difficulty of decyphering the legends is, I am induced to believe, more apparent than real. The Coins confined to Greece seldom present more than the name of the city or the prince, which a knowledge of the Greek alphabet would alone render intelligible, indeed in many of the early Coins, the initial letters only are preserved. In the East, and more particularly with the Syrian and Parthian kingdoms, a multiplicity of names appear on the Coins, but they were such as were common to many princes, not only in the same, but in different countries, and hence the knowledge of a few only would serve as a key to the remainder.

Where I to enumerate the several parts of ancient history that have been elucidated by Coins; the chronology of many of the most important kingdoms of the ancient world, in a great measure regulated by these infallible vouchers, their utility would become strongly manifest. Yet notwithstanding these are facts which must

be readily admitted upon a mere insight into the study, I fear the recommendation would not be of a nature sufficiently strong to induce us to extend our enquiries, nor is it on these points I would fix your attention.

If learned men preceding us have, by a profound knowledge of the subject, rectified chronological errors, and through the medium of Coins brought to light events not otherwise known, we are content to profit by their researches, without ourselves traversing the same ground, and would willingly assign them their due share of merit. Indeed, so various are pursuits in life, that though a few persevering individuals, as if actuated by a genius for such studies, have devoted their time exclusively to them, yet to the generality such pursuits would be an abuse of time. Under this impression, my notices of history will be directed to the more important points, which interest alike all classes, and are in the power of all to obtain.

Nor are these the only ~~considerations~~ *advantages* which a knowledge of Coins is capable of imparting, for I cannot help mentioning among other advantages, the interest excited by the poetical imagery and symbolical representations on the reverses: an interest wholly independent of the assistance they furnish as historical records, or as efforts of superior workmanship and skill. To account

for this interest I am speaking of, we must have recourse to the principle of the association of the ideas. "Imitations," Dr. Johnson has remarked, "produce pain or pleasure, not that they are mistaken for realities, but that they bring realities to the mind." Hence much of the pleasure we derive from works of imitation, arises from our associating other ideas with those immediately excited by them, and consequently those pleasures are increased in proportion as our minds are furnished with ideas; the productions of Art never being thoroughly enjoyed, but by persons whose minds are enriched by a variety of kindred and corresponding imagery. Payne Knight, in his *Principles of Taste*, has some passages applicable to the present subject; they are as follows: "Much of the interest excited by these minor productions of ancient art, and consequently much of the value they have acquired, is owing to the same principle of association. Considered individually as detached specimens of art, their value may seem inadequate to the prices sometimes paid for them; but, nevertheless, when viewed in a series, and considered as exhibiting genuine, though minute examples of the rise, progress, perfection, and decay of imitative art employed upon the noblest subjects, the images of Gods, Heroes, and Princes among those nations, from which all excellence in art

and literature is derived, they stand connected with subjects so interesting and important, that they become truly interesting and important in themselves; as far as objects of elegant taste and speculative study can be so."

The personifications of the virtues and of the provinces is peculiar to the Roman Coins, where they not only display high proofs of poetic invention, but likewise serve to commemorate events connected with their history. With respect to the heads observable throughout the series of Coins, I need only observe the love of portraits of illustrious persons, seems so natural and general, that it is one of the first passions we seek to gratify, in the contemplation of pictures and of statues: we can survey with interest, nay even pleasure, the forms and features of a Caligula or a Nero, though the impiety of the one, and the cruelty of the other, were alike disgraceful to human nature. No where are portraits to be found of such great antiquity, so numerous, and in such fine preservation as we behold them on Coins, with what additional interest should we then peruse the recital of their lives, with the cotemporary Coins before us, we acquire as it were, a personal acquaintance with these characters of antiquity, and, as a modern writer aptly expresses it, "we sit as in a theatre, with the actors before us." From the

interest thus excited by portraits, we may account for the delight with which the savage and uncultivated tribes view even the rudest attempts at imitation; admiration of fine workmanship implies a previous acquaintance with that which is inferior, and there can be little doubt but that the early Saxon and English Coins, many of which are scarcely to be equalled in barbarity of execution, were looked upon with no small wonder and delight by our ancestors, among whom nothing superior in art had appeared, while they, to this day, attest the ignorance and barbarism that prevailed.

Much useful information is to be derived from an attentive inquiry into the manners and customs of different nations of antiquity, and for which purpose the Coins may be inspected with advantage, while from their affinity with our own times, a lively interest is excited. The costume, so characteristic of the various nations, is frequently depicted with great accuracy, while the heads of the Deities, their attributes, and other circumstances connected with the religious institutions, *are* calculated to throw much light on the times.

The perfection to which the Greeks attained in the arts of design, cannot escape observation, even from these minute reliques of antiquity. The

little attention they may have hitherto received in this particular, may I think be accounted for, from the avidity with which those of superior workmanship are seized as soon as discovered, and shut up in the cabinets of the curious; there remaining concealed until time or accident may present them to our notice. "While colossal statues and the hardest marbles, with their deepest inscriptions are destroyed by accident and by time, and paintings finished with the highest colours quickly fade, a Medal shall survive innumerable accidents, and disclose historical facts a thousand years after statues are crumbled away, and when nothing but the name of an Apelles or a Praxiteles remain. Does not a single Coin of which we are in possession, give us greater light into history, than the once famous libraries of Alexandria and Pergamus, which are now no more;"* but there is a pleasure apart from all these, felt by the most vigorous and enlightened minds, in antiquarian objects and pursuits. "This amusement," as Pinkerton observes, "considered as merely arising from antiquarian objects, has not been explained, though experienced by many. It bears some analogy to that, which we derive from an extensive prospect, for as the mind delights to ex-

* Lond. Mag. Feb. 1771.

pand itself into distant places, so does it also into distant times. We connect ourselves with those times, and feel as it were a double existence. The passions are singularly affected by minute circumstances, thought mute to generalities; and the reliques of antiquity impress us more than its general history. The Coin of any hero of antiquity will bring him closer to our ideas, and imprint him more firmly in our minds. The principle of curiosity implanted in our breasts, as the prime spring of knowledge likewise concurs, our senses are most affected by sensible objects, we feel a pleasure in spots remarkable for great actions, and a similar pleasure appears to contribute to antiquarian amusement."

Much confusion has arisen from an indiscriminate use of the words Coin and Medal, probably from the French word *Médaille* being used in both senses. The term Coin is applied to those productions of the Mint, as were intended for currency as money; and that of Medal, for those struck in commemoration of any remarkable event, or in honor of individuals. The superiority in size of many pieces issued from the Roman Mint, led to the belief that they were not intended for circulation as Coin; but on this point Medallists are yet at variance, and it is to these Addison refers in his "Dialogues on Ancient

Medals." The multiplicity in modern times, of pieces of both kinds, renders it necessary that the distinction should be drawn, I shall not therefore consider the terms as synonymous.

Coins are comprehended under two principal heads, Ancient and Modern: by Ancient Coins we understand all those preceding the ninth century A. D; they may be enumerated under three classes. The Coins of Greece, of Rome, and other Ancient Nations: these admit of numerous subdivisions, the Grecian Coins into two, those of the independent States and of the Kings. The divisions of the Romans are far more numerous, it will answer my present purpose to mention the Coins of the families commonly called the Consular Coins, and the Roman Imperial; the Coins struck by the Colonies planted at different periods by the Romans, and a series denominated the Greek Imperial Coins, being struck by the Greek cities during the Roman Empire. The last class, that of foreign nations, is of the least importance, they being for the most part inscribed with unknown characters, the more conspicuous of these are the Etruscan and the Punic, under which denomination are comprehended the Coins of Carthage and Phœnicia.

By Greek Coins we understand all Coins bearing Greek characters, hence those of Syria,

Parthia, Armenia, and Bactria, being inscribed with Greek letters will fall under that head.

Modern Coins do not come under my present consideration, it will be sufficient for me to mention that all the countries in Europe, many in Asia and even Africa, have their respective Coinage, and frequently from a very early period. From this enumeration I think it will be obvious that Coins, both ancient and modern, are calculated to furnish much additional interest to history. I shall now direct your attention to the Grecian Coinage, of which those of the independent states, commonly called the Civic Coins, are the most ancient, and will be first entitled to our consideration. Homer, according to Sir Isaac Newton, flourished about the eighth century B. C., as no mention is made throughout his poems of stamped money, we may reasonably conclude that little, if any, existed prior to his time; before then unstamped pieces of metal, rude in their shape, but regulated according to their weight, served as the representatives of property. It was soon however found necessary to impress them with some mark, either, perhaps, to hinder their being counterfeited, or by indicating their value, prevent the confusion arising from the weights varying in different countries. Now it will be readily granted that it was sufficient to affix this symbol on one side only of the

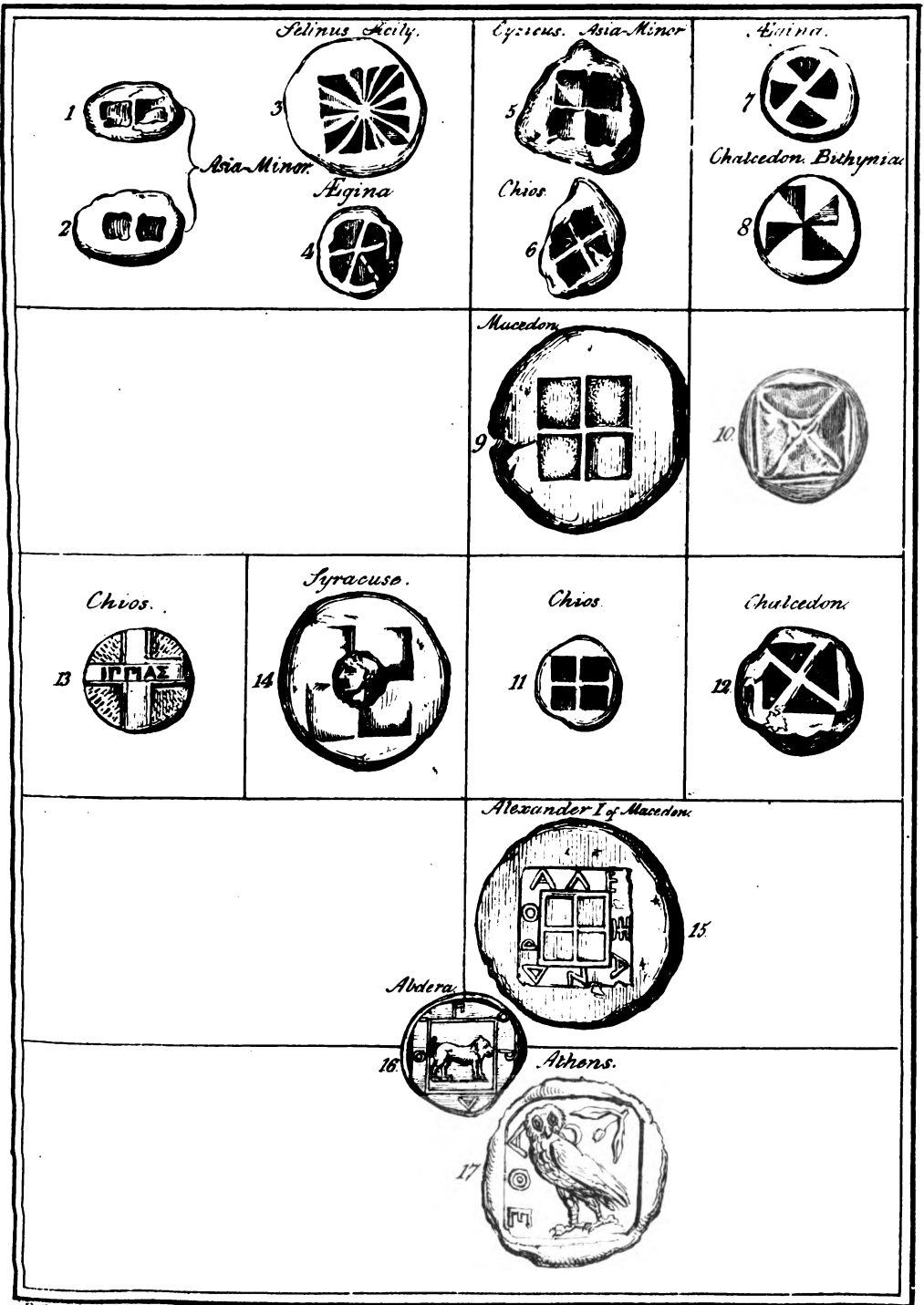
Coin; and hence it became requisite to devise Pl. I. some means of fixing the piece of metal intended to be impressed during the operation of striking. At the present day the Coin is placed within a small circle of steel, serving to retain it in its place, but this being a contrivance unknown to the ancients, the method they resorted to was simply this: grooves were cut (generally at right angles) in the piece of metal on which the Coin was to be laid, which forming projecting points, entered it at the first blow of the hammer, and held it firmly during the remainder of the operation.

The number of these indentures varied in different countries and at different periods, on many of the earliest Coins of the Grecian cities in Asia-Minor, we meet with two hollow indented 1 & 2. marks, occasioned, I conceive, by the means just stated being resorted to, for fixing the Coin during the formation of the type on the obverse.

Frequently the indentations are very numerous, as may be seen on the Coins of many of 3 & 4. the Grecian Islands, and Greece itself; but in a short time the number became limited to four, thus partaking of a greater degree of uniformity: 5 & 6. probably for the sake of variety we occasionally meet with Coins, in which the depression assume a triangular form. The number four, however, 7 & 8. soon became general, and in the next stage we

- Pl. I. shall observe greater attention paid to the form, though yet very rude, and it hence resembled a
- 9 & 11. square divided into four equal parts; in like
10. manner, we may observe the square portioned off in four triangles; seeming as it were an improvement upon that delineated immediately above. As yet no letters had appeared, and as we proceed we shall observe the several compartments
12. become occupied by the initial letters of the city. We have an instance in a Coin of Chios, were the
13. lines crossing the field of the Coin at right angles are continued to the circumference, and the square formation of the dye entirely lost. About this period may be placed those Coins on which the first attempt at reverses appear, by which I mean some type or figure on both faces of the Coin. A few of the ancient Coins of Syracuse are deserving of note in this particular: the divided square which I pointed out as indicative of an early stage of the Art is here discernible, but instead of the lines uniting in the centre, a small circular space
14. is reserved, in which some object is delineated. While necessity still dictated the adaptation of the square form to the dye, it was found susceptible of some degree of ornament, and a singular variety next presents itself, in which the divided square is considerably diminished in size, situated
15. in the centre as before, while another square is

Plate I.



P.F. Green del.

formed beyond; the intervening space then serves to contain the legend.* In process of time the centre compartment becomes occupied by some figure after the manner of the Syracusian Coins, but in the next, and the last stage I shall speak of, the inner square is omitted, and the whole of the intermediate space engaged by the symbol. The square form of the dye observable with the last Coin, prevailed for a considerable time throughout Greece; the period of its discontinuance may be placed about the fourth century, B. C. when the relief of the type on the reverse was found sufficient to secure the Coin, answering the purposes of the indented square.

Pl. I.

16.

17.

I stated the earliest Civic Coins to have been fabricated about the eighth century B. C. or somewhat earlier, these then will serve to exhibit the several stages of the Art for more than four centuries: the varieties are infinitely more numerous than those delineated, I have selected only a few of the more common, they being sufficient for the purpose I had in view.

* The Coin No. 15, has the name of Alexander inscribed around the inner square; he was the first King of that name, and ascended the throne of Macedon 500 B. C. No. 9, is also supposed to be a Coin of this Prince, and probably struck in the early part of his reign. The Coins, Nos. 13 and 16, are inscribed with the names of Magistrates.

If we look around upon the various departments of literature, few I think will be found more universal in its cultivation or more lasting in its impressions, blending amusement with instruction, than History. From our earliest years we delight in the recital of events that have befallen our species; the warlike enterprizes of our ancestors well accord with the passions predominant in early youth, and our memory, then in its full vigour, strongly retains those events in the mind, which remain imprinted when the levity of youth has disappeared, and reason is matured by age. Were the study of history confined to a mere knowledge of facts, or to a strict enquiry into the era in which they happened, history would lose much of its charm and be little worthy of our regard. A description of battles and of campaigns can neither amend the heart or improve the mind, but by investigating the conduct of those who conducted them, and by tracing the causes from which they sprung, we learn to discriminate the different motives which impel, and the schemes which actuate the bulk of mankind: but the utility of history is so universally acknowledged as to render further remarks needless, I will only

add, as apart from these, the pleasure we derive from mere knowledge, without a view to its subsequent advantage, in gratifying a curiosity implanted in us by our nature, for the better understanding of the universe in which our lot is cast.

When we desire to turn our historical knowledge to advantage, by reflecting on the causes and results of human actions, the necessity of Chronology becomes apparent. Events cannot be compared if we are not conversant with the periods in which they themselves took place, and as much of the interest of History consists in the various fluctuations of power, (not only where a variety of States are concerned, but with individual Kingdoms,) if we mistake the order of succession, no correct information can be acquired. For the purpose of obtaining this outline of Chronology, Historical Charts were first introduced and perhaps no better means could be devised for impressing on the mind the leading features of History: as moreover the events of no one nation are wholly unconnected, but were at some period nearly allied with those of the neighbouring provinces, we have by means of the Chart, this union visibly exemplified in the geographical disposition of the countries.

I here purpose seeing how far a comprehensive view of the Coinage of a remarkable period



in ancient times may tend to elucidate its history, and prove a means by which the leading events connected with that period may be retained in the mind.

To this end I beg to call your attention, to the second of the two divisions I pointed out, as peculiar to the Grecian Coins, I mean that of the Kings. The mass of these Coins occur subsequently to the period of Alexander the Great, chiefly serving to elucidate the histories of the various dynasties founded by his generals; and when we consider the immense period of time which has elapsed since they were struck, the series are wonderfully complete. Thus, upon the division of Alexander's Empire, we are presented with entire series of the kings of Egypt and Syria, kingdoms which preserved the succession of their monarchs with little interruption until their final dissolution; the series of the Macedonian princes, and those of the various territories of Asia Minor. Independently of these, we have in the West the kingdoms of Sicily and Epirus, and in the East those of Parthia, Armenia, and Bactria.

The monarchic Coins commence about the fifth century, B. C. the uppermost line (Pl. II.) will serve to denote this century, the second dark line, the fourth, and so on to the Christian era; the lines for two more centuries are likewise drawn, as

some few Coins extend to a very late period. The Pl. II earliest series is that of the Macedonian kings, where the Coins appear under Alexander I. a king little known of in history: as I purpose adhering to a chronological disposition of the countries, and Macedonia being a European kingdom the Coins of this Alexander will occupy a station to the left, and on the perpendicular line those of his successors, until the period of Alexander the Great, who came to the throne 336 years B. C. When the Coins of a king are very numerous, an horizontal line will serve to denote the space occupied by them, such is the case with those of Alexander III., and his father Philip II.

From the interruption experienced in the succession by the death of Alexander the Great, the Macedonian kingdom admits of a division into two parts, the first terminating with this prince, and the second commencing with Cassander, 315 years B. C. Previously, however, to proceeding with these kings, another race will engage our attention, rivalling Macedonia in the antiquity of its Coinage, I mean that of Sicily. This kingdom being the most western whose coinage I have to consider, I place the series to the left of Macedonia, commencing with Gelo, who obtained the sovereignty of Syracuse, 485 years B. C.* I

* He had previously reigned six years at Gela.

Pl. II. should not however omit to notice an opinion very prevalent, that the Coins bearing the name of this King, and also those of his immediate successor Hiero I., were the fabrication of a subsequent age; indeed a long period of time elapses before the Coins re-appear: with Agathocles, who came to the throne 317 years B. C. the series re-commences, and proceeds without further interruption until the seige of Syracuse by Marcellus, 212 years B. C., when Sicily becomes a Roman province. Another kingdom will engage our notice previously to returning to Macedon, viz. Epirus, the Coins of this kingdom will occupy the space intervening between the two last; they were first struck under a King named Alexander, and cotemporary with Alexander III. of Macedon, but the kingdom is little known until the age of Pyrrhus, who came to the throne 306 years B. C., upon his death Epirus speedily relapses into the obscurity from which it had so lately emerged, a few Coins exist of his immediate successors, and about 200 years B. C. the kingdom is annexed to Macedon by Philip V.

It will be my endeavour as much as possible to avoid entering upon historical detail, sensible as I am that the period of history now under consideration is well known to my readers; but in

order to exhibit the intimate connexion of Coins Pl. II. with History, some detail is obviously unavoidable, and I trust will not prove unacceptable.

Upon the death of Alexander the Great, no successor being named by his will, the crown for awhile devolves upon Philip III. surnamed Aridæus, his Coins resemble those of Alexander III. and will be placed immediately under them; the division of the empire among the generals then ensues, of whom the Coins of five remain, they are Antigonus, Lysimachus and Ptolemy, Cassander and Seleucus. To Antigonus was assigned the interior of Asia Minor as his portion; arriving now at another quarter of the globe, the space between two of the waved lines I purpose allotting to this country, and there place the Coins of Antigonus, from the death of Alexander 323 years B. C. At much the same period Lysimachus and Ptolemy each acquire possession of their territories, the former of Thrace, and the latter of Egypt. Thrace being contiguous to Macedon, I place the Coins of Lysimachus immediately to the right of that kingdom, and in the second compartment formed by the waved lines, those of Ptolemy. Antipater had been charged with the government of Macedon during the expedition of Alexander to the East, and was succeeded at his death by his son Cassander, the next general

Pl. II., whose Coins I have to notice; he came to the throne 315 years B. C. commencing as I before observed the second Macedonian kingdom: the Coins of this prince will fall in a line under those of Alexandor III. of Macedon. At much the same period Seleucus obtains possession of Syria, the most Eastern country I have as yet considered, his Coins will therefore occupy a space to the right of Egypt,—they are very numerous, and of great variety.

Hence arose a series of wars and intrigues of which the detail is barren of all useful information, in the course of these Antigonus acquires the sole dominion of Asia-Minor, and unites his son Demetrius in a share of the government: the Coins of this prince I place immediately under those of Antigonus. Their ambition excites the envy of the remaining generals, who unite against them, and at the memorable battle of Ipsus, Antigonus is slain, and his son Demetrius escapes into Macedon; upon this event a second division of Alexander's kingdom is brought about, by which the four remaining generals each acquire some addition to their former possessions, Lysimachus a portion of Asia Minor, and Seleucus Asia as far East as the Indus. The remaining part of Asia Minor, now freed from Antigonus, is formed into several independent states; but to

return to Macedon, with Cassander commences Pl. II. the second Macedonian kingdom, which experiences another interruption of nearly twenty years: Demetrius, shortly after his escape from Asia Minor, seized upon the throne, and is deposed by Pyrrhus and Lysimachus, who reign in succession. The series after this period is resumed, the Coins of Philip V. (whom I mentioned as having united Epirus to this kingdom,) are found in great numbers, he came to the throne 220 years B. C.: during the reign of Perseus, son of the preceding monarch, the kingdom becomes a province of the Roman empire, 168 years B. C. Little is known of Thrace, after the death of Lysimachus, this country at an early period falling into possession of the Gauls.

The series of Coins are preserved of four of the principal kingdoms in Asia Minor, viz. Pergamus, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Pontus. Lysimachus consigned Pergamus to the care of Philetærus, who became the founder of a kingdom, he having upon the death of Lysimachus seized upon this country; a line serves to denote the succession of the kings, which terminate 133 years B. C. when Attalus III. bequeaths the kingdom to the Romans. The next in order is Bithynia, where Nicomedes III. came to the throne 278 years B. C., a line as before will point

E

Pl. II. out the situation of the Coins of his successors, the last king Nicomedes IV. bequeathed his kingdom to the Romans, 75 years B. C. We now arrive at Cappadocia, where the Coins were first struck under Ariarathes IV. about 250 years B. C., a very complete series of Coins is preserved of his successors to whom the name of Ariarathes was common; Archelaus the last king bequeathed the kingdom to the Romans, 17 years B. C. Pontus, at one period forming part of Cappadocia, is the next and last kingdom of Asia Minor we have to consider: the series commences somewhat earlier than the preceding, this country having been less subjected to the inroads of Alexander the Great during his Eastern expedition. The first Coins are those of Mithridates III. about 300 years B. C.; the kingdom came into notice with Mithridates VI. commonly called the Great, who, in an attempt to seize upon the territories of the Bithynian and Cappadocian kings, is himself defeated, and his country rendered tributary to the Roman Empire, it was nevertheless permitted to be governed by its own kings until 41 years A. D. when the series is discontinued. One race of kings in Asia Minor yet remains to be noticed, I mean the Carian; this kingdom lasted about half a century, in which space of time we are presented with the Coins of four kings, commencing with Hecatomnus, about 400 years B. C.

The Coins of Ptolemy I. have been assigned Pt. II. their place; of the thirteen kings bearing that name the Coins of twelve remain, they are very numerous, and with the exception of the Syrian, are the most beautiful series we possess: with Cleopatra, sister to the last Ptolemy, about 30 years B. C. Egypt is annexed to the Roman Empire. The Coins of the Syrian kings present by far the most complete series of portraits existing on Grecian Coins; to thirteen kings the name of Antiochus was common, (the same number assumed the name of Ptolemy in Egypt,) and in all there were twenty-six kings: this kingdom commenced later than Egypt, viz. 312 years B. C., and became a Roman province 65 years B. C.—Tigranes, one of the last kings, having been called from Armenia to occupy the throne, and in his wars with the Romans was defeated by Pompey. Judæa continued under the dominion of the High Priests until 40 years B. C., when Herod the Great, (the first king of that name,) obtained the kingdom through the influence of the Romans. We have also transmitted to us, the Coins of two more princes bearing that name, and two Agrippa's; under the reign of the second,* the

* I do not think a stronger evidence could be adduced in favor of the truth of the historical portion of the New Testament, than the actual existence of a series of Coins of the princes therein mentioned, all of which are inscribed with their names.

- Pl. II. destruction of Jerusalem was effected by Titus, and shortly after the entire country subjugated by the Romans.

It now only remains for me to consider the remaining Asiatic countries in the East, and independent of Syria. In the second division of Alexander's empire, Seleucus it will be remembered, acquired not only Syria, but all the country to the East as far as the Indus; his reign was splendid, and commenced the era of the Seleucidæ or Syrian kings, so called in honor of their founder. In a subsequent reign Arsaces laid the foundation of the Parthian monarchy, a kingdom which in after times acquired dominion over all the neighbouring provinces of Asia, and is known to have even disputed the empire of the world with the Romans; the series commencing about 250 years B. C., is incomplete in the early part, but the Coins subsequently become numerous, and a succession of kings reigned for nearly five centuries, when the country is subjected to a new race of Persian kings, denominated Sassanidæ 226 A. D. of whom Coins likewise exist. The kingdom of Armenia being eastward of Parthia, and commencing at much the same period, the Coins of Arsames, the earliest king, will be placed between it and Syria. With Tigranes the

kingdom acquires some celebrity; that prince Pl. II. has already been mentioned as having occupied the throne of Syria: his successors are mostly unknown, and the Coins extremely scarce. The country was subdued by Trajan 107 years B. C. *A. C.* Theodotus became governor of Bactria, (the most distant of Alexander's conquests,) 258 years B. C. this kingdom therefore commenced at nearly the same period as the two preceding; a Coin exists of Euthydemus, who ascended the throne 220 years B. C., (the same year in which Philip V. came to the possession of Macedon,) the Coins of a few of his successors are to be met with; but the kingdom had existed little more than a century, when it was overrun by the Scythians.

A remarkable circumstance attends the kingdoms of Asia Minor, which I shall name, being I conceive, a material aid to the memory for remembering the dates of their discontinuance. The four kingdoms I have enumerated, will be found to have fallen under the power of the Romans, an equal period of time elapsing between each; thus the kingdom of Pergamus I stated as terminating 138 years B. C., that of Bythinia 75, between which will be found an interval of 58 years; the next kingdom is Cappadocia, the year I assigned for the termination of this kingdom was 17 B. C., between 17 and 75 there will be found

Pl. II. another interval of 58 years; and between this last kingdom and that of Pontus, at the period of its discontinuance 41 A. D. we have a third interval of precisely the same duration. Upon viewing the arrangement of the countries, we shall observe a diagonal line, formed by them as they successively became subjected to the Roman Empire. The reason of this will be readily apparent, I have preserved a geographical disposition of the countries, those then nearest to that power first fell under its influence, a longer period of time elapsing as the kingdoms were more remote. With the addition of the Coins of a few obscure kingdoms in Asia Minor and Syria, the arrangement is complete.

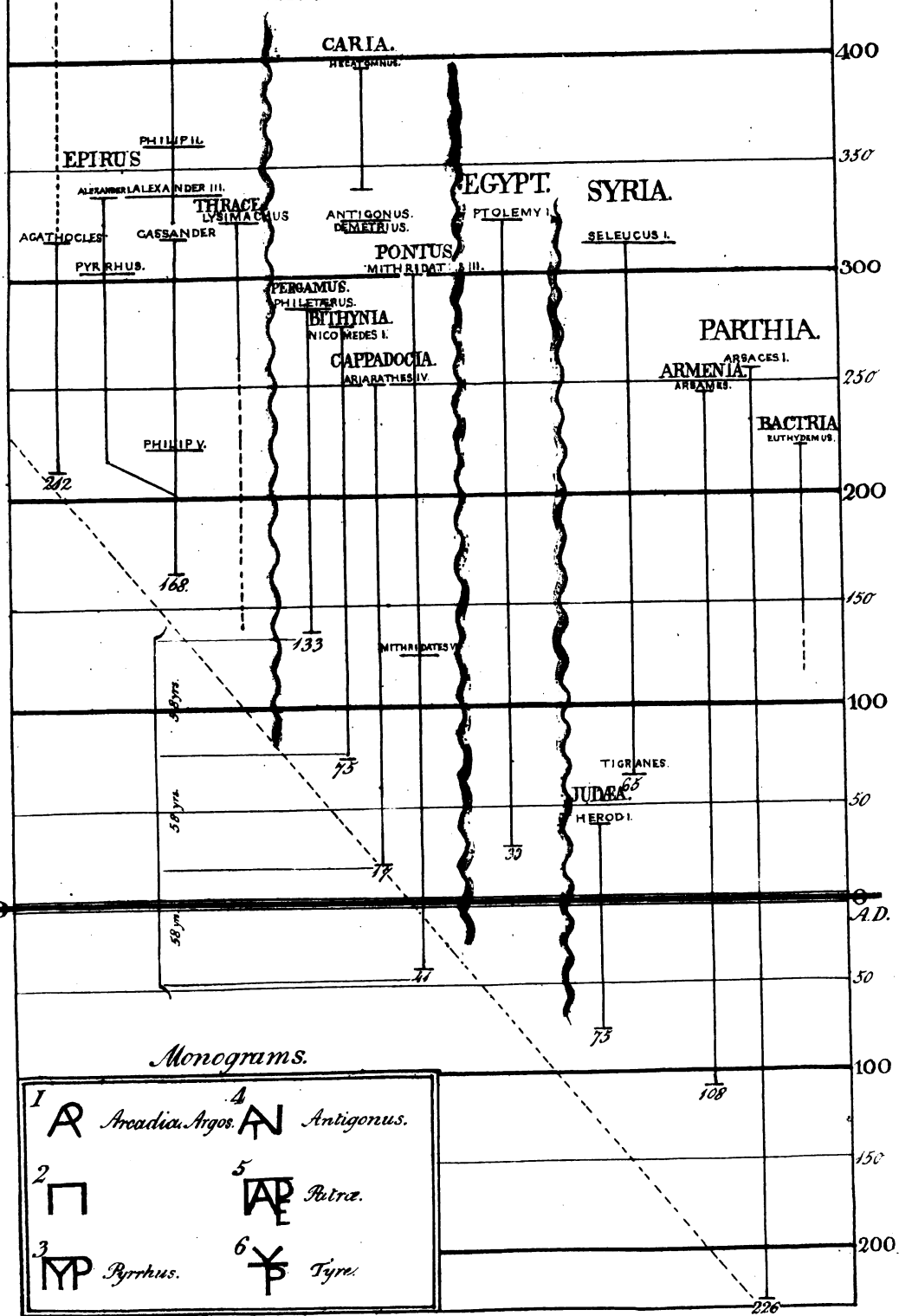
The plan of such a Chart being once understood, we shall readily ascertain the relative situation or strength of the various kingdoms in every century, as the succession of its monarchs pass in review before us. In many cases, indeed, a greater variety in types or metals, indicate the superiority of one prince over another, in a manner calculated, I conceive, to make a more lasting impression than where, as in Historical Charts, the name only is inserted, where none in particular arrests the attention, and the superiority is obtained, either by a previous knowledge, or remains to be specified in words.

SICILY.

ALEXANDER I.

Europe
Asia
Africa

ASIA-MINOR.



Monograms.

1	R	Aradica Argos.	4	AN	Antigonus.
2	□		5	AP	Patra.
3	MP	Pyrrhus.	6	Y	Tyre.

1000

I have as yet considered Coins only as subservient to chronology, and in so doing have not had occasion to advert to the numerous devices upon them, I shall now see if they may not be applicable to other purposes, and serve to elucidate events. The three metals commonly resorted to were gold, silver, and copper with its various modifications; and it is worthy of observation, that the progress of metals (as the representatives of money,) seems to have kept pace with the increase of wealth and commerce; this remark does not hold equally well with the silver and copper, as with the gold. Gold, if we except the early Asiatic coinage, was the last metal brought into use for the purpose of money, and that with few exceptions, but when a kingdom had attained a high degree of prosperity.

The coinage of the kings will sufficiently exemplify my remark; Macedon, we well know, rose in splendour with Philip II., and arrived at its height of prosperity under his son Alexander the Great, from which period it rapidly declined in power: under Philip V. the kingdom for awhile came into notice, but it never attained its former splendour. With Philip II. gold Coins first appear in Macedon; those of his son Alexander the Great are common, and with the exception of Philip Aridæus, and Alexander's

generals, whose Coins I have placed in their respective countries, no other gold ones exist. Sicily was in its most flourishing state under Hiero II. whose reign extended to nearly sixty years,—he is the only prince whose gold Coins are common, Epirus came into notice with Pyrrhus, of whom there are many gold Coins, but none occur of his successors. Coins in this metal are found of most of Alexander's generals, who possessed absolute power in the countries they governed, and which were in their most flourishing state during their life-time. Egypt is well known to have enjoyed a long period of prosperity under the early Ptolemies: the largest and most beautiful gold Coins of Greece were struck during this period. Syria possessed greatest power under the early princes, of whom only gold Coins are found.

Silver was early in use amongst the Greeks, being found from its beauty and durability the fittest material for money. Some few series occur only in bronze, and as the gold Coins denote the prosperity, so will these the poverty of a kingdom. The series of the Judæan kings are of bronze; a second race of Thracian kings; those of Galatia and Cilicia, in Asia Minor; and a few in Syria: these last being so inconsiderable have not before fallen under my notice.

The inhabitants of Macedonia and Thrace

were naturally warlike, achievements of military prowess were more particularly characteristic of their sovereigns, and from being continually engaged in dissensions at home and abroad, they were inured from their infancy to the use of arms, the acquirement of intrepidity and the love of glory.

Jupiter, Mars, and Hercules, were the deities worshipped, and these with their attributes form the usual reverses of their Coins; a horse is a common reverse with the Macedonian kings, figures of Pallas and Victory, also numerous warlike instruments, the helmet, shield, and bow,—all indicative of the warlike character of the natives.

Among the Sicilian Coins the heads of Ceres and Proserpine are frequent; (the deities known to have been worshipped there,) with many of the symbols I have enumerated under Macedon. The Coins of the kings of Asia Minor, which come next in order, will not detain us long, they offer little variety in their reverses, are chiefly of silver, and of a very large size. A figure of Jupiter is the invariable reverse to the Coins of the Carian kings.

The kingdoms that acquired independency upon the death of Antigonus, have on their Coins the portrait of the king with the figure of a deity upon the reverse, preserved with little varia-

F

tion throughout the series; such is the case with the kingdoms of Pergamus and Cappadocia, which have to each the figure of Minerva, and that of Jupiter to Bithynia; no symbol is peculiar to Pontus, indeed the Coins themselves are few in number.

The Coins of the Egyptian kings follow, their reverses will be easily remembered as they offer but two varieties, an eagle upon a thunderbolt, and a cornucopia: the former is however much more frequent.

The reverses of the Syrian kings are very numerous, many of them occur in all the metals, but the series of silver is by far the most beautiful and complete, their portraits occupy the obverse and some favorite deities the reverse; of these Apollo is the most common: figures of their deities chiefly form the reverses of the bronze. On the Coins of Judæa a temple, palm branch, and tabernacle, are frequent.

It has been observed that the rudeness of the engraving affords no solid invariable criterion either of the antiquity of the Coin, or the general state of the arts in the country where it was struck, but I am not aware of any other state besides Athens, having been cited in support of this. In some few countries indeed, the early method of coining may have been retained longer than in

others, as indolence may have co-operated to check any attempts at improvement; but this was by no means general. In Athens it may appear somewhat surprising, that at the period when the art of sculpture was carried to its highest perfection, the Coins are invariably ill executed: Athens was later than most of the surrounding states in her coinage, but the successive stages of the art may be traced in those that exist, and which appear to have kept pace with the rest until the commencement of the Peloponnesian war, from which period no further attempts at improvement are evinced. I can only account for this, in supposing, that while encouragement was held forth by the state for works of magnitude to adorn the temples and public edifices, the artists were more disposed to exert their skill on imperishable materials, than on such, whereof every days friction would impair the beauty and delicacy of the execution; or that the dye engravers, finding the attention wholly directed to the splendid works at that time produced, would seek for encouragement in those countries where their merits would be duly appreciated.

Time will not permit me to enter upon the original value of Grecian Coins, or to specify their different sizes, I cannot however quit the subject, without adverting to the ingenious method

resorted to for conveying information by means of monograms. By a monogram is to be understood the name of a prince, city, or the like, of which the characters are so interwoven that the limb of one, if I may so express myself, applies to many; by this means an entire name might be comprised in a very small compass.

On the earliest Greek Coins I before observed, we are presented only with the initial letters of the city; as a confusion would necessarily arise from the number of cities commencing with the same letters, the two or three first were resorted to, to express which, in a small compass, monograms were introduced. The letter A (Pl. II.)
 1 in combination with the Greek R, served to denote Arcadia or Argos. Many of the Greek characters indeed seem particularly well adapted for such purposes; the Greek P for instance, being represented by three right lines, readily admitted of
 2 any letter being placed in the intermediate space, and thus in the monogram of Pyrrhus, the
 3 three first letters of his name are comprised. It will be obvious, that were his name of Pyrrhus written at full length on the smallest Coins of that prince, the characters must have been so minute, as to be scarcely legible, but by the means I have been stating this difficulty was wholly removed.

The name of Antigonus is expressed by a monogram, comprising the four first letters of his name, and by an ingenious combination the entire name of the city was sometimes comprehended; there is an instance of this in the Coins of the ancient city of Patræ. Monograms were frequently used on the monarchic Coins, to point out the city in which the Coins were struck; such is the case with those of Alexander the Great and many of the Syrian princes, which were struck at Tyre, and on which the monogram of that city appears. It may convey some idea of the infinite number and variety of these combinations, when I may venture to say, that there are few monarchic Coins from the period of Alexander the Great, on which one or more of these forms are not to be seen, but a comparatively small number have as yet been explained, those that are delineated will, I think suffice to explain their nature. Pl. II. 4 5 6

The period of ancient History to which I have more especially confined myself, for exhibiting the connection of Coins with History, though I believe best calculated for the purpose, obviously embraces but a small portion, where Roman History is considered; and the Grecian from the invention of coinage. As I purpose following my present work with the Roman History, in like

manner elucidated, and other portions connected with Greece, my present Lecture can be regarded merely as introductory; I hope, however, in what little I have said, my efforts have not proved unavailing. The necessity of Chronology in the study of History is apparent to all, yet the difficulty of acquiring this dry chronicle of events has been so generally experienced, as to have given rise to various systems of artificial memory. From the interest with which portraits are universally regarded, these (taken from Coins,) have not unfrequently been introduced into historical works, but no chronological arrangement of them, that I am aware of, has as yet been attempted: independently of the assistance thus afforded to History, the amusement they are calculated to furnish, while relieving the mind at intervals, yet directing it towards its main object, would, I think, be no small recommendation to a more general acquaintance with Coins. Neither have I omitted to regard them as works of art, and viewed in this light only, they would, I feel confident, afford the highest satisfaction, as exhibiting the progress and perfection of imitative art amongst a nation from whom all excellence in art and literature is derived, who in both, attained to an excellence rarely equalled and never surpassed.

If the character of perfection is to be allotted

to the works of man, there are few, I think, who can hesitate in pronouncing the remains of Grecian art as entitled to that claim, and I have little hesitation in asserting, that in many of the minute relics of their skill that have engaged our attention this Evening, are to be found the beautiful forms, high finish, and expression, evinced in their productions of greater magnitude;—these transmitting to future generations standards of perfect art, while they attest the genius and taste united, of Unrivalled Greece.

“ She, first the powers of just proportion found,
And scatter'd parts in beauteous union bound;
Assembled kindred sweets from ev'ry clime,
And form'd a standard for admiring Time.
Though lost her sceptre, yet her learning sways,
Her Arts still dictate, and the world obeys.”

Shée's "*Elements of Art*," Canto I.

Note. Among the works of L'Abbé Barthelemy, will be found an "*Essai d'une Paléographie Numismatique*," in which the progress of early Coinage, as exhibited in Plate I., is treated of at some length. The volume of Plates accompanying Mionnet's "*Description de Médailles Antiques*," may be consulted for the same purpose with advantage, and offers many interesting specimens of the Art.



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. The Coin represented on the first page bears to the left the portraits of Ptolemy I. and Berenice: to the right Ptolemy II. and Arsinoe,

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