

54.
Martin
William
Leake.

treasury of the wonders of the East, and whilst the Continent was closed to her, her travellers flocked to Hellas, registering with marvellous patience, watch in hand, on the back of the slowly marching mule, piece by piece, the remains of antiquity. . . . The political mission, headed by Martin William Leake, was as such quite unsuccessful; for science, it was of priceless value: from the moment that Leake trod on classic soil the reminiscences of Homer and Herodotus were kindled, and he saw clearly his life-work before him. Under the powerful impressions produced by the great table-land of Asia Minor with the solitary snow-peak Argaios, deeply moved by the deserted places, marching over Grecian inscriptions, over sarcophagi and temple ruins, he felt the irresistible charm of the attempt to explore and to understand these homes of ancient culture.¹ . . . The scientific result was a lasting gain for the civilised world, and the travels which he made from 1805 to 1807 mark an epoch in our knowledge of Grecian antiquity.”²

But the labours of the pioneer in science, life, or art, which form so conspicuous an element of this country's mental work during the first two-thirds of the century, must be supplemented and carried further by a great army of patient and trained explorers. Original ideas must be cast into an appropriate and elegant form; new discoveries must be extended and criticised by strict methods of research; erudition and philosophy are required to guarantee completeness and depth. In the large domain of the historical sciences these labours of

¹ E. Curtius, *loc. cit.*, p. 307.

² *Ibid.*, p. 312.