There no means of educating & preserving the wisdom of past times, it would remain
forever in a state of infancy. The sort form of knowledge which we may
reasonably suppose will exist in the later days, will only be a collection of the
streams springing from prior ages. It is then of the utmost importance that
the fountains where they proceed should be impelled by error or
prejudice, especially as streams seldom increase in purity, as they increase
in length. A popular writer is finds authority with the many.

It is often sufficient for gaining belief to in a circumstances stated in
a mastery manner, he contends with all the instruments of speech, though the
source of the information may not be given. On the other hand as few take
the trouble of referring to authorities, by a mere quotation of them an
author, whose talents & learning prevent suspicion, force on us things
apparently demonstrable, but which, of a careful research would be found
more questionable. In this way an elegant writer has it in his power to
cheek a notion, the character of men who have taken a lead in past
times, according to his fancy disposed.

The immortal & unaltering eloquence
of Demosthenes has stamped eternal infamy on Philip of Macedon, repre-
senting him as a crafty tyrant & a despot, buffoon; while he stands
forth as an unselfish patriot; but the historian Milford remarks on the
case a friend of his research, would have us believe, that Philip was a wise,
human, virtuous prince, & Demosthenes a men ambitious factionist,
governed in his opposition to Philip by personal hatred, that he toot of some of
his intrigues against Alexander, saying they would procuce him a name in the
memory of his son, that he was a reward, & himself to be
left idle. And for all this the historian procures his authority, yet may he have
inflated on his readers in the same manner, (to which the Bann has shown) that
so Reid has in his supposed confirmation of ideas born, which he attacks as the \written