generally lose a part or the whole of their original acceptation, and acquire that shade of meaning which may be given him by the nation into which they pass. This revolution which words undergo in migrating from one language to another, presents the fairest opportunity of arriving at certainty in our investigations of subjects so subtle as thought and the symbols of thought. Thus while we are engaged in the study of the ancient languages, we acquire the habit of analysing our intellectual operations, from which, nothing can be more admirably adapted to the young mind just beginning to unfold itself towards it, gives it an accuracy and clearness of perception in all its future investigations.

The improvement of our taste is an adjective synomous of minor importance. Homer Allard and Virgil’s Aeneid have been admitted by all nations, as standards, by which, epic poems must be measured. And coming to us with the accumulated approbation of preceding ages, it would be superficial to say anything in praise of them and presumptuous to endeavour to detract from their merit. It was these works that shone with a "splendid radiance" during the darkness of the middle ages and to which we are indebted for the high advancement of literature at the present day. Besides these, there are other ancient poetical works that have been esteemed by men of taste in all ages, as almost perfect in their kind. We have also models of historical and biographical writings, exhibited in the works of Thucydides, Livy, Xenophon, Tacitus, Sallust and some