

quired, before he can engage in the practice of the profession, with any prospect of success. If he should be applied to the study of municipal law, without a knowledge of general History & Ethics, he will find himself in a barren wilderness, obstructed on all sides by the difficulties of the way, & confined to a mechanical practice the Ultima Thule of his ambition. These branches of science are the keys to all systems of municipal law. Without them, they must be locked up in the thickest obscurity. It is more than probable that it was this narrow & illiberal course to which Sir Edmund Burke had allusion, when he expressed the opinion that the study of law tends to contract the powers of the mind. For, assuredly, if the other construction be true - that he pointed at the most noble science of jurisprudence, which has such abundant sources of liberal & enlightening principles, I should be disposed to doubt the strength & propriety of his discernment.

History has been called by an eminent writer, "philosophy teaching by experience". From it may be obtained a correct acquaintance with the actions of nations & men, with the motives that led to them; their virtues & vices; & their observance or violation of the natural & moral chains that bind them together. It goes further, & teaches us the general & most important laws of human establishment; the good produced by their enforcement, & the evils consequent on their infraction. It familiarizes us with scenes of violence & discord; teaches us to detect fraud & iniquity; & exposes to our view the whole character & passions of man. But these are not all the advantages it presents. It contains the very foundations of our law. Its beginning & progress through the Saxon times, & the introduction of the Feudal System are traced out, & strongly marked by the historian. That a knowledge of this ancient fabric may be acquired, the history of England is presented, which, when it has been read, is thought by too many to suffice for that purpose. But in this no regard is paid to the histories of

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