

Might do for a public lecture —

A discourse might be made to show our
indebtedness to the Jews and to the Greeks

[— to the Jews for religion
— to the Greeks for literature & the
fine arts. —

Col. Dr. 1864
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XVI. 6. 7. 8
LXVII

We are debtors to the Greeks.

There is a good deal of truth in the saying that man is a creature of circumstances. He is what he is, to a very great extent because of his surroundings and antecedents. We say to a very great extent, for as the seed in the favorable circumstances of soil and climate, becomes the luxuriant and useful tree, & in unfavorable circumstances will be stunted or useless or will not develop at all, so unless there be a principle of growth & development, and a capability for being useful in man, no matter what the circumstances be, there will be no good result, and no matter how excellent the capabilities may be, the circumstances may be such as to prevent the proper development of these. - In a word there must be the healthy living germ and the suitable soil and influences, in order that the best development may take place. Had the mind of Newton from his earliest infancy been developed ~~among~~ the N. American savages, ~~there would~~ he might perhaps have become among them a distinguished medicine man or conjurer but certainly not the great discoverer of Nature's laws. - These remarks show, how dependent, individuals are on external circumstances. It is the same too with nations. All are debtors, debtors to their contemporaries, & to those who have preceded them. - How often do we refer to our revolutionary forefathers, with expressions of gratitude for the blessings they secured for us, & which we have inherited. We may say with the Ancient Israelites

"our lines have fallen in pleasant places, we have an inheritance which excelleth." - The most so called independent self made man, whom nobody cared for when a child, who inherited no estate, who had no relatives, no father's or mother's care from his infancy, none that he could call friends because friends of his parents, whose stimulus to exertion in infancy, was that ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~magister artium~~ ^{of} hunger, & who in spite of all these untoward things, ~~for~~ has fought, against much opposition, his way to greatness and to fame, should never boast ~~that~~ ^{he} is altogether independent, & is not a debtor. To say nothing about that Great being, our Creator, to whom we are indebted for life and talents, he is under obligation to his fellow men & to those who lived before him. He is a debtor to those who established the form of government which makes it not only possible, but lays open the way ~~and invites all of~~ to distinction to all who merit it & can achieve it. We might again refer to these forefathers from whom we have this goodly heritage, as dependent upon those who preceded them, to the spirit of Liberty which existed in England & Scotland, ~~as then~~ in the times of their ancestors. We might refer to the obligation of Britain to Normans & to Romans, for polish literature and jurisprudence, but we design here to show that ~~as~~ we are, and in what respects we are, like the apostle, though perhaps not just in the sense he used the expression, "Debtors to the Greeks"

We are not Debtors to the Greeks because we are descended from them - we are probably, from a common origin before going back as far as Adam or even Japhet, but so

remote

is this that it may pass for nothing. We have no old chairs or chests or walking sticks which once belonged to Pelops or to Tantalus, coming down ^{Grecian, Pityreia} from fathers to sons as ^{an} legitimate inheritance. No Grecian Blood seems to run in American veins, still we are ~~debtors~~ deeply in debt to the Greeks. The Grecians, meaning thereby those who spoke the Greek Language, though divided into different tribes & communities differing as much as ^{a more than} Mexicans do from Spaniards, lived 3000 years ago, & ~~then~~ still live in the countries that surround the Grecian Archipelago. Some in what is now called Asia Minor, some in Peloponnesus & Macedonia, and in ancient times in Southern Italy & Sicily, as also in the Islands of the Egean Sea, of which Crete & Candia is the largest. About the centre of this Greek speaking region is a province called Attica, the Capital of which is Athens, which may be taken as the centre of Greek civilization.

The Climate of the country is unsurpassed, its soil fertile producing the olive and the vine in perfection. Its numerous and excellent harbors were not ^{neglected} ~~unimproved~~ by ^{here} Merchants and all the arts connected with a commercial people flourished. Poetry Music ~~these~~ ~~Arts~~ & all known Arts and Sciences were cultivated with great success by this people. They stood foremost among the Nations of the world in the development of mind, whether directed to the beautiful in Art or the profound in Philosophy. So high an elevation was attained that Greece became the teacher of the world. So perfect that Grecian intelligence and art are still unsurpassed. We must not however think that the Greeks furnished the world a perfect model in every respect. Vice bigotry & superstition had their place in this gifted people, they seemed hardly to have been able to govern themselves, ~~among~~ ~~and~~ torn by civil dissensions, they could not ~~present~~ ~~a~~ brave though they were successfully oppose, ~~and~~ ~~inferior~~ ~~though~~ enemies their inferiors in arts and arms. With respect to ~~their~~ religion, ~~while~~

that all important concerns - we feel ourselves under
no obligation to the ancient Greeks, though we cannot but
~~be struck with~~ ^{we cannot sufficiently admire} the wisdom & the near ap-
proach to revealed truth of some of their Philosophers, ~~see~~
~~in their moral teachings~~ ^{in their moral teachings} ~~followed and no obligation to the ancient Greeks~~, their
religion ^{was} a Polytheism based on the perception of the
beautiful to a very great extent, & to ^{grossly} sensual. But
our inquiry now is not with regard to those things for which
we are indebted to the Greeks, ~~for~~ but to those for which
we are. Religion of course is the great thing, the chief con-
cern. the sine qua non if our aim is true happiness, but
there are others, subordinate to this, which also have a place
in connection with our enjoyment of life. God has made us
capable of appreciating the beautiful, whether presented in Poetry
or in Music, or in the painter's & sculptor's Arts, or in Na-
ture, & this so far from decreasing religious feeling, rather
when not carried to a great excess, increases it, & should we re-
fer here at some length and with some conscientiousness to some
of those things which are the sources of so much pleasure
either Aesthetic or Intellectual, in connection with their
Grecian origin, would the reference be unreasonable and improp-
er. If this reference should ~~even~~ increase our sympathy for
that remarkable people, ~~as we have done for many~~ for many
years degraded by the Moslem ~~Ruler~~ Despot, and now be-
ginning to look up among the nations of the earth, & in ~~the~~
island of Crete now struggling for freedom, we would consider
ourselves to have performed a pious ^{act} duty. ~~We are aware that~~
~~with some references to such subjects as connected with religion~~
~~will appear somewhat absurd.~~ We might refer to the Jews, & the
obligations we are under to them, the peculiarities of whose
religion has been superseded by Christianity, in whose law

quage we have the O.T. Scriptures, and much of our religious teaching, & this would meet with no objection. We cannot say ~~for~~ that we are equally indebted to the Greeks, ~~for~~ but it was their language which God selected as the vehicle of the sacred truths & principles & history which we have in the N. Testament, & to them we are indebted for many things, subservient to religion, and to refinement & civilization.

We ~~ought~~ have alluded to their language as that ~~of the~~ through which the Gospel of our Lord & Sav. Jesus X^t, has come down to us. The whole of this sacred vol. was originally written in Greek with perhaps the exception of the Gospel of Matthew. This may seem strange since the language of Palestine & of the Jews at that time was the Syriac & the sacred writers Matthew John Paul Peter Jude were all ~~of~~ ^{of} Jesus & their vernacular Syriac. Paul, however, was a well read Greek scholar - and all, through the gift of tongues, a association with those speaking Greek, for at that time it was the most widely spread language, could use ^{it} the language in speaking & writing. A more copious flexible and expressive language than the Syriac, it was better suited for the wide diffusion of that New & Holy religion which is ultimately destined to unite the children of men in one brotherhood. - There is no form of thought no beauty of expression, for ^{which} this language is not adequate. ~~uttered~~ The most deep thinking Philosophers the world has ever known, - the ~~sublime~~ ^{Poets} of the most lofty diction & of the lightest & most Anacreontic vein - or the men of science, or the Political Orators found this language in ~~their hands~~ perfectly adapted to their wants. The very fact

it has, maintained its place so long as a branch of a thorough
 English education in all the Universities in Christendom, not-
 withstanding the opposition that is often made, indicates
 the deep influence that the Grecian mind has made on the
 civilized world. — ~~It~~ It is not only in the Schools that we
 can see this influence — it is every where around us, ~~for~~
 for words often independent of their meaning, have also an interest-
 ing significance, indicating ^{the} origin of those who use them, or
 their affiliation with others, or the superiority in certain
 particulars of those from whom the word was derived, thus
 to refer to the well known illustration, we have the words
 hatchet, chisel, mallet
 beef, veal, mutton, for the French, while the names of the
~~the~~ animals ox, calf — sheep are Saxon, ~~and~~ indicating the
~~the~~ greater luxury & refinement of the Norman compared
 with the more rustic Saxon. So with ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~Grecian~~ ^{four} ~~words~~ ^{language}
 indicating our indebtedness to the Greeks for science &
 art. — The very words Poet Poem Poetry — Music Harmon-
 ny & melody, indicate ^{not only that Poetry & Music had} ~~who were our teachers in Poetry~~
 & Music home among the Grecians, but we may also say were
 indigenous there. — We borrow these expressive words Energy
 Zeal, Enthusiasm Agony, from the Greeks, as if the ^{new} ~~idea~~
 corresponding to these words had come into the ^{Anglo Saxon} mind, &
 without a word to express it, we took that which the Greek
 used so many ages ago to represent the idea. When we
 speak of a Crisis or a Critic, or a Chasm or a Charm
 or Charity, or Character, we borrow from the Greeks.
 The Politician has his appellative from the same source —
 so also the words police, policy, Democrat Aristocrat
 Monarchy, anarchy, oligarchy,

Perhaps we might say in general, that our Grecian Divin-
tines, ~~is~~ rather connect themselves with the Philosophy &
Science of the ideas they represent, than the practical use.

~~Should we listen to the~~
~~The~~ Physicians when they converse or talk Scientifically -
we would almost think they were talking Greek, so much
of the language do they use. Their dose is Greek, so is
their Phlogiston, & their drastic cathartic - Their pira-
pism & cataplasms, - their Symptom & Diagnosis -
Most Diseases are called by Grecian names - & nearly all
Anatomical terms have the same source. + + -

We might spend an hour easily with simply giving lists
of words, in the different arts and sciences, originally Greek
but which have been naturalized among us, & some of these
indeed household words: but let us pass to something
over and above ~~the~~ mere words, -

There are very few persons who do not appreciate good Po-
etry - To be without any Poetry in one's soul is as bad as to
be without Music. We do not intend to say that we ^{have} ~~are~~
~~debt to the Greeks for~~ all our Poetry, ^{from the Grecian Fountain.} but we do say that
none have excelled the Greeks in this divine art, & that
we in common with ~~the~~ all civilized nations, look to them
as models. The Romans we may say were in nearly all
departments of Poetry servile imitators of the Greeks &
Grecian poets regard them as models ~~as~~ for the purity of
style & grace of expression, & management of plot, without
the servile imitation, this our Language would hardly admit of.
Homer, who wrote nearly nine centuries B.C.E.
still stands unrivalled, though we are sorry to say not always
appreciated by the student who would read him in the original -

Think of it - this old Master, ^{who} died before Rome was founded
 still maintaining the preeminence. His Epic the first
^{still} the best. Virgil & Milton just indeed, but not su-
^{perior}, or not his equal. His stately verse, his graphic de-
 scriptions, his unapant action, his well conceived and
 manly heroes, his superiority of the passions, his description
 of character, his fertility in invention, his knowledge of
 men and manners ~~excite~~ universal admiration. Horace
 considered him a philosopher - like a philosopher sometimes
 heavy no doubt, but like him ^{also} in ^{his} wisdom, ^{& knowledge}. He says speaking
 of Homer, that he is one.

Qui quid sit pulchrum, quid turpe, quid utile, quid non,
 plenius ~~et~~ melius Chrysis et Crantor dicit -
^{instructs} who, ^{as to} what is noble, what is base, what is useful & what
 the reverse, more fully & manably ^{than the philosophers} than Chrysis
 & Crantor, ^{instructs us}. ~~He gives his reasons~~
~~for the places of the Iliad. I. 2.~~ ^{of Homer} This Poem had a great influence
 on the Greeks, it was regarded by them as a sort of Bible, a
 sacred book, & we hardly wonder, at profusion of languages, one
 for whom we have the greatest respect, used to say, there were two
 books, the first & best the Bible, & then Homer.

The Grecian dramatists also excelled. Sophocles, Euripides
 & Aeschylus, are still ~~of~~ unsurpassed. The Lyric Poets
 & comic Poets have with the others opened fountains of
 which all civilized nations have drunk. It would be interest-
 ing to examine many of the English Poets & see how full
 they are of Greek. Milton overflows with it. So also Gray,
 Pope & Dryden drank deeply of this fountain, & were themselves
 retailers of Parnassian wine. -

Demosthenes as all know is still the great model orator. His severe invectives against Philip of Macedon, have given name to all speeches of a similar character, ^{The Philippic} - In the words of Dr Smith "The verdict of his contemporaries, ratified by posterity, has pronounced Demosthenes the greatest orator that ever lived, The principal element of his success must be traced in his purity of purpose which gave to his arguments all the force of conscientious conviction, & when aided by a powerful logic, perspicuous arrangement, and the most undaunted courage in tearing the mask from the pretensions of his adversaries, rendered his advocacy almost irresistible. The effect of his speeches was still further heightened by a wonderful & almost magic force of oration." p. 592.

In the fine arts of Painting & Statuary, the Grecians excelled. We have no paintings of the Ancient Greeks, from which to judge of their skill in this department, but in Sculpture there are many, & to such a degree of perfection had they reached that the modern Sculptor does not think of excelling them, his greatest ambition is to equal them. The Romans were their most distinguished pupils, and to them as instructors, there also would be perfect in this art still go. - Somewhat connected with this is Architecture, & here again the Greek seems to have reached perfection. The modern Architect, still follows the Grecian model, Attempts have made to improve upon it, but all have failed. The Grecian Columns are still reproduced, & modern Churches & other public buildings are made according to the exact pattern given by the Ancient Greeks. The Ancient Athenians of the times of Pericles, ^{would be the spirit of} would find nothing new in the internal form of many of the great

edifices of Europe & America. We are indebted to the Greeks not only for the beautiful forms, but for many of the arts used in the construction, & for the principles of engineering necessary in raising these beautiful structures. —

The principles of engineering implied a knowledge of Mathematics, and in certain branches of this very extensive science the Greeks excelled. Pythagoras, great in all departments of science then known, was great in Mathematics. The discoverer of many Geometrical theorems. We might also mention Thales, Hippocrates, Thucydides the Locrian, of whom Plato, himself a distinguished Geometer, was ^{perhaps} a pupil, & passing over many others, we mention the celebrated Archimedes, the great Philosopher (Physicist) & Euclid & Euclid the Geometer. The accuracy ~~of these~~ and perfection of this science as presented in the compilation of Euclid, is shown in the fact, that at the present day it is used in many of the European schools, & we believe still in some American as the text book in Geometry. We do not feel at liberty to enlarge just now upon this tempting field, "the History of Natural Science Philosophy," among the Ancient Greeks: ~~It was those who~~ ^{who} laid the foundation of that vast superstructure of Modern Science, — who ~~prepared~~ prepared the way for the discoveries of the ^{son of} ~~Great~~ Newton, and for that accurate & extensive knowledge of the works of the Great Creator ^{which we now have.}. If we may thank our God for giving to the world The Warren & the Port David, & for raising up an Isaiah, & sending out a Paul to proclaim the way of life, we may also thank him for these Grecian worthies, who labouring in an inferior sphere it is true, have rendered possible those splendid Discoveries

of modern Science, which reveal us much more fully than any of the ancients, (the Jews not excepted), had any conception of, the greatness of the Dominion of the power, wisdom, & glory of Him who rules and governs all.

We barely mention the Philosopher Aristotle, a pupil of Plato, distinguished for the greatest virtues of his learning. He wrote ^{many} on all subjects, a Natural & Moral Philosophy & Natural History, Rhetoric ~~science~~ & Logic, &c &c, and so well that ~~his~~ for ages it was regarded almost as heresy, to call in question his teachings. His Logic is the foundation of all modern writers on this subject. — The name of his school the Lyceum, is still retained as a name for Philosophic association. We might mention in passing, the words, Museum, & Academy, School, which we have from the Greeks indicate where the things represented by the words, originally ~~were~~. — Socrates, resembles more a Philosopher who had derived his wisdom ~~from~~ the word of God, than any other Grecian. — His humility, his sincere desire to do good, to his fellow men, teaching them gratuitously, his bold denunciation of injustice, ^{his} belief in the immortality of the soul, his ability to see the evidences of divine Skill & Providence in the ~~universe~~ natural world, his many & courageous bear-
ing before his judges when ~~publicly~~ accused of being a corrupter of youth, & despiser of the Gods, and his heroic & martyr-like death amidst his weeping friends, present us ^a Grecian whose virtues & whose wisdom many, very many of the great & distinguished of the Philosophers of Christian lands have failed to attain. Were we a Papist, we would be inclined to say ~~Amens~~ to the prayer of Erasmus. Sancte

Socrates Ne pro nobis. -

We might refer also to many others, such as, Pythagoras, Plato, Zeno, Aristides, Xenophon &c, who by their writings and example have been a honor to the world & to whom the world is deeply indebted, whether although they were. - The honor that God has given this people in making their language instead of that of the Jews, the vehicle of the divine truth of the Gospel, sanctions we think this particular reference to them at this time.

In another respect we are indebted to the Greeks as Xtrans. We have from them a version of the O.T. Scriptures, called the LXX. So called, it is generally believed, from the 70 translators who were employed in making it. This translation was made probably not all at the same time, in the second & third Centuries before Xt. It was ~~probably~~ very likely, made ~~more~~ rather from a literary than a religious motive, the Egyptian king, Ptolemy, at the suggest of the Grecian Demetrius Phalerens, desiring to have ~~the~~ a copy of the Sacred books of the Jews in the Alexandrian Library. - While in accuracy it cannot compare with the English version yet it has been of incalculable use, in the making of modern versions of the Bible, and also to the Jews in ancient times who were scattered through the Greek speaking regions of Asia & Europe. - And no doubt it was in the hand of God, a great means for the preparation of the world for the reception of the Gospel in the places where the apostles & the early fathers preached. It may have been & probably was in this version that the Macedonian Bereans searched the scriptures, in order to test the truth of the apostles doctrine.

There are but few references made in the O. Testament to the Greeks. There is no doubt but that the name Javan the son of Japheth, refers to the progenitor of the Ionians or Greeks. The same word is translated 3 times by ^{a Greek} Grecia in the book of Daniel. But during the interval between the Old & New Testament, the Jews were brought more in contact with the Greeks, so that in the time of our Saviour many Greek speaking Jews, the Hellenists, made their visits to Jerusalem during the Sacred feasts, and the way was prepared for the Missionary visits of the Apostles, according to a prediction of Isaiah, those ~~men~~ ^{isles} of the Jews who should escape destruction, when the dreadful calamities befell them should be sent to Tubal & Javan, to the isles afar off that had not heard of the fame of Jehovah, or had not seen his glory, and that they shall declare ^{his} ~~my~~ glory among the Gentiles. — Is. LXII

We have thus briefly, & very imperfectly, ~~have~~ endeavored to present as it were some of the obligations ~~we~~ we are under to this distinguished people. - We learn ^{what} from [^] we have been presenting, that in many of those arts & sciences, of which we boast so much, that this race had almost reached perfection. That ^{by} ~~with~~ them, there a very high degree of civilization had been attained, and all this, when the Anglo Saxon Race, now in the ascendant, was roaming, with but little more civilization than our Indians, in the forests of Germany or Scythia. ~~We~~ We in the good providence of God have been brought out through the instrumentality of Roman & Grecian Missionaries, from that State of Barbarism, & furnished with their literature and Arts & Sciences, have

been progressing upwards, while they have been in the decline. It is true that we need not feel ourselves under any very special personal obligations, ^{to them} for these things which have occurred in the course of human events, but still if when our fathers suffered, & they had been helped by those whose children are now in distress, we certainly would feel more zeal in lending a helping hand, from the recollection that our present blessings are in part owing to the good offices of the progenitors of those who are now in want, & in like manner, we may feel ourselves drawn towards that people to whom we are indebted for so many things, in our language in our arts, in our sciences, in our refinement, & civilization.

We might also, using the words of the Apostle, I am a debtor both to the Greeks & Barbarians & show how much we owe to the Romans, particularly in language and in jurisprudence - and also to the Jews, who would be ~~be~~ regarded as a ~~of~~ barbarian by the Greeks, & show our indebtedness to them for our religion. - Their SS. have in them eternal life & they testify of Jesus. - The testimony of Jesus is the very spirit & essence of the Prophetic oracles which God ^{committed} ~~entrusted~~ to the Hebrews.

The Greeks

The Greeks