

out end, which are so much sought after on the European continent. It is not here that the learned Mai must seek for Palimpsests to discover under illegible trash, some fragments of Fronto or of Cicero de Republicâ, and the Institutes of Gaius will not be found here, half devoured by rats, after lying for centuries unnoticed and unknown. If, however, we do not possess these, it does not follow that our libraries do not afford ample means for acquiring real learning. We are not deficient in works of science or of elegant literature. We possess the Greek and Roman classics, and those of the modern nations of Europe; though we might rest contented with Gibbon's History of the Greek, and Von Hammer's of the Ottoman Empire, for the disgusting catalogue of crimes that disgrace the times of which they speak, yet the lover of antiquity will find on our shelves pretty complete collections of the Byzantine historians; and he who would wish to know what books formed a library at Constantinople in the ninth century, may satisfy himself by reading the Myriobiblion of Photius, which I mention only by way of example. The works of the fathers of the Christian Church may be found in our theological libraries, to which they properly belong, and they are not inaccessible to those who would examine them in a literary point of view. In short, our libraries, though not so large as those of Europe, yet are sufficient to satisfy the wants of a student who is contented without "all the reading never to be read."

But, gentlemen, if the size of libraries were a safe criterion from which to judge of the knowledge or of the intellect of a nation, it would follow that Great Britain is inferior in these respects to several of the other nations of Europe. The largest library in England (the Bodleian at Oxford) is said to contain five hundred thousand volumes, though some say only two hundred and eighty thousand, including manuscripts, while the Royal Library at Paris contains two millions of printed and manuscript volumes.* Is the author of Men and

* Galignani's Paris Messenger, says:—"The Royal Library at Paris, on the 1st of January, 1833, contained 1,985,000 volumes, including manuscripts, books of engravings, and numismatical works. On the 1st of January, 1834, it will contain at least 2,000,000 volumes, as every year, on an average, 20,000 new works are deposited there."