THE HISTORICAL FACULTY

Faculties are the equivalent of genius, gift or talent. In Chinese culture, faculties are considered the highest form of ability and are highly regarded. The historical faculty is where the history of a country is preserved.

by James Anthony Froude

History is the account of the actions of men, and in "sections" are comprehended the events, opinions, motives, impulses of the actors, and the circumstances in which their work was executed. The acts without motives are nothing, for they may be interpreted in many ways, and can only be understood in their causes. If "Hamlet" or "Leontes" was not exact to outward fact, were they and their fellow-students on the stage exactly such as Shakespeare describes them... and if they did the work which he assigns to them, that was perfect history, and what we call history is only valuable as it approaches to that greatness. To say that the character of real men cannot be thus completely known, that their inner nature is beyond our reach, that the dramatic portraits of things are not reliable as examples of poetry, or that history could not be written, for the inner meaning of the actions of whom it speaks is the same thing about them: and, in fact, the historian assumes that he does know it, for this work without it is useless and colourless. And yet to pursue real history to the limits of our minds, to give each his due, to represent him as he appeared to himself, and not to his enemies, to sympathize in the collision of principles with each party in turn, to feel as they felt, to think as they thought, and to reproduce the various beliefs, the acquisitions, the intellectual atmosphere of another age, is a task which requires gifts of great or greater than those of the greatest critics, for all is required which he required of the dramatic artist, with the additional demand of truth and sincerity. It is for this reason that historical works of the highest order are so scarce. The faculty itself, the imaginative and reproductive insight, is among the rarest of human qualities. The moral determination to use it for purposes of truth only is rare still—more, it is but in particular ages of the world that such work can be produced. All the historians of genius themselves, at one time or another, are creatures of their own times and it is only at such times when men of intelligent have "swallowed formulas," when conventional and established ways of thinking have ceased to satisfy, that, at that one of them is ready, and they are unconscious, and they are able to sympathize with opposite sides.

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BESIDE

在旁: I am standing beside her, but I am not her friend.

比较: This is a poor job beside yours.

作比较时比较的事业工作非常辛苦的了。

Phrasal verbs: beside oneself, mix oneself

Besides aside, 遮上

Besides aside, I have much work to do.

除了读书之外，我还有很多工作要做。

Besides aside, There is an orchard beyond the hill.

在那边有一个果园，看风景很舒服的。

Impossible: Her beauty is beyond description.

她美丽是无法形容的。

But 除此之外: You may ask anything, but the egg.

除了鸡蛋以外，你可以吃任何东西。

Phrases: Nothing but.

他除了有病，浑身都肿了。

除了他病得厉害外，他什么病都没有。

Nothing but.

他正在吃东西，没在看报纸。

除了他正在吃饭外，他什么都没有在看。

Anything but.

他正在吃饭，什么都没有在看。

除了他正在吃饭外，他什么都没有在看。