

OUTLINES OF GENERAL HISTORY.

INTRODUCTION.

I. HISTORY: ITS SCOPE AND CHARACTER.

1. HISTORY is a record of the doings of civilized mankind, in their progress towards the greatest of political and social blessings—a rational freedom of thought and action. History defined.

2. History deals with the life only of political communities, or *nations*, and not with races of men who have made little advance from a primitive state. The special duty of history is to sketch the career and describe the condition of those great nations whose ideas and institutions, or whose achievements in art, science, politics, literature, and war were remarkable in their own epoch, or, by influencing other nations, helped to make the civilized world what it is now. Scope of history.

3. According to the view of the wisest and best of men, God governs the world, and on this view, the history of the world is the carrying out of His plan, the working of His government, who "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth." An eloquent preacher¹ holds that "different nations seem destined by God to achieve different missions. The Jew had the highest—to reveal to the world holiness. The Oriental stands as a witness to the reality of the invisible above the visible. The Greek reminded the world of eternal beauty; and the destiny of the Roman seems to have been to stamp upon the minds of mankind the ideas of law, government, order." The study of history derives its grandeur and importance from the Interest and importance of history.

¹ F. W. Robertson. Sermons.