

## THE FIVE BOOKS OF HISTORY.

In the study of the phenomena of history scientific men resort to five great classes of records. The geologic record of man we may call the stone book. It records but a meagre tale; the rock-leaved bible of geology has but a postscript devoted to mankind, but in it are facts which prove to be of profound interest. In ruins of habitations and vestiges of arts a story is told of developing activities in all of the five great departments of art. Let us call this the ruin book. It is a strange book, studied by aid of the pickax and shovel. Some times habitations are found in ruins piled one over another, giving evidence of the occupancy of sites for many centuries during the successive culture-periods extending from ruder to higher life. In the sarcophagi and in the chambers of death many vestiges of culture are found, and often inscriptions are discovered, all of which are now of priceless value. It is thus that the tombs of the ancients constitute a book of history. Let us call it the book of the tombs. All of the humanities may be studied in various stages of growth by studying the forests of tribes and nations scattered over the face of the earth. A host of men are engaged in scientific research for the purpose of discovering the characteristics of the five great systems of humanities as they are represented in the daily life of the peoples. This is found to be a book of many books, gathered into libraries of tribes and nations. Let us call this the folk book. Gradually man has developed written speech. He has learned to write his thoughts in glyphs of meaning on rocks, on bark, on the skins of animals, on tablets of stone and clay, and on parchments made of many fibers. These records of the past are of priceless value for the lessons of history which they teach. Let us call this the Scripture book. Thus modern history resorts to the stone book, the ruin book, the tomb book, the folk book and the Scripture book for the materials to be used in discovering and formulating the development of the industries, pleasures, languages, institutions and opinions of mankind.

—*Maj. J. W. Powell in Science.*

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