

into their hands, they are of very little value: the same applies to plummets and black-lead pencils; Mordan and others were invented by one Hawkins, as was Bramah's lock, which has realised a fortune, whilst poor Hawkins is destitute. Machine-ruled copy-books now supply the plummet and pencil, vide "Orthographiale, 1616."

Walkingame's days of the month show the advantages of poetry. Dibdin's History of England and Crome's Shorthand, are in doggerel rhyme; we have the Bible in verse, and Shirley's grammatical Rudiments in metre, accompanied by Steele's Punctuation, whilst his Melody of Symbols transmit speeches in score. From the *improved* methods of modern innovators, Hamilton and Perry, Jacob's "Latin Classic," discarding grammar and syntax! and "Latin taught in three months," we must conclude the age of learning, or respect for it, having passed away, is succeeded by that of impudence and humbug.

Oliver's chief acquaintance, Mrs. Blundell, acquired independence in Whitecross Street, by operating as Barber and Dentist. Her neighbour, keeping a coal shed, funded £3500: suspending a wet cloth in her yard on winter nights, she'd call to her lad early—"Billy, is the cloth froz'd?" If Billy, feminine peculiarism whilst males shout Bill, should answer "Yes, Marm, its freez'd hard up," "Then raise the coals penny a bushel." Hearing said cloth in a thaw, to be "Lork, Marm, its quite limpey," 'twas "Drop the coals halfpenny a bushel." A rise moves at a trot, but the drop a snail's pace. A cheap bread baker—first in Well's Street, Welclose Square—near her shed, furnished his house sumptuously, and retired with £25,000; cash obtained flour 15s. under the Mark, properly *Mart Lane* price: as did his shoemaker to Hackney, with £5000; and greengrocer, also, with £3000 more. Store these anecdotes in your memory, and, if avoiding the wrong end of the horn, they'll be of use to you.

I soon quitted this temple of the Muses, originally but three—Melete, Mneme, Aæde—signifying Meditation, Memory, and Singing: their subsequent augmentation arose from the mistake of a sculptor at Sicyon, on receiving orders to make three statues of the three Muses, for the temple of Apollo, making *three* of *each* Muse, these, however, were so beautiful as to be all set up in the temple, then making nine Muses, to whom Hesiod and Homer gave names. Oliver spent his evenings at the Bull, cornering the lane to pedagogue hall, from which he often