

If it be said that during his preparatory course the student should devote his time to something more important and more practical, I answer that nothing more important or more practical can be found, and until he has learned to look with a scientific interest upon the mass of words which constitute the vocabulary of the language, he cannot claim to have had an English education worthy of the name. Moreover, out of this mass he must select those he intends to use in the preparation of his own discourses, and expertness in the choice of words is greatly promoted by the habit of scientific inquiry.

Though many of the changes which the English vocabulary has undergone are due to caprice or historical accidents, many others are due to the operation of general laws which are discoverable by those who seek for them in the proper spirit and by proper methods. The obvious answer to him who contends that it is legitimate to master what has already been discovered before setting out to investigate for oneself is (1) that knowledge so acquired is easily forgotten as compared with the same knowledge acquired in the way of original investigation; (2) that the memory is almost the only faculty exercised in getting scientific knowledge at second hand, and mere exercise of memory is in connection with any department of knowledge alike uninteresting and unimportant; and (3) that it is impossible to have a clear insight into the nature of language as made up of words having form and meaning, without subjecting them to independent and continuous investigation, and it is during his preparatory course that the student should form the philological habit and master the philological method.

3. *Rhetoric*.—Viewed as a science, rhetoric has for its chief function the investigation of the structure of prose. It may seem at first sight to be unnecessary to make such a department of the science of language after having dealt with the sentence and the vocabulary under grammar and philology, but a moment's consideration will show that sentences perform other than purely grammatical, and words other than purely philological, functions in the texture of prose discourse. Of two sentences, made up of substantially or even precisely the same words, and these words used in precisely the same sense in both, one form may be preferable to the other, either as a matter of mere taste, or because