

tion of his orations, and that Cicero strengthened his powers by intense study. Glance over the biographies of the moderns and they will tell the same tale. To cite but two examples, it is well known that Sheridan passed days and weeks in preparing himself for his grand effort at the motion for the impeachment of Warren Hastings, and also for subsequent ones; and that Lord Brougham never made (as a young man) a speech which he had not previously written out in full. If then such men never trusted to the sudden inspiration of the moment; what are we that we should dare to do so? Forget not that a great speaker and thinker hath said, "Mere fine talkers, who boast of being able to speak on a minute's notice, ever get confused, and if they have the audacity not to break down, they continue to twaddle without understanding their own words, and drench their audience with inexhaustible volubility.*"

Secondly. We must endeavour to express ourselves with method, clearness and gracefulness; to attain this end, we should never begin a speech without having previously sketched our plan, first in our note-books, and then in our memory; no good general ever engaged in battle without having first prepared his plan of attack; no wise admiral ever ventured his vessel into seas unknown to him without frequent reference to the chart and the log. A discourse without a plan or a parent idea, is like a stream without a spring; a plant without a root; a body without a soul; and becomes full of empty phrases and effervescing nothings. Remember how Montesquieu hath said, "It is not enough to exhibit many things to the understanding, you must exhibit them in order," and also that a greater than he hath written "*Qui bene cepit facti dimidium habet.*"†

Thirdly. We must explore those works that bear upon our subject, and always do so *pencil in hand*, in order to mark the salient ideas in our progress, and, as it were, to extract the honey from those fair flowers which have been planted by the accumulated intellect of our progenitors.

* M. Bautain.

† He who hath begun a thing well, hath half completed it.