

protect my friend, delivering him from all danger and giving him safely to me.

"The performance of this promise, I now claim. I come not with empty hands to ask it. You Menehawhena, best know, whether or not, as it respects yourself, you have kept your word, but I bring these goods to buy off every claim which any man among you all, may have on my brother as his prisoner."

These and many other examples which we could produce did our limits allow, will be sufficient to prove that this important science has not been neglected, among those uncivilized nations, who are totally unacquainted with other arts.

From what has before been said respecting the different kinds of eloquence, it is obvious that the practice of them is almost exclusively confined to particular situations: and an attendance in these places where the best specimens of each kind is to be heard is the fittest school where they can be learned.

The first species of oratory or eloquence, namely that which is adapted chiefly to panegyric is no where practised exclusively except in addressing Potentates or great men. The extravagant specimens of this as practised in the East, is from its ridiculous bombast a violation of sense, unworthy of imitation. Those other instances where it is to be heard, are among courtiers and ambassadors, on occasions which rarely occur, and where few have opportunity of witnessing them.

The British Parliament affords a wide field for the display of eloquence, and is not only the best place for its practice but the best school for learning it. Parliamentary eloquence to be fairly appreciated must be free and independent of party feelings, for it must be a peculiar narrowness of spirit which bestows or refuses, merited applause to the productions of genius, because they are found to favour either a court or an opposition. An equal meed of praise ought to be allowed to genius whether it appears in the leader of the minority or in a first minister of state. In an assembly like the upper house, composed of men, on whose education no expence has been spared, and who are or ought to be animated by their own exalted situation, and the examples of their illustrious ancestors, we should reasonably expect to find frequent and distinguished examples of eloquence. Here however we look in vain; for if we make some exceptions, (and these but few considering the great numbers of individuals) it would be difficult to find many Peers who have attracted admiration for the classical elegance of their matter or language. The Law Lords depending upon their professional knowledge, have many times made long and bold speeches, and several Dukes and others have acted in a similar manner. But they were too much confined to legal reasoning, and technical niceties, to give the speakers a claim to eloquence. How different from the beautiful specimens of the polished harranges of Rome and Athens which have come down to us. This is seen from the little care which has been bestowed in preserving these speeches. For of all those spoken in the House of Lords, how few of them have been collected and preserved in libraries as specimens of classical eloquence. Passion and personal animosity have operated in producing invectives,