

The source, etc.—a fine simile, but common.

Sterile, etc.—Our common law is founded on customs that date back to the early Saxons. Many of our political institutions are also descended from them. In the great debates on the prerogative in revolutionary times, it was customary to refer back to the early state of affairs.

Islanders, — islanders — This may be taken as an example of the figure called *anadiplosis*, which consists in beginning a clause with the last word of the preceding. There is also a double meaning in the word "islanders," as it is used; i.e., cut off from others by water, and also distinguished from others by peculiar qualities or customs. This figure is called *antanaclasis*. The second meaning is derived from the first by *metonymy*, the effect for the cause. Show this by paraphrase. Give the derivation of "island." Show that it is misspelled. Was the corruption in spelling introduced by the learned or the ignorant? See Etymology.

Constitution—Why is it superior to a paper constitution?

Changes—The Constitution has never been changed. The changes have been in the interpretation of it.

Copies—literally true. Though it is peculiarly suited to the genius of the British nation, it seems to meet with difficulties when transplanted to other countries, who lack the venerable associations of a thousand years of legislative administration.

Defects—The chief one is the lack of a remedy in case the king should oppose the voice of the people as expressed by Parliament. Spiritual and hereditary legislators might also be mentioned.

House of Commons—*held its first sitting*—during the imprisonment of Henry III.,—summoned by Leicester, 1265.

Science—Common law is founded on custom or precedent, but it must be a custom immemorial, i.e., whose beginning cannot be ascertained. The law is interpreted by judges who are guided by the decisions of previous judges, by rules of practice, etc.

Imperial jurisprudence—i.e., the old Roman Law, as embodied in the "Institutes of Justinian," which is the founda-

tion of the laws of most European nations. It has been said that Greece gave literature and culture to the world, and Rome, law.

Cinque Ports—"Those havens that lie towards France, and have therefore been thought by our kings to be such as ought most vigilantly to be guarded against invasion." They are Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings, to which were afterwards added Winchelsea and Rye. They had a Warden, who had a special jurisdiction; civil, military and naval.

Both the great seats of learning—Cambridge and Oxford. The oldest colleges at these respective universities are, University College, at Oxford, founded by Alfred, 872, but restored by William of Durham, 1249; and St. Peter's College, at Cambridge, 1257.

Less musical—"The sibilancy of English is a European proverb." This is partly owing to the plural in *s*, which we have adopted from the French, but which they do not pronounce. We have also too few vowels in our words, and a number of crudities that have never been lopped off as in other languages.

Force—as is seen in our grammatical forms.

Richness—An abundance of synonyms is a peculiarity of English. See Etymology.

Aptitude, &c.—Owing to our double vocabulary, this is peculiarly so.

Literature—The collected writings of all who have written anything worth remembering in the language. It extends over 1200 years. See Brooke's excellent little "Primer of English Literature."

This extract is a fair specimen of Macaulay's style. The figure of anaphora or repetition occurs often. It is most effective in description, continually bringing the main subject before the reader. It would be an oversight not to allude to the mass of information he has here collected, or rather alluded to, a common trait of Macaulay. This accumulation of particulars to impress a subject more forcibly has been called *aparithnesis*. To understand this extract fully, one would need to have the memory and information of Macaulay himself, and yet the elevated diction and impassioned eloquence delude the reader into the belief that he understands it all.

EXECUTION OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, (1721—1793). One of the celebrated quatrains of historians of the eighteenth century, Gibbon, Hume, and Smollet, being the other three.

He began life as a minister. In 1759 he published his "History of Scotland during the life of Mary and James." His other histories are "History of Charles V." and "History of America." His style is too exaggerated and stiff. A too