

was driving the plow, or officiating as the bar-keeper of a common tavern, or roving wild through the wood in pursuit of deer, if he had met with a teacher who could appreciate his abilities, who would have talked to him of the immortal names of history, and cheered him on to emulation, we should now look back upon him, not only as our Demosthenes, but his own glowing pages would have been the best monument of his renown.

Dr. Barrow's father said that if it pleased the Lord to take any of his children, he hoped it would be Isaac, as he was fit for nothing but to fight and set two dogs fighting. Nevertheless, when this Isaac grew to manhood, and his emulation was awakened, he was thought in mathematics to be inferior only to Newton, and was the greatest divine of his age.

Dr. Parr, the celebrated teacher, who used to boast that he had flogged all the bishops in the kingdom, and who, whenever it was said that such and such a person had talents, would exclaim: "Yes, sir; yes, sir; there's no doubt of it—I have flogged him often, and I never threw a flogging away"; this reverend gentleman was remarkable for discovering the hidden talents of his pupils. He was the first who discovered Sheridan's. He says: "I saw it in his eye, and in the vivacity of his manner, though, as a boy, Sheridan was quite careless of literary fame." Afterward, when Richard felt a ambitious of such honors, he was thrown, as Dr. Parr says, "upon the town," without resources, and left to his own wild impulses. This, no doubt, was the cause of many of Sheridan's errors and wanderings, which checkered the whole of his splendid but wayward career. A teacher wanting the observation of Dr. Parr might have concluded that because Sheridan would not study, and no inducement could make him apply himself, he wanted capacity. This was the case with Dr. Wythe, his first teacher, who did not distinguish between the want of capacity and the want of industry. It appears from the exploits of the "apple-lofts," and the partiality which Sheridan's school-mates entertained for him, that he was more ambitious of being the first at play than

the first at study. Sheridan had not then versified the proverb of "good at work, good at play;" but it often happens that he who wins the game among boys afterward wins the game among men, when there is a far deeper stake, and when, too, there is not half so much mirth among the losers, and, alas, not half so much happy-heartedness with the winner.

There are few young persons who do not feel the thirst of emulation—the panting to reach the goal—when once the faculties are aroused by an appreciative teacher. They forget how many have fallen in the race; how many have been pushed aside by the strong and determined, who, in their turn, have shrunk from those of higher powers. How much circumstances which seemed but a feather, wind wafted any and every where! How often best-laid schemes, the profoundest plots, the most cunning contrivances, have passed away like the bubble on the stream, or turned to the ruin of those who were exulting in their handiwork! How often the best talents, adorned with every virtue, have fallen before the inferior talents, disgraced with every vice! Yet, nevertheless, the development of the talents and character of those who have struggled through difficulties and danger to eminence and power is interesting and instructive, no matter whether the individual uses good or bad means to attain his ends. And if interest attaches to him who struggles ardently in a bad cause, how much more does he excite who struggles nobly in a good one! Washington, no doubt, in contemplating the actions of Cæsar and Cromwell, felt that if they dared so much for mere selfishness, he could dare more for patriotism; that if they pledged life and fortune for their own success, he would pledge "life, fortune and sacred honor" for the success of his country. Besides, to show to aspiring ambition the rock on which so many split, victims to unhallowed passions, is as salutary as the Spartan's practice, when he exhibited his intoxicated slave to his sons, that they might shun the beastly vice to which the menial was a victim. And again, to show, on the other hand, the undaunted perseverance with which so