

point of view from which he writes. He must select only such details as harmonize with his plan.

(b) *Economy of Details.*—Scott might have enumerated a mass of details, architectural, military, and historical. He chooses, however, only those that call up the elementary characteristics of the castle, and thus pictures it clearly and simply to us.

Rule 4.—*When many details present themselves it is better to make the most of the most characteristic, letting the others rest in the background or be suggested by the general tone of the description.*

(c) *Sequence of Details.*—Again, there is a rational arrangement of details. They follow a regular order—from the outer wall we pass the gardens, then to the central castle, its details and character; then turning we survey the southern wall with lake and chase beyond. In just such a way would the eye take in the scene.

Rule 5.—*Follow the natural sequence of details as they reveal themselves one by one to the observer.*

(iv.) *The Summary or Conclusion.*—The advantage of the Conclusion is that it summarizes and fixes the details of the description. The reader is enabled to gather the full significance of the scene, and the writer, rising upon the details he has enumerated, is afforded an opportunity for climacteric effect, by which he can give a powerful and satisfying finish to his composition.

Rule 6.—*There should, in general, be a Conclusion or Summary that will summarize the details of the description, and give the composition its highest elevation of tone.*

Sketches of persons are equally as interesting as sketches of scenes from nature or the works of man. The portraits of the personages of *Kenilworth* are sketched with easy, yet clear outlines. Examine any one of these and it will be found to be written in very much the same lines as the description discussed above. Tony Foster, for example, is introduced by a reference of his general ugliness, followed by details of stature, eyes, features, and general impression made on Tressilian.

In Cowper, Mr. Goldwin Smith brings forward many descriptions of different subjects but following a very similar plan, e.g., "The Task," Chapter V.