

tus by his accusing assertions heaped fuel to the flame and Cassius following up with sharp and bitter retorts fanned the fire till it became an uncontrollable conflagration. But he finds it of no avail to contend thus angrily against the high-minded Brutus. He drops into a tender, plaintive strain, and calls upon Antony and young Octavius to come and avenge themselves on Cassius alone,

"For Cassius is a weary of this world."

And as he severally enumerates the causes of his troubles he adds

"O I could weep
My spirit from mine eyes."

His closing lines are well calculated to awaken the higher sentiments of Brutus. Cassius presents him his dagger and pointing out his heart bids him strike as he did at Cæsar. Then he adds:

"For I know,
When thou didst hate him worst,
thou lovedst him better
Than ever thou didst Cassius."

But space is at a premium. The primary object of this essay, to set forth the eminent degree oratory attains in this play, has, I hope, been satisfactorily encompassed. But with this evidence before us, what conclusions are we allowed to draw? What may we say of immortal Shakes-

peare, the author of these oratorical gems?

Somewhat bold may have appeared my introductory statement that Shakespeare was one, who, had he turned his mind to the cultivation and development of his oratorical talent, would now be mentioned in the same breath as Cicero and Demosthenes. Bold indeed, but is it not true? Let the reader suspend his judgment, until he has noted once more the sublime passages, and the grand, pathetic elements of the speeches I have endeavoured to bring out. Let him pay good heed to all the speeches in general, but in particular, let him study with peculiar care Antony's noble eulogy of his dead friend Cæsar, of which Mr. Hudson, the eminent Shakespearean scholar rapturously declares, that "it is such an interfusion of art and passion as realizes the very perfection of its kind. Adapted at once to the comprehension of the lowest mind and to the delectation of the highest, and running its pathos into the very quick of them that hear it, it tells with terrible effect on the people; and when it is done we feel that Cæsar's bleeding wounds are mightier than ever his genius and fortune were." Then am I sure, the impartial reader will admit that my thesis is proven.

W. F. McCULLOUGH, '00.

