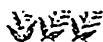


sought out and relentlessly expunged, will the road to literary success be clear. One requisite—and the first—is to have a subject to write about. The materials, that is, stray thoughts and ideas must be gathered by observation, study, and reflection. Use the judgment, too, in selecting those notions, thus picked up, which seem dramatic, one suitable for presentation; all that does not instruct, interest and delight, is better passed by. Then the thoughts should be linked together by some “thread” or logical order. The materials collected and assorted, the aim should be to mold them into as beautiful and compendious a form as possible. The fusion or condensation at this stage should be so thorough that the components are lost, as it were, in a new, more perfect unit. The young composer must sit in impartial judgment on every paragraph and sentence. He will profit by the wisdom of Ben Johnson’s rule regarding whatever figure of speech or expression pleases him at its birth; that is, not to be extreme, he will be more inclined to obliterate than preserve the darling of his brain because its appearance at this late day goes to prove its doubtful excellence. Students, ambitious, to contribute to the *Review*, are reminded of another reason to condense their effusions into the smallest compass; the space allowed them is very limited. Short compressed articles—notable for clear, definite, comprehensive ideas and words that are strong, virile, brilliant, packed with meaning—have the right of way. Yet the authors of sidetracked articles should remember the hint thrown out by Max O’Reil on the occasion of a reception once tendered him at the University. At the beginning of his career as a writer, he said, many of his manuscripts were returned by the publishers marked “Rejected.” When fame visited him he offered to the same publishers these same manuscripts and they were no longer rejected.



Reply.

A correspondent writes that reference to the late M. Emile Zola and his works cannot be evaded; that many of his books are to be had