

tion in our educational system." This remark is probably more applicable to Scottish than American institutions. The Principal further urges that the press, by its enormous multiplication of books, pamphlets, magazines, political and religious organs has not rendered oratory unnecessary. On the contrary, it has created a demand for a higher order of public speaking. The Principal therefore adds: "There never was a time, in modern history at least, when it constituted so important a factor in the national life as in our own day. There never was a time when the gift of oratory or the talent for debate brought so much influence, social, political, and ecclesiastical, or when he who is endowed with it finds the power of ready utterance so much in demand."

With Dr. Caird, I am inclined to think that we are too tolerant of slovenly common-place oratory on the platform and in the pulpit. Why should not public speaking, as with the ancient Greeks, and even conversation, take rank among the fine arts, with painting, sculpture and poetry? And why should not colleges and seminaries adopt some more practical and effective methods of testing young men in this respect, and thus save them from loss of influence and painful humiliation in cultured social circles, and the possibility of final rejection by intelligent congregations? In helping them to gain proficiency in this difficult art we should do something more than cram them with knowledge of all sorts and oblige them to pass written examinations. We should give them abundant practice under critical supervision in reproducing what they know in the proper forms of oral address. The artifices of the mere elocutionist are not enough. They have their place in correcting certain natural and acquired drawbacks; but intellectual discipline in knowing and feeling the subject, and in expressing it vividly,—discipline in steadiness or self-control, is infinitely more important. With this, and the mind and heart inspired by an irrepressible conviction of the supreme value of the truth that is being inculcated, the right tone and manner will be employed without any mechanical imitation of a teacher.

From all this it may be inferred that I would strongly