

passions, he is at no loss for words or arguments. He transmits to others by a species of contagious sympathy the warmth of those sentiments which he feels. His looks and gestures are all persuasive; and here nature shows herself as far more powerful than art. In this description of eloquence the orator before he can affect his auditors, must be affected himself: and his success will entirely depend upon the impression he can make upon them by introducing into their minds a feeling corresponding to that which pervades his own. We find this description of eloquence exemplified on the stage, more than in any other situation: and although here it has the auxiliaries of dress and scenery to contribute to its success, these are by no means indispensable requisites.

It will be obvious to our readers that all laboured declamation and affected ornaments of style, or action such as indicate the mind of the speaker to be cool and unmoved, are inadmissible in this description of eloquence. Studied prettiness in gesture or pronunciation, indicating a want of enthusiasm or warmth, detract from the effect of his speech. It is on this principle that the reading of an address has less effect than when delivered extempore; for the former wants that appearance of coming warm from the heart which the latter claims as its chief property and greatest ornament. It is from a consideration of this principle in eloquence, that the common saying "a man is cool upon any subject" signifies the same thing as saying he was not eloquent upon it.

Viewed in this light, eloquence of whatever kind, is a science requiring great talents to acquire, and of much importance in society. To succeed in it a man must be possessed of natural genius; and it is moreover susceptible of great improvement from art. Considered as the art of persuasion, even in its lowest state, it requires soundness of understanding, and a considerable knowledge of human nature; and in its higher degrees to be successful, the orator must possess a strong sensibility of mind, a warm and lively imagination, united to a correct judgement, an extensive command of the powers of language, and all the graces of pronunciation and delivery. The difference between just and sensible speaking, and the fascination of persuasive eloquence is beautifully described by Homer, in the following passage.

When Atrous' son harranged the listening train,  
 Just was his sense, and his expression, plain,  
 His words succinct, yet full, without a fault;  
 He spoke no more than just the thing he ought;  
 But when Ulysses rose! in thought profound  
 His modest eyes he fix'd upon the ground,  
 As one unskill'd or dumb, he seem'd to stand,  
 Nor rais'd his head, nor stretch'd his scepter'd hand;  
 But, when he speaks, what elocution flows!  
 Soft as the fleeces of descending snows,  
 The copious accents fell, with easy art;  
 Melting they fall, and sink into the heart!  
 Wond'ring we hear, and fix'd in deep surprise  
 Our ears refute the censure of our eyes."