

Gray being not only cruel but careless, there were heavy complaints against him, and he was at last removed from his office by the provost and bailies of the borough, the patrons and trustees of the school. He was succeeded by a remarkable man of the name of Bayne, *paucarum literarum* but *acerrimi ingenii*, an enthusiast in the cause of learning, and gifted with the faculty of inspiring a love of learning in others. While apprentice to a shoemaker he had contrived to pick up some knowledge of the Latin language at a parish school, and this he improved by a short residence at a Scotch university. He was then himself appointed schoolmaster in a country parish, and here he acquired such fame by his assiduity and success in teaching that he was elected as successor of Gray to the dignified situation of head master in the grammar school of the county town. I was his favorite pupil. He took infinite pains with me, and he bestowed extravagant praise on my parts and proficiency. He called me affectedly his 'Leetle John,' and he talked of 'Leetle John' as a prodigy. I did learn from him Latin and English grammar very thoroughly, and he cherished in me a love of labor and a desire for distinction. But from his imperfect education he was sorely deficient in *quantity*, and from this deficiency I have since constantly suffered and shall continue to suffer to my dying day. In England Latin quantity is considered the test not only of acquaintance with the Latin language but of liberal breeding; and for general estimation a man had better be guilty of a bad action than mistake a short syllable for a long, or a long for a short. Wherefore it has been always with fear and trembling that I have ventured on a Latin quotation at the bar or in Parliament, and I have often suppressed quotations which were very appropriate from a dread of a mistake in *longs* and *shorts*, well knowing that the chance of *éclat* was nothing to the ridicule I should incur if I tripped.

However, I flatter myself that I have never been found out in a false quantity, and have thus been more fortunate than Edmund Burke or Sir James Mackintosh. Burke's *magnum vectigal* is known to all the world. I have been told that