

These few hints upon composition may be appropriately closed with the following remarks from Angus' Hand-Book of the English Tongue, to which the compiler acknowledges his indebtedness for many valuable hints both in this and other portions of the Grammar:—"After all, *practice* is the grand secret of effectiveness in this as in every other art. Write much; write frequently; most add write quickly; and polish afterwards; and you will be sure to succeed. The last two rules are Johnson's. He strongly advises young composers to train their minds to start promptly, for it is easier to improve in accuracy than in speed. Robert Hall's experience confirms this rule. He used to lament that his progress in composition was so slow and laborious that he could write comparatively little, while what he wrote had an air of stiffness, from which his spoken style was free. Whether these last rules are acted upon or not, the two former are absolute. Excellence in composition is a great power, and its lowest price—for most—is *patient toil*."

## PLANTS.

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