

most frequently resorted to, for general poverty of language is invariably associated with general poverty of thought. So intimately connected are they, that thought will struggle into speech, and speech is provocative of thought. It is not in rude and savage lands that the resources of language, though taxed to the utmost, are found inadequate to the demands of thought, but in lands where language may be copious and refined, but where, at the same time, men are pushing their inquiries into the unknown, and opening up new realms of thought. Nor does the use of such aids to expression by an individual always argue unfamiliarity with the resources of language. If he have entered unfamiliar regions of inquiry in prosecuting his researches, not only must he to the uttermost avail himself of the use of words, but he will often be compelled to resort to other modes of expression in making intelligible to others that which he has discovered. It will be observed, then, that the use of such aids is often a condescension to the inaptness of those to whom communications are made. However clearly a master in the use of language can express his meaning to those who are like himself familiar with words, he may often find it impossible to convey it in the same manner to those not equally accomplished, and must in every possible way aid speech in the impartation of thought. Teachers, especially, continually resort to various expedients in order to communicate unfamiliar truths with clearness and rapidity. Hence, in more ancient times, the use of the stylus and wax-covered tablets, or tables strewn with sand. Hence, too, in modern times, the introduction of slates and black-boards.

Though speech is undoubtedly the best means of expressing thought, there is in it an inherent defect that no cultivation can remedy. It is evanescent. The word uttered is as an expression gone forever. Its echo may or may not be treasured up in an attentive mind, but it rolls on through the yielding, unretentive air, and returns no more. Now written expressions of ideas, though in many respects inferior to spoken, have this superiority that they are abiding. If that which they are intended to convey be not at first apprehended, or be indistinctly remembered, the mind can again and again recur to them, till the truth is revealed to the understanding, or engraven on the memory. This purpose also the blackboard subserves; besides aiding in expressing thought, it secures to a certain extent, permanency of expression.