

in seeking for an appropriate figure to represent the subserviency and licentiousness of King Charles' court, and the subversion by the King of the rights and liberties of the people, finds a parallel in the worship of Belial and Moloch in the high places of Judah. Accordingly, Charles, poor, cynical, good-natured, faithless Charles, is Belial! and thus the passage runs: "In every high place, worship was paid to Charles and James, Belial and Moloch; and England propitiated those obscene and cruel idols with the blood of her best and bravest children."

A second instance of Macaulay's tendency to over-statement is found in the proverbial school-boy. When Macaulay wants to show the superiority of his own age, in knowledge and scientific achievement, he drags in a school boy by the collar, and makes him give utterance to profound views on political economy or science, or display knowledge on history and geography such as would make Bacon or Christopher Columbus gape with wonder. In this Essay, he is discussing the favorite theme of scientific progress, and says: "In these (scientific) pursuits, therefore, the first speculators lie under great disadvantages, and, even when they fail, are entitled to praise. Their pupils, with far inferior intellectual powers, speedily surpass them in actual attainments." So far, good: this is eminently just and true: but it does not suit Macaulay. He must add a startling paradoxical illustration, to challenge and arrest attention; but, in so doing, he does injustice, if not to Montague and Walpole, at least to Newton. Thus he continues: "Every girl who has read Mrs. Marcet's little dialogues on political economy could teach Montague or Walpole many lessons in finance. Any intelligent man may now, by resolutely applying for a few years to mathematics, learn more than the great Newton knew

after half a century of study and meditation." Imagine comparing the mathematical attainments of Newton, who invented and used the fluxional calculus, and reduced the motions of the heavenly bodies to an agreement with the law of gravitation,—imagine comparing such attainments with those of a "man of ordinary intelligence," even if the latter does apply himself resolutely for several years, with all the appliances and means of the nineteenth century to boot! Only a man ignorant of mathematics, as Macaulay was, could institute such a comparison.

In general, Macaulay's style is rhetorical. Innumerable passages may be selected, from his essays or from his history, that would serve excellently for purposes of declamation. This peculiar effect is due in large measure to the balanced structure of his sentences, and to the judicious repetition of words and phrases,—devices very effective in oratory, but in writing apt to appear artificial. These devices are seen to good advantage and in small compass in the first passage quoted above. Note the recurrence of similar forms in "we charge him," "we accuse him," "we censure him"; "having broken," "having given up," "having violated"; "we are told," "the defence is," "we are informed." The passage later in the book, upon the Puritans, is perhaps the most eloquent of the whole essay. It is a piece of pure oratory: "If their steps were not accompanied by a splendid train of menials, legions of ministering angels had charge over them. Their palaces were houses not made with hands; their diadems crowns of glory which should never fade away. On the rich and the eloquent, on nobles and priests, they looked down with contempt; for they esteemed themselves rich in a more precious treasure, and eloquent in a more sublime language, nobles by the right of an earlier creation, and