

otherwise sound-uncouth; and the memory is at the same time greatly assisted.

The Eton Grammars and other school-books shew on their title page the well-known shield of arms granted to the College more than four centuries ago by Henry VI. of England, whose "holy shade," as Gray speaks, "grateful science still adores" at Eton amidst its "watery glades." In the letters patent dated in 1449, establishing the College, the king expresses the very royal sentiment that, "If men are ennobled on account of ancient hereditary wealth, much more is he to be preferred, and to be styled truly noble, who is rich in the treasures of the sciences and wisdom, and is also found dilligent in his duty towards God." Therefore he proceeds to ennoble his new College at Eton, which he hopes will be the means of training noble characters for the service of the State: he ennobles it by granting it a shield of arms. "We assign it, therefore," the king says, "as arms and ensigns of arms, on a field sable, three fleurs-de-lis, argent; Our design being that our newly-founded College enduring for ages to come, (whose perpetuity we mean to be signified by the stability of the sable colour) is to produce the brightest flowers in every kind of science, redolent to the honour and most divine worship of Almighty God.

To which arms that we may also impart something of Royal nobility, which may declare the work to be truly royal and renowned, we have resolved that portions of the arms which by royal right belong to us in the kingdoms of England and France, be placed in the chief of the shield, party per pale azure, with a Flower of France, and gules with a lion passant, or." Of this shield and its origin all Etonians are proud. It is stamped ungolded on the sober-hued leather covers of many of the older editions

of the Grammar, while on the shewy but less durable cloth dress of the late editions it glitters conspicuous in bright gold and beautifully cut. The three flowers on the field sable are now always drawn in accordance with the description to be read in Burke, as "three lilies slipped and leaved," and not as heraldic fleurs-de-lis; the technical fleur-de-lis being properly reserved for Henry's "Flower of France" in the chief of the shield. (On the title-page of my 1835 edition of the Eton Grammar, a rich wreath of bay—laurea insignis—bursting into flower, surrounds the shield. "Floreat Etona," the Eton motto, is thus gracefully expressed to the eye.)

The use of the Eton Grammar has generated in the great community of English scholarship a kind of *Unitas Fratrum* or special sodality, who feel their hearts go forth at once towards the man whom they discover to have been indoctrinated in its lore. And as for the Latin quotations which Sir Fraunceys Scrope told Endymion Ferrars were wont formerly to be heard in the House of Commons, though not after the Revolution of 1832, from members with new constituencies—were they not most of them to be found written in the Eton Latin Grammar? And it is highly probable that many more of such flowers of speech from the same quarter would have been household words, had not the extraordinary custom prevailed very generally among teachers and taught, of ignoring all the examples appended to each rule in the Grammar, except the first one. On inspection it will be seen that there are in the Eton Grammar many other convenient expressions and concise moral maxims besides "Ingenuas didicisse," etc., etc., which from the cause just mentioned did not happen to get current.

This very English admixture of old school-book reminiscence with general thought is observable even in Shake-