

ly artificial. There are some, indeed, who naturally possess it in a greater degree than others; but by practice any one may improve it—by neglect, the best memory may be impaired.

*Boy.* You astonish me. I have heard my master say such a one had no memory—such a one had a good memory.

*Father.* This might be very true, comparatively speaking. Some have, as I have already told you, a much greater facility of learning any thing by heart than others; but no one is quite destitute of memory, who is not destitute of reason; and it is often seen that they who remember quickest, forget the soonest; whereas, what is slowly gained, is retained long.

*Boy.* Then, papa, I am sure I shall not speedily forget my task, if I could once acquire it; for I find I am not quick in learning to repeat it.

*Father.* Mind me. You say you can repeat a few lines perfectly. Let this convince you, that you will with diligence gradually learn the whole. Con over, and repeat to yourself, four or six lines more. When you retain them, repeat the preceding, and as it were, add them to your stock. Then set about another select number; and when you have fixed them in your memory, go over the whole again that you have learned, in order to fix their connexion in your mind. Proceed thus, till you come to the end of your task, and I can answer for your success.

*Boy.* Thank you papa. I thought that reading the whole, over and over, was the best way to learn it.

*Father.* By no means. Whoever attempts too much at once will never execute any thing. But by attending to one object at a time, and by persevering industry, you see what wonders are accom-