

intercourse with the brusque person, who cannot take time to be courteous.

By what means then can the desirable combination of simplicity, force, and beauty be acquired?

The answer often given is "Good prose writers like poets are born not made." This is not all the truth. In fact, even poets are to a great extent made. After the expenditure of fourteen years' labour by Tennyson, his *In Memoriam* must have owed as much of its force and beauty, to the artist's pains, as to the poet's genius.

An intimate acquaintance with the nature, origin, and use of our one hundred thousand English words, is provision rich enough for the construction of either measured or unmeasured lines.

Others say, "The only way to become a composer is to compose." Actuated by this belief, teachers of the old school, without any previous instruction, assigned such subjects as wool, animals, the seasons or political economy. The first named was usually dealt with after this manner. "The sheep is sheared, then the wool is washed, then it is carded, then it is spun, then it is woven, then it is sent to the tailor." A very shrewd urchin, savouring somewhat of Peck's bad boy, might, on animals, possibly produce something like the following:—The dog is a very useful animal. He can play tricks, and howl when anybody is going to die. The pig is a very interesting animal also, though he is not so nice a house-keeper as some other folks. Animals are very useful to the circuses, 'cause the minister and his wife, and the deacon and his wife, and their grown up relations can all go to take the baby to see the animals. The cow is an animal having four legs, one on each corner of her.

An hour's vain effort to evolve ideas on the three more difficult subjects, resulted in an abiding disgust with composition in any form. So much for the old method. The more recent reproduction in the pupils' own words of a story or object lesson, though a step in advance, does not develop originality of thought, or individuality of expression. The old asks for bricks without straw, the new gives the material, but not the necessary apprenticeship.

The mechanic does not say to his raw apprentice, "There is your material and model, when your carriage is finished I shall point out your mistakes." Does he not rather direct