

for example, in reply. Even then, constant practice enables one so to improve the few moments at disposal, as to have all his thoughts arranged in an orderly and forcible manner. Strive to make the the most of every minute in such exigencies. Do not trust to the inspiration of the moment. It generally fails just when needed. There are but few occasions in one's life when surrounding events raise the common man to spontaneous oratory.

3. BE IN EARNEST, AND THROW YOUR WHOLE SOUL INTO WHAT YOU SAY.—It is a very unenviable accomplishment to be able to persuade others of the truth of what you do not believe yourself. Surely true oratory must be smothered by the cloak of the dissembler. Be sure never to undertake to advocate an object or undertaking in which you have no faith. If necessary, denounce it; you can do that in earnest. But where your sympathies are really enlisted, you will have no difficulty in speaking. A truthful enthusiastic soul can cast mountains into the midst of the sea. Rest assured you will never drive people, where you refuse to go yourself. You must lead: they will follow. If there is a battlement to scale, be the first on the top, your audience will be at your heels. If there is a Balaklava charge to make, give the reins to your steed. You will not be deserted, as long as there is a vestige of generous or lofty feeling left to humanity.

4. BE ECONOMICAL OF YOUR LANGUAGE.—Large words are like boxing gloves: Saxon monosyllables like iron knuckles, they always leave their mark. Learned words speak to the head; plain, strong, idiomatic language goes straight to the heart. The use of high sounding speech will evoke from your auditory a wondering pity. A simple common-sense, unassuming, forcible style will move and inspire them.

Above all, AVOID BOMBAST.—Let every word have its meaning and its use. Otherwise excellent men often err here. They but make themselves ludicrous. They may create a sensation, but much of their usefulness is destroyed. When the ignorant sailor of Ulysses pierced the leathern sack, in which Æolus had bagged up the winds, they escaped with a terrible

uproar, and did a good deal of damage, but did not drive the ship any nearer her destination. One single breeze blowing very moderately, would have been ten times better than the whole bag full.

5. BE YOURSELF.—First, AS TO WHAT YOU SAY.—Every one is not born for the stage. Doubtless it is a great endowment to be able to impersonate others, to fill their position in imagination, and to be moved by all the passions that swayed them; but it is a far more useful thing, in this age, to retain your own individuality, and to utter your own thoughts. You loose in power when you try to wield another's sword. Better be a useful jackdaw in his own sphere, than a despised upstart, strutting in peacock's feathers.

Secondly, AS TO HOW YOU SPEAK.—It is doubtless beneficial to have a good mode before your eyes; but young speakers often err by choosing wrong models, not indeed faulty in themselves, but utterly unsuitable for their imitation. It is pitifully ludicrous to see a sculptor try to chisel the delicate figures of a marble vase in sandstone. If you will imitate to advantage, try and choose a model which has the same characteristics as you know you yourself are possessed of—cultivated to a high degree.

It is useful to hear all kinds of speaking; but be careful to imitate only when you are capable of doing so, and avoid defects whenever you see them. Especially do not ape any one's eccentricities. They may be endured in the possessor. The effect on you will be the same as that of a hideous mask.

6. Last of all, STOP WHEN YOU ARE DONE.—This hint is not so unnecessary as it may seem to be. How many good addresses are spoiled by not being properly trimmed. It is, as if, after partaking of a feast of luscious cherries, you were compelled to swallow the pits and stems.

When you have presented all the thoughts, arguments, and exhortations necessary for your purpose, say no more. It is the truest wisdom to take your audience by surprise in this respect. Remove the pleasant dish before their hunger is fully satisfied, they thus will be more eager, to set down to the feast again.

Have your closing remarks, your per-