

and arrangement of words; and in a style of language, bespeaking, not only the pleasant companion, but displaying a cultivated mind and a clear imagination. A man of profound learning, and possessing a thorough knowledge of the other sciences will always be respected, and his society courted by those who esteem learning: but without a certain degree of eloquence to convey his knowledge by, the pleasure of his company will be much abridged. Besides, such acquirements are not to be possessed by every person; and as a substitute, if the man of less profound scholarship, has from his knowledge of Eloquence, a sprightly easiness in conversation his acquaintance will always be agreeable to his friends and sought after by society in general.

After what has been said it may appear superfluous to advance any thing further, to excite a cultivation of and attention to this useful science. That its attainment is practicable and within the reach of every man of moderate talents to a certain degree might be easily demonstrated. Besides man having received as the pre-eminent distinction over other animals, the faculty of speech, by which he can communicate the effusions of an intelligent power within him, it appears a duty incumbent upon him to use this high gift to the best advantage, and to convey the affections or emotions of his mind in the most suitable manner he can. This remark is equally applicable, whether he communicates any thing useful to others, or solicits what may be necessary for himself. As a rational being he is accountable for his words to a tribunal both here and hereafter; hence he ought as far as possible to endeavour to suit them to the exigency of the case whatever it may be. The science of eloquence by writers on the subject, has been divided into different branches, classed according to the objects it may be employed for.

The first description of eloquence confines its aim to give merely pleasure to the auditors; and is the lowest degree of it, we know.— It neither seeks to convince or persuade, does not extend to move the passions or interest the feelings; and is only in danger of becoming offensive by being continued too long. It is employed in panygerics, in augural orations, addresses to great men, and other harrangues of the same nature. This sort of composition, though of a low grade is ornamental, and deserves not to be overlooked. It may innocently entertain the mind; and be also blended with useful sentiments. But when orators of this kind seek only to please or to shine, there arises a danger of the art giving way to ostentation; in which case the subject instead of becoming pleasing, will grow languid and wearisome to the auditors; a fault which may creep in, even in common conversation.

The second description of eloquence is of a higher grade, requiring more talents, and applicable for nobler purposes. The aim of the orator here is not only to please, but to instruct, to convince and to inform. His art here is chiefly directed to the removal of prejudices either against himself or the cause he pleads, to the selection of the most proper arguments, the stating them in the most forcible manner, arranging them in the best order and expressing them with propriety.