

Let me illustrate my assertion by an instance. I once heard a clever scholar from Cambridge who wrote Greek verse with facility, laughing immoderately over some grammatical errors in Lord Brougham's translation of one of the speeches of Demosthenes. And, critically speaking, I have no doubt he was right. Upon such a point he could hardly be mistaken. And yet he was grievously in error, when he fancied that he had read Demosthenes to more purpose than the translator, whose translation he so complacently demolished. Admitting that he cannot, or did not always translate him with rigid accuracy, yet I maintain that no man, now living, has read Demosthenes to more advantage than Lord Brougham. Certainly his eloquence is different from that of his master. The result of his intense, though perhaps uncritical, study of that great orator was not to reproduce Demosthenes, but—what is a great deal more—to produce—himself. It has never been my privilege to hear Lord Brougham. We are occasionally reminded that he is still amongst us by seeing in the newspapers the mellowed productions of his green old age; but these can give us no conception of what he was in his prime. Some of his earlier speeches we have, many of us, read. And truly his eloquence is of a kind to make evil doers tremble. Scorn, withering scorn, drops corrosive from his lips. His contempt is a thing to be avoided; and his indignation scorches like fire. They however who heard Harry Brougham in the first burst—the full flush of his genius, tell us that (as with all true orators) the written page is but the cold corpse of his eloquence: that with the eye, and the voice, and the living, speaking, gesticulating man, its soul is fled. Lord Brougham read Demosthenes; and genius kindled from the touch of genius, as fire from fire; my friend studied the great orator to light the taper of grammar, but the effect was not so good. I saw him, on one occasion, stand up to address a popular audience, and he was, ladies and gentlemen, with all his learning, he was, emphatically, a stick.

Let me give one other instance in which the principle for