

della Mirandola. We do not know what the austere young Oxonian thought of the frivolities and diversions of Lorenzo and his companions; possibly he joined in them, but however much he may have appreciated the learning of Poliziano he did not make that genial heathen his life model. After a stay of a year or more he went to Rome, where he came under the influence of another great scholar, Hermolaus Barbarus. Johnson quotes the following anecdote of their accidental meeting: "He was one day engaged in the Vatican, in an examination of the *Phaedon* of Plato, when Hermolaus Barbarus suddenly approached the press where he was seated, and expressed his conviction that the stranger had no claim, like himself, to the epithet Barbarus, from his choice of the book to which his attention was directed. Linacre recognised the speaker, notwithstanding the equivocation under which his name was