

supremacy of beauty when they pictured Venus riding on a tiger. A life-long sustained effort to converse well, at the tea table and in the parlor, will add grace, richness, strength and scope to a vocabulary. The elegance of a speech can be reported, as a face can be photographed; the complexion and soul have to be supplied by the imagination of the reader or observer in both cases.

(c) *Humor, fun, wit*, open up the receptivity of the listeners; they also give edge to the dull tools of weary argument. What may be called genuine fun, is to speech what music is to sound. A real good story is no more spoiled by oft-telling, than is a capital song by being sung. The sight of an audience that did not like fun, must be so inexpressibly sad to a speaker, that the touching pathos of pity might serve a similar purpose.

3. The PHYSICAL QUALITIES of a speaker and of speaking in public are important in proportion to the dullness and ignorance of the audience. Doctrine that sounds well, is to many, sound doctrine. An oratorical temperament is not necessary; now-a-days it is seldom advantageous to a public speaker. In fifty cases out of fifty-one, a man with a temperament which is highly oratorical, is incurably lazy. The products from such a combination will commonly be, brilliancy and absurdity.

(a) *The voice*, while an instrument of sound, is to the speaker an instrument of thought. By it he shapes and regulates the scattering of his thought over the minds of his hearers. For good thought—served hot—the people to-day are as greedy as were the school boys for the hot pennies shoveled out as largess at weddings in my young days. Purity of tone—as distinguished from affectation—is the chiefest excellence. The cultivation of a cheerful temper has the knack of bestowing a voice of pleasing and persuasive power.

(b) *Facial expression* is the capital of a comic actor; and his business is mainly to please by making believe that a purpose is wealth. A public speaker, whose main capital is a purse (facial expression), had better engage only in business, where the display of a pocket book is proof of being rich. The mouth is the seat of refinement and brutality; its user will mould its expression to give fitting accompaniment to his thought.

(c) In the *management of the body*, an erect, firm, and composed attitude, without stiffness, is to be desired. Dignity of bearing gives

dignity of feeling; and dignity of feeling inspires dignity of thought and utterance. Young speakers should be particular to avoid lolling of the body, and leaning indolently on any support, except their legs. A dangling of the limbs exhibits carelessness of the will.

(d) *Gestures*, which exhibit the image of the speaker's thought, are welcome assistants; but those which show only the agility of the speaker's body are unpardonable intruders. Quietness, definiteness, precision and promptness are admirable qualities in all helpers, gestures and students. In order of time, the eye, face, body, limb and words should direct the attention.

With this analysis of the excellencies of public speakers and speaking, a few sentences of advisory direction may aid beginners in the practice of the art.

*Moral Qualities.*—Try to be, then to say. Strive after serving, never mind the shining. Seek excellence, not applause. Cherish your highest ideal and never lower it in deference to the adulation of a delighted or deceitful listener.

*Intellectual Qualities.*—An improvised lunch does not imply improvised cooking. Only a well stored pantry can furnish a good repast on short notice. There must be skilful work in the kitchen ere the table can be spread with inviting and nourishing dishes. There must be diligence in the acquisition of wide and exact knowledge. A choice vocabulary is a matter of choice. Continuous choosing costs an effort of the will, the lowest price of the best of good things. To converse daily, with a vocabulary as copious, rich, clear, strong and graceful as is possible, will equip almost any man to converse with a thousand men at one time acceptably. The colloquial manner is essential to scientific lecturing and teaching. It is nearly always the best for communicating thought, and often the best for moving the will and the emotions.

*Physical Qualities.*—Keep the mouth shut when not speaking or eating. Breathe through the nose. As some one has quaintly said, "if you find your mouth open in bed, get up and shut it." Abstain from sipping or drinking while speaking. Distinctness of articulation and control of the rate of utterance will be promoted by breathing under the conscious supervision of the will for ten minutes before beginning to speak.

*General Tact.*—Estimate the requirements and capacity of the intellectual appetite and