

bility and lively imagination, which softens, thrills and overpowers us.

By an easy and natural transition we pass from Webster's intellectual to his imaginative powers. In the speech under consideration, imagination is not predominant, though all through the reply, we feel the freshness and life it imparts to his words. Neither is it spontaneous, as if gushing out in a stream of passionate feeling under the influence of uncontrollable excitement, but rather studied and weighed, and rendered subservient to reason. Instead of weakening or otherwise obscuring his arguments, it gives them point and clearness; instead of leading him astray, as it unfortunately does many orators that sacrifice logic to embellishment, it illumines his reasoning. It is not that of a poet, lofty and flowery, but rather an oratorical imagination, if it may be so termed. His intelligence has a powerful grasp of a subject; his imagination presents itself to clothe his ideas in suitable language. The quotations from Shakespeare and Butler, and the allusions to Holy Scripture, are felicitous instances. The wisdom of his principles and the spontaneous utterance of his sentiments, especially where energy and sensibility are combined, receive an additional embellishment from a vigorous imagination. This is noticeable in the practical application of the "Nullification" doctrine, but particularly where the burning eloquence of his loyal, patriotic heart burst forth into the spirited eulogium upon the old Bay State :—

"Mr. President, I shall enter on no encomium upon Massachusetts; she needs none. There she is; behold her, and judge for yourselves. There is her history; the world knows it by heart. The past, at least, is secure. There is Boston, and Concord, and Lexington, and Bunker Hill; and there they will remain forever. The bones of her sons, falling in the great struggle for independence, now lie mingled with the soil of every State from New England to Georgia; and there they will be forever. And Sir, where American liberty raised its first voice, and where its youth was nurtured and sustained, there it still lives, in the strength of its manhood, and full of its original spirit. If discord and disunion shall wound it; if party strife and blind ambition shall hawk at and tear it; if folly and madness, if uneasiness under necessary and salutary restraint, shall succeed in separating it from that union by which alone its existence is made sure; it will stand in the end, by the side of that cradle in which its infancy was rocked; and it will stretch forth its arm, with whatever of vigour it may still retain, over the friends who