

2. He may illustrate this definition by examples of humour, all of which should possess the qualities enumerated in the definition.

3. He would then naturally proceed as in A to apply his definition as a test for the discovery of the presence of humour in any piece of composition.

EXERCISE CXCVII.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.

1. A child wishing to reach a book on a shelf places a chair beside the shelf, and thus reaches the book—other illustrations all tending to show that a felt want sets us thinking on the means of removing it.

2. As man advances in civilization, his wants increase, his invention is more and more taxed, and on all hands he seeks the means of meeting these wants—illustrate this by reference to the simpler machines—the inclined plane, the pulley, etc., then to more complicated machines—steam engine, etc.

3. The advantages thus springing to man from the relation thus subsisting between his inventive faculty and his wants—almost boundless improvement before him, as the poet says :

“That which they have done is earnest
Of the things that they shall do.”

69. LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR ESSAYS.

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Politeness. | 14. Travel. |
| 2. Sympathy. | 15. Government. |
| 3. History. | 16. Painting. |
| 4. Education. | 17. Sculpture. |
| 5. The Love of Order. | 18. Ambition. |
| 6. Conversation. | 19. Courage. |
| 7. Curiosity. | 20. Justice. |
| 8. Obedience. | 21. Bravery. |
| 9. Friendship. | 22. Prejudice. |
| 10. Poetry. | 23. Hospitality. |
| 11. Old Age. | 24. The Senses. |
| 12. Philosophy. | 25. Charity. |
| 13. Books. | 26. Procrastination. |