

Some may object to this use of other men's ideas ; but when they learn that Molière imitated Plautus and Terence ; that La Fontaine borrowed largely from Æsop and Phædrus, perhaps they will be silent. In reading, too, let our motto be "*non multa sed multum*," remembering that we injure the mind, when we over-crowd it, as much as we injure the body when we over-feed it ; and that every thing which is destined to be durable, is of slow growth. Geology has demonstrated to us that this world of our's was not made in six days, but six "periods ;" history has proved that neither Egypt, Athens, nor Rome, were "built in a day." She has also shewn that it required a thousand years to form our glorious British Constitution (and long may it flourish). Experience teaches us, that it requires a hundred years to form the oak, half a century to form a good lawyer, a quarter of a century to make a general, and three generations to make a gentleman.

Do not suppose, my friends, that the rules which I have ventured to propose to your consideration can be observed without a certain amount of labour ; for "is not difficulty the very condition of success ?" and has it not been written, that "*Pater ipse colendi haud facilem esse viam voluit ?*" and what is genius but patience ? Believe me, however, if by the exercise of such patience and perseverance we can add to our stock of knowledge, and become adepts in the art of imparting that knowledge, we shall have been well repaid for this our conquest over difficulty, and amply rewarded for this our victory over indolence.

Gentlemen, I trust I may not be deemed tedious if, before I bring this somewhat lengthy address to a close, I should lay before you a short sketch of the life of that brilliant but unfortunate Irishman after whom our Society is named. Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the second son of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, school-master, and afterwards manager of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, was born in that city, in the year 1751, and, like many of our great men, seems to have derived from his mother all his brilliancy of intellect, and, like some, to have given no evidence of that brilliancy during the days