

speech that he is born a speaker? But, however, we are not to regard the production of language in the same way as we do the production of the liberal arts, as a task in which we may or may not engage just as it suits our caprice or pleasure. As Max Muller says: "Man means the thinker, and the first manifestation of thought is speech." Hence does it follow as a logical conclusion that man necessarily requires language as the vehicle of his thought.

Many persons in reading the story of our primitive parent, imagine that Adam was created and placed in Paradise with a magnificently stocked vocabulary at his command. But the most superficial examination of the anatomy of language, of its gradual growth and expansion will certainly disabuse their minds of such an utterly absurd idea. However, lest any apprehension be had that I wish to impugn the divine origin of language, let me ask what is meant by its divine origin. Is it that language is the direct bestowal of the Creator? Hardly; but rather that man was endowed by his maker with capacities that led him necessarily to the production of words. In this way the rise of language has a dual aspect, being at once both human and divine, that is, it was formed by man but at the suggestion of the Creator. And this is undoubtedly substantiated by the words of Holy Writ wherein we are told that the creatures of the earth were brought before Adam that he himself might name them.

Language, therefore, is a human institution and being such, its rise and development must have been like that of similar institutions. It must have had its period of rude shapings and its advance to larger existence. With truth did Young say: "How complicate, how wonderful is man!" From the possession of next to nothing he passes to the acquisition of almost everything. And so has it been in language. And what may have been the next-to-nothing, the grains of speech on which was founded the magnificent structure of thought's expression, is something totally beyond our ken. Many, and particularly adherents of Darwinism, urge that language took its inception in cries emitted on feeling pain, and hence, is nothing more than a reflex action. But language is the verbal expression of thought, for words have