

ample furnished, moves in the higher regions of apostrophe!

O stove! to you I speak! Your ponderous doors wide open I have often flung! I will not say how many times your insatiate maw hath made me penniless! With what assiduousness both axe and saw nocturnal I have plied to meet thy pitiless demands! For whatever services thou hast rendered, bring not against me the charge of black ingratitude! Caloric diffused by thee in rich abundance hath made me glad and strong for action! Yet before thy portals I have often sat in moody silence when thy dark recesses glowed not with the enlivening flame! How often, too, in place of warmth, a piping sound lugubrious like note of plaintive bird on River Amazon hath made in thy sooty throat a heartless requiem!

Nor was this the only peculiar effect of the study. The chapter on *Style* was sorely perplexing to some of us. The great and unanswerable question was, How is the thought to be dressed in fitting garb? In fact so haunting did this interrogatory become, that in visions of the night, ideas clad in most fantastic shapes flitted before the mind. Some appeared in dress so gaudy that nought save the garments arrested the attention. In others the want of congruity between thought and dress produced the most inextinguishable cackination. Now it was the coat without the "pants"; now the coat and vest; again the "pants" without the coat. In some cases the dress fitted like the athlete's, but a pair of bare, splay feet protruding from the "pants" utterly spoiled the effect of the whole. In not a few instances the body of the thought seemed to shrivel up, leaving the dress to slacken and flap in the wind. In the morning the dreamer awoke only to repeat in stern practice the phantasmagorical experiences of the past night; for the *Essay* day was drawing nigh, and preparation must be made to meet it. Then it was that Art and Nature long struggled for the mastery: At length the victory is won. The pen records the artless sentences, and Blair with his multitudinous rules retreats in dire discomfiture. From this date, however, our minds became more alienated from the study of Rhetoric, falsely so called, and we longed to rid ourselves of the standards and

trammels of the schools. We hungered for some better pabulum, panted for a purer and more bracing atmosphere in which we could revel with all the plenitude and exuberance of original genius. Not content with expressing ourselves in the words and style of the vulgar whose ambition rose only to the level of their own thoughts, we aspired to command a diction, which, like a deep and rapid river, would bear upon its bosom the argosies of thought. Of the common view of style we were fully aware—that simplicity in expression is the richest and ripest result of culture. But why, we pointedly asked, should man's highest ambition be to so express his thoughts that the learned and unlearned alike can easily grasp them? Is there not a great risk run of breaking down distinctions which to society are vital and organic? These and sundry other pertinent enquiries turned the scale. We carried with us the conviction that it was possible to command a style far better and more exalted than this—a style which the frantic efforts of exasperated critics would strive in vain to dissect—a style which would have in its capacious embrace all possibilities, and be as comprehensive and universal as thought itself. We wished our cogitations to move with a cadence that would have the ring of infinity. But I must curb my struggling muse and wait until the next issue of the *Athenæum*.

LOCALS.

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Clam suppers are becoming popular.

The Seniors have their subjects, and the Library looks forsaken.

Some new apparatus, chiefly for experimenting with electricity, has been added to the Science department.

The following was used in the Rhetoric Class as an example of *Climax*: Yale, Harvard, London, Paris, Dalhousie.

An enthusiastic (?) member of the Astronomy class has named and classified the Seminary lights according to color and brilliancy. Charts on application.

The examining committee, Revs. Saunders and Kierstead, spent three or four days visiting classes in the College and Academy.