

ration. Genius itself is no exception to this rule. The greatest writers and talkers of all ages have credited all their triumphs to their willingness to work. Macaulay rewrote some of his most famous passages fifty or sixty times. Daniel Webster, composed his famous sentence about the British drum-beat, years before it was delivered. The best "extemporaneous" efforts of which the newspapers tell us are the results of midnight oil. For the average man confidence in the inspiration of the moment is a delusion.

In practical life most addresses are called forth by the occasion, and their purpose is consequently very evident, but certain guiding principles should be observed in preparing them.

The first of these is that emphasis should be laid not so much upon facts, as upon philosophy of facts. Take Lincoln's address at Gettysburg as an illustration. He might, in those brief but memorable words, have spoken of the details of the greatest of modern battles, but with the orator's instinct he dwelt on the moral lesson taught by the mighty conflict. Every address should be designed to leave some definite moral and intellectual impression. A great deal is pardonable upon the platform which would sound extravagant in print. The magnetism of presence and personality account for much of the orator's triumph, yet his best gifts are readiness of imagination and keenness of logical perception.

The best stimulus to imagination is study of the poets, above all, of Shakespeare. The old fashioned ornate style of oratory does not suit modern taste, but Patrick Henry, and Edmund Burke, and Daniel Webster well repay careful study.

Our professor of history used to say that Jeremiah Black of Pennsylvania was the finest rhetorician that America has produced, and quoted in support of his position this noble sentence from Judge Black's argument before the Electoral Commission of 1876-'77.

"It is impossible for the scurvy politician, busying himself with fixing false returns, to understand the thoughts, motives and actions of the

incorruptible magistrate, whose walk is on the mountain-ranges of the law."

Wendell Phillips, both in style and delivery, was probably the most eloquent professional orator of recent days. His lectures are classical in expression and arrangement, and I have always thought Toussaint L'Overture the ideal college declamation.

No living man, I am confident, excels President Harrison as a speech maker, and no other series of acts has made his wise and successful administration more popular with all classes, than the exceedingly able addresses which he has just been delivering in his tour through the South and West. The *Christian Advocate* declares that no man save Horace Greeley has had such a faculty for off-hand speech-making as our present chief magistrate.

The present writer will never forget the impression made upon him by General Harrison's graceful words and scholarly bearing at the Washington inaugural celebration in New York, two years ago.

M. J. THOMPSON,

THOUGHTS—PAST AND PRESENT.

I

When oft in night the solemn stillness holds,
And thoughts unbidden take their winged flight
To realms, which in the sober mind unfold
Inviting channels, sought to best recite
The Past with all its pains and pleasures told,
And present which we'er to Past unite.

II

And Mem'ry many times to us has giv'n
A rich resource of pleasure pearls so dear ;
A life so full of pure delight e'en riv'ed
That sorrow seems to have no harbour here.
The sadder are the thoughts, the easier driven
From cheerful minds and thus they disappear.

III

The thoughts of Present are t'occasion bent,
Depending on fair weather and on storm ;
On disposition, which has ever lent
A charm when good—when bad it will transform
To ill all deeds tho' of the best intent,
And so all nature it will thus deform.

—R. S. A.