

though a speech may not be perfect it is not all a bosh. The mind should be actively at work weighing and considering its merits, separating the theatrical and flowery part, leaving it for the Sophist. As the Bee passes by the Ivy and Hyacinth and settles on the prickly Thyme and goes away laden, so should we return from an oration or lecture not as from a theater or minstrel show, but laden with the essence of the oration, thus culled out. Consider and think of it, that an impression may be made on the mind and the words may not "as the breath vain and unregarded turn to air." After the oration is delivered criticize not too harshly, the faults of another are easily seen. It is an easy matter to accuse another, if the speech does not suit. Let us put Plato's question "Can you produce such another?" Try to correct the fallacies of a speech or reproduce one that is perfect and the task will not be found very easy.

The attention given is often merely apparent. They steadily eye the speaker, sit doubled up in some unorthodox position, keeping their minds on some other subject, or if trying to pay attention stop occasionally to whisper to a person beside them and thus lose the chain of argument. An inquiring mind is a good sign of talent, but it is not well to be too fond of asking questions. A well dressed gentleman once stepped into an Italian paint shop the young artist treated him with courtesy until he showed his ignorance by asking questions, they soon saw he knew nothing about painting and by the manner he spoke they judged he knew nothing else. In the class the best students ask the questions because they understand something about the lesson, unless it is some egotist who endeavors to hide his ignorance and in so doing makes it more manifest. Others on account of bashfulness refrain from asking questions. Some fearing lest they show their ignorance (as compared with others) keep silent and when the class is dismissed, some go away in doubt some satisfied that they understand the

lesson, others satisfied that they never will. If you do not understand the lesson it is best to keep quiet better learn by hearing others than to keep others from learning by hearing you.

In a discussion attention and reserve add as greatly to the effect as the arguments you produce. Do not interrupt your opponent in the midst of an argument but remain silent until he has finished take time to consider, then say what you wish. In assemblies where every thing is carried by noise, talk and debate, one will have the floor another interrupts him, then three or four will rise to a point of order, after some trouble the speaker rests, res order, and the gentleman proceeds until again and again interrupted by those who wish to hear themselves talk, he sits down, these in their wranglings and disputes, not having said anything. A gentleman of reserve having given attention and heard the discussion rises and by a powerful speech carries the house. "As words are but breath, breath but air, air put in motion but wind," and the stronger the propelling force the greater will be the effect. As long as a speaker is able to keep the attention of an audience he feels at liberty to continue speaking, but when the audience tired and restless, show their dislike to hearing him, by whispering, yawning and going to sleep; unless he is a bore will take the hint and sit down as soon as possible. But a learned and smart man can well judge when he should be heard and when he should not; if he sees anyone manifesting their dislike to hearing him, he judges himself not an intruder, but that they are too stupid to understand him.

A great many have a sense for the ludicrous, for a humorous declamation or a burlesque oration will attract the attention of an audience as well as an oration that has required thought to produce it, they will listen with greater interest to a Mark Twain or Danbury News man than to a bishop or philosopher. Their attention is attracted by any thing impious for if a