

To hope and holiness in God."

And another—

"Your voiceless lips of flowers are living preachers!

Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book:
Supplying to my fancy numerous teachers,
From loneliest nook."

All the great forces about us act silently, "Still waters run deep." The attraction of gravitation in silence holds the earth from bursting into atoms. The arrows of light and heat are shot silently from their great quiver and execute their missions. In vivid contrast to the meteor that falls hissing to the ground, the stars in silence marshal their hosts through their eternal courses. Of them the Psalmist says—

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge." C. M.

AUTHORS AND ORATORS.

Two classes of men are foremost among the influences, which, operating generation after generation, have been slowly raising mankind from a state of barbarism and ignorance into a state of civilization and refinement. Two classes of men do more than all other influences to elevate human morals, manners, and customs.

Two classes of men do more than heroes and armies to build up nations or overthrow them. These men are authors and orators, nearly alike in some respects widely different in others, and my object will be to draw a comparison between them.

At first thought it would seem that there is little ground for any comparison between the author and the orator. The one writes; the other speaks. The object of each is to give expression to his thoughts, and thus to wield an influence over his fellow men or win their approbation or praise. It would not seem at first thought, that the man who could

give expression to his thoughts on paper could not as well give expression to them in a speech; but the fact is, men are very seldom found who can both write and speak with equal facility.

There is a great difference between writing and speaking, and this difference is found to be far greater than we would at first suppose, when we come to study carefully the natures and works of the most renowned authors and orators.

The author does his work in the solitude of his own room. No assembly of people inspire, cheer, or seem to be closely sympathizing with him. If he receive any enthusiasm at all, it must come from the contemplation of his subject. The presence of a large audience seems to stimulate, and give tension to the thoughts of the orator, but not so the author. "The only Pegasus he has to boast," says Hazlitt "is the hobby horse of his own thoughts and tancies."

But the orator does his work in public. He is never more at home than when standing before a crowd of people. Shut him up in his own room and his great power is gone. Charles Fox was a brilliant genius, a power when in the House of Commons, but his history of England is decidedly tame. When away from the audience which seemed in a certain degree to inspire him, his power and genius were not essentially greater than that of many another man. Do you think that Daniel Webster, shut up in his own study-room could have written out those lofty sentiments which we find in his reply to Mr. Hayne? No. These sentiments seem to be the spontaneous utterances of a soul overflowing with patriotism, and of a mind that would convince other minds by grappling with the mighty question which is even threatening in its solution the dismemberment of the Union.

Of course Mr. Webster had carefully considered his subject and had weighed all his arguments pro con and in his own massive intellect before he delivered his speech; but then the language which