

On Boasting.

Boasting, is always attended by vanity and so often by lying that we find but few instances ~~of boasting~~ without it. There is an old proverb, "That empty vessels make the greatest sound," which may be well applied to those who are in the habit of puffing up and praising their own actions or of making wonderful stories about things which never happened ~~and~~ which or of exaggerating trifles in such a manner, that the most trifling occurrence is made to appear of the utmost importance. — In all these different kinds of boasting it is necessary to use many words and consequently a great noise is made about nothing and by persons entirely destitute of every qualification to substantiate a waste of words. It is a known fact that generally those that talk most say the least & say generally for those we excepted,

to every rule. and thus are instances
of men who spend all the time they can
 spare from their necessary occupations
in telling about the prodigies ^{which} they have
mistaken heard of; and about their own
wonderful actions. To such an extent
is this carried, that there is no time for
the reality, so that the conclusion which
must be drawn is that the things which
they relate never existed. And I suspect
inference which ^{evidently} is derived from it
~~might be drawn~~ is that
the narrator is telling what is not true
or at least he is lying. I would be very
sorry to blame any for faults of which
they are not guilty & though the conclusion
now just obtained is true in some ^{cases} instances
it is not so in all. for there is a class
of boasters which would be as sorry to be
thought ~~liars~~ as I would be to call them
liars. I mean those who mistake the
actions of others for their own and when

Danger puts real valour to the test
and by it we can distinguish true bravery
from false or the bravery of a hero from
the bravery of a boaster. The former are
soldiers in the time of war and the latter
when there is peace. When there is peace
none according to their own accounts ever
existed ^{who were} so brave. There is no doubt but
they wish to be brave and that they have
right ideas of bravery and magnanimity -
they understand well the theory and but
they entirely fail in the practice. There
are thus again who talk much about
their own bravery and the honour and glory
that attends the man who dies for his
country, that ~~do~~ partly through shame
and partly with the hope of returning safe
to venture to the field. There they
contrive ways of preserving themselves
even at the expense of the lives of their fel-
lows or the loss of victory. Then many
things seem to them to be preferable to
this honourable death. It is thus hope

which has put amid the courage of many
heroes but not of all, there are some few
examples of individuals who have volun-
tarily sacrificed their lives for the good
of this country but there are "rara avis
in terris" but of this other class of heroes
if it should so happen in the course of
events "that they must ~~die~~ be under
the painful necessity of dying for their
~~country~~ gloriously. they then exclaim
Welcome death as I suppose if they
had time they would tell about the ease
and pleasure they felt when they were dying.
but when they exclaim welcome death
~~they~~ they do it as the rat did when
the trap fell.

SP

They think them to be their own and dare
surely no blame can be attached to them
when they use them such. Examples of
this kind are not scarce, we find them
in every profession. Sometimes it happens
that a cause which is gained by the skill
of some experienced lawyer who talks
little and thinks much, is attributed
by some young upstart, who has made
the court ring for hours together and who
has tired the patience of all the audience
with a speech which might have been
~~spoken~~ ^{spoken} in 5 minutes and with better ef-
fect, is I say attributed by this prattler
entirely to his eloquence and skill.

Physicians ^{too} sometimes bore us with cases
correct by doses never taken.

In these examples there is a great redun-
dancy to the fly which was greatly play-
ed with the dust she had raised when
she was sitting on a carriage wheel.

It seldom happens that a truly great
man makes such mistakes as these

or even speaks of his actions which per-
haps may have astonished the world -
but there is one example which we cannot
pass over ^{who thought too much of himself} of a great man ~~being~~ ^{the}
This is Cicero. he was truly a great man
and a great genius but ^{little} a most conceited
boaster, he seems to have thought of himself
that there never had been or would be any
equal to him. If the Romans had not
known what Cicero did for them I'm
sure it was not for want of his telling
them. It is folly for a great man
to praise or even speak of his own ac-
tions, or the good he has done, for let him
do what he will, it will be known, but
it is the only wisdom of these boasting
fools, for if they did not praise them-
selves and make known their own greatness
nobody would do it for them and thus
the great benefit resulting from them-
selves would be entirely lost to society.