

Rhetoric. Syllabus of.

Introduction An acquaintance with the circle of the liberal arts requisite to the study of Rhetoric — — — Nature & foundations of Eloquence — Definition of Eloquence "Scientia bene dicendi" (Quintilian) — The ends of speaking purifying to enlighten the understanding, to please the imagination, to move the passions, or to influence the will — the quality of style best adapted to the first, perspicuity; to the second sublimity; to the third pathetic & to the fourth rehearsal — What passions chiefly to be excited in order to persuade, & what in order to assuage —

Wit, humour & ridicule —

The design of wit, How effected (in one of three ways) E. g. — Humour — In what consists — Its object Contempt — Its province Comedy — Illus — Ridicule — When properly employed — Its province Satire — better suited to confute error than to support truth —

The relation which Eloquence bears to grammar & Logic — It holds of the former by the expression & of the latter by the sentiment

General division of the Subject (Eloquence)

5 viz. Invention, Disposition, Elocution, Memory & Action — severally defined — Invention the test of Genius; yet greatly assisted by art, by considering

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the nature of the subject, the state of controversy,
the occasion the speaker, the audience &c.

Ancient division of oratory - judicial, demonstra-
tive, & deliberative - To what kind of public speaking
these severally correspond among the moderns - The
State of controversy with the preacher is the text; with
the Lawyer, what is termed the issue, & with the legis-
lator the question - Cicero's division of the state
of controversy, the An sit (state of conjecture); the
Quid sit (state of definition); the quales sit (state
of quality) ^{sometimes} & the quantum sit (a compound of the
two last mentioned) - Co-ordinate & subordinate
states defined

II Invention aided by the use of Topics -
The origin of topics - Topics of two kinds, exter-
nal & internal & external distinguished, enum-
erated & defined

III Invention aided by the consideration the
Speaker has of his hearers (1) as men in general (2)
as such men in particular - 1st As men in gen-
eral endowed with understanding, imagination
memory & passions - Circumstances chiefly favoura-
ble in operating on the passions - (1) Probability - (2)
Pleasibility - (3) Importance - (4) Proximity of
time - (5) Connexion of place - (6) Relation of
the actors or sufferers to the hearers or Speaker -
(7) the Interest of the hearers or Speaker in the
Consequences - 2nd As such men in particular

Their kn. employments &c.) (3) How an unfavourable passion may be calmed

(1) By annihilating or diminishing its object - (2) By exciting some other passion that may counterwork & overcome it -

IV Invention aided by the consideration the consider the Speaker ought to have of himself - The character he sustains in the estimation of his hearers - Sympathy in the hearers towards the Speaker a powerful engine in operating on the passions - This sympathy may be destroyed or diminished chiefly in two ways (1) by a low opinion of his intellectual abilities (2) by a bad opinion of his morals - The latter more unfavourable

Chap 2nd Of Disposition.

Cicero's definition of - Blaives Division of the parts that compose a regular oration viz. Introduction, State of the question subject narration or explication, the reasoning or argumentative part the pathetic & the conclusion - Aristotles division - Exordium, Preparation, prop & conclusion - The latter preferred - The object of an exordium debet auditorem attentum docilem, et benevolum - When a formal introduction may be omitted - What should characterise the style & manner - The style should be simple & perspicuous & the manner unassuming (modest) -

The Proposition should be free from all ambiguity of terms & obscurity -

Argumentative part - (1) Invention of arguments - Justice the main source in judicial oratory; utility in deliberative & in demonstrative praised censure - Rules for the disposition of arguments (1) avoid putting things together which are separate in their nature (2) advance by way of climax from the weakest to the most forcible (3) Avoid pushing or straining arguments too far (4) Avoid impasing on the hearers by too great a multiplicity of arguments -

Conclusion should not be abrupt nor greatly protracted - always with dignity becoming the subject, speaker & occasion -

Chap. 3rd Of Elocution

Elocution includes every thing relating to the wording of a discourse - Style - The qualities of a good style, perspicuity & ornament -

1st Perspicuity requires attention (1) to words & phrases (2) to the structure of sentences -

Perspicuity with regard to words & phrases requires purity, propriety & precision - Purity & propriety distinguished - Custom, or established usage the arbiter of language - Reputable use ^{authors of repute} National all are opposed to provincial or foreign usage -

2nd Present use (opposed not to ancient ^{but} obsolete)

The decisions of good use not always uniform—
 Principal Canons of verbal criticism where
 use is divided—(1) Univocal forms of expression
 preferred. ^{E.g.} When the expression used by one part
 has been preoccupied, or is susceptible of different
 significations, whilst that of the other does not
 admit of a different sense. ^{E.g.} (2) Regard
 ought to be had in doubtful cases, to the analogy
 of the language E.g.—(3) When the terms
 or expressions are in other respects equal,
 that ought to be preferred which is most agree-
 able to the ear ^{E.g.}—(4) In cases wherein
 none of the foregoing rules gives either side a
 ground of preference, a regard to Simplicity
 (in which is included etymology when manifest)
 ought to determine our choice ^{E.g.}—(5) If
 there should occur any case, in which neither
 of the preceding Canons can assist us in
 fixing our choice, it is safest to prefer
 that manner which is most conformable
 to ancient usage E.g.—

Every thing favoured by good use not
 on that account to be retained ^{How to decide} ^{6th Canon}
 All words & phrases which are remarkably
 harsh & unharmonious should be discarded
 & Criticism by which to judge in the above case—

- (7) A word should be discarded when the etymology of it plainly points to a significance different from what it commonly ~~silly~~ bears.
E.g. (Co-action & coaction) (8) When any words become obsolete, or ^{at least} are never used, except as constituting part of particular phrases, it is better to dispense with their service & give up the phrases - E.g. bif, clint, whit &c
(9) All those phrases which, when analysed grammatically, include a solecism, & all those to which use has apposed a particular sense but which, when explained by the generally established rules of the language, are susceptible either of a different sense, or of no sense ought to be discarded entirely. E.g.

G - Ways in which grammatical purity is chiefly violated - (1) Barbarism (or the use of words not purely English) - (1) By the use of obsolete words (2) By the use of new words^{E.g.}
(3) By the use of good words new-made &c
Again purity is violated when the construction of the sentence may not be in the English idiom (Solecism)

Propriety - sometimes violated in single words by compounding words different

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in signification, ~~but~~ from their similarity or proximity in sound E.g. (observation & observance - endurance & curation) (2) Imprecision in phrases E.g. most base of all others.

Precision - Definition & Etymology ap-

Words & phrases faulty in respect precision in three ways (1) They may express other ideas than those intended by the author (2) They may express the proper ideas, but not completely (3) They may express them together with something more than he intends - The injudicious use of words called synonymous the great source of a loose style which is the opposite of precision E.g. pride & vanity

C. Structure of Sentences -

Importance of proper construction - Most essential properties of a perfect sentence, Cleanness, unity, Strength & Harmony - In order to clearness all ambiguity must be avoided, regard must be had to the proper disposition of adverbs & still more to the relative pronouns - To preserve the unity of a sentence, the first rule is to avoid as far as possible changing the subject during the course of the sentence (2) Ideas which have little connection must not be crowded into the same sentence

- (3) Avoid too unnecessary use of parentheses -
- (4) Bring the sentence to a full & perfect close
- Strength of a sentence wherein consists - How promoted - (1) By taking away all redundant words & superfluous members, (2) By attention to the use of such words as are employed for transition & connection (copulatives, relatives & participles) (3) Place the principle words in that part of the sentence where they will make the most striking impression - (4) Let the several members rise in importance by way of climax - (5) Avoid concluding with insignificant words - (6) Preserve some resemblance in the language & construction, to things compared in the members of the sentence

Harmony in sentences - In perci the Harmony of periods - (1) agreeable sound in general (2) Sound expressive of the sense, - Choice of words - Distribution of the several members of the sentence - The Close or cadence -

One sound adapted to the sense - Sounds of words employed for representing chiefly three classes of objects viz - sounds, motions & passions & emotions of the mind,

Origin & nature of Figurative Language - Figures prompted by imagination & passion

Figures of words & figures of thought - The former called tropes - Tropes derived in part from the barrenness of language, but principally from the influence which imagination has over language - Why tropes & figures contribute to the beauty & grace of style - Figures afford the pleasure of enjoying ^{or mere} two objects presented at the same time to our view without confusion principal & its accessory - Figures give a more striking view of the principal object - Vivacity of the idea is increased by substituting the name of one object for the name of another to which it bears a relation -

Metaphor founded on the resemblance one object bears to another - Distinguished from simile & comparison - Metaphors, skilfully employed add great light & strength to description - Several rules for the proper management of metaphors - (1) Suited to the nature of the subject - (2) The choice of objects whence metaphors are drawn - Illusions that raise disagreeable mean or low ideas to be avoided - (3) Founded on a resemblance clear & striking - (4) Metaphorical & plain language not to jumble together

(5) Mixed Metaphor to be avoided
• (6) Not crowded together on the same
subject — (7) It should not be too far
pursued — An Allegory a continued metaphor
(hence the same rules will apply to it as to metaphors)

Hyperbole in what consists — Of two
kinds of such as are employed in description
& such as are suggested by passion — the
latter far better than the former

Figures which lie solely in the thought
Personification, & Apostrophe

Personification a figure of speech by
which life & action are attributed to inan-
imate objects — Its grand province
poetry, yet much employed in prose —

Three degrees of this figure of Personification

- (1) When some of the properties of living
creatures are ascribed to inanimate objects,
- (2) When these inanimate objects are
described as acting like such as have
life (3) When they exhibited either
as speaking to us or listening to what
we say to them Illus: — This last ought
never to be attempted unless prompted by
strong passion or continued after the
passion has subsided & the object personifi-
ed must have some dignity in itself

Apostrophe, what Requires less effort of
imagination than personification (e.g. Poems
of Ossian) — P Comparison, when the
resemblance is expressed in form & pursued
further than the nature of a metaphor
usually admits. All comparisons reduced
under two heads, viz. Explaining & Embel-
lishing Comparisons — Antithesis founded
on contrast or opposition of objects — E.g.

Cicero, in his oration for Milo, represents
the improbability of Milo's design to take
away the life of ~~Claudius~~ (Claudius). Antith-
esis very much employed in maxims & moral
sayings — Interrogations & Exclamation
passionate figures — Interrogations may be
employed in close & earnest reasoning —
Exclamations belong only to stronger emo-
tions of the mind & to surprise, anger, joy, grief,

Vision consists in relating things past as
present, suited only for animated com-
position — Climax, in what consists
(viz. artful exaggeration of circumstances &c.)
not the language of passion — Illus —
Synecdoche (The less for the more general
— the most interesting circumstances)
Onomatopœia — Scarcely admissible except
in burlesque —

Euphemism expresses things offensive in terms inoffensive — Meiosis gen. used by way of dispraise, to insinuate more than is expressed (Vide Berke) — Henelya

Ois — (two substantives for a sub. & adjective) e.g. — Glosteronproteron (the last first) — etimplification — Communication (from Scrolling to conversation) — Correction (recalling a term or phrase to use a stronger)

Oxymoron (an epithet of a different signification is added to a word) — Witticism (proceeding from dullness.) — Doubt (Lo que es un Silvia) — Agamongamon (more honoured in the breach than observance)

Alliteration — (Repetition of the same letter or the use of many words beginning with the same letter) — Allusion (The likening one thing to another — the speaking of a person in technical terms)

Syneirantolagon — (An artful & designed repetition of the same word. Vide Berke)

The heaping a great many circumstances together & keeping them as it were on the same task) — Apariopesis / breaking off a discourse yet in such a manner that it is understood what he means) — Reduplicat Composit

General Characters of Style -
 1st Diffuse Style - what & when properly employed
 2nd Concise - better adapted to written compositions than to discourses that are to be spoken - In what kinds of composition it should be employed (Ans. when we wish to strike the fancy or move the heart we should be concise) -

Nervous & Feeble Style & explained & distinguished from Concise & diffuse -

Style considered with regard to the degree of ornament employed to embellish it - Dry, plain, neat, elegant & flowery manner considered in respect their degree of ornament -

Simple Style - opposed to too much ornament or pomp of language -

Affected Style contrasted with simple Vehemence - a character of style altogether incompatible with simplicity but distinguished by a peculiar artifice -

The language of one whose imagination & passions are glowing & impetuous -

Directions for forming a good style - (1) Clear ideas of the subject (2) frequency of composing (3) Acquaintance with the style of the best authors

- (4) Servile imitation to be avoided—
 (5) The style to be adapted to the subject & to the capacity of the readers or hearers— (6) Attention to the style should never prevent a higher degree of attention to the thoughts—

C-IV Of Memory

Not possible for a speaker either to convince or persuade unless his address be in such manner that his ideas may be attended to & remembered— things which render remembrance easier— (1) vivacity of (2) orderly arrangement— Order in respect to time (causation &c)— Order in respect to place— contiguity & vicinity— A contiguous succession of things more easily remembered than a much smaller number, ^{when} promiscuous—

Affinity, causality, natural relation, to be regarded in the method of a discourse— Remembrance aided by a judicious division of the subject— By rhetorical repetitions & the different modes of transition & Recapitulation.

Chap. V Of Action -

— Comprehends every thing belonging to the delivery of a discourse — To be fully & easily understood the first object in speaking; in order to which the chief requisites, are degree of loudness of voice distinctness of utterance Slowness, & propriety of pronunciation — Parts of action (or delivery) which give grace & force to what is spoken viz Emphasis, pauses, tones, & gestures.

Emphatical words to be used with prudent reserve — Pauses of two kinds (1) emphatical (2) such as mark the distinctions of sense — Pauses belonging to the music of verse —

Tones of public speaking to be formed up on the tones of animated conversation —

Nature the best guide —

Gesture — Attention to the looks & gesture in which earnestness, indignation, compassion, or any other emotion discovers itself to most advantage in the common intercourse of men the best rule — Gesture ought never to be affected always prompted by nature — Guarding against awkward & disagreeable motions the chief study of action or gesture —

As much dignity as possible to be preserved in the attitude of the body —

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A few short & simple directions for the
posture of the body & position of its parts
Affected manner & servile imitation
to be carefully guarded against

Let Nature work - let a speaker
ex's manner, whatever it be, be his own
& a forcible & persuasive manner
He is ^{with} for the power of most persons
to acquire -

Firris March 26th 1834

Invention

Having made sufficient introductory remarks, & having ~~arranged~~ ^{arranged} the subj. of the present Treaties under 8 primary divisions, which have been defined, in order, we come now, in the first place, to treat of Invention. The term invent. as was incidentally noticed is derived from the Latin verb invenio, which verb was formerly considered neuter, but has at length assumed an active intransitive signification, & very fitly represents that operation of the mind by which it is said to enter into or discover apposite thoughts.

Invention is gen. supposed to be the test of genius & to depend, principally, on nat. sagacity: Yet it is obvious that no small assistance may be obtained from art; by considering the nature & division of the sub., the state of the controversy, the occasion, the speaker, the audience &c. As every discourse must have reference to the past the present or the future, the ancient divided oratory into the judicial, the demonstrative & the deliberative. The first corresponds to that kind of speaking which gen. obtains at the bar the 3rd to that in legislative & other deliberative bodies. The 3rd is can be classed with no particular species of oratory, with as, unless it be panegyrical, funeral, anniversary, funeral orations &c. The state of controversy, or point at which the sp. is supp. to be driving has various appellations

according to the nature of the subj: under discussion.
With the preacher it is the text, with the Lawyer what is
termed the issue, & with the legislator the question.
Cicero & other Civilians commonly reckoned 4 states of
the controversy or points at issue viz the An sit
(state of conjecture) the Quid sit (state of definition)
The Quale sit (state of quality) & the Quantum sit par-
taking of the nature of the two last mentioned.

Beside there are also co-ordinate & subordinate states
co-ord. where there are several points or specific charges
reduced, independent of each other. Subord. when there
being but one ultimate obj: in view, circumstances which
have no necessary connection with the point in hand, are
introduced as subsidiaries. Topics

Further, Inv. may be greatly aided by the use of top-
ics, These are of two kinds; external & internal.
The first are such as arise out of the subj: The 2nd such
as though not immediately connected with the subj: are
introduced as accessories. The following are topics of
The first Order, 1 Definition, 2 Enumeration, 3 Relation, 4
conjugates 5 Genus & species, 6 Causes & effects 7 Ante-
cedents 8 adjuncts & Consequents to Contraries 11 Re-
spondencies 12 Similitude & Dissimilitude 13 Compar-
~~es~~ & rhetorical deft: is an eloquent description.
2 Enom. is when the sp. (without saying so) proceeds to
recapitulate what has said.

3 Notation is simply giving the etymology of words.
4 Conjugates are Dep. & Opp. thing connected. ^{eg word}
5 As to G. & Sp., suffice it to say as the G. includes the species & not the sp. the G. the sp. will always prove the G. but not conversely.
6 An Anteer is something that precedes an action or event, & Adj. are joined with it at the precise time it takes place & consequent ^{follows} after it judicious sp. will distinguish between causes & effects, antecedents, effects & consequents.

Sim. Dissim. relate to quality Comparison to quantity.
External Topics may be classed under 6 Divs.
1 Prejudications, 2 Written Documents, 3 Oaths & Tortures 5 Witnesses & 6 Com. Fame.

Prejudications are of two kinds. The first which is founded on former decisions in similar cases is termed precedent.
2d is when a decision is inferred from some prior indirect decision. For ex. we might infer that a judge who had used all possible exertion for the arrest of a culprit would pass sentence on him.

The 1st que. to be decided relative to written documents is, are they authentic? 2nd are they applicable?

With respect to Oaths it needs only to be remarked in this place that it is the man that gives credit to the ~~Oath~~ & not the oath to the man. Bodily Torture which used with great severity bordering on barbarism by some of the ancient Ds but little known among us.

The Moderns, however, sometimes employ as a substitute a degree of mental torture, by means of maxims, sacred proverbs &c. The first thing to be considered with respect to witnesses is whether they be competent, & whether they be under any temp. to conceal the truth, excommunicate or give estate faculty & the possibility & prob. of concert. The last Ex. I. enumerated is Com. Fame, This is mostly conversant about character & is seldom to be implicitly relied on.

Again, the orator may avail himself of much aid to invention by carefully studying the economy of the human passions. Dr. B. has remarked that a speaker must first feel the passion himself which he would excite in others. This rule will apply in gen. to those passions which come under the denomination of sympathy, but to no other. Daily observation & the nature of things furnish sufficient ^{fact} Invent, is assisted by the consideration which the sp. ought to have of his hearer, both as men in gen. & as such men in particular. As men in gen. it must be admitted there are certain principles in our nature which when prop. addressed & managed afford the sp. no inconsiderable aid to reason in promoting belief. In order to be successful the orator must engage in his service all the powers of the mind the imagination the memory & the passions.

When he considers them as endowed with understanding he will study to render his arguments intelligible, avoiding all causes of obscurity either in sense or expression. When he considers them as endowed with imagination he will express his ideas with such vivacity, beauty, sublimity, & novelty, as to gratify his hearers, & may engage their attention (conciliate their good feelings) to fix their resolves. When he considers them as endowed with memory, he will aim at expressing him self such connection & liveliness of thought that every thing he says may have a just bearing on their mind & contribute to the attainment of the desired end.

~~It is absurd to say that a sp. may persuade without in one way or other addressing the passions.~~

He may convince the judgment, but he can never influence the will unless he touch the heart.

~~The passion most easily excited in the man of honor is pride.~~
If the speaker would stimulate his hearers to an honourable course he must address their pride, if to stowp them that it would be for their honor & interest, the good of their country or of mankind generally.

The circumstances chiefly favourable in operating on the passion are the following Probability, Place, importance, proximity of time, Connection of place, Relation of the actors or subjects to the hearers or the sp. & the Interest of the hearers or sp. in the consequences. These deserve to be attentively studied by every one in the art of oratory. I would therefore refer the reader of this brief compend to W. G. C. Mesterly treatise on the Philosophy of Rhetoric page 111.

An unfavourable passion may be calmed, either first by annihilating the obj. which raised it, or secondly by exciting some other pass. which may counterwork & over come it.

But the sp. must not only take into consideration those principles belonging in com. / or gen. he ought to consider his hearers ^{such} as men in particular. That is he ought to regard his audience to the special character of his audience as composed of such individuals thus he may accommodate his arguments to their capacity, probly. & peculiar or leading pass's arising from their degree of empl. & manner of life &c In short he should be *Copheus in sylois inter delphines Aegion.*" Virg.

To conclude this division of the subj. (lest my prolixity be accounted tedious,) the last consideration is that which the speaker ought to have of himself. By this is simply meant that he ought to consider what character he sustains in the estimation of the hearers. Sympathy is one main engine by which the reader operates on the mind of passions. & this sym. in the h^r to the sp may be diminished in dev. ways, chiefly by the two: viz by a low opinion of his intellectabilities & mostly by a bad opin of his morals, the latter is the therefore

Disposition

Cicero defines disposition "The orderly arrangement of arg., & r^t things invented."

The parts which compose a reg. creation, according to Bo. are 6. viz Introduction, State or division of the subj, Narration or Explication, the reasoning or arguments, the Pathetic part & the conclusion. But as the 3d & 5th are not essential & can have no sep. place invariably assigned them it is not necessary to make them sep. divisions.

The Div. given by Aristotle is thought preferable which is as follows Exordium, Proposition, proof, & Conclusion. A few remarks on each of which may suffice at present.

The design of the introduction is to draw the audience's attention, docilem, et benevolum. Hence if the sp. be previously assured of the attention & good

will of the hearers he may omit a formal Introit, & only say a few words in order to lead the mind of his audience to the subj: If he have not this assurance, the greatest care is often necessary that he may counteract prejudice & conciliate good feeling. This may sometimes be done by making a suitable apology for attempting the subj, (Vide Cicero's Exordia, & Cæcilus, page 2nd Delp.) by making some concession of former principles, manifest deference for the opinions of the hearers &c.

An In. should be easy & neat, always unadorned to the subj: - The sp. must not aim at embellishment, but study principally perspicuity & correctness of expression. Modesty is an essential characteristic of a good introd. This may be evinced by the expression, soft & low of voice & gesture. - He must show by his whole manner a reverence & respect for his audience; & at the same time a sense of dignity arising from the importance of the subj. As a gen. Rule we should avoid putting forth all our strength at the beginning, - it should rise & grow upon the hearers as we advance. The In. is nearely the place for vehemence & passion; for this simple reason the minds of the hearers are not sup. to be awakened & prepared for passionate sentiments. Yet if the subj be such as that the mere mention of it excites passionate emotion, or when the unexpected appearance of presence of some person or obj. in the assembly inflames the speaker an abrupt & vehement manner is justifiable. (Vide L's 1st Org. or Gains Catiline). In fine an In. should be proportioned in length & kind to the discourse which is to follow, but always concise & simple. Next in order after the In. is the prep. for annunciation of the subj: In. Here the words ought to be few, well chosen & well arranged. After the sp. has prepared his hearers by a suitable intro, & plainly announced the subj on which he intenly of discussion he should enter immediately upon the argumentative part. The first thing to be considered with respect to the

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arg^s, is the invention of them. Perhaps enough was
said in the former Sec. on this; at may however
be noticed here that the main source of arg. in
judicial oratory is justice, in Delib. whilst in
the Dem. praise & Censure. As to the rest there
is civil & crim jurisdiction, 2 Arg^s drawn from
utility will usually be suggested by the subject.

3. A man is praised for his prudence, economy,
public spirit, philanthropy &c. There are two
classes of virtues which the Q's were accustomed to
denominate ~~to exalt & to kate~~. The 1st includes
those v^s preffiting the possessor chiefly the 2^d those
advantageous to others.

6 There is a species of arg. often very successfully used
in Dem. oratory termed Approximation, which
consists in artificially distorting a sup. via. so as to
convert it into its kindred vice & conversely.

Arg^s being properly chosen the next in order
but perhaps first in importance, is the disposi-
tion or arrang. of them. We should avoid thent
those together which are of a dep. nature
The com. rule with respect to degrees of streng.
is to advance by way of climax from the
weekest to the most forcible. - Strength can never
put in too conspicuous a place nor weakness
in too obscure. It should on the one hand push
any arg^s. too far & on the other a needless multi-
plicity of arg^s.

Concerning the conclusion it may be
said the Sp. ought not to break off abrupt-
ly nor draw out his remark beyond the point
at which the hearers expect a close. - He
should always quit when he is done. But
take care to conclude with die, becoming
the subj: