

ON DELIVERY, AS REGARDS VOICE. 483

"In man or woman, but far most in man,
 And most of all in man that ministers
 And serves the altar, in my soul I loathe
 All affectation. 'T is my perfect scorn;
 Object of my implacable disgust.
 What! will a man play tricks, will he indulge
 A silly fond conceit of his fair form
 And just proportion, fashionable mien,
 And pretty face, in presence of his God?
 Or will he seek to dazzle me with tropes
 As with the diamond on his lily hand,
 And play his brilliant parts before my eyes
 When I am hungry for the bread of life?
 He mocks his Maker, prostitutes and shames
 His noble office, and, instead of truth,
 Displaying his own beauty, starves his flock!
 Therefore, avaunt all attitude, and stare,
 And start theatric, practised at the glass!"¹

§ 2. THE VOICE — ITS DISTINCT POWERS.

The voice is the speaker's great instrument. Nothing else in a man's physical constitution is nearly so important. "For an effective and admirable delivery," says Cicero, "the voice, beyond doubt, holds the highest place."² Not every eminent orator has possessed a commanding person, but every one of great eminence has had an effective voice. The faults which come from natural organization, such as drawling, fineness, feebleness, defective articulation, may often be partially remedied by judicious and patient effort; witness Demosthenes. And a voice extremely faulty in some respects, may yet in other respects have great power, and be precisely suited to the mental character of the man; witness John Randolph. Mr. Gladstone says that Sheil had a voice like a tin kettle battered this way and that, Newman's voice was thin and weak, and Chalmers had a harsh Scotch

¹ Cowper.² De Oratore, III. 60.