

2. *The consciousness of speaking directly to the audience gives their true form and character to all the signs.*

Inasmuch as all speaking consists in the expression of the leading operations of the speaker's mind (§ 21), it is evident that the mental action of speaking directly to the audience must always predominate in the consciousness of the speaker, in order that the delivery should take on its true character and form, and should keep true to its object. It is this mental state which gives to all the signs, both of voice and gesture, their last modification and adaptation to the object which they aim to effect. The mind of the speaker, *e. g.*, being directed to his audience, his eye naturally follows his mind—he looks at them; and not barely as “a sea of faces,” without distinction, but he scans their individual countenances, notes their several expressions, and thus becomes conscious of the effect which he is producing upon them. All the gestures are affected in a similar manner. Thus also the voice, as we have seen, naturally becomes sufficiently loud, and the articulation sufficiently hard and firm, to ensure that the speaker shall be heard and understood by the most distant person to whom he is speaking. Similar modifications are produced upon every sound, and every variation of sound, which he utters. In fine, it is this consciousness of the presence of the audience, and of speaking directly to them, for the accomplishment of his object, which gives the last moulding touch to all the signs. It is this which gives point and

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direction to all those arrows of significant sound and gesture, which every moment are launched, by the force of his thoughts and passions, from the speaker's lips, eyes, countenance, and from all the motions of his hands, arms and body, into the minds and hearts of his audience, and which makes them feel that they are the object of a well-manned battery, playing upon them with no uncertain aim.

§ 52. The loss of this consciousness of direct address loads the delivery with vices, by rendering it the expression of the sub-processes, by perverting all the signs, and by enfeebling its rhetorical form.

1. *It renders the speaking the expression of the sub-processes.*

Whenever this consciousness of speaking directly to the audience ceases to be a dominant operation of the speaker's mind, it naturally gives place to some of the sub-processes (§ 23). These now become the leading mental operations, and give shape and form to all the signs; and the expression of these sub-processes constitutes the delivery. If this leading operation be that of recalling, by a labored effort, what the speaker has committed to memory, his speaking becomes, as we shall see more fully hereafter, nothing but a wretched performance upon this mental act of remembering, without any true or vital relation to the communication to others of the thoughts or sentiments of his speech. If it be that of extempore invention.