

1. A Scotchman called Boswell known as the 'Corsican' Boswell, made it a point of duty to write every thing which he heard from that great champion of literature as Johnson ^{was} called. Every night after a few hours' conversation with Johnson, Boswell wrote down what he had heard from his idol. By and by, his manuscript ^{grew to his} ~~turned out to be~~ famous life of Dr. Johnson, one of the best biographies we know in England. Johnson's coteries ~~to~~ which he always ~~made~~ was very fond of, consisted of no less famous characters than he. Amongst them, we find:

- Goldsmith
- Burke
- Gibbon
- Garrick
- Percy (dean of Carlyle)
- etc.

His chief works are

(a) The Dictionary of English Language, published in 1755 after 7 years' constant toil. Though its work raised

him to an exalted position in Eng. literature it is nevertheless imperfect, owing to his ignorance of the Teutonic language, in which three-fifths of English language ~~is composed~~ ^{is composed}. The merit of the work, however, lies in the complete collection of phrases & examples, quoted from all the noble English authors. (b) His next work which occupied him only a week is that oriental tale, clothed with his own moral remarks & high sonorous language. — Rasselas. (c) His last work which is still read, not because of its merits, but rather because of its defects is his Lives of Poets. As a ~~the~~ critical work it is a very unsafe guide to the student of literature.

The so called Johnsonian style is marked by the use of gorgeous & bombastic phrases & expressions, of antithetical sentences, ~~and~~ ^{by} the want of simplicity.

2. Goldsmith made a ~~grand~~ ^{the} tour of Europe, with a guinea in his pocket a shirt to his back and a flute in his hand. The grand tour has a special significance. G. did not make it.

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on his way home from Leyden where he had remained for five years as a teacher of English. His tour, as we know, is little better than that of a beggar, but he picked up, on that occasion, several materials for his future great work "The Vicar of Wakefield." His personal experiences & reminiscences he had from this tour were of great value both to him self & to the world. His friend Gibbon set out also for a ^{continental} tour ~~of Europe~~ at the age of 26, but in a very different condition. He was also differently ^{im}pressed by his travels. While he was wandering among the ruins of the ancient Capitol in Italy, the idea of writing the decline & fall of the Roman Empire struck him. From that time, he never let go the hope of ^{fulfilling} executing his desire. He gave at last to the public, his excellent work "The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire" at the age of 50 after 11 years' ~~toil~~ toil. Gibbon's history

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is the finest and best among the kind.
Goldsmith also tried to write a history of England. But it was merely through the desire of meeting his pecuniary difficulties, which heavily pressed him at that time. And unlike Gibbon, the author of *Green Ox-bow Court* ~~is~~ does not enjoy any fame as a historian.

3. Gibbon entered parliament in 1774 as he was ambitious to shine as a statesman. But in spite of his ambition, he cut a very poor figure in parliament. The great speakers in the House, to use his own language, filled him with despair and "little ones with dread. Thus he left his political career & returned to the more congenial soil of literature, to ~~write~~ ^{execute} his long cherished object of writing the Roman history. E. Burke, his junior by 7 years, entered into a very different career on the line of politics. At the age of 31,

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he became a private secretary to Hamilton, then to the Marquis of Rockingham. In 37, he first became a member of Parliament. Thenceforth, his ~~so~~ fame as an orator exalted him at once to the rank of the foremost statesmen of the time. He impeached W. Hastings in his noble orations extending for several days, quarreled with Fox on the Canadian Bill, became the Paymaster of Forces & privy council. Such was the brilliant political career of Burke.

4. Poetry has been defined in several ways by several writers. Horace thought the object of poetry is either elevating or pleasing to reader. ^{Shelley} Coleridge compared a poet to a nightingale which sings for its own pleasure. But those ^{definitions} are imperfect. W. ~~Black~~ Sharp gives the following definition:

The dynamic condition of the imagination and the rhetorical faculties in combination, finding expression in words and metre, — the animating prin-

spirit being always ^{of necessity} greater than the animated form, as the soul is superior to the body.

J. Walt gives the following:

Poetry is the concrete and artistic expression of the human mind in rhythmical & emotional language.

In my view it ^{may} simply ^{be} defined as the finest expression of the finest human thought by means of ~~the~~ language.

5. A Bacchaulian song is a song in praise of drinking. A fine specimen is found in Scott's "The Lady of the Lake" (Canto VI.)

6. The Burthen or refrain of a song is some words repeated at intervals. Some burthen have no meaning at ^{all being merely} inserted for the sake of catching ears.

The Anthology is ~~the~~ the name given to a collection of songs. The word originally meant a collection of flowers.

The Envoy or L'envoi is a few rhyming lines to bid farewell to the reader.

The ballad originally meant dancing
 then a song relating a ~~star~~ simple story.
 It has become to mean
 Formerly it was meant for musical rendering
 and was not ~~printed~~ written
 The lullaby is a song for a mother or
 a nurse to send a child to sleep.

7. Spenser's "The Faerie Queene", (an allegorical
 epic)
 Tennyson's "In Memoriam" (an elegy)
 Longfellow's "Hiawatha" (a romance)
 Milton's "Paradise Lost" (an epic)
~~Idyls~~
 Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" (an epic)
 Scott's "The Lady of the Lake" (a romance)

8. The best and oldest English translation
 of Homer is that of Chapman. It was
 published during 1598-1616 & was
 written in iambic heptameter. It
 wants, however, the dignity of the original.
 Pope's translation appeared during
 1715-1720, in heroic verse.

It is wordy, pompous, antithetical & is not close to the spirit of Homer, though a fine poem in its way. In 1791, W. Comper gave another translation in blank verse. It is tame & flat and Homers energy is absent in it.

In this century we have:

Chapman's (junior)

Earl of Derby's (in Spenserian stanza)

Bryant's

19/3/91

Examination on English

K. Natsume 1st yr. lit.