"Oratory: The Development and Influence.

Oliver N. Long
- Outline -

A. Early Historical Sketch.
   a. Ancient
      1. Prehistoric evidence early oratory
      2. Development under Greek and Roman civilization.
   b. Medieval
      1. Preceding & following the Crusades
      2. Oratory of the Renaissance
      3. Oratory of the Restoration
   c. Modern
      1. Preceding & following the French Revolution
      2. Birth of Oratory in America
      3. Antebellum Orators
      4. Anti-slavery Orators
      5. Present Day Orators

B. Oratory as a medium of enlightenment
   a. Preceding the Christian Era
   b. During the Christian Era
      1. Early Apostolic teaching
      2. Dark ages
      3. Modern evangelical oratory
Among the traits which distinguish man from lower organized life is that of conveying thoughts by means of articulate speech and language. Scientists cannot say with certainty that lower animals do not have an action of the brain corresponding to that. But all scientific investigation has failed to prove that animals of lower order have an articulate language.

Man alone is gifted with this mighty power.

From the earliest historic time, we find man influencing man by means of speech. At the physical strength or valor were valuable requisites of political power, a cunning brain and ready tongue were no less important factors. Traditions and relating history, the enveloped in a shade of mystery, brings to our record of eloquence and oratory, although
known as the monuments which mark the simple grandeur of primitive man, were doubtless far more potent in forming their simple political relations than any efforts of modern time. The savage Indian of America rose to his place as councillor and brave as by his skill of speech as by his valor in battle or physical endurance. The Indian boy from earliest childhood is trained in the art of convincing his fellow by plain simple speech. All the tribes of northern Europe were held together by close blood relationships and skill in the art of speech making. Norman writers describe the councils held by the Gaes as great meetings for all who wished to engage in the debates. As far as the bronze surpassed their neighbors in art & skill, they surpassed them very little in the art of speech making; for eloquence,
as we have stated in one of the Primative ancestors of mankind and no amount of polishing will make eloquence of that which is trivial.

If we wish to go to the cradle of Greek and Roman oratory, we must seek the sunny Isle of Sicily.

While Hiero ruled over the city of Syracuse he carefully protected ruins of letters and art. Plato came back from Switzerland and among them Archelaus, Pindar, Epictetus and Zephyrus. Hiero made every effort to relieve in a golden age of art and literature. The tyrant who had held away upon him had taken from the People their lands and given them to live forever.

Hiero made haste to remedy this evil by establishing the Court of Justice before which the People could go, die crie their property, make their plea and recover what was theirs. This public speech making brought to view all the defects of common speech justice in public.
address. It is then that a bright young man, Corax, attempted to assist the rightful claimants in presenting their cases by collecting evidence and composing speeches fit for public presentation; and along with this he gave the people instruction in delivery. Here we find oratory in its first development as an artificial art.

Professional speech-writing condescension established throughout all Greece, and it grew in perfection and prominence. We have a fitting climax in Demosthenes, who had never been surpassed. Demosthenes was one of the group of Attic orators, among whom are numbered Ierocles and Diodoras.

Roman oratory received its greatest inspiration in the schools of Rhetoric and doubtless its strongest influence during the waning of the republic. Cicero was its greatest orator.

At the fall of the Roman empire, it
seemed that the lights of the native
were suddenly extinguished by a
flood of ignorance and corruption.
Political oratory was degraded
into the vilest flattery. The only
spark in the intellectual darkness
was the eloquent appeals of the
martyrs, saints before they were led
to execution. But this did not
mean the death of learning entirely.
Some a poor, deformed physical
work appears before the world, names,
Peter the Hermit. After making two
pilgrimage to the Holy City, he was
so wrangled up at the treatment that
the Christians in their pilgrimage
received from the Saracens, that he
went throughout all Europe, preaching
the holy Crusades, and by his
mighty eloquence, calmed the
whole of Europe to rise up to set
the Holy City from the infidels.
Bernard was doubtless the
most eloquent and learned preacher
of the dark age. Receiving the
blessing of Pope Gregory the Thirteenth,
Stepped in holy fire, he went forth to Spain. The Second Crusade and so successful was it, that Europe remembered for a second time with the clacks of arms and brums of soldiers to the invited armies of all the great nations on their way to the Holy Land.

The last and greater light of Medieval times was Bonaventura, coming out of the scene just as the revival of learning was gaining away that Europe. He joined adequate material for his great genius. Bonaventura was educated in a monastery and was a great student of the Trinity. He was sent to Tavara, his native town in Italy, but his fellow-townsmen cared little for his preaching, and to avoid the alarm of war, he was transferred to Florence; but the city being in the height of its splendor, art and literature, cared nothing for the plain speaking of Bonaventura. Meeting the church, became
of smooth-tongued expiats around him he occupied other pulpits of the city. Then, however, when he came to his second sitting under the humiliation, was joked to a less important town. In the meantime, great changes were going on. Italy, the Medici, Jacked from the control of Florence, and a reign of confusion took place. The people, the remembered Torquato Tasso's predictions and recalled him to the chief church in the city flacking to hear him by thousands, and thus encouraged he became the most noted preacher in all Europe.

The revival of learning had quickened the intellect of Europe. New ideas were agitating the hearts of men. The church did not lag far behind. Martin Luther of Germany and John Wycliffe of England wrought by their matchless eloquence a transformation in religion. The equal of if not greater than that in
literature and art. Luther and Wycliffe were both thorougly masters of the art of forcible oratory and both were noted as pamphleteers as well as orators.

Following them was a group including Hugh Latimer, John Knox and John Calvin. These, with many others, by their eloquent appeals helped to usher in a new era for Christianity.

Coming now to the later part of the eighteenth century, we find great political changes being strongly advocated by eminent reformers. Racine and Locke were discussing natural philosophy.

France was the first nation supplied to action by these appeals. For years unprincipled autocracy had held sway until the flood gates of divine intent were swept away like straw in a current and France was plunged in the whirlpool of anarchy.

But above the confusion of voices one
could be heard, one sturdy and
powerful and that was the voice
of Maratian, who by his force-
pful eloquence, held in check the
bloody spirit of revolution until
he forced out the life's blood on
the gillotine; then each man re-
Aberpierre and Danton and Marat
completed the awful work of the Reign
of Terror.
But liberty had found a more
secure cradle in a land con-
trodden by the iron hoof of war
horse as cruelly by the mailed
gauntlet of European oppression.
Little bands of liberty-loving
ciles ventured out west for the sea-
an found homes in America
where peace and freedom reigned
unprone, and en en empire
sprang up with liberty as its
watchword and justice and
equality, by the law, as its
motto.
James O'er and Patrick Henry
saw the scene we mighty
expromts for the cause of liberty and equality.
While the orators of the colonies were appealing in the most eloquent terms to the people in America to rise and assert their rights, liberty was not without its champions on the other side of the Atlantic. The Earl of Chatham and Burke in the British Parliament sounded forth a warning which the English will might have heeded.
Sir William Pitt appeared upon the scene of action in time to engage in the most furious debates with the indomitable O’Connell, while Fox with all of his good-natured oratory fancied right and left, engaging Pitt in storm debates.
Sheridan, the light and frivolous, rose to the dignity of a great orator very seldom but in these few sessions, he astonished his hearer beyond measure.
His speech on the impeachment of Warren Hastings is the most noted for oratorical effort in the English language. While Burke employed the fierce, high classical oratory, Sheridan amused and jested with his hearers. It was as masterful in form, as serious and grand, but Sheridan was a tour of pleasure, especially entertaining. While this group of orators in English Parliament were working, a new school of orators was fast gaining ground in America. The eloquence of John Randolph, of Frank Rutledge, Daniel Webster, John Calhoun, and Henry Clay was prominent in the Congress of the United States. The questions which they discussed was of the greatest importance. The unity of a great nation was at stake, and history tells we how bravely they struggled against that power which was fast drawing the country into the vortex of internal
wars.

Hendel Phillips and Abraham Lincoln helped to roll up the tide of opposition to slave traffic. Charles Sumner was found working with all his might, and James Douglas, the smooth-tongued lawyer, argued in the Senate of dread with the people; but all to no effect. Reason would not be heard; war must and did come. During the reconstruction period there was little speaking that rose to the dignity of oratory. There were man-able debaters, but few if any great orator.

The present day marks a great change in oratory in politics. The imaginative orator has deserted the halls of state. Our speeches in Congress satake more the nature of discursive talks and the advocating of strong sound public principle. And remote questions are discussed with no or less
Tone and energy of speech, but very little of the imaginative eloquence so appealing to the mind.

To find more true eloquence in the pulpit. Hear the speech of Moore, Talma, Beecher, and波动, men who have sounded the Uttermost depths of human hearts. Then to the lecture platform claims many notable figures in the history of oratory such as Emerson, Francis E. Willard and some of altars.

The history of oratory marks the development of civilization. Each step in advance is marked by the outpouring floods of eloquence. In considering oratory in its relation to the spread of civilization one theme is almost without limit, more or less the stepping stones that lead to the present day.
The early Egyptian monuments abound in prayers and inscriptions which are written in oratorical style. They were prayers to the gods, and were doubtless delivered in the presence of the people, and the influence of these sermons were doubtless far more important to the people than the gods themselves. There are many other evidences that oratory played an important part in early Egyptian times. Few people were to be had and very few people could read, so the people were gathered together and taught the laws of the church and state, and doubtless many powerful speakers lived then. Moses at one time when told to speak to the people objected because he had not the gift of oratory. This shows that it had received much attention at that time. Doubtless the rise of Jerus
rule in Egypt was as much due to the oratory and eloquence of Aron as to the laws and writings of Moses, and we know that the fine Aron were ordained priests forever, and they were doubtless great preachers.

While the Judges ruled, the people must have been held together by pure, strong, and simple Eloquence. They must have been men capable of using strong, forcible language.

During the time of Kings, prophets raised their voices in dire warning and often wrought the multitudes to a state bordering on frenzy. John the Baptist by his powerful speech caused the people to hear whether they would or not. Jesus retold Jewish history to a people almost unexposed. But at last when the Lamb of Nazareth was heard in the house of Ballale...
a new revelation burst upon the
world. New men spoke as He. Men
heard, but perceived not; saw
but did not recognize. Such
was too much for the eyes
of the world. It was as leading
man from the dungeon into
the bright sunlight. And the
untimely, Christ's death of Him
who had done so much for them;
only spurred His followers on
Men spoke as they had never done
before. The fearful sounds of the
pale, consternation still re-
ruminated along the corridor of
time, finding an echo in
ten thousand hearts aud impart-
ing a flame which spread
throughout the world. St Paul then
drew into the ear of Rome. After
made the Mediterranean shore
ring with his voice. And, told,
high-handed men felled
forth into the wilderness and
with clamorous voices clothed
back the tide of ignorance and
vice. But the voice of the Fracielu
 grew fainter and fainter, drowned
 by the flood of dark sin and corrup-
 tion. Only here and there could
 be heard a voice proclaiming
 the true gospel. Fracielu be-
 came in a degree more pre-10f
 for a degraded ignorant genera-
 tion. But in long the affairs
 upon the scene. Not a few
 enful men, not SWOULFUL OF BODY
 but of mind and soul. Tho-
 ugh we have discussed before and will
 not mention here. They were Pete,
 the Hermit and Bernard. Long
 and fearless was their fight, but
 they succeeding in rulling to
 a degree the sin and vice,
 now a new era was ushered in.
 Martin Luther and the informa-
 tion burst upon the world. Martin
 Luther was not only a great
 writer but also a most courageous
 and eloquent orator. Thousands
 flocked to hear him, and live
 teaching led such away
That the Pope with all his power could not withstand.
In England we find Wickliffe and Cranmer, in Scotland, John Knox, and in France Calvin.
Thus monarchical went down, the Church was shaken to its very foundation. Every nation seemed troubled with a majesty and illuman sympathy. Therefore fled with England for the liberation the flacks, Jane Frye for more humane prisons and prison chains; John Wesley instilled in to the hearts of men the Divine love and clarity. Bunyan spoke from the Bedford jail, and Whitfield called not forth a soul large enough to contain those who flocked to hear his powerful preaching. A different feeling crept into the breast of man, a brotherly love that is now bearing its fruit one fruit.
That has done most toward
Clearing the world. Zion. The greatest slatetor in the human race—drunkeness? Can you
not hear the fell'n clique—John S. Brown & J. F. Murphy in
their eloquent pleading, in answer to your question?
I would it impossible to esti-
mate the value for good of modern
evangelistic work. A million order
from a million platforms every
Sunday. Heal with the people
in the sacred cause of religion,
justice, and humanity. Did I
say these men were traitors?
Generals in the truest sense.
They shall pour forth such
a stream of eloquence that
its influence shall broaden and
broaden until men shall see
from strife and turmoil, and
the golden dawn of the melroci-
umn shall arise and bathe the
earth in refulgent grandeur.