

Quintilian says, "Non enim vox illa praeceptoris, vt coena, minus pluribus sufficit: sed vt sol, vniuersis idem lucis calorisq; largitur."³ In "largess universal" Shakspeare seems certainly to have echoed Quintilian's "vniuersis . . . largitur." For Cooper gives the noun corresponding to Quintilian's verb as, "*Largitio . . . Cic. Lyberall expence to winne a mās purpose: largesse: prodigalitie.*" Again, "*Largitas . . . Terent. Largesse: bountie: liberalitie.*" Textor does not give any form of the noun; Cooper does not give any similar phrase in the various forms stemming from this verb; and no one appears to have noticed any other preceding use of "largess universal."⁴ It was not a stock phrase.⁵ Ultimately, Shakspeare's figure seems certainly dependent on Quintilian's particular phraseology. The very word-order is Latin, "largess universal." It is hard to see how such a dependence can be other than direct. Such a use would imply at some time a close reading of this section of Quintilian upon the benefits of mass teaching in school over private tutorial work. This particular sentence would stand out because in it Quintilian crystallizes his ideal of the pedagogue.⁶

We have already noticed⁷ that Shakspeare uses a formula on causes suasory which is to be found in Books III and VIII of Quintilian. This is the fundamental formula for the type, and as such might have been had in other ways than directly from Quintilian.

Stevens noted a parallel to the fourth book of Quintilian in *Othello*, where Othello begins his defense thus:

Most potent, grave, and reverend signiors,
My very noble and approved good masters,
That I have ta'en away this old man's daughter,
It is most true; true, I have married her:
The very head and front of my offending
Hath this extent, no more.⁸

³ Quintilian (Vascosanus, 1538), p. 57; (1580), p. 16. "The voice of a lecturer is not like a dinner which will only suffice for a limited number; it is like the sun which distributes the same quantity of light and heat to all of us" (Butler, *Quintilian*, Vol. I, p. 47). If the reader has even enough Latin to "figure out" the original with the aid of an English translation, he is strongly advised to keep his eyes on the original, since some things of primary importance for our purpose, such as details of rhetorical structure, are not brought out in translation. In this instance, the suggestive phraseology of the original finds no echo in Butler's translation.

⁴ "1688 Crowne *Darius* 1. Dram. Wks. 1874 III. 382 He's like the sun, a largesse to the world" (*N. E. D. largess*). Crowne is echoing Shakspeare.

⁵ The whole *sententia*, however, was likely to be quoted. See, for instance, Cornelius Valerius, *Tabulae totius Dialectices* (Louvain, 1564), p. 145. Also his *Tabulae Rhetorices* (Louvain, 1565), pp. 132-133. Also, *In Omnes De Arte Rhetorica . . . Ciceronis Libros . . . Commentaria* (Venice, 1546, 1551), Pt. II, p. 200; (Basle, 1541), Pt. II, p. 282.

⁶ A marginal note sometimes gives it prominence also; "Vox praeceptoris solis istar est."

⁷ See above, pp. 92 ff. ⁸ *Othello*, I, 3, 76-81.