

CHAPTER XXXII

SOME ENGLISH TREATMENTS OF LOGIC AND RHETORIC IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

UPON THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRECEDING CHAPTER, we may now place various surviving hints on theory and practice from Englishmen of the sixteenth century. There is a valuable hint on ultimate rhetorical authority in Robert Whittinton's *Vulgaria* of 1520. The passage runs:

De vultus et gestus compositione.

Preceptor. It is a rude maner, a chylde (haue he neuer so fyele a tongue / and pleasaunt pronunciacyon) to stande styll lyke an asse: & on the other syde (as a carter) to be wanderynge of eyes. pykyng / or playenge y^e foole with his hande / and vnstable of foote . . . Therefore take hede. y^t the countenance be made conformable to y^e purpose: now with grauyte. now cherefull now rough. now ameable. shapen mete vnto y^e mater (as I maye say) lyke a gloue to the hande . . . Also se y^t the gesture be comely with semely & sobre mouynge: somtyme of the heed / somtyme of the hande / & fote: and as the cause requyreth with all the body . . . Of this thynges who playse to haue more full knowlege. let hym loke vpon Tullyes rhetorye.¹

The "Tullyes rhetorye" upon which Whittinton was looking when he wrote this section was Tully's *Orator*, the *Ad M. Brutum Orator*,² though there is a passage of similar import in *De Oratore*.³ The corresponding section in the attributed *Ad Herennium* is still further removed from Whittinton's phraseology and ideas.⁴ Whittinton regards *Orator* as the ultimate authority upon *pronunciatio*, but speaks of it as a work of reference rather than as a textbook.

Leonard Cox, schoolmaster at Reading, presents his solution of the rhetorical problem for beginners about 1530.⁵ But while Cox was a schoolmaster, yet his rhetoric was not intended solely for grammar school.

And further more trustynge therby to do some pleasure and ease to suche as haue by neclygence or els false parsuasyons be put to the lernynge of

¹ White, B., *The Vulgaria of John Stanbridge and the Vulgaria of Robert Whittinton* (E. E. T. S.), pp. 114-115. One would have liked a note on the source of this passage—and of others.

² Lambinus, D., *Marci Tullii Ciceronis Opera Omnia* (Paris, 1566, personal), Vol. I, pp. 252 ff.; Sandys, *Ad M. Brutum Orator*, pp. 67 ff.

³ Lambinus, *Ciceronis Opera Omnia* (1566), Vol. I, pp. 203 ff.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Vol. I, pp. 25 ff.

⁵ Carpenter, F. I., *Leonard Cox, The Arte or Crafte of Rhethoryke*, p. 12.