

PREFACE.

It is not every body who knows how difficult it is to find a proper subject for a public discourse. It seems very easy at first view, and there are many who wonder that any difficulty should be thought to exist in this Ciceronian age, when so many orations and addresses are pronounced in our forums and issue from our presses. But the difficulty does not the less exist, if not for others, at least for me. Elocution is common, eloquence rare, and I unfortunately possess neither. Had I but words at command, I might, perhaps, come off as well as some of my neighbours; but not being so favoured by nature, I must try to make up by the interest of my subject for my deficiency in the manner of treating it.

Thus I thought to myself, when requested by the Directors of the Pennsylvania Library of Foreign Literature and Science, to deliver a public discourse in aid of their object. To induce the mass of the citizens to subscribe to a scientific and literary institution, it is not enough to talk to them of science and literature. The learned do not want to be instructed; all want to be entertained. There is no entertainment in a catalogue of French, Italian, German and Spanish books, and hardly more in a dry dissertation upon their contents. If only a little scandal could be mixed with it, it would be sure to draw crowds; for scandal suits the taste of almost every palate; but how can we mix scandal with literature and science? That appears to me impossible. I then thought of politics; but what has politics now-a-days to do with either? What has General Jackson in common with the Muses, or the Bank with Apollo? Thus I turned every subject in my mind, without being able to find any likely to answer my purpose. I was at last in the greatest embarrassment; I did not know, (in modern English we must always introduce some

centimeters
10

inches
4

L*	39.12	65.43	49.87	44.26	55.56	70.82	63.51	39.92	52.24	97.06	11(A)	92.02	87.34	82.14	72.06	62.15
a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.07	-1.07
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.19	0.19

16(M)	17	18(B)	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
49.25	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87
-0.16	-0.18	0.54	-0.05	-0.81	-0.23	20.98	-24.45	16.83	13.06	-38.91	52.00	3.45	50.88	-27.17
0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	55.93	68.80	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-29.46	-29.46

Density
0.04
0.09
0.15
0.22
0.36
0.51

Golden Thread
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