Prejudice against Composition Writing

It is a well known and an established fact, that most, if not all
men are very much inclined to be prejudiced against composition
writing, and consider it a difficult matter to sit down and
write a few lines on any subject, however much it may demand
their attention, which is not, in itself, very attractive or interesting
to them, which will not bring from them, natural and spontaneous
sentiments, and which is not such that, in treating it, they can
express their ideas with a greater degree of facility and readiness,
on account of their familiarity with it and the interest they have in
it, than they could, were it a subject of a different character.

This spirit of prejudice not only exists, but also shows itself
very plainly in young persons, and in those who are inexperienced
in the art of composing well. I say that this spirit is found
fully as much, if not more in these, than in those who assume
advanced in age, and who knows more of the toils and fatigue
attending him, whose chief desire is his own improvement in
this great art, and who would devote his time and his attention
and talents to it, and who would sacrifice every thing else
for the fulfillment of his desire. But I must beg leave to
say, before proceeding any further, apart from the subject it-
selves, that if it is possible for one to be free, in a great mea-
sure, from this feeling of prejudice, I am he, who is; for although
I feel my insignificance as a composer in a class
of forty members, I am very sensibly conscious of my inability
to throw out any very original idea, or to construct any beau-
tiful sentences, which may adorn the composition; yet I do not