

some rationality in his  
of diligence.

4. *This art has for many years been practiced by my old friend Sober with wonderful success. Discuss Johnson's description of the character of Sober.*

Ans : Samuel Johnson's essay On Idleness probes into the widely dominated but harmless human vice called idleness. In fact, Johnson holds that idleness is an art and requires great skill to be followed with utmost perfection of his dear old friend Sober who practiced this artful human vice to its fullest extent.

Johnson gives a character sketch of Mr. Sober who was a truly devoted follower of idleness. Sober though had strong desires in life and an intellectual talent, had his love for a life of ease that prevented him from utilising his talents in the proper direction. He lived a purposeless life merely by passing his time in conversation pacifying himself that conversation helped him to teach and learn a lot of things. Sober feared the moments when he and his friends might go home to sleep and in the morning when the whole would be too busy to involve in any conversations. But then he found out other means to lessen the sufferings of those tiresome intervals. He had persuaded himself that manual works were of no use and as such, were overlooked most of the time. However, he tried his hand in various petty works like carpentry, plumber, potter, tin man, shoe maker and having failed in these activities, Sober felt that he needed to have