

**THE ART OF  
EXTEMPORE  
SPEAKING**

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The art of extempore speaking by M. Bautain

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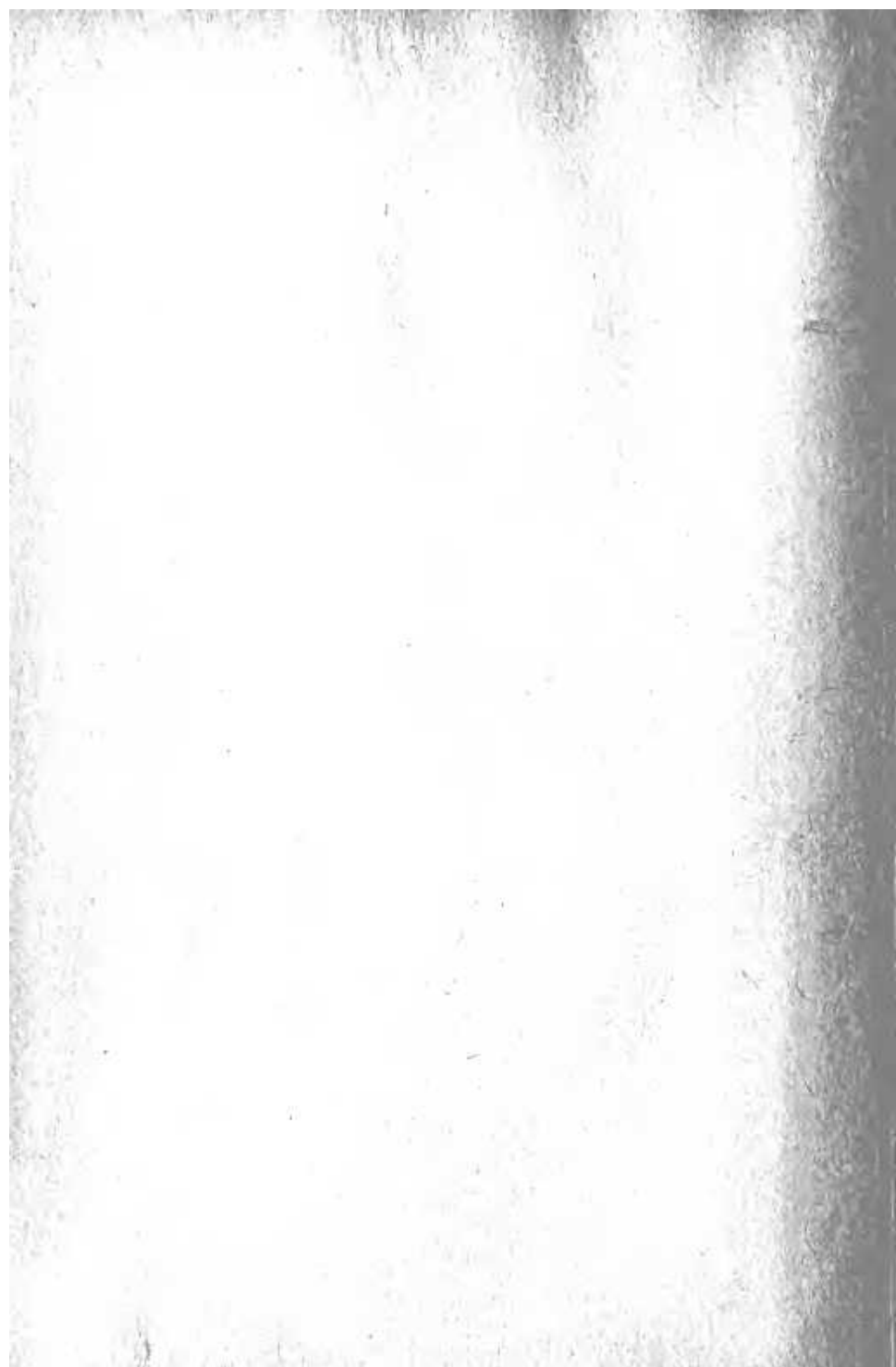
## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

It was our privilege to sit at the feet of Dr. Andrew D. White, former president of Cornell University, minister to Russia and Germany and President of the first International Peace Conference at the Hague, and listen to an effective address delivered to students on the subject of extemporaneous speaking. Dr. White earnestly urged all who were preparing for American life to study Abbé Bautain's "Art of Extempore Speaking."

Students lost no time in jotting down the name of the book.

In an attempt to obtain the work we found it was out of print. It occurred to us that if so eminent a man as Dr. White, who had made public speaking a study, and who never lost an opportunity when in France of listening to the eloquent Abbés, whose order required them to speak without notes, recommended so strongly Abbé Bautain's book, a republication of the work would be good news to thousands of preachers, teachers, laymen and attorneys throughout the English speaking world.

Upon making known our intention to Dr. White we received a communication from him which appears as the Foreword to this edition.



## FOREWORD

Cornell University,  
*Ithaca, N. Y.*  
*October 12, 1915.*

McDevitt-Wilson's, Inc.,  
Publishers, etc.,  
New York City.

GENTLEMEN :—

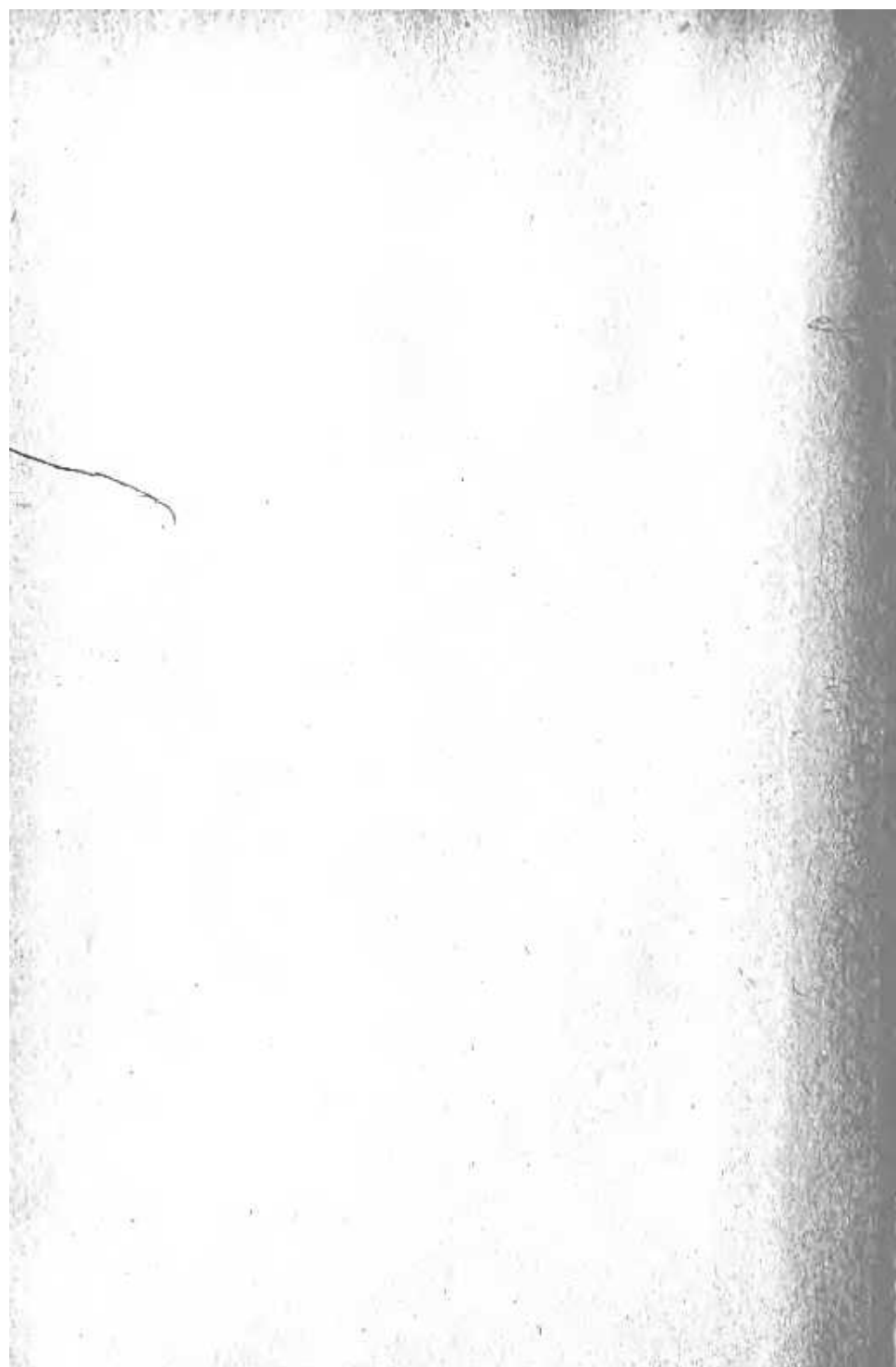
I am glad that you are to publish a new edition of the Abbé Bautain's *THE ART OF EXTEMPORE SPEAKING*, for the reason that it is the best book on the subject that I have ever read, and that it is not a catch-penny publication, but a thoughtful work based on important experience by an eminent scholar who was one of the most eminent extemporaneous preachers of modern times in France.

I have for years recommended it to the students at the State University of Michigan, at this and other universities, and have regretted to find of late that it had disappeared from the market.

I remain,  
Very truly yours,

*And. D. White*





## PREFACE

THE following work, by the eloquent M. Bautain, has no counterpart or rival in the English language, so prolific of treatises upon Rhetoric, and the separate portions of the arts of composition and delivery. All those parts of oratory, however necessary to public speaking, or conducive to success in its performance, yet leave comparatively aside the precise business of off-hand extemporizing. If we mistake not, the subject will be found to be handled with masterly ability by the author of this volume, who, keeping his end ever in view, and exemplifying in the treatment of his matter that *clarté*—so distinctively *French*, and which Quintilian says is the first quality of style—subordinates everything to the one grand purpose of extemporization.

The treatise not only supplies a *desideratum* in the literature of the language, but it ministers to a need peculiarly existing under our representative system of popular government. It is true, and felt to be so—that remark of an acute observer of American institutions and manners, that “In no country whatever is a genius for writing or speaking a more useful or commanding endowment than in this.” To render the work more aptly suited to the precise requirements among ourselves, three chapters are added by the American Editor, which it is hoped will serve to smooth the way for the unpracticed, or unassisted student of delivery. Cicero says in his treatise *De Oratore*, “There is requisite to the orator the acuteness of the logician,

the subtilty of the philosopher, the skillful harmony, almost, of the poet, the memory of a juriconsult, the tragedian's voice, and the gesture of the most finished actors." But he speaks of the highest, for he adds immediately that "nothing is more rare among men than a perfect orator." The gradations, as in all arts, are infinite, but a certain degree, is within the reach of most men, and many in their efforts to advance, will become indebted, consciously or unconsciously, to this admirable little work of M. Bautain.