READING AND SPEAKING; FAMILIAR TALKS TO YOUNG MEN WHO WOULD SPEAK WELL IN PUBLIC, WITH A THOROUGH PRESENTATION OF MANDEVILLE'S SYSTEM OF SENTENTIAL DELIVERY

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Reading and speaking; familiar talks to young men who would speak well in public, with a thorough presentation of Mandeville's system of sentential delivery by Brainard Gardner Smith

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BRAINARD GARDNER SMITH

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READING AND SPEAKING

FAMILIAR TALKS TO THOSE WHO WOULD SPEAK WELL IN PUBLIC; WITH A THOROUGH PRESENTATION OF MANDEVILLE'S SYSTEM OF SENTENTIAL DELIVERY

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THIRD EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED



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INTRODUCTORY.

This collection of suggestions to would-be speakers consists of most informal talks on matters of importance to all young men; for we are a nation of speech-makers. Wendell Phillips used to say that as soon as the Yankee baby could sit up in his cradle he called the nursery to order, and proceeded to address the house. There are some rules in the book, but they are those which my experience has taught me ought to be known by every speaker; and as there are not so many as to be burdensome, I trust that they may be learned by every young man who has this book.

I have put upon these pages suggestions not usually found in print. Some of them may seem trivial; but I have been making them to students in the class-room over and over again. Why not print them?

I do not claim any originality, or to say what has not been said in one way or another by many teachers. Indeed, there is no new road to successful public speaking. But I have tried to group together, in small compass and convenient form, suggestions, rules, hints, encouragements, warnings, examples, illustrations, all having bearing on the "noble art of oratory," and all likely to be helpful.

My one aim is to help young men to a natural, comfortable, manly, forceful manner of speech in public. That is not oratory; but it is a long stride towards it. If they add these suggestions and rules to the solid foundation of knowledge, of acquirement, the result of diligent and patient study, and if, moreover, they have the "oratorical instinct," then I am sure the results will not be fruitless.

The book is meant for the class-room, for the teacher, for the student, as well as for the general reader, and I have endeavored to give abundant opportunity for putting the suggestions and rules into practice. Practice is the main thing. The student must do the work; the teacher may help him do it on the right lines.

My thanks are due to the distinguished gentlemen who so kindly responded to my request for suggestions to young men who wish to be public speakers. The chapter containing their suggestions is certainly the most interesting and helpful in this volume.

I also desire to acknowledge my obligations to Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., New York, for permission to make the use I have made of Mandeville's "Elements of Reading and Oratory"; to Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls, New York, for permission to quote from Shepard's "Before an Audience"; to the Penn Publishing Co., Philadelphia, the publishers of Henry Ward Beecher's "Oratory," from which, by their kind permission, I have taken extracts; and to Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, publishers of the Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

READING AND SPEAKING.