

**ORATORY MADE EASY. A  
GUIDE TO THE  
COMPOSITION OF SPEECHES:  
ORIGINAL AND COMPILED**

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Oratory made easy. A guide to the composition of speeches: original and compiled by Charles Hartley

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**CHARLES HARTLEY**

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# ORATORY MADE EASY.

A GUIDE

TO THE

COMPOSITION OF SPEECHES.

Original and Compiled.

BY

CHARLES HARTLEY,

PROFESSOR OF ELOCUTION AND ORATORY; AUTHOR OF  
"ELOCUTION MADE EASY."



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# MR. HARTLEY

CONTINUES TO GIVE

## PRIVATE LESSONS IN ORATORY AND ELOCUTION

For the Senate, the Church, the Bar, etc. ; for the Stage, Public Reading, and as an Accomplishment ; and in

### ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

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Stammering, Stuttering, Imperfect R, Misplaced Aspirate, Lipping, Monotony, Thick Utterance, Falsetto, or Effeminate Voice, Dysphonia Clericorum, and all Defects of Voice, Articulation, and Pronunciation, permanently cured.

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# ORATORY MADE EASY.



## INTRODUCTION.

THE value of Oratory is generally acknowledged, and the arts of extemporaneous public speaking, preaching, lecturing, and pleading, are powers which will be increasingly demanded by the changed and still changing aspects of affairs in Church and State. "In all countries, and in all ages," says Serjeant Cox, "the orator has risen to distinction. But his art is nowhere so potent as in free countries, where liberty of speech is the birthright of the citizen. Wherever self-government is recognized, there must be gatherings for the purpose of transacting public business; men must meet together in their parishes, their counties, or by whatever name the sub-divisions of their country may be known. They could not discuss the business of the meeting without some speaking, and the most pleasant speaker will assuredly win the ears, and therefore carry with him the feelings and the votes, of those who cannot speak. The same result is seen in all assemblies, from the vestry, which is the Parliament of the parish, to the House of Commons, which is the Parliament of the nation. A man who cannot speak is there doomed to insignificance; a man who can speak but badly is still somebody; the man who speaks tolerably is a man of mark; the man who speaks well, at once establishes himself as a chieftain, and he holds in his hand the power of the whole assembly." Yet a great orator is

a rarity, and a tolerably good one uncommon; for the art is neglected not only by non-professional speakers, but by those whose chief business it is to speak in public. The *Literary Churchman* is "of opinion that the present age, with all its vauntings, has not many orators, whether in sacred or secular walks. Parliament has two or three, the bar one, the stage none at all (taking delivery as a form of oratory), the Church more than all the rest together, though the circumstances and conventionalities by which preachers are hampered, are not favourable to the display of elocutionary gifts. It is a matter of surprise that so few clergymen, whose education, as far as books are concerned, has been all that can be desired, and whose written discourses are admirable, should be able to say twenty consecutive words in public, whether with or without preparation. There seems to be no sort of excuse for it. Many, no doubt, are by natural temperament unfitted to address assemblies, and incapable of any approach to effective public speaking; but where there is no natural disqualification, since the art may be cultivated, there is no reason why any man called to influence others should be ignorant of it." The dissenting ministers are much more fluent than the clergy of the Church of England, simply because they have had far more practice, and have been accustomed from their youth to public speaking.

Yet speaking is an art which may be learned as surely as singing or dancing. To be really eloquent is in the power of few; to say what one has to say to an assembly fluently, intelligibly, and not disagreeably, is in the power of almost every man. If the practice of this art be commenced in youth, almost all might be trained to express themselves with propriety, fluency, and self-possession, whether in the pulpit, or the senate, from the platform or lecture-table. But in the great public schools in which most of our clergy, senators, and barristers are educated,

the art of public speaking is not taught as it ought to be. "At Eton, once a year," observes an able writer, "a few boys at the head of the school, trained by masters, themselves unaccustomed to public speaking, declaim a few speeches with very moderate success; and a small debating-society, with which the masters do not interfere, exists; it is, we are told, merely a limited and fashionable club, whose members—but twenty-eight in number—are elected, not on account of their literary acquirements, but chiefly because they are the 'swells' of the school, or because they have distinguished themselves at cricket or in rowing. Much good would be done, were such an institution as this widened, popularized, and stimulated, and were its members properly instructed in speaking by a practised teacher who himself knew how to speak, so that every boy, on leaving Eton at the age of seventeen, might be able to impart audibly, confidently, and pleasantly, to an audience of a couple of hundred of his schoolfellows, whatever he was desirous of saying to them."

Yet very many persons devote not the slightest attention to this subject, until circumstances compel them to speak in public when far advanced in life. The task, even then, although much more difficult, is not insurmountable, and a man past his prime may still become a fluent and powerful speaker if he will but devote sufficient time to the study and practice of the art.

Authors and scholarly men are apt to think themselves disqualified for becoming good public speakers. This is also the popular idea, but it is evidently incorrect, for although the three arts of reading, speaking, and writing differ to a certain extent, the same education which fits a man for excellence in one will qualify him for excellence in all, if he will but cultivate his powers and practise the other arts. A really good reader may, if he please, become a really good speaker and writer, and a really good writer only