

**ON TEACHING ENGLISH: WITH  
DETAILED EXAMPLES, AND AN  
ENQUIRY INTO THE DEFINITION  
OF POETRY, PP. 1-255**

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On Teaching English: With Detailed Examples, and an Enquiry Into the Definition of Poetry, pp. 1-255 by Alexander Bain

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**ALEXANDER BAIN**

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TEACHING ENGLISH:  
WITH  
DETAILED EXAMPLES,  
AND AN ENQUIRY  
INTO THE  
DEFINITION OF POETRY.

BY  
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1887.

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## PREFACE.

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THE present volume is auxiliary to the enlarged edition of the author's *Rhetoric and English Composition*, the first part of which is published at the same time. It embraces principally the three following topics :—

First, a review of the prevailing opinions as to the proper mode of teaching English, together with a critical estimate of their respective merits. The handling of this part is of necessity controversial.

Second, a brief sketch of the Rhetorical method, followed by a series of Select Lessons on the leading Qualities of Style—Intellectual and Emotional. These are intended to be, as far as possible, intelligible by themselves ; but they also serve as overflow examples to the course of Rhetoric in the expanded text-book.

Third, an enquiry into the Definition of Poetry, being one added to the many attempts to deal with this intractable question. The discussion is not meant to remain isolated, but to fall in with the treatment of rhetorical principles, both in theory and in practice.

The pretensions of the work, more especially as

regards the Lessons in the analysis and criticism of passages from our greatest authors, are necessarily ambitious; and need no little amount of justification and apology on the part of the author. All this, however, will find a more suitable place in the two rhetorical text-books themselves.

ABERDEEN, *January*, 1887.

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