

**LITTLE SPEECHES. BEING A
COLLECTION OF A
DOZEN SHORT ADDRESSES
ON VARIOUS TOPICS**

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“AND in his time he did speak unto many men and at many conjunctures. Before ambassadors he did recite good things of their Kingdoms. In the presence of Kings he made opportunity to speak of the people at the gates. Unto the people at the gates he told of the splendor of Kings. Where History made a breaking off, he reminded the children with strong words of the valorous deeds of the fathers, and where the voice of prophecy fell away into soft sound, he became as the minister of hope and did forecast victory for the State and much fullness for each man's store.

“Thus the chronicles gave him occasion for speech and the accomplishment of his sayings kept him in the minds of men until this day.”—*Old Chronicle*.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE



The written word is ever more than the spoken ; so the orator must have his say in type. Printing and speech-making are magnified a hundred fold and no man shall bespeak the end thereof.

If neither Burke nor Fox is to be heard to-day in the British Commons, nor Webster nor Clay in the American Congress, it is not the less true that there are orators in both bodies who contrive to arouse the interest or to stimulate the gayety of two great nations. The world is growing every day more intolerant of mere sentiment, and if this be subtracted from the canonized orations, what is left? Nothing indeed half so interesting as the stipple of a shorthand report. And yet, perhaps, there is as much real sentiment and right principle extant as when Burke marshalled his thunders against the devastators of the Carnatic and, after

much other fulmination, the Lords fixed the status of British virtue by issuing a certificate of good conduct to the arch-culprit.

So, too, we have as good patriots as Webster or Sumner, and even as great an orator as the first might be disclosed were the question of "The Union, one and inseparable, now and forever," to be reopened. Meantime, as has been hinted, there is no serious lack of entertainment for this people, and the greatest nation under the sun is working out its destiny with a sure pace that ever leads to new vistas of development.

Touching the speeches contained in this book, a word or two may not be amiss. The Editor (who, by the way, is not Mr. Thacher) conceives that few things are more difficult than a ten-minutes speech. Such speeches are greatly and, it would often seem, vainly in request by the afflicted senates and congregations of this country. The word "*Oratiunculae*" suggested itself as a fitting title for the present collection, but it was on further thought deemed pedantic. Hence we have used the English equivalent, "Little speeches," which better

certifies perhaps the modest purpose of the gentleman who made them.

In giving his consent to this compilation Mr. Thacher has been actuated simply by a desire to string as on a thread some beadstones to mark and memorize events in public life. The fact indeed of the nature of such records as are gathered here, is the best excuse for their presentation in this form.

