

**THE PRINCIPLES OF
SUCCESS IN
LITERATURE**

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The principles of success in literature by George Henry Lewes & Wm. Dallam Armes

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GEORGE HENRY LEWES & WM. DALLAM ARMES

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THE PRINCIPLES
OF SUCCESS IN
LITERATURE & BY
GEORGE HENRY LEWES

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

Edited by
WM. DALLAM ARMES

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
STUDENTS' CO-OPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION & & & 1901

TO MR. W. H. WILSON
ALBANY, N. Y.

Ed. 1

In Memoriam
Frederick State
Professor of Physics

PN143
L48
1901

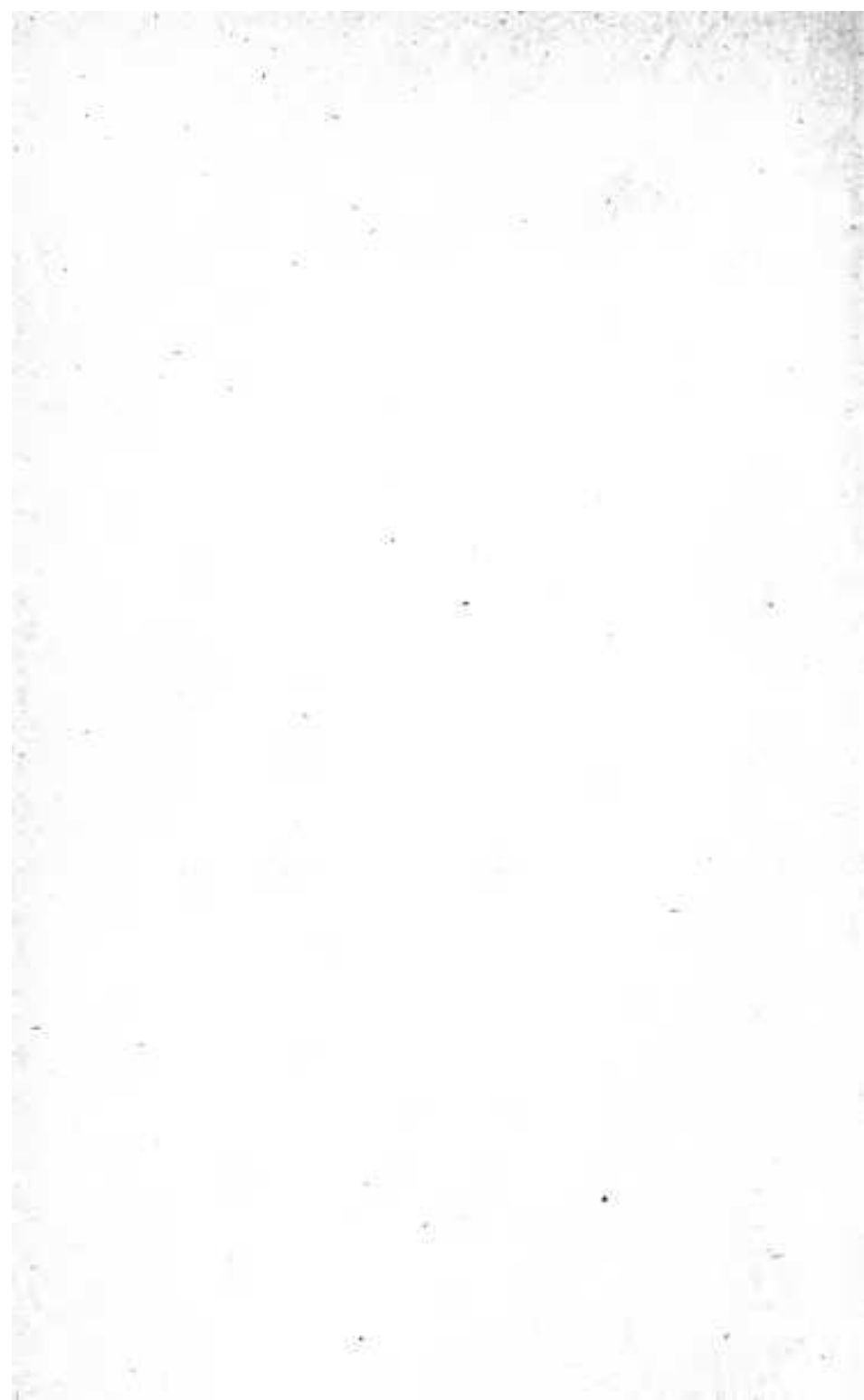
The feeble, inefficient writer, knowing his weakness and hoping for directions that will enable him successfully to conceal it from the public, will find little in this work to satisfy or encourage him; to the vigorous, earnest beginner in literature, conscious of power, but in doubt how best to secure "style," it will prove an invaluable warning against the nullifying effects of affectation, imitation, and insincerity.

Originally printed in 1865, in Vols. I and II of *The Fortnightly Review*, of which Mr. Lewes was then editor, the essay was first published in pamphlet form twenty years later by Professor A. S. Cook, at that time Professor of the English Language and Literature in this University; and has since been several times reprinted as a college text-book. As it is hoped that the present edition, while primarily intended for students, will prove acceptable to the general reader, the somewhat repellent appearance of a text-book has been avoided, and the work of the editor confined to the correction of the errors and misprints in the quotations in the original publication.

W. D. A.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY, JANUARY 14, 1901.

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THE PRINCIPLES OF SUCCESS IN LITERATURE

CHAPTER I

In the development of the great series of animal organisms, the Nervous System assumes more and more of an imperial character. The rank held by any animal is determined by this character, and not at all by its bulk, its strength, or even its utility. In like manner, in the development of the social organism, as the life of nations becomes more complex, Thought assumes a more imperial character; and Literature, in its widest sense, becomes a delicate index of social evolution. Barbarous societies show only the germs of literary life. But advancing civilisation, bringing with it increased conquest over material agencies, disengages the mind from the pressure of immediate wants, and