

**THE ART AND CRAFT OF
THE AUTHOR,
PRACTICAL HINTS
UPON LITERARY WORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649531387

The Art and Craft of the Author, Practical Hints Upon Literary Work by C. E. Heisch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. E. HEISCH

**THE ART AND CRAFT OF
THE AUTHOR,
PRACTICAL HINTS
UPON LITERARY WORK**

THE ART AND CRAFT OF THE AUTHOR

PRACTICAL HINTS UPON LITERARY WORK

BY
C. E. HEISCH

"None but an author knows an author's cares,
Or Fancy's fondness for the child she bears."

COWPER.

LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1905

1

2

3

4

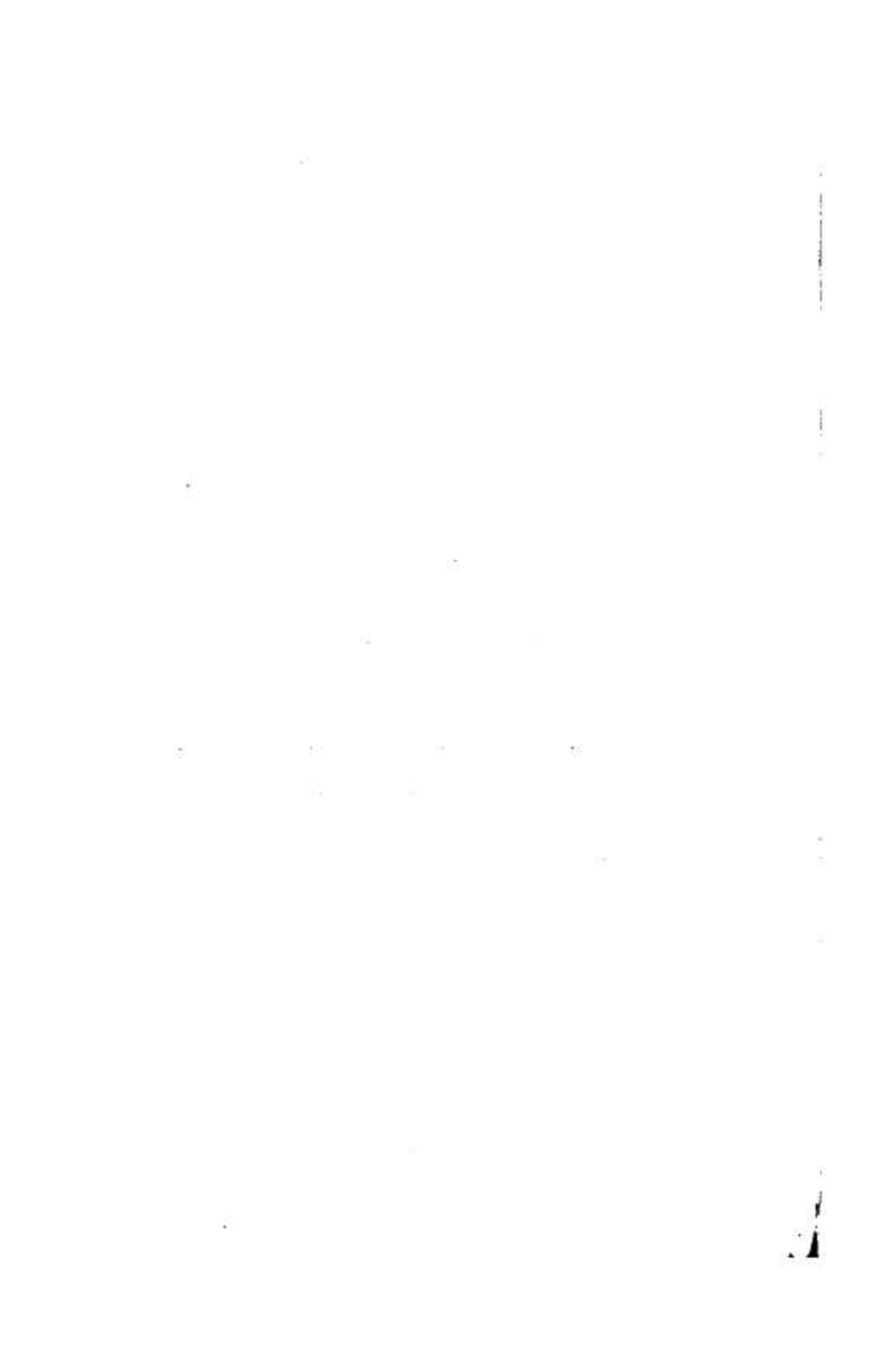
5

6

Dedication.

EMERSON TELLS US
THAT "OUR CHIEF WANT IN LIFE
IS SOME ONE WHO SHALL MAKE US DO WHAT WE CAN."
TO THE FRIENDS, OLD AND NEW,
WHO HAVE PERFORMED THIS SERVICE FOR THE
PRESENT WRITER, THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS DEDICATED,
WITHOUT PERMISSION, BUT WITH GRATITUDE.

145509



PREFACE

"**M**OST books are bad, and ought not to have been written." So says Schopenhauer; and however far we may be from endorsing the sweeping assertion of a professed pessimist, it must, nevertheless, be freely admitted that, of the large number of books which pour daily from the Press, very few reach the highest standard of excellence. And the reason of this is not far to seek. It is not that the art of the author is an exceptionally difficult one, but rather, that it is supposed to be so easy, that it may be practised without any preliminary study or preparation.

The number of those who desire to write for the Press is continually on the increase; but, unhappily, there is a very general opinion that one great advantage of the author's calling is

that he requires nothing for his equipment but pens, ink, and paper.

Yet, surely, every workman needs something beyond the implements of his craft; he must, at least, have the skill to use them. But something more than this is needed by the author, for his implements are not mere tools, by means of which some material result is to be achieved; they are, ultimately, a means of expression; and how will it fare with him if he have nothing to express?

The first thing, then, which the author needs is SOMETHING TO SAY, and next, the skill to say it; and it is these two points which, under various aspects, are discussed in the present volume.

C. E. HEISCH.

CONTENTS

PREFACE	PAGE vii
-------------------	-------------

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY	I
------------------------	---

Object of the volume, to offer help to inexperienced writers—
Instruction not easily obtained—Every author self-taught—All
suggestions based on experience—Principles, rather than
rules, laid down—Best authors consulted.

CHAPTER II

THE AUTHOR'S QUALIFICATIONS	4
---------------------------------------	---

Qualifications of the author—1. The love of truth—Truth in
fiction—Opinions of R. L. Stevenson and F. Norris—2. The
love of work—Essential to excellence—Overcomes difficulties
—R. L. Stevenson—Enlightens—Sir W. Scott—Literature the
product both of head and heart.

CHAPTER III

WORK	II
----------------	----

The literary life a life of labour—Talent no substitute for
work—Example, Sir W. Scott—How to begin—Variations in
the author's powers — Causes — Remedies — Re-writing—
J. R. Green—Plato.