

**FOR PULPIT AND
PLATFORM: A
HANDBOOK ON
PREPARATION, PP. 1-141**

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For Pulpit and Platform: A Handbook on Preparation, pp. 1-141 by John Mahan English

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JOHN MAHAN ENGLISH

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PLATFORM: A
HANDBOOK ON
PREPARATION, PP. 1-141**

FOR
PULPIT AND PLATFORM

A HANDBOOK ON PREPARATION

BY

JOHN MAHAN ENGLISH, D.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HOMILETICS
IN THE NEWTON THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTION

New York

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PREFACE

NUMEROUS works on public religious discourse have been published that present the subject with minuteness and elaboration. There seems to be a place for a book that sets forth the essentials of effective speech in a less amplified form, for use by busy pastors, by speakers on various kinds of religious topics, and as a book of reference for students in theological schools. With slight change in phraseology the principles involved are equally applicable to those who wish to express their thoughts in an ordered and persuasive way, on any sort of subject. The author trusts that in the choice of materials and in the method of their presentation the work will be found to be practically adapted to the foregoing ends.

With the spread of democracy, public speaking will be more widely practiced in the immediate future, and it is imperative that it shall be effective. If this handbook shall prove to be of service in furthering effectiveness of public speech, the purpose of the author in its publication will be achieved.

The Appendix is added in order that the principles contained in the book may have the practical enforcement of the precept and the example of those especially skilled in addressing their fellow men.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
CHAPTER	
I. THE GATHERING OF MATERIALS	1
II. THE ENRICHING OF THE MENTAL LIFE	30
III. THE STUDY OF MEN	40
IV. THE STRUCTURE OF DISCOURSE	50
V. THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF PREPARING AND DELIVERING DISCOURSES	76
VI. THE MAKING OF THE DISCOURSE	100
APPENDIX	121

10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
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 20
 21
 22
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 27
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FOR PULPIT AND PLATFORM

CHAPTER I

THE GATHERING OF MATERIALS

THE discourses of the best preachers seem to be made easily. There are evidently plenty more where they came from. This is true of such men as South, Barrow, Howe, Robertson, MacLaren, Liddon, Parker, Bushnell, Brooks, Lorimer. The open secret of their success is that they put their strength and time into the toil of collecting suitable materials for discourse. That is to say, they have emphasized general rather than special preparation for preaching. Upon success here hinges largely the effectiveness of a settled ministry. The drain upon such a ministry is very great. It is far in excess of that upon any other class of public speakers. It is a standing wonder with some how any preacher can sustain himself in the same pulpit for a series of years. Some preachers barely hold on; they live in constant dread of the next Sunday, that coming event which casts its shadow before. Not only are they on the rack of perpetual worry and strain in making their