

**THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
OF ELOCUTION: THE SUBSTANCE
OF A COURSE OF
INTRODUCTORY LECTURES
DELIVERED AT OXFORD**

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The principles and practice of elocution: the substance of a course of introductory lectures delivered at Oxford by Charles John Plumptre

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CHARLES JOHN PLUMPTRE

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THE
Principles and Practice
OF
Elocution.

THE
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
OF
ELOCUTION,

CONSIDERED IN REFERENCE TO THE VARIOUS
PROFESSIONS:

BEING

THE SUBSTANCE OF A COURSE OF INTRODUCTORY
LECTURES DELIVERED AT OXFORD,

BY PERMISSION OF THE REV. THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,

DURING

MICHAELMAS TERM, 1860.

BY

CHARLES JOHN PLUMPTRE.

"ARS ORNARE ARTEM."



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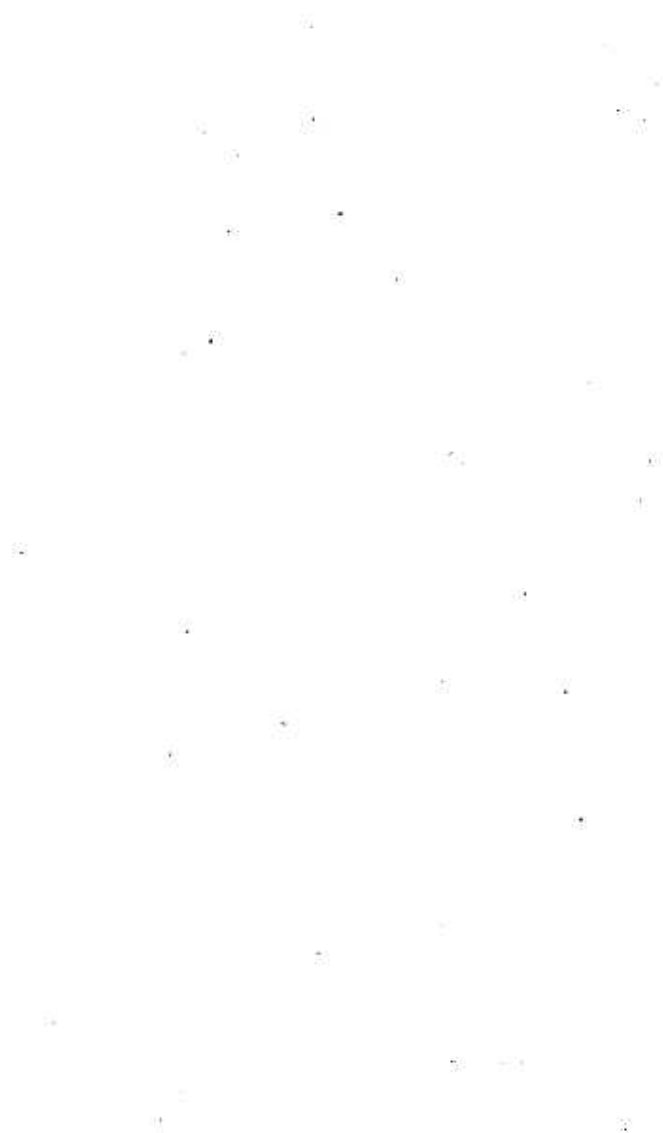


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TO THE
RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD,
LORD HIGH ALMONER TO THE QUEEN, AND CHANCELLOR OF
THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER,

The following Lectures

ON THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF ELOCUTION
ARE, WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY HIS OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
CHARLES JOHN PLUMPTRE.



PREFACE.

IN the last of a course of six lectures on the Church of England, delivered by the Rev. Hugh McNeile, D.D., just twenty years ago, at the Hanover-square Rooms, occurs the following passage in reference to clerical training:—"We are exhorted by an apostle to make *full proof* of our ministry, and reminded that we are debtors, not to the Greek only, but to the barbarian also: to the wise and to the unwise. But here is the difficulty. In order to rouse the careless, and interest the unwilling, energetic measures and words are indispensable. But in the exercise of energy there is a liability to forget gracefulness, and thus expose the effort made for one part of the population to the ridicule of another. Such ridicule is carefully to be avoided, not on account of the clergyman ridiculed, (*he* may easily bear it) but on account of the people, who are thus supplied with a handle, or at least what is frequently used as a handle, against religion. It is not enough to say that this is unreasonable in them:

we must avoid, as far as lieth in us, even the appearance of evil, and endeavour if possible to silence prejudice as well as satisfy reason. To be at once energetic and graceful demands much strength, and much self-possession, and much practice, and much knowledge; knowledge not of books only, but of men also The age demands talent in every department, and while we most cordially agree in the opinion lately expressed in his place in Parliament by one of her Majesty's ministers, that the clergy of the Church should not be supported merely because they are 'popular, eloquent, and plausible preachers,' we cannot but feel at the same time that if unwillingness on the part of the outstanding population be a good practical argument in favour of endowments for the Church, it is equally so for the highest possible cultivation of what shall be popularly effective in the minister.

"No one who has given even a passing attention to the habits and feelings of our people can doubt of the immense effect of a ready and natural elocution: yet how little attention is paid to a right training for its