## PRACTICAL COMPOSITION, WITH NUMEROUS MODELS AND EXERCISES

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Practical Composition, with Numerous Models and Exercises by Mrs. Mary J. Harper

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## MRS. MARY J. HARPER

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MRS. MARY J. HARPER,

PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

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THE TROW & SMITH BOOR MANUPACTURING COMPANY 48, 48, 10 GREENE STREET, N. Y.

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#### PROF. A. CRITTENDEN,

#### PRINCIPAL OF PACKER INSTITUTE,

#### TO

#### WHOSE RIPER WISDOM AND CULTURE

#### THE AUTHOR WAS INDESTED FOR EARLY INSTRUCTION,

#### AND WITH

#### WHOM SHE WAS A CO-LABORER, IN THE FIELD OF LITERATURE,

#### IN BUDBRQUENT VEALS,

#### THIS WORK

#### IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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#### PREFACE.

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REALIZING the difficulties experienced by youth in the acquisition of the Art of Composition, and believing that many obstacles can be removed by *practical* instruction, this little treatise is submitted to American teachers, with the hope that its *simplicity* and *practical* methods will commend it to their earnest and cordial consideration.

All the preliminary instruction the mass of pupils receive may be comprised in the few words, "You are expected to write a composition once in two weeks." No early seeds have been sown, no ground prepared or fertilized, and teacher and pupil find to their disappointment only a barren, sandy desert. But flowers and fruit can be obtained only by early planting, tilling, and culture, and it is to this, as a prominent feature, attention is invited.

When the aged divine was asked "how it was that he was always ready to extemporize upon any subject upon which he was called to address an audience," he answered the youthful preacher thus: "*Fill the cask*, my boy, fill the cask! then you can tap it anywhere and it will run." Many teachers of youth, as well as youth themselves, are lamenting to-day that they have been tapping empty casks, and wondering why the vintage fails. y a **t** 

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