THE CONSTRUCTION, TUNING AND CARE OF THE PIANO-FORTE

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The Construction, Tuning and Care of the Piano-Forte by Edward Quincy Norton

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BY

EDWARD QUINCY NORTON

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PREFACE.

THE Author's aim has been to furnish a Book of Reference for tuners, dealers, musicians, and owners in general of pianos and organs, giving the result of years of study and practical experience of the writer, together with the results of the latest researches of scientists, and the improvements of manufacturers. No attempt has been made to explain the scientific theory of sound. All interested in the study of this subject are referred to "Tyndall's Lectures on Sound," the works of Helmholtz, Koenig, Preyer, Bosanquet, and other great acousticians and scientists. To avoid confusing the reader, by presenting various schemes for "laying the bearings" in tuning, a method of temperament is given, which invariably insures the best results, within the smallest compass, and on that part of the piano where the beats are most easily perceived and followed by the ear. Suggestions from manufacturers, dealers, and tuners of experience will be kindly received and appreciated, that future editions of this work may be as accurate and complete as possible.

THE AUTHOR.

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CONSTRUCTION, TUNING, AND CARE
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PIANO-FORTE.

CHAPTER I.

Defects in the English Action—How to Remedy Them.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION.

The following are defects peculiar to this construction of action, and are in addition to faults common to both this and the French action. The principal difference between the old English action, and the present so called French action of the modern square piano is, that, in place of the rocker and jack of the latter, the English action has what is called the "fly," fastened by parchment hinge into a base, which in turn, is mortised and glued solidly into the key.

Through the fly runs the regulating screw, the button of which presses against the cushioned surface of extended base; the turning in or out of the screw, regulating the fall of the hammer.

In the front of the base, below the fly, is fastened a curved spring, which bears against the fly which throws up the under hammer, or hopper; when key is depressed, this hopper forces up the hammer which strikes the string.