

**TALKS ON WRITING
ENGLISH;
SECOND SERIES**

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Talks on writing English; Second series by Arlo Bates

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TALKS
ON
WRITING ENGLISH

Second Series

BY
ARLO BATES

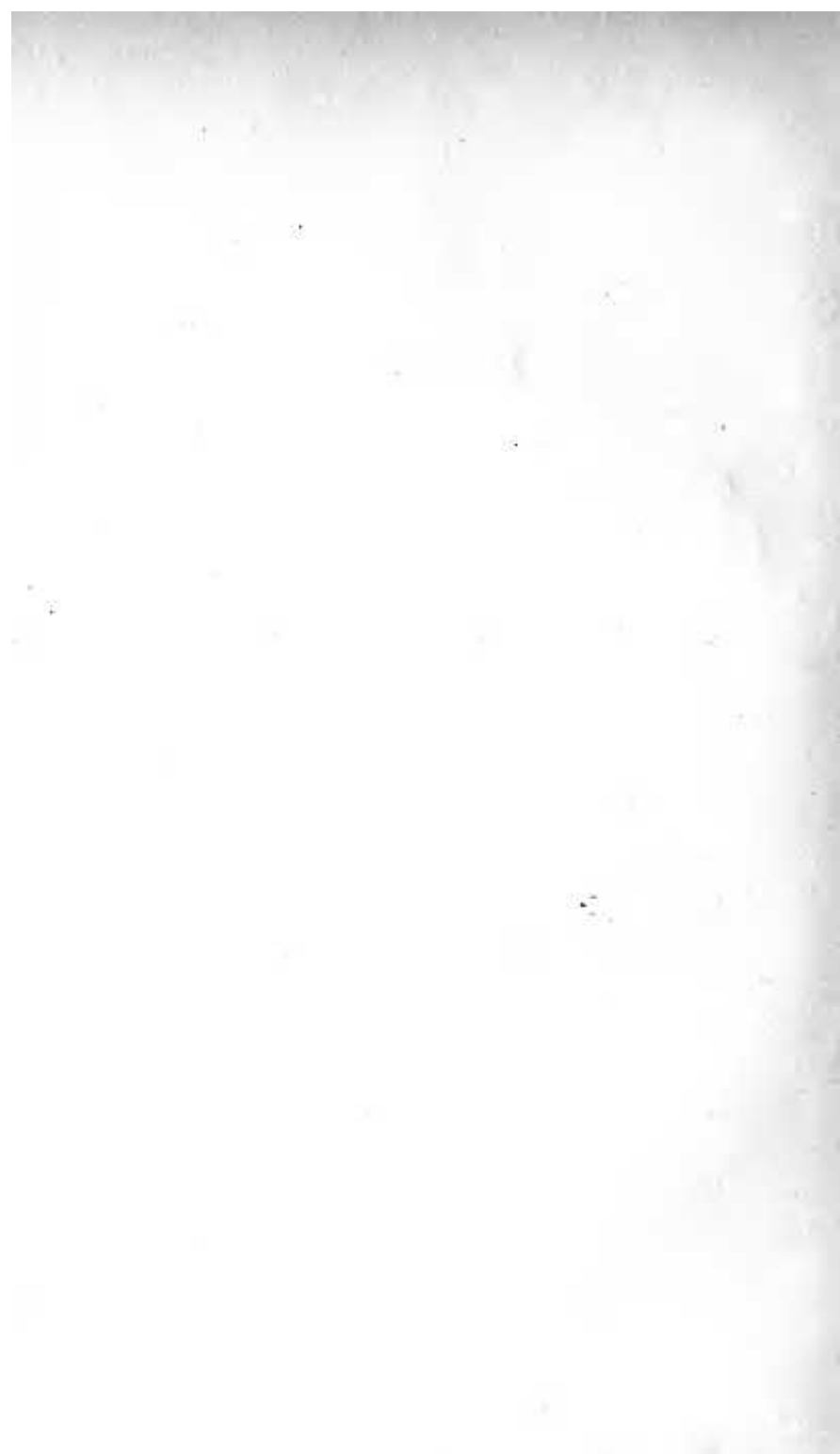


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PREFACE

THIS book is made up from material used in a course of lectures given in the Lowell Free Classes as supplementary to my previous "Talks on Writing English." It takes up many of the more delicate matters of composition which would have been out of place in the earlier and more general course, but repeats nothing except some few things which were needed to bring out fresh points more clearly. Teachers and others who heard the lectures have asked me to print them, and I do so in the hope that as what I have to say is the result of actual experience it may prove of use.

A. B.



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TALKS ON WRITING ENGLISH

SECOND SERIES

I

FIRST CONSIDERATIONS

WHAT besides pen, paper, and ink is needed for composition the student can understand fully only by actual experiment and experience. He is likely to discover quickly, if he is in earnest, that the attempt to produce ideas by rubbing pen and paper together is much like trying to evoke fire from the friction of a couple of sticks; it is a thing not entirely impossible, but it is always a tedious and generally an ineffectual process. That technique may be acquired he soon learns; it is only by degrees that he comes first to perceive and then to feel that technique is to be regarded as a means and not as an end. The learner must always keep in mind, in dealing with books which, like the present, have to do chiefly with the mechanics of composition, that, as Dr. Johnson has beautifully phrased it, "Words are the daughters of earth, and things are the sons of heaven." A phrase is good only in so far as it is a fair and adequate body for a