

**THE ART OF EXTEMPORE
SPEAKING; OR, THE
PRINCIPIA OF PULPIT AND
PLATFORM ORATORY**

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The Art of Extempore Speaking; Or, The Principia of Pulpit and Platform Oratory by Harold Ford

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HAROLD FORD

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THE ART OF
EXTEMPORE SPEAKING;

OR,

*THE PRINCIPIA OF PULPIT AND
PLATFORM ORATORY.*

BY

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'THE PRINCIPIA OF VOCAL DELIVERY,' 'THE ART OF SPEAKING AND
READING,' 'EVANGELIUM IN EVANGELIO,' ETC.

*'Maximus vero studiorum fructus est, et velut præmium
quoddam amplissimum longi laboris, ex tempore dicendi
facultas.'*

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1896.

To
HIS GRACE THE
DUKE OF RUTLAND, K. G.,
THIS LITTLE WORK
IS,
WITH KIND PERMISSION,
MOST GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE aim of the author in this treatise is, as indicated by its subsidiary title, to set forth the first principles of the art of extempore speaking; to show that the faculty of expression should be cultivated side by side with the faculty of thought; that the verbal representation of thought should be coeval with thought.

As such, it deals more with language than matter, with the expression of thought than with thought itself.

To enlarge one's vocabulary and make the tongue more pliant in speech, should

be the ambition of everyone who would rise to the level of an efficient extempore speaker.

Yet how obviously disregarded is the Art of extempore speaking by the most modest aspirant to the pulpit, bar, and platform.

To such the author offers this small volume, with the earnest hope that the result of his labours may at least give an impetus to the study of a well-nigh lost art.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

WHY is it that the pulpit and the platform alike witness to the paucity of efficient speakers and to repeated failures in the art of public speaking?

Because it is falsely and tacitly assumed that the faculty of speech—the exponent of an intellectual soul—is, as it were, a sort of instrument, which, by some intuitive power, may be played upon with varying degrees of skill, by the most uninstructed tyro, and whose stops and entire compass may therefore be controlled to ‘discourse most excellent music’ without any special instruction or training.