

THE ART OF INVESTING

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The art of investing by John F. Hume

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JOHN F. HUME

**THE ART OF
INVESTING**

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P R E F A C E.

THE appearance, over his signature, in leading magazines, of the papers that principally make up the following *brochure*, has involved the writer in considerable correspondence. A number of parties have, in consequence, written to him: some requesting a fuller statement of his views on points partially discussed or merely touched upon; some disputing his conclusions or having suggestions of their own to offer; and others, who had been made aware of the existence of the publications through news-

paper notices or in some other way, and not caring to be at the trouble and cost of procuring the periodicals in which they were to be found, asking for a reproduction of such passages as might be applicable to their special circumstances. The interest, as evidenced by the correspondence referred to, which the papers as magazine articles have awakened, seems to the writer to be ample apology for their reappearance in more accessible and economical form if the discussion of a subject of such general concern as the investment of money, with a view to an income more or less fixed and permanent, calls for apology.

Somewhat in the nature of a supplement, has been added a chapter on speculation. People having idle money

often find it difficult to decide whether they had better invest it securely, content with the amount they have and the revenue to be derived as interest, or seek to add to the principal by ventures necessarily more or less uncertain. The temptations to the latter course that are held out by our stock and other exchanges are very dazzling—sometimes quite irresistible. It is to those institutions that persons of a speculative turn and with money in hand are apt to look for the realization of their hopes. To any who may be halting between the policies spoken of, with an inclination to do a little in stocks, the subjoined criticism of the methods and bearings of our leading exchanges that make a business of shares and bonds may prove

to be both entertaining and instructive reading.

A few alterations have been made in the original text, and some additions to cover points raised or suggested by communications from friendly hands; otherwise, the matter is unchanged.

As the author prefers to avoid the suspicion of using this publication as an advertisement of his business—that of a broker in securities—the matter which in another form appeared over his signature is now presented without that appendage.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
INVESTING	9
GOVERNMENTS.	43
STATE OBLIGATIONS	46
MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS	56
RAILROAD MORTGAGES	65
RAILROAD STOCKS	72
OTHER STOCKS	74
FARM MORTGAGES	79
RANCH SECURITIES	92
WATER-WORKS LOANS	96
STREET-RAILWAY BONDS	107
MISCELLANEOUS BONDS	109
MINING SECURITIES	111
BRIDGE BONDS	113
SUBSTITUTION SECURITIES	115