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TEXT BOOK

IN

**R H E T O R I C .**

BY

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## PREFACE.

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THE accompanying little treatise, is, purely, what its title page imports :—a **TEXT-BOOK** in *Rhetoric*, for the use of the author's own pupils. It is, therefore, *printed*,—but not **PUBLISHED**.

Indeed it ought to be said, that the first intention of the author, was to prepare a *mere syllabus*, or *comprehensive abstract* of the *principles* involved in Rhetoric ; primarily with the view, of facilitating a *review* of the subject, as preparatory to the final examination of the class. This should be said, in explanation of the heading of the work. It soon, however, became apparent to him, that the form first intended, would be unsatisfactory, both to himself, and the student ; and very early,—even in the treatment of the first Part,—the conception of the plan, took on the form it now wears :—not that of a **SYLLABUS**, but that of a **TEXT BOOK** ;—but still, a *Text Book*, that needs the full and free development, which, as his pupils know, it constantly receives in the mental *gymnastics*, of the **CLASS ROOM**.

The inducement leading to its preparation

grew out of the author's experience, in the CLASS ROOM, in the use of WHATELY'S RHETORIC,—and its object, is, to facilitate the methods of instruction there in use;—1, with a view to the better attainment of the ends of mental discipline, especially, in the attempt to train the student to think, under the stimulus of *recitations* on the subject of Rhetoric;—and 2, to impart a knowledge of the principles and laws which underlie, alike, the SCIENCE, and the ART of Rhetoric. The masterly work of Whately, heretofore in use, is now *discontinued*,—for the time at least—partly for reasons growing out of its effects upon the students, in the matter of their *Belles Lettres culture*:—partly from a conviction that the ultimate grounds of the *validity* of arguments, can be set in still clearer, more forcible, and readily remembered, relations;—partly because what seemed to be a very important practical end, for students preparing for professional life—and treated in the FIRST BOOK of the THIRD PART of the present treatise,—is not embraced in Whately's plan at all;—and, still more, because the FOURTH PART of Whately,—on ELOCUTION,—is not only inferior in its *method* and *handling*, but positively, and mischievously erroneous, in its theoretic principles, and consequently in its practical precepts.

The first two parts,—and as they lie in

Whately, incomparably the abler parts—of the Book are formed substantially on the plan of Whately ; though the *treatment* will be found to differ very materially, in the *details* of the exposition. The classes carried through the study of Rhetoric by the author, will recognize the book, as substantially a condensed *reproduction* of the teachings of the CLASS ROOM. The author has not hesitated, however, to use any materials or suggestion, supplied by other Books in use,—common or otherwise— ; setting them, however, invariably,—except where they may be expressly quoted,—in new relations, which seemed to be better adapted to meet the uses of the student.

Besides the masterly work of Whately, there are two others, which have rendered so much *suggestive* assistance,—though neither of them much that is express, or formal—as to deserve a somewhat *special mention*, in this connexion ; viz : ELOQUENCE A VIRTUE, or OUTLINES OF A SYSTEMATIC RHETORIC, *Translated from the German of DR. FRANCIS THEREMIN*, by PROF. WILLIAM G. T. SHEDD,—now of Andover :—and ELEMENTS OF THE ART OF RHETORIC : by ~~W. G. T. Shedd~~  
DAY, of Hudson, O.

If the student would lay his account to *master* the latter work, in its *complete* and *exhaustive classifications*,—and especially on the

subject of INVENTION,—it would prove a *highly educating Book*. For a *general TEXT BOOK*, on *the whole subject of RHETORIC*, however, it has proved so philosophic, and technical, and complex, that it has been found difficult, to induce that complete mastery of it,—at least by a considerable portion of the Class,—on which *its value*, chiefly depends. Instead, therefore, of introducing it as a Text Book, for the final study of the subject, we prefer to use it, as a text-book, only in the earlier study, of THE PART, which treats of STYLE; and then recommend it, in connexion with the work of TERREMIN, for the careful *private study* of the Class, together with the TEXT BOOK now submitted, as a preparation for the recitations of the Class room.

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