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THE

# RHETORICAL READER;

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CONSISTING OF

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGULATING THE VOICE,

WITH A

RHETORICAL NOTATION,

ILLUSTRATING INFLECTION, EMPHASIS, AND MODULATION;

AND A COURSE OF

RHETORICAL EXERCISES.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF ACADEMIES AND HIGH-SCHOOLS.

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One Hundredth Edition, with an Appendix.

NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY DAYTON & SAXTON,

SCHOOL BOOK PUBLISHERS,

Corner of Fulton and Nassau Streets.

Allan, Morrill & Wardwell, Printers, Andover.

1841.

PN4111

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1841

ENTERED,

According to the Act of Congress, in the year 1835. by

FLAGG & GOULD

In the Clerk's office of the District Court of Massachusetts  
Exchange

Univ. of Mich.

JUN 20 1933

STEREOTYPED BY F. F. RIPLEY,

21 10 49

## PREFACE.

THOUGH for many years after I began to investigate the principles of rhetorical delivery, I had no intention of writing any thing on the subject for publication, I was at last drawn into this measure, gradually and almost unavoidably. The bad habits in elocution, acquired by many educated young men, and confirmed, with little regard to consequences, as they passed from one stage of education to another, it was easy to see must become at once equally conspicuous and injurious, so soon as they should pass from academical life into a public profession in which good speaking is a prime instrument of usefulness. The last Seminary too which had them in charge, would, by a misapprehension not very unnatural, be made responsible, not merely for its own proportion, out for the whole of these defects. The only remedy for habits thus firmly established, obviously must lie in a patient, elementary process, adapted to form new habits. After a sufficient experiment to satisfy me that Walker's elements, as a text book, could not answer this purpose, I prepared a course of Lectures on the subject. One of these, "on Vocal Inflections," I consented to print, at the request and for the use of the Theological Students, to whom it had been read; but without any intention that it should be *published*. The pamphlet, however, went abroad, and led to applications from respectable gentlemen, connected with colleges and other literary institutions, that I would prepare a book of the same description, to be used in this department of a liberal education. Accordingly I did prepare the "ANALYSIS OF RHETORICAL DELIVERY."

The preparation of that work, my own use of it as a Teacher, and the testimony of others, who had used it, con-

vinced me, soon after its publication, that the chief principles it contains may be understood and applied by pupils much *younger* than those I had originally contemplated. Teachers of Academies and High Schools, who professed to have derived much assistance from the ANALYSIS, urged me to prepare a cheaper book, on the same plan, adapted to the use of their pupils. This I promised to do, should health and engagements permit; but the execution has been delayed, as involving a sacrifice of the time which I earnestly wished to devote to the more appropriate and sacred duties of my office; and had not one branch of these duties rendered me necessarily familiar with the general subject of this volume, the purpose must have been relinquished.

I have been the more cheerful, however, in this undertaking, from a full conviction that whatever is accomplished on this subject in classical schools, is a clear gain to professional education for the pulpit. To no possible case, more than to this, is the maxim applicable, "Prevention is easier than cure." Faults which almost defy correction, might easily have been avoided by skill and pains in forming the early habits.

I am aware that there is already an ample supply of books, which furnish excellent reading lessons, without professing to give any instruction in the *art of reading*. But the want of an elementary book, for common use, in which the *principles* of this art should be laid down, with Rhetorical Exercises, selected expressly to illustrate these principles, has been extensively felt as a great deficiency. The RHETORICAL READER is intended to supply this deficiency. The first third of its matter, is an abridgement of the ANALYSIS, though with new discussion and elucidation of some important principles which will be found chiefly under the articles, *Reading*,—*Emphatic Inflection*,—*Quantity*,—and *Compass of Voice*. In respect to about two thirds of its contents, the book is new; including the original matter just mentioned, and a

new selection of exercises for Part II. This selection has been made with much care and from an extensive range of writers, British and American. In making it, regard has been paid, first to the *moral sentiment* of the pieces, as suited to make a safe and useful impression on the young; next to that *rhetorical execution* which may elevate their taste; and finally, to such *variety* and *vivacity*, in the subjects and kinds of composition, as may sustain an undiminished interest throughout.

To attain *brevity* in each Exercise, the connexion of the writer has sometimes been broken by omissions longer or shorter, without notice; the mention of which fact in this manner, I hope may be sufficient, without further apology.

A word of explanation is necessary on another point. It was my intention to include in the Exercises, Part II. a greater proportion of extracts from the Bible, than I have done in Part I.; both because I think it furnishes many of the best lessons for rhetorical reading; and because the book which, more than all others, is adapted to promote the sanctification and salvation of the young, has been too much neglected in all departments of education. But as I wished to make this selection, not for the young merely, but also with a special view to those who are called to read the Bible as heads of families, or still more publicly, as preachers of the gospel, sufficient room for it could not be found in the present volume. I therefore concluded to defer this part of my plan, with the hope that I may compile a separate collection of **BIBLICAL EXERCISES**, of perhaps 150 pages, to which a rhetorical notation will be applied, and which may be a proper sequel both to the **ANALYSIS**, and **RHETORICAL READER**.

Should this little book be found useful in advancing the interests of Christian Education, the best wishes of its author will be answered.

E. PORTER.

Theological Seminary,  
Andover, May 1831.

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How ardent I seized it with hands that were glowing,  
 And quick to the white pebbled bottom it fell;  
 Then soon, with the emblem of truth overflowing,  
 And dripping with coolness, it rose from the well;  
 The old oaken bucket—the iron-bound bucket—  
 The moss-covered bucket arose from the well.

- 3 How sweet from the green mossy brim to receive it,  
 As poised on the curb, it inclined to my lips!  
 Not a full, blushing goblet could tempt me to leave it,  
 Though filled with the nectar that Jupiter sips.  
 And now, far removed from that lov'd situation,  
 The tear of regret will intrusively swell,  
 As fancy reverts to my father's plantation,  
 And sighs for the bucket which hangs in the well;  
 The old oaken bucket—the iron-bound bucket—  
 The moss-covered bucket, which hangs in the well

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EXERCISE 55.

*Anecdote of Judge Marshall.*—WINCHESTER REPUBLICAN

- It is not long since a gentleman was travelling in one of the counties of Virginia, and about the close of the day stopped at a public house, to obtain refreshment and spend the night. He had been there but a short time, before an old man alighted from his gig, with the apparent intention of becoming his fellow guest, at the same house. As the old man drove up, he observed that both the shafts of his gig were broken, and that they were held together by withes formed from the bark of a hickory sapling.—
- 10 Our traveller observed further, that he was plainly clad, that his kneebuckles were loosened and that something like negligence pervaded his dress. Conceiving him to be one of the honest yeomanry of our land, the courtesies of strangers passed between them, and they entered
- 15 the tavern. It was about the same time that an addition of three or four young gentlemen was made to their number—most, if not all of them of the legal profession. As soon as they became conveniently accommodated, the conversation was turned by one of the latter upon
- 20 an eloquent harangue which had that day been displayed at the bar. It was replied by the other, that he had witnessed the same day, a degree of eloquence, no doubt

equal, but that it was from the pulpit. Something like a sarcastic rejoinder was made to the eloquence of the  
25 pulpit; and a warm and able altercation ensued, in which the merits of the Christian religion became the subject of discussion.—From six o'clock, until eleven, the young champions wielded the sword of argument, adducing with ingenuity and ability every thing that  
30 could be said pro and con. During this protracted period, the old gentleman listened with all the meekness and modesty of a child; as if he was adding new information to the stores of his own mind; or perhaps he was observing with philosophic eye the faculties of the  
35 youthful mind, and how new energies are evolved by repeated action; or, perhaps, with patriotic emotion, he was reflecting upon the future destinies of his country, and on the rising generation upon whom these future destinies must devolve; or, most probably, with a senti-  
40 ment of moral and religious feeling, he was collecting an argument which, (characteristic of himself) no art would be "able to elude, and no force to resist." Our traveller remained a spectator, and took no part in what was said.

45 At last, one of the young men, remarking that it was impossible to combat with long and established prejudices, wheeled around, and with some familiarity, exclaimed, "Well, my old gentleman, what think you of these things?" If, said the traveller, a streak of vivid  
50 lightning had at that moment crossed the room, their amazement could not have been greater than it was with what followed. The most eloquent and unanswerable appeal was made for nearly an hour, by the old gentleman, that he ever heard or read. So perfect was  
55 his recollection, that every argument urged against the Christian religion was met in the order in which it was advanced. Hume's sophistry on the subject of miracles, was, if possible, more perfectly answered, than it had already been done by Campbell. And in the whole  
60 lecture there was so much simplicity and energy, pathos and sublimity, that not another word was uttered. An attempt to describe it, said the traveller, would be an attempt to paint the sunbeams. It was now a matter of curiosity and inquiry, who the old gentleman was. The  
65 traveller concluded that it was the preacher from whom



the pulpit eloquence was heard—but no—it was the  
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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EXERCISE 56.

*The First and Last Ticket.*—MANUSCRIPT OF A CRIMINAL.

PART I.

My first ticket was a blank. I was persuaded by a friend to buy it, who tempted me by holding up to view the glittering prize, and exciting my hopes of obtaining it. I was not disappointed at the result of my purchase, 5 although a curse involuntarily burst from my lips when I first learned it. I hardly thought of drawing a high prize; yet the possibility of being so fortunate kept my mind in a constant, burning excitement. I was a young man then, and could ill afford to lose the cost of the 10 ticket. However, I comforted myself with the reflection, that experience must be paid for. I also made a determination that I would not be so foolish again. I kept it unbroken for six months: yet all that time there was a whispering in my ear—“*try again, you may be* 15 *more fortunate.*” It was the whispering of my evil genius—and I obeyed it. I bought part of a ticket and drew five hundred. I had previously to this, being in a good situation, and with every prospect of *doing well* in the world, engaged myself to Eliza Berton, a young lady 20 who had long possessed my affections. She was one ———— no, I will not, I cannot speak of her as she *was*. Well, shortly after my good fortune—I should say *misfortune*—I married her. I was considerably elated with my luck, and treated my friends freely. I did 25 not however buy any tickets at that time, though strongly urged. One evening, after I had been married some months, I went out to visit a friend, intending to return in the course of an hour. On the way to my friend’s house, I passed a lottery office. It was brilliantly light- 30 ed up, and in the windows were temptingly displayed schemes of chance, and invitations to purchase. I had not tried my luck since my marriage, and had given up buying tickets. As I passed by the window of the office my eye caught the following, in illuminated letters 35 and figures—“\$10,000 prize will be heard from this