

BEFORE AN AUDIENCE;

H. C. 1871

OR,

THE USE OF THE WILL IN PUBLIC SPEAKING.

TALKS TO THE STUDENTS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

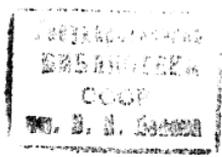
BY

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Dedicated
TO THE MEMORY OF
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PRINCIPAL OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF ST.
ANDREWS, BUT FOR WHOSE WORDS OF COMMEN-
DATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT THESE
TALKS WOULD NEVER HAVE
BEEN PUBLISHED

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INTRODUCTORY.

WHEN I was lecturing in Great Britain I gave these talks on Public Speaking to the students of the University of St. Andrews and the students of the University of Aberdeen. I was so much encouraged by the commendation they received from, not only the students, but the principals and professors who did me the honor to attend, that I continued to give them at other universities and colleges, notably at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., where I spent some of the happiest hours of my life as a lecturer and teacher.

They were fragmentary then, they are fragmentary now. So is all truth, so are all facts.

What I say in these talks I say from experience, from a long, hard-earned, and painful experience. I know something of the ecstasy that accompanies success, and I have had my share of the torture that comes with failure in this perplexing and elusive art.

When I made up my mind to devote my mind and body to public speaking, I was told by my tutors and governors that I would certainly fail; that my articulation was a failure, and it was; that my voice was feeble, and it was; that my organs of speech were inadequate, and they were; and that if I would screw up my little mouth it could be put into my mother's thimble, and it could. Stinging words these certainly were, and cruel ones. I shall never forget them; possibly,