



Manual of Gesture: Embracing a Complete System of Notation, Together With the Principles of Interpretation and Selections for Practice (Classic Reprint)

Albert M. Bacon

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Excerpt from Manual of Gesture: Embracing a Complete System of Notation, Together With the Principles of Interpretation and Selections for Practice

Agreeable sounds and harmonious action one addressing the ear, and the other the eye combine to perfect the orator.

In the department of vocal culture there is no lack of text-books. Dr. Rush, in his masterly work entitled *The Philosophy of the Human Voice*, has furnished the most ample facilities for the cultivation of the vocal powers; and for those who find his book too elaborate, Prof. William Russell has published his *Orthophony: or. Vocal Culture*, in which the subject is rendered simple and practical. These, and other similar works, furnish the requisite means of acquiring the principles and rules of vocal culture.

With respect to the department of gesture, however, the case is far different. The want of a complete text-book is seriously felt by the student of oratory. To this want the deficiency of public speakers quite generally, in regard to this subject, is mainly attributable.

Among the writers of antiquity, Quintilian, in his *Institutes of Oratory*, has written the most and the best upon this subject.

Rev. Gilbert Austin, an eminent elocutionist of London, issued in A. D. 1806 his *Chironomia*, a quarto volume of six hundred pages, more than two-thirds of which is devoted to the subject of gesture. This is the most valuable as well as the most extensive, treatise ever written upon this branch of oratory.

The present volume is based upon the work of Mr. Austin. The system of notation here adopted is substantially the same as that invented by him, and contained in the *Chironomia*.

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