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Rev. F. Jos. Humbrecht
Dec. 1880

Charles Humbrecht



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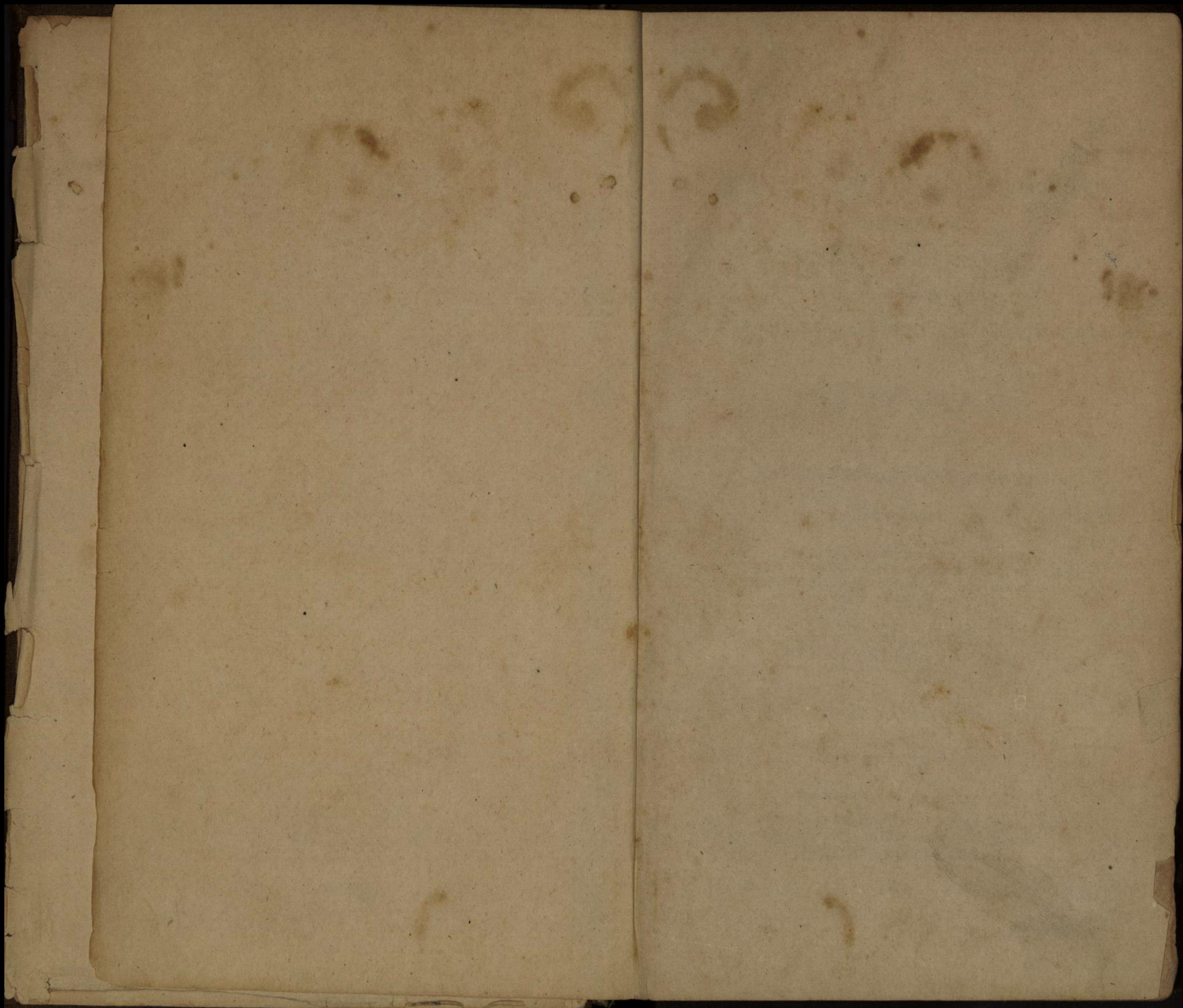
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F. Os. Humbrecht
Dec. 1880

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A. B. B.
H. M.

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Language

ELOCUTION

OR,

MENTAL AND VOCAL PHILOSOPHY:

INVOLVING THE PRINCIPLES OF

READING AND SPEAKING:

AND DESIGNED

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTIVATION

OF

BOTH BODY AND MIND,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

NATURE, USES, AND DESTINY OF MAN:

ILLUSTRATED BY

TWO OR THREE HUNDRED CHOICE ANECDOTES;
THREE THOUSAND ORATORICAL AND POETICAL READINGS; FIVE THOUSAND
PROVERBS, MAXIMS AND LACONICS, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED
ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

BY PROF. BRONSON, A. M., M. D.

FIFTH EDITION.—SIXTEENTH THOUSAND.

NEW YORK: A. S. BARNES & CO.
PHILADELPHIA: THOMAS, COPPERTHWAIT & CO., AND
GRIGG & ELLIOTT.—BOSTON: OTIS BROADERS & CO.
LOUISVILLE, KY.: MORTON & GRISWOLD.

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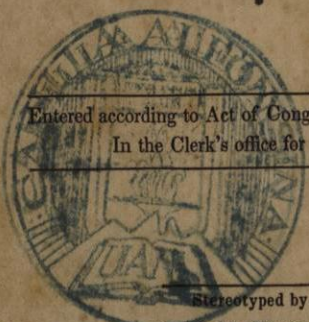
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THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THIS SYSTEM.

SOME years ago, the Author was extensively engaged as a Public Speaker; and, in consequence of the habit of speaking, principally, with the muscles of the throat and breast, he finally broke down,—falling senseless, after speaking about an hour and a half: that was followed by a protracted illness; during which, he providentially discovered the *Causes*, and also the *Remedies*, of the difficulties under which he had labored; and now, for months in succession, by the aid of these principles, he often speaks from six to ten hours a day, without the least inconvenience: the principal cause of which is, that the effort is made from the dorsal and abdominal region. Few are aware of the comprehensive nature of the principles here partially unfolded; and probably the Author would now be in a similar state, had it not been for the teachings afforded by children and Indians. To secure a perfectly healthy distribution of the vital fluids throughout the body, and a free and powerful activity of the mind, there must be a full and synchronous action in the *brain*, the *lungs*, and the viscera of the abdomen; the soul operating, naturally, on the dorsal and abdominal muscles, and thus setting in motion the whole body.

That he was the first to teach the specific use of those muscles, for a healthy breathing, and the exercise of the vocal organs, as well as blowing on wind instruments for hours together, without injury, he has not the least doubt; and, if any person will produce evidence to the contrary, from any medical writer, or teacher of elocution, previous to 1830, he shall be handsomely rewarded. The time is fast approaching, when this, and its kindred subjects, will be duly appreciated; and it will be seen and felt, that without a practical knowledge of these important principles, no one can become a successful speaker, or teacher: and the opinion is advisedly expressed, that they will produce as great a revolution in regard to the promotion of health, the art of reading and speaking with science and effect, and the perfect development and cultivation of mind, voice, and ear,—as the discovery of the mariner's compass, or the invention of the steam engine, in navigation, manufacture, and travel;—and, to be the *medium* of introducing such a system, by which so many thousands have been greatly benefited, and hundreds of lives saved, is the occasion of devout gratitude to the INFINITE AUTHOR of all that is GOOD and TRUE.



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See the last Page.

Testimonials and References.

Five classes were formed in the Academical department of Yale College, and three in the Theological Department. The following is an extract from the testimonials of the latter:

Resolved, That we consider his system exceedingly well adapted to develop and train the voice, and give expression to the passions; and we believe it calculated to promote the health of public speakers. Being persuaded that we have derived *essential advantage* from his instructions, we hereby express our thanks for the assiduity and skill with which he has directed us in our practice, and most cordially recommend him to the patronage of all who would cultivate their voices with a view to public speaking.

EXTRACT—From Professors of Princeton College and Theological Seminary, N. J.—“We have had good opportunities for witnessing the success of Mr. Bronson. His method of using the organs of speech with most advantage, is preferable to any we have known. He is distinguished from other teachers of elocution by the fact, that instead of trying to impart his own style of declamation, he aims at cultivating the voice, and then leaves the pupil to *nature*.”

EXTRACT—From the Rev. Mr. Bingham, Marietta, O. to Professor Stuart, Andover, Mass.—“Will you permit me to introduce to your acquaintance, Prof. Bronson, a popular and successful Lecturer on Elocution. He has been for some time past, lecturing to the Professors and students in this College. As a Lecturer on Elocution I have never seen his superior. Our Professors, who have been under the instruction of Dr. Barber, say the same. He has made his subject one of very thorough study—and, what is best of all, he has studied *Nature*.”

EXTRACT—From the Faculty of Marietta College, Ohio.—“Prof. Bronson has just closed a very successful course of instruction on Elocution in this institution. The principles which he teaches appear to be founded on a philosophical view of man. His illustrations are copious and pertinent; and in his labors to train the voice and develop and cultivate the *affections* and *passions* he is indefatigable. His whole course of instruction is marked by a rigid reference to *Nature*, and is truly simple and unaffected. We take pleasure in recommending him to an intelligent community.”

PROF. BRONSON is a gentleman of much originality of thought, extensive reading and remarkable powers. His Lectures, beyond the charm of novelty, are very interesting.—*Albany Evening Journal*.

We warmly recommend Prof. Bronson's reading and recitations to the attention of all those who are partial to effectual and powerful elocution. They are an excellent substitute for dramatic exhibitions.—*Daily Signal, N. Y.*

We feel anxious that a knowledge of Mr. Bronson's peculiar views should be extended, believing them highly important, not only in juvenile education, but to the professional speaker.—*National Gazette, Philadelphia.*

Prof. BRONSON's new theory in relation to the science of Elocution, is, in our judgment, founded in truth, the author being a practical illustration of the soundness of his doctrine.—*Oneida Whig, (Utica) N. Y.*

From the Philadelphia Daily World.
We render no more than justice in pronouncing Prof. Bronson's Recitations the best we ever heard. His recitation of “The Maniac,” by Lewis, was terrific. We never before saw confirmed, hopeless raving insanity so thoroughly counterfeited by any actor. In the course of his recitations he explains his discoveries (for such they are,) in Elocution.

From the Rev. Mr. Cook, of Hartford, Conn., who received only twelve lessons.

PROF. BRONSON—Dear Sir—My Physician, Dr. Sherwood, of N. Y., directed me to you for aid in recovering the use of my voice. A habit of speaking solely with the muscles of my breast and throat, attributable in part at least to Dr. Barber's instruc-

tion, combined with other causes, produced bronchitis, from which I have been suffering more than 18 months. By your directions, I can speak and sing freely without irritating my throat. My voice has its natural tone and compass; and I have the delightful prospect of soon resuming my accustomed labors.

“Professor Bronson's Recitations are the best we ever heard.”—*National Intelligencer.*

Prof. Bronson's Lectures and Recitations, have given universal delight.—*Louisville Journals.*

“The Recitations of Mr. Bronson, are almost perfect.”—*Baltimore Athenaeum and Visitor.*

“Mr. Bronson's success has been most complete.”—*U. S. Gazette.*

“Mr. B. exhibits with surprising ease and power the wonderful capabilities of the human voice, and illustrates convincingly the practicability and importance of cultivating its powers.—Teachers, public speakers, and the youth of both sexes, should avail themselves of this opportunity.”—*Newark Adv.*

“His superior as a speaker, we have yet to meet, either at the bar, in the pulpit, or on the floor of a legislative body.”—*Ohio State Journal, Columbus.*

A lady, (Mrs. G. of Boston,) says—“Having been much injured by tight lacing when very young and also by keeping in a bent position at school for years, I was bent forward in such a manner as to suppose I was afflicted with permanent distortion of the spine. Still I resolved to join the class, and prove the truth or falsehood of professor B's. predictions, that I should become straight by faithfully attending to the principles. In a few days I was restored.”

EXTRACT—Letter from a distinguished lady in Boston. “Prof. Bronson; Sir—I wish to express to you my grateful acknowledgements for the great benefit I have received from your system. I have for many years been afflicted with extreme weakness of the lungs, which *fatigue*, either in *exercise*, conversation or reading, produced not only hoarseness, but loss of voice. I have found, upon trial, my expectations more than realized. I can now, with perfect ease, converse, or read aloud, *hour after hour* without the least fatigue.”

At the close of his Lectures in the Apollo, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by a crowded house of ticket-holders:

Resolved, That the thanks of the members of this meeting be presented to Prof. BRONSON for his successful efforts (in connection with Mr. F. H. Nash, his Assistant,) to interest, amuse and instruct them. They conclude, by expressing their high admiration of Prof. Bronson's sincerity, zeal and ability in the cause of truth and humanity, and tending to him their best wishes, that success and prosperity may attend him in his noble and generous enterprise. AMOS BELDEN, Chairman. E. PARMLY, Secretary.

At a meeting of the Classes, the Rev. CHARLES G. SOMMERS, Chairman, and Dr AMOS JOHNSON, Secretary, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Ladies and Gentlemen, who have attended a series of Lessons and Lectures, by Prof. BRONSON, on Elocution, Music and Physiology, feel great pleasure in expressing their high sense of his urbanity, uncompromising regard for truth, as the basis of Religion and sound Philoosophy; as well as their entire belief that his method of imparting knowledge is as *natural* and *interesting*, as it is *novel*; and that it is admirably calculated to promote the health of the *Body*, and the improvement of the *Mind*. The Classes desire also to express their indebtedness to Mr NASH, Prof. B.'s accomplished Associate, whose critical knowledge of VOCAL SCIENCE, so happily connected with unusual Melody and Power of Voice, eminently qualifies him for an Instructor in Music.