March 4th 1872

My Dear Old Friend,

It has been so long since we saw each other, and so many have been the vicissitudes with varying fortune, through which we have passed, that I fear you have forgotten me. I have often and often thought of writing you, and having had the brain to conceive, I shall now summon up the energy to carry the idea into successful execution. And I must warn you in advance that I do so not with any hope of interest you in the least, but from the very selfish motive of hearing from you in particular, and through you from many of my good old friends, in all of whom I feel an interest which time has in no wise dimmed. It has been my bad fortune to be cast, ever since we graduated, far from the busy scenes of life and activity, and off the great highways of travel in a comparatively retired portion of our great Country, and hence I have met none of the good old fellows with whom I spent four years as pleasantly, and for all of whom I have always felt the warmest friendship. In 1859 I met Stuart, and he is the only one of the class whom I have met since January 55 when in Washington on my way home after resigning. Death has claimed many a one of them; one half don’t you suppose? and of the few who are left Eony.
occasionally hear from you and
Bustus through the books.
Not long after resigning me
from 55 I married a N. lady,
and came out to this country
where I have resided since.
Sickness forced me to teach which
I have done since 67. I have
had a Professorship of Mathematics
in a Male College here and super-
sident of some energy have succeeded
in keeping our body together
for myself and family which
is something of a work too for
I would have you know that
I am the paternal of just
Six, 5 boys and 1 girl. Have you
gone and done likewise? If so
I have never heard it, and I have
a suspicion that my good friend
Howard is still a poor, lonely,
devoted fraction of fanatic at
Talladega.
Treasury Department,  
Internal Revenue Bureau,  
Washington, March 17, 1872.

Dear Sir:  

Gentleman:  

Best of all applicants for Puisne Agent at Portland, a vacancy occurs on the 20th. All the Solicitor want have appointed, so the solicitor is active filling up this case in due course.  

Our mutual friend, Mr. Frye, in his decision to have the appointment made.
Send a letter to Mr. Fayre in my name to his behalf. I am close a copy of what I have again to add. You know I would not ask you to recommend any, but a responsible man.

I would call personally into account in the affair. Am glad to see that you,

Delane has got on the right trail of the Apache.

For luck

Yours truly

[Inscribed:}
To the President,

I have the honor to recommend Gen. Geo. B. Beal for the appointment of Collector Agent for the Western District of Maine. Gen. Beal served with distinction in the Civil War, and is one of the representative Senators of Maine. He is a gentleman of integrity and ability and a staunch Republican. His appointment would be very gratifying to the Senator of Maine.
Lincoln Hall," in this building, is the most elegant and commodious in the city; it is furnished with the "Booth Opera Chair," and will seat about 1,400; it may be rented on moderate terms for concerts, lectures, readings, public meetings, &c.

Washington, D.C., March 14, 1872

Sir,

Your communication of / 1st, including letter of Mr. Huntington carbon in reference to certificates of the stock of Joint Stock Company now held by Mr. [Philemon?] for $2,000. I beg leave to state that I have been Mr. Cooke in reference to calling a meeting as you suggest, and he says let the matter rest for the present or to that effect.

I have to state for your information that there is a sufficient amount of subscribers to pay what is due on account of the certificate. Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Cooke, and others are the subscribers. Several attempts have been made to collect these subscriptions. Except as to Mr. Cooke, who said to day that he would pay his when the others were received. I desire further to state that I paid $2,000 of the certificate to S. L. Eaton, leaving only $325 due with interest, and Mr. Browner owes the Joint Stock Co.
Joint Stock Company of the Young Men's Christian Association.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDING.
No. 3, First Floor, Corner of Ninth and D Streets.

"LINCOLN HALL," in this building, is the most elegant and commodious in the city; it is furnished with the "Booth Opera Chair," and will seat about 1,400; it may be rented on moderate terms for concerts, lectures, readings, public meetings, &c.

Washington, D.C., 18

[Handwritten text]

For rent (Hackeratt, Homan) about $200 which must be retained when this matter is settled.

At present you and all trouble yourself about it, and I have seen Mr. Scuray after Carsby. Mr. Hatt, you being about, can statute the time going to this.

I have this suggestion to make—let the subscribers be assigned to the Nat. Bank as payment of their claim.

Wishing you God speed on your approaching journey and every success to your health.

Ever yours truly,

A. S. Pratt
Porter & Coates,
Publishers, Booksellers and Importers,
No. 822 Chestnut Street.
Philadelphia, Mar. 4, 1872.

Gentl. C.O. Howard
Howard University, Washington, D.C.

After some little time since we sent you through Mr. J.A. Hopkins, Bookseller of your City, Samples of our Speakers. You must certainly use books of this description & we should like to have a careful examination made of our books, feeling confident that it will prove their great superiority over all other Speakers in the market. We beg to call attention to the testimonials in the enclosed circulars.

Very truly,

Porter Coates
Testimonials

TO THE

Popular Speakers.

Published by

PORTER & COATES,
822 CHESTNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA.
Acknowledged by all who have examined them

TO BE

THE BEST SPEAKERS PUBLISHED.

The Young America Speaker, designed for the use of the younger classes in schools, lyceums, temperance societies, &c. By J. R. Sypher, author of a “School History of Pennsylvania,” “School History of New Jersey,” &c. 16mo, 176 pp. half-bound, cloth sides, 75 cents.

Opinions of the Press.

From the New Orleans Picayune.

“This little volume contains unexceptional selections of prose, poetry and dialogue. The selections evidence extensive reading, good taste and some experience with the predilections of young declaimers.”

From the Banner of the Church, Atlanta, Ga.

“An important and interesting addition to our school literature. The pieces presented in the work are well selected and they have this advantage—each piece is short, and will not too seriously strain the faculties of any student. Being short, a greater variety is presented than in most speakers now before the public.”
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The American Popular Speaker, designed for the use of schools, lyceums, temperance societies, &c., &c. By J. R. Sypher, author of “The Young America Speaker,” &c. 12mo. 384 pp. half-bound, cloth sides, $1.50.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
MILLERSVILLE, PA., Oct. 21, 1870.

MESSRS. PORTER & COATES:

GENTLEMEN:—I thank you for the copy of Sypher’s Speaker which you so kindly presented. I have examined it with considerable care, and am pleased with it. It is a valuable addition to our school speakers and should be in the hands of every common school teacher in the State. Exercises in declamation are among the very best means of giving literary culture, and I trust this work may do much to revive and perpetuate an interest in them. Present my compliments to the author for the taste and judgment he has exhibited in the selections.

Truly yours,

EDWARD BROOKS, A. M.,
Principal.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Chicago, Ills. Times,

“The Popular Speaker is a carefully compiled work of excellent selections in prose, poetry and dialogue, prefaced by a few practical introductions to the student, who may be preparing himself for declamation. The judgment used in culling the selections, and the systematic and convenient manner in which they are arranged, commend the book to the attention of all who may be desirous of procuring a work of its nature.”

From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 17, 1870.

“An excellent collection of prose and poetical pieces and dialogues, suitable for use by schools, lyceums, temperance societies, &c. Some practical instructions to beginners are well worthy of study, not only by inexperienced but by many experienced reciters.”

From the Portland Eastern Argus, Oct. 18, 1870.

“Admirably adapted to the purposes of declamation. We recognize many of the old standard pieces, with many also which we have not found in other similar compilations. The book is not encumbered with a multiplicity of rules and directions which serve to confuse and hinder the students rather than to help them; but a few simple, practical directions are given which are admirable, and all that are needed. We commend the volume to the attention of teachers and students as one of high merit.”
POPULAR SPEAKERS.

From the St. Louis, Mo. Republican.

"The selections in this book, both in prose and verse, are of the best character for the intended purpose. Some of them are very old, but they are none the worse for that, some are new and good too."

From the New Bedford Evening Standard, Oct. 25, 1870.

"Excellent selections of prose and poetry and dialogues. The subjects embrace every conceivable want for school declamations, with concise practical instructions for the speaker."

From the Western Christian Advocate, Cincinnati, Nov. 2, 1870.

"The work of selecting and arranging has been made with good judgment. The book, we should say, is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it has been prepared."

From the Daily Gazette, Cincinnati, Oct. 28, 1870.

"A meritorious contribution to the class of works to which it belongs. It is well printed, and the selections are generally fresh."

From the Indianapolis Evening News, Oct. 31, 1870.

"The selections are all choice ones, and calculated to teach good moral lessons, and to have a refining influence upon the taste and manners of the student."

The Comprehensive Speaker, designed for the use of schools, academies, lyceums, &c., carefully selected from the best authors, with notes by Henry T. Coates. Large 12mo, 672 pp. half-bound, cloth sides, $1.75.

Opinions of Eminent Teachers.

Haverford College, October 14th, 1871.

Coates' Comprehensive Speaker contains a large body of admirable selections from the best writers in prose and poetry, and is excellently adapted for the use of students. Sound judgment and good taste mark the compilation, and few books of the kind are so free from trash. I shall gladly recommend the work for the use of the students in Haverford College.

THOMAS CHASE,
Professor of Classics and Belles Letters, and Editor of Chase & Stuart's Classical Series.
Honesdale, Wayne Co., Pa., October 16th, 1871.

Permit me to thank you for the copy of Coates' Comprehensive Speaker which you sent me. I have carefully perused it, and think it superior to any of its nature I have used or examined. Your "Instructions on Expression and Gesture" meet my approval, and your "Useful Hints" are pointed and practical.

L. R. Fowler,
Principal of High School and Superintendent of Schools.

Erie, Pa., October 13th, 1871.

I am highly pleased with your Comprehensive Speaker. The selections are good in variety, correctness of text and freshness. The book is needed to take the place of those that present but little except hackneyed extracts.

H. S. Jones,
Superintendent of Schools.

Hightstown, N. J., Oct. 2d, 1871.

I have examined the copy of the Comprehensive Speaker, which I obtained of you a short time since. I consider it better than any Speaker I have ever used. One of the many excellencies of your work is, that the selections have not been worn out by repeated appearance upon the public stage. I have heartily recommended it to the students here.

Albert C. Hale,
New Jersey Classical and Scientific Institute.

Opinions of the Press.

From the New York Daily Tribune.

"It contains a judicious selection of pieces from the best authors, omitting all of doubtful morality, of a sectarian or political character, and of transient literary value. Great care has been taken in the selection of extracts to give the genuine text of the author, without the errors in quotation and punctuation which are such a frequent blemish in this class of school books. A large proportion of the contents are from American authors, furnishing the materials for a comparative survey of our native literature."

From the Philadelphia Press, Aug. 3, 1871.

"On careful examination, we do not hesitate to characterize it as the best compilation of its class that has ever come under our note. The merits of this large and valued collection are numerous. Hackneyed pieces have been carefully excluded, and political and sectarian pieces are not to be found in its pages. There are, of course, some humorous passages, in prose and verse, but none that are immoral or vulgar."

"The new compilation has succeeded in furnishing selections that have positive merit without objectionable matter, and that are worthy of being remembered. The text of these selections has been carefully corrected, and several essays on the graces of oratory happily point to what is most wanted. The selections are classified; and while they are from distinguished men of all ages, the number of secondary authors represented is not sufficient to overcome the buoyancy of the greater. The work is so full, so well discriminated, and so various, that it may well challenge place with any in forming our future Demosthenes and Websters."

From the Christian Union. (Henry Ward Beecher, Editor.)

"Of course the work of compiling such a book as this is involves difficulties which do not appear to the superficial critic. The enormous mass of available matter has to be winnowed with great care and judgment. The hackneyed extracts, which in the days of the old United States Speaker, were declaimed until every boy knew them by heart from simply hearing them, must be avoided; and yet it will not do to omit many of those thrilling passages in the Reply to Hayne, the Declaration of Independence and a hundred others. Mr. Coates has certainly done his task well and faithfully, and the introductory remarks which precede the body of the work, are characterized by good sense and are evidently the result of considerable thought and observation. The plan of the volume is a natural subdivision of the selections first into prose and poetry and then into narrative, historical, forensic, etc., the design evidently being that a reading class shall not go through, as it were, from Genesis to Revelations, but shall, in the judgment of the teacher, read "Mrs. Caudle on Lending Umbrellas" on a rainy afternoon, or the "Impeachment of Warren Hastings" when the public is excited about official corruptions. The selections are good so far as we have examined them,—and we have done so with considerable care,—being taken from the best current literature, as well as from that which will always be regarded as classical where the English tongue is spoken."

From the Sunday School Times. (Prof. John S. Hart, Editor.)

"We like this new book of selections for reading and speaking. It has great variety, fullness and freshness. The hackneyed pieces of the "Cassabianca" sort are not prominent. Of course, such as are classic in this kind of literature—the great standards for the purposes of juvenile forensic instruction—are not altogether omitted, but the discriminating compiler has not felt himself obliged to insert them all to the exclusion of multitudes of new and beautiful things that our more modern literature has produced. A good taste, and sound culture, and true refinement, have also been persistently kept in view, rigidly excluding everything in the shape of slang, no matter how popular and commonly used, or distantly approaching the vulgar or immoral. The whole selection is
admirable, critically accurate, and adapted for a wide use. The key to its practical value, we think, is supplied in the happy sentence in the preface, which shows that the compiler has labored from the true stand-point, and wedded the wisdom of maturer years and experience with the memories of his boyhood's needs. He says the volume he presents is just such as would suit his taste were it in his power to be "a boy again." We could wish for "Coates' Comprehensive Speaker" a wide introduction into the schools, academies and lyceums of the land."

The principal points in which this series excels all others are:

1st. Character of the Selections. The whole ground of English and American literature has been carefully gone over by gentlemen thoroughly conversant with the subject, and the result is a collection unsurpassed, as regards character, merit and diversity of the selections. Almost every prominent name in general and poetical literature having at least one representation within these covers. The Comprehensive Speaker alone contains pieces by 221 different authors, each one of whom is a classic.

2d. Morality. No piece containing any words of doubtful moral tendency are to be found in this series. Each piece may be read aloud in any family circle with perfect confidence.

3d. Politics. All political or sectarian pieces, or anything that would offend the prejudices of anyone have been rejected, excepting a few spirited war lyrics and speeches in The American Popular Speaker, containing so much merit in themselves that the compiler felt justified in admitting them. North and South, East and West, Protestant and Catholic can alike use these works with perfect security.

4th. Correctness of the Text. Each selection has been taken from the earliest and best editions whenever possible, and the proofs carefully read by skillful proof-readers. When we consider how often quotations learned in youth are apt to recur to us in after-years, it is especially important that what is learned then should be learned correctly, and this is attained by the use of this series.
5th. Punctuation. How often do we see the meaning of a sentence changed by the omission, transposition or addition of a comma. A small error in punctuation will often change the meaning of an important sentence. In order to obtain a thorough knowledge of the meaning of each selection, great care has been taken to have the text and punctuation just as the author wrote it.

6th. Arrangement. The selections are arranged under three heads: Prose, Poetry and Dialogues. In the Comprehensive Speaker these are subdivided into Patriotic, Popular, Senatorial, Eulogistic and Personal, Forensic, Moral and Didactic, Humorous and Satirical, Descriptive and Dramatic, Narrative, Martial, Reflective, &c., &c. The advantages of this will be apparent to every teacher.

7th. Elocution. The Young America Speaker and The American Popular Speaker contain short and useful hints on Elocution, containing the substance of volumes condensed into a few pages. The Comprehensive Speaker contains a valuable Essay on Gesture and Elocution, principally by J. E. Carpenter, the famous English Elocutionist. In short, it is believed that nothing will be found wanting, which can be of any assistance to the teacher or pupil.

8th. Notes. Believing that to speak well, it is absolutely necessary for the speaker to understand the circumstances under which it was originally written, and to know every subject alluded to in the text, the compiler of the Comprehensive Speaker has appended copious and valuable notes, fully explaining the text. To the teacher this will be invaluable, as it will enable him to answer the otherwise troublesome questions so often asked by the intelligent pupil.

9th. Mechanical Execution. All the books are printed in large, clear type, on fine white paper, and bound in the strongest and best manner.

10th. Binding. These books are better and stronger bound than the publications of any other house, with a single exception, who use the same kind of leather, and are guaranteed to last twice as long as ordinary binding. It is next to impossible to tear the leather.
division of the selections into prose and poetry, and the inclusion of historical, biographical, and practical pieces, the design evidently being that of a reading class shall not go unnoticed. The book is divided into three main sections: Selections, Notes, and Index. The selections are arranged in such a way that they cover a wide range of topics, from literature to science, from history to philosophy. The book is also divided into parts, each with its own title and subtitle, which makes it easy to locate specific selections.

The book is well-organized and easy to use. The selections are numbered and referenced throughout the text, making it easy to follow along and refer back to specific passages. The notes are also well-written and insightful, providing valuable context and commentary on the selections. The index at the end of the book is comprehensive and easy to use, allowing for quick access to specific topics and themes.

Overall, the book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in literature and the arts. It is well-written, well-researched, and easy to use, making it an ideal companion for both students and teachers.

THE COMPREHENSIVE SPEAKER

Designed for the use of Schools, Academies, Lyceums, &c.

CAREFULLY SELECTED FROM THE BEST AUTHORS.

With Notes by HENRY T. COATES,

Large 12mo, 679 pages. Half-bound, Cloth Sides, $1.75.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT TEACHERS.

Haverford College, Oct. 14, 1871.

Cates' Comprehensive Speaker contains a large body of valuable selections from the best writers of prose and poetry, and is excellently adapted for the use of students. Sound judgment and good taste mark the compilation, and a few weeks ago, in the hands of our students, it was unanimously recommended as a standard work, and shall greatly recommend the work for the use of the students in Haverford College.

THOMAS CHASE,
Professor of Chemistry and Professor of New School's Classical School.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22, 1872.

I am much pleased with the "Comprehensive Speaker," a copy of which I received from you a few weeks ago. It has found its way into many hands, and I am confident that it will continue to be a valuable addition to the schools.

H. T. LAUDERBACH,
Principal of the "Lincoln School."

No. 121 Chestnut Street.

Chester, Pa., Dec. 29, 1871.

Your "Comprehensive Speaker" has been in use at the Pennsylvania Military Academy for some months, and I am happy to say that it has been received with the highest praise. The book is well-organized, and the notes are excellent. I believe it will prove a great aid in the teaching of literature.
THE COMPREHENSIVE SPEAKER.

CANTON, N.Y., Nov. 13, 1871.

Through the kindness of Messrs. Porter Coates I am favored with an opportunity of examining their series of Speakers. I have some time desired a more complete compilation of extracts from the best authors, on all the main points of morality, of a sectarian or political character, and of the highest literary value. Great care has been taken at the selection of extracts to give the genuine text of the author, without the errors in quotation and punctuation which are so common. The publication of this work has been a labor of love, and the collection of the materials for it has been a work of devotion. The series of Speakers is a noble contribution to the literature of our times, and is a work of great service to the cause of truth and righteousness.

W. W. THOMPSON,
Superintendent Union Academy & Union Preparatory School.

Opinions of the Press.

The New York Daily Tribune.

"It contains a judicious selection of pieces from the best authors, on all the main points of morality, of a sectarian or political character, and of the highest literary value. Great care has been taken at the selection of extracts to give the genuine text of the author, without the errors in quotation and punctuation which are so common in the publications of our times. The series of Speakers is a noble contribution to the literature of our times, and is a work of great service to the cause of truth and righteousness."

Worcester (Massachusetts Spy).

"Mr. Coates knows how to select what is good, and he has made an unusually good book. He has selected the best and most instructive of the daily papers, and has arranged them in a way that makes them easy to read."

Catholic Standard, Philadelphia.

"There is a freshness about this Speaker that is very pleasant. Many of the old, hackneyed pieces are thrown aside, and they are replaced by a variety of new ones, equally good. The prose and poetical selections are all equally good, and there is not a single, small amount of historical or other material."

The Methodist, New York.

"Coates' Comprehensive Speaker deserves notice for its value as an introduction, giving in condensed form the best rules of conduct. It presents a series of short and well-chosen pieces, which are arranged in a manner that makes them easy to read."


"This work is the result of careful selection and editing. The extracts are well chosen, and they are arranged in a way that makes them easy to read. The work is a valuable contribution to the literature of our times, and is a work of great service to the cause of truth and righteousness."
Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

Incorporated by Special Act of the General Assembly of Virginia.
Opened April, 1868.

S. C. Armstrong, Principal.
J. F. B. Marshall, Treasurer.
Miss Jane Stuart Woolsey, Manager Girls' Industrial Dept.
Albert Howe, Farm Manager.

Hampton, Va. Mar. 4th, 1872

Sir:

You are requested to attend a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of this Institution, duly called, to be held in the Rooms of the American Missionary Association, 59 Reade St., New York City, on Wednesday, March 20th, at nine o'clock, to consider the question of accepting from the American Missionary Association the property at Hampton, Va., with the conditions changed from
those agreed upon at the last meeting to these:

"That the Institution shall always be conducted on evangelical principles as interpreted by the present constitution."

Yours Respectfully,

[Signature]

To Gen. O.O. Howard

[Signature]
Potomac City, November 4th, 1872

Gentlemen of the Board of Education,

Dr. Sir,

This will inform you that there is an attempt by a number of persons here, through one T. A. Young, to create a sensation against the trustees of the Barry farm fund by sending a memorial to Congress purporting that they (the trustees) are being defrauded of a portion of their lots. The same being charged to them by the supposed trustees, the petition is not a fair representation of the sentiments of the property holders. At a meeting of the citizens of Potomac City on Tuesday night last, the action of Young and his cohorts was condemned and the action of the trustees of the Barry farm fund was unanimously endorsed. Whether

Yours,

[Signature]
Pursue, I am confident that they will signally fail as there is in my opinion no truth in their statement. I merely write this to let you know that we have a remnant of that poisonous reptile in our midst. I will feel sure that the trustees will be able to bruise his head though it may bite their heels. With many thanks as an individual for your effort for the advancement of the African American Race.

I remain respectfully,
E. Matthews.

Note
I hope the trustees will consent to buy up some more of the Waddy Land here and let it over to the Race.
March 4th, 1872

GEO. B. HOWARD

Sir,

I should like to see you before you leave for Arizona, if possible to you, will you please tell me when and where I can see you for say 30 minutes. I know you are very busy and so am I, I have an engagement to send you and save my time as well.

Very respectfully your old friend,

Thomas H. Dorsey

Secretary
Washington, March 4, 1872

My dear General:

On today, during the discussion of an Appropriations Bill, the House of Reps. caused to be read the memorial to which you called my attention, in our conversations and your letter of 28 Feb. I handed your letter to Mr. Brooks & Upham, (a member of my Committee), which after some remarks he sent to the Clerk's desk and had read. I wrote a forwarding note for the Globe containing the proceedings. The Memorial price is only a few cents. if I can accomplish it, I will send to the Freedmen's Committee where you may have justice.

Yours very truly,

C. L. Cobb

P.S. Pardon me for reminding you of the Bibles. I repeat the Capt. It today to remind you of my request. They are much needed.
Washington, D.C. March 4, 1872

Gen. O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

An old friend and confidant of mine desires me to ask you if you can accommodate me in any way with the University of Vermont, in regard to a late distinguished lawyer of yours.
I refer to John I. Lake.

I see that the letters you are likely to leave come from Will. Can you please inform me whether I can use all your telephone. It will be of any use to do so?

Very truly yours,

W. E. Lansing