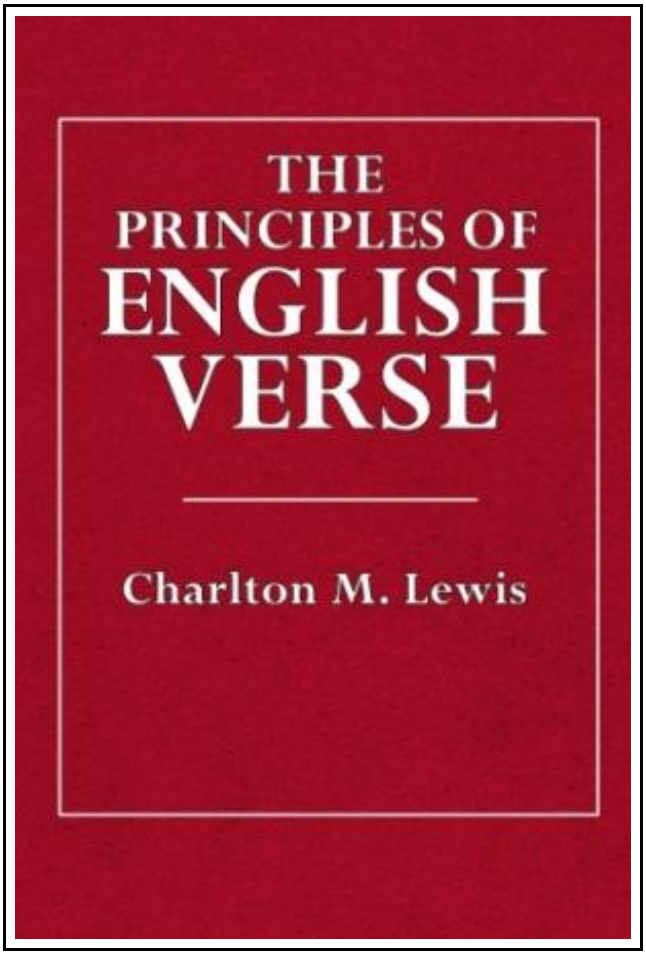
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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.An excerpt from Chapter I. Rhythm and Metre If you pronounce these two sentences: She told me she was sixteen years of age, and She said her age was just sixteen, you will almost certainly pronounce sixteen with the accent on six in the first case and on -teen in the second. So when you say That judgment was unjust, you put a marked accent on the final syllable of the adjective, but when you speak of the parable of the unjust steward, you probably give its two syllables nearly equal weight. There are many other English words whose accentuation varies according to circumstances, and the reason is that we instinctively try to speak rhythmically. Before we can understand the structure of English verse we must pay some attention to the nature and workings of this instinct, for verse is only an elaboration and refinement of our instinctive mode of expression; and before we can enter upon even this examination, we must ask ourselves what is rhythm? Rhythm may be roughly defined as a recurrence of similar phenomena at regular intervals of time. No word less general than phenomena would suffice for the purposes of definition. The rhythm of verse or music, to be sure, is commonly found in the recurrence of similar sounds; but these are special cases, and sound is not essential to rhythm. A deaf man can see the rhythm of a pendulum, and indeed a man deprived of all five senses could feel the rhythmic swaying of a railway train. But while in the first part of the definition it is safest to be vague, in the last part it is necessary to be...

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