## PREFACE

The greater portion of the first division was published in "The Builder and Woodworker" many years ago, and afterwards, in a very much amended form, in "The National Builder," and is now in book form for the first time.

The second division which contains some excellent examples is the work of several contributors, who worked under a like system. The methods of obtaining the wreaths and twists are worth studying, as they show how these can be lined out with the greatest of ease when the subject is understood. This method is nearly complete in itself.

The third division is perhaps the most complete of the three, as about any kind of a rail can be obtained by the use of this system. While not exactly like the system of the late Robert Riddell, it approaches it so nearly that ordinary workmen would scarcely know the difference, but there is a difference, and Mr. Wilson, who has helped to work this system out, deserves much credit for simplifying the whole scheme.

The science of handrailing was never reduced to such simplicity as now, and it is claimed for the three divisions shown in "Common-Sense Handrailing" that the latest and simplest methods are shown therein, and this, too, at about one-fifth the cost of the older and more elaborate methods. In saying this we do not mean to belittle the larger and in some cases the more extended works of Nicholson, Graff, Reynalds, Sherrett, Monckton, Secor, Riddell and others. Each

6