

PREFACE

The author and compiler of this work prepared a series of articles on Carving for "The National Builder" a few years ago, and also a series on the same subject for "The Carpenter," the official organ of "The Brotherhood of American Carpenters." Since these articles were prepared, the writer has received many requests asking that the articles be put in book form, and in compliance with these requests I have selected from these articles what I consider to be the better portions, have amended many of them, rewritten others, and added much new matter, for which I am indebted to "The Woodworker," "Wood Carving," by George Jack, "Wood Carving for Amateurs," by David Denning, also to several other standard works on wood carving, so that the reader of this book—although he may have read the articles referred to—will have an almost entirely new phase of the subject placed before him.

Besides culling the best from the articles referred to, and embodying it in the present work, I have selected from many sources such matter, instructions and illustrations as I thought would be suited to the wants of the American workman who aspires to become a carver of wood. The designs in the first portion of the work are purposely made simple and easy to work in order to lead the workman steadily on to greater efforts.

I have gone to some length in describing the tools required, the methods of using them, and the care they