

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY. CORNELL
STUDIES IN CLASSICAL
PHILOLOGY, NO. IX, CRITIQUE
OF SOME RECENT SUBJUNCTIVE
THEORIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649368037

Cornell University. Cornell studies in classical philology, No. IX, Critique of Some Recent Subjunctive Theories by Charles Edwin Bennett

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CHARLES EDWIN BENNETT

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Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

CORNELL STUDIES
IN
CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY

EDITED BY
BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, CHARLES EDWIN BENNETT,
AND GEORGE PRENTICE BRISTOL

No. IX
CRITIQUE OF SOME RECENT SUBJUNCTIVE THEORIES
BY
CHARLES EDWIN BENNETT

PUBLISHED FOR THE UNIVERSITY
BY
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1898

Philol [△] 80.27.3 (9)
✓ Philol 80.8



The University

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ITHACA, N. Y.
PRESS OF ANDRUS & CHURCH
1898

PREFACE.

The matter of the following chapters was put into its present form in September and October of the current year. I regret that the printing of Chapter iv (on the force of tenses in the Prohibitive) was completed before the appearance on this side of the Atlantic of the December issue of the *CLASSICAL REVIEW*, in which Geddes promises a treatment of the same subject.

Professor John C. Rolfe, of the University of Michigan, and Mr. Charles L. Durham, of Cornell University, have rendered generous and efficient assistance during the printing of this volume.

CHARLES EDWIN BENNETT.

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 7, 1898.

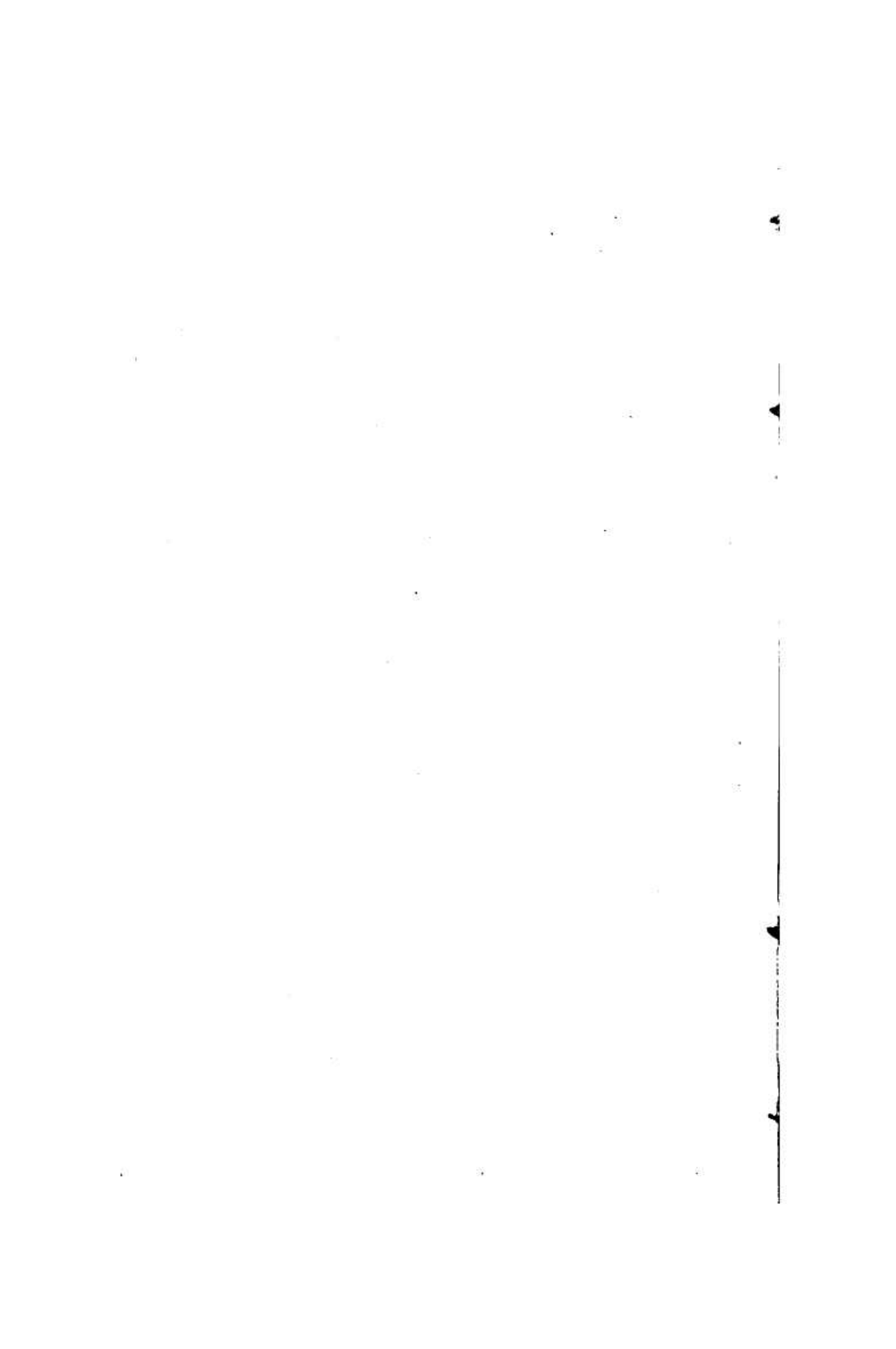
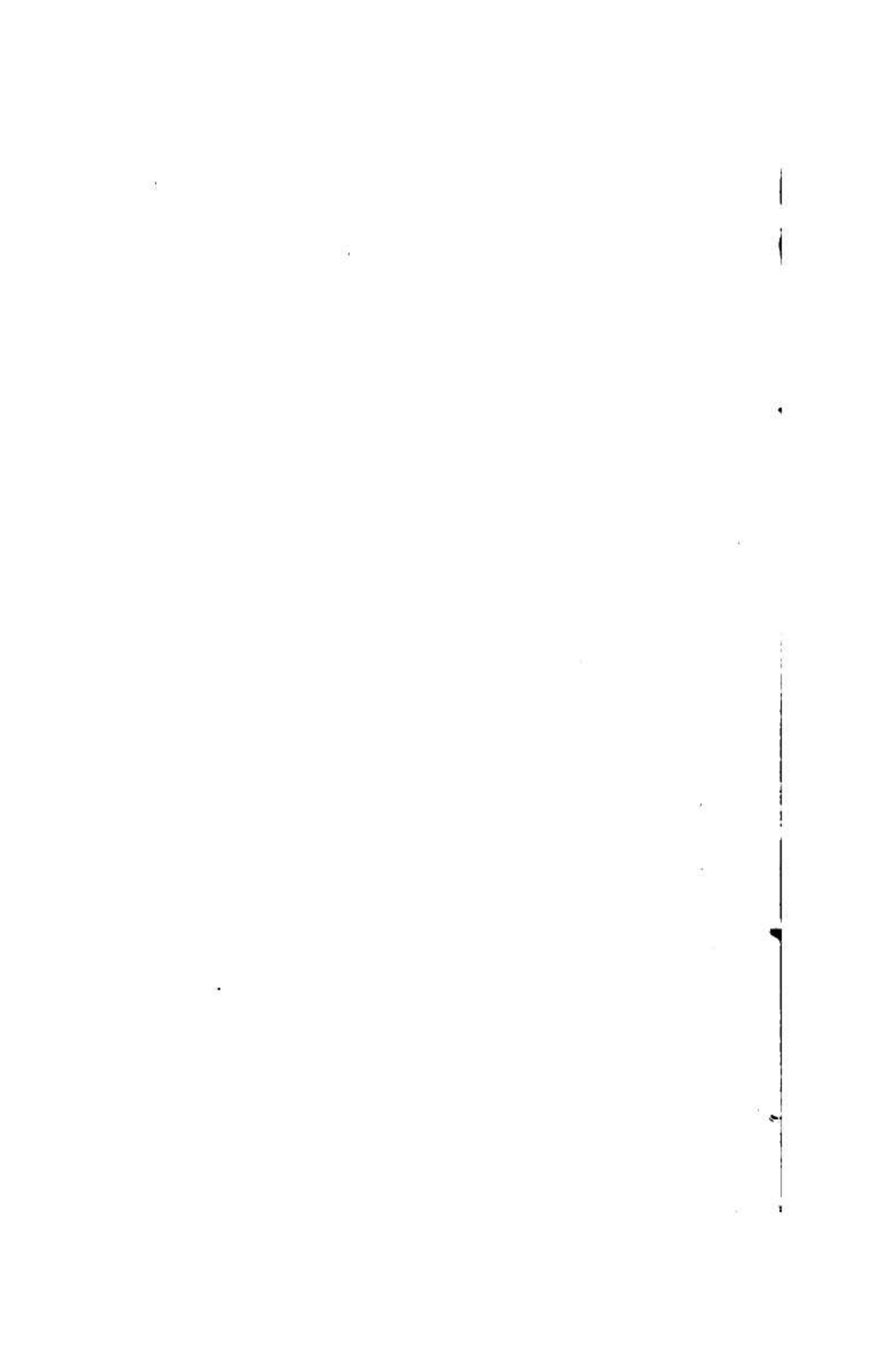


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CHAPTER I.

ELMER'S THEORY OF A 'SUBJUNCTIVE OF OBLIGATION OR PROPRIETY.'

In Vol. XV of the *American Journal of Philology*, Elmer advanced the view that certain subjunctives hitherto regarded as prohibitive in character and referred for their origin to the Indo-European subjunctive in its 'will' phase, were improperly so explained and ought rather to be referred to the Indo-European optative in its 'contingent-future' ('should', 'would') phase. To the same category were assigned, also, many expressions previously regarded as deliberatives, (both affirmative and negative), and also some ordinarily taken as hortatory. In a later work (*Studies in Latin Moods and Tenses*, CORNELL STUDIES, Vol. vi, pp. 214-227), the foregoing principles are re-stated and given a somewhat wider application. The paper in which this theory was announced showed much painstaking research and no little ingenuity; yet the author's conclusions have always seemed to me unsound. Several of his premises are untrue and much of the reasoning contained in the paper I cannot help regarding as fallacious. Elmer starts with expressions of which the following is the type: Cic. *Acad.* ii, 46, 141, *Nihil igitur me putatis moveri? Tam moveor quam tu, Luculle, nec me minus hominem quam te putaveris.* Previous scholars had uniformly regarded this and similar expressions as genuine prohibitives and rendered our passage as 'and do not think.' Elmer's view is that it was not prohibitive, but that it meant 'you ought not to think', a force which, he maintains, was an outgrowth of the earlier 'you would not think (*sc.* if you were to do the right thing)',—one of the two values recognized as belonging to the Indo-European optative, and popularly called 'Potential.' To this usage Elmer applies the designation of 'Subjunctive of