

**LINGUA MATERNA;  
CHAPTERS ON  
THE SCHOOL  
TEACHING OF ENGLISH**

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Lingua materna; chapters on the school teaching of English by Richard Wilson

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**RICHARD WILSON**

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*LINGUA MATERNA*

# LINGUA MATERNA

## Chapters on the School Teaching of English

BY

RICHARD WILSON, B.A.

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"Books are the best of things, well used; abused, among the worst. What is the right use? What is the one end, which all means go to effect? They are for nothing but to inspire. I had better never see a book, than to be warped by its attraction clean out of my own orbit and made a satellite instead of a system. The one thing in the world, of value, is the active soul."—R. W. EMERSON.

"The noble and profound application of ideas to life is the most essential part of poetic greatness."—MATTHEW ARNOLD.



# LINGUA MATERNA

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

THE writer has had many opportunities of studying the methods adopted by some of our best teachers in dealing with English grammar, composition, and literature, and the present volume is largely the outcome of his observations. His aim is almost entirely practical, and his chief desire is to make these pages as helpful and suggestive as possible to the teacher for whom the burning question is not, Shall I teach English? but, How can I teach English so as to make the best use of the subject as an educational instrument?

An intelligent foreigner approaching the historical study of our school curricula would probably take it for granted that in English schools the study of English had always been made the chief concern, and would doubtless be greatly surprised to learn how it was comparatively late in the day that we became