DÖDERLEIN'S HAND-BOOK OF LATIN SYNONYMES

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Döderlein's Hand-Book of Latin Synonymes by H. A. Arnold & S. H. Taylor

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H. A. ARNOLD & S. H. TAYLOR

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N. W. Haynes.

DÖDERLEIN'S HAND-BOOK

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LATIN SYNONYMES.

TRANSLATED BY

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WITH

AN INTRODUCTION

BY

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INTRODUCTION

T O

THE AMERICAN EDITION.

DR. LUDWIG DÖDERLEIN, the author of this work, was born in 1791, and became Professor in the University of Erlangen. He is an eminent philologist, and the author of several valuable philological works. The most important of these are: "The Formation of Latin Words;" "A Homeric Glossary;" "Handbook of Latin Etymology;" "Latin Synonymes and Etymologies," in six volumes; on this he labored more than twelve years, the first volume appearing in 1826, the last in 1828. From this latter 3/work, the volume here presented was prepared

by the author, and first published in 1840. After a familiarity of several years with most of the best manuals on Latin Synonymes, we find this superior to any of them, and better adapted to the wants of the student. It shows an intimate and comprehensive acquaintance with the language, and a nice discrimination between the significations of words having a greater or less similarity of meaning. distinctions are generally well founded, and clearly stated. While at times the distinction may seem to be too refined and subtle, careful observation and more extended study will usually correct such an impression. difference between related words may proceed from a variety of sources. It may be that of genus and species; or it may be historical, one being used at one time and the other at a different one; or one is abstract, the other concrete; one is literal, the other figurative; one is the more common expression, the other the more elegant; one is a prose word, the other poetical; one belongs to one kind of poetry, and the other to another. The difference also consists in the point of view which the writer takes. Quies is rest; requies also is rest; but the latter word shows that the writer has in mind a previous state of unrest. There are other differences also growing out of the essential nature of the words.

The advantages of the study of synonymes in a classical course, are too great to be neglected. A knowledge of them gives to the student a fulness and precision of his author's meaning otherwise unattainable. The point of a sentence often turns upon a delicate shade of thought conveyed by a particular word, which another of similar signification would not give; if this delicate shade is not appreciated, the writer's thought is either misapprehended, or but imperfectly understood.

Again, the habit of observing the proper use

of words related to each other in meaning, as whether one is generic, and the other specific, one abstract, the other concrete, one literal, the other figurative, or whatever be the ground and nature of the difference, is one of the essential benefits of classical study. The whole process of such study, when rightly conducted, is that of "arbitrating between conflicting probabilities;" and the closest power of arbitration is often requisite in determining the particular idea conveyed by related words. Or, if the distinctions are drawn out, as they are in a treatise on synonymes, the mind of the student is trained to close and discriminating observation, in being required to note and fix these distinctions, and to give a definite form to them in his own mind, and to express them in his own language.

Besides the more direct advantages resulting from the study of synonymes, an increased interest will thereby be given to classical studies There is a natural fondness in the youthful mind for the process of comparison, for tracing resemblances and differences. This element should not be neglected when it can be turned to so good account. It will help to relieve the tedium and barrenness of classical study, as too often conducted, and to give some living features to languages which are too generally looked upon as "dead."

The meaning of a particular word is often given more distinctly by stating its opposite. The relation, or shade of thought, which cannot be conveyed fully by a direct definition, nor perhaps, indeed, by words at all, is made clear and distinct by showing to what it is opposed. This valuable means of elucidation, the author has used with great success in this work.

While the author has "omitted all detail in the treatment of Greek synonymes" in this compend, he has very wisely sought out the