

**A GRAMMAR OF
THE ANGLO-SAXON
LANGUAGE**

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A Grammar of the Anglo-Saxon Language by Louis F. Klipstein

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BY

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ANGLO-SAXONICA," ETC.

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TO
ORVILLE HORWITZ, ESQ. M.A.
This Volume
IS SINCERELY INSCRIBED
BY ONE
WHO HAS EVER ADMIRERD
HIS TALENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP,
AND
APPRECIATED A FRIENDSHIP,
WHICH A CLOSE INTIMACY OF YEARS HAS TENDED ONLY
TO STRENGTHEN.

PREFACE.

It has been asserted by some that the common people of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, speak the language of their respective countries mostly in accordance with what is written among them; while the same class in England, and we may add in our own country to a certain extent, are generally deficient with regard to the received principles of correct speech in the quality and use of words. Without saying how far the assertion holds good, we will only remark that the philologist and the attentive observer who understands the language of his forefathers, will at once perceive that what is supposed to be incorrect, is in the majority of cases the genuine Anglo-Saxon, which expresses itself through its natural channel. Above the class to which we have alluded, a superstructure has been raised in the various elements which have entered into the composition of our present English since the days of Gower and Chaucer, of Surrey and Spenser, and which took their rise, indeed, considerably anterior to that period, if not with the Norman Conquest. The languages of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, on the contrary, have remained comparatively stationary since their first formation, and, from their very nature, they must be spoken by all conditions of society with but little difference.

If we are partly led to the study of the Latin and Greek languages from the light which they throw upon the structure of our own, the Anglo-Saxon, for the same reason, has claims upon us almost equally great, forming, as it does, the broad basis upon which the others rest. So true is this, that it can be safely affirmed that no one has a thorough knowledge of English, who is unacquainted with an element of so much importance.

It is from a desire of making American youth, who glory in their Anglo-Saxon descent, acquainted with the language of their ancestors, that the author has been induced to issue the following pages. He has long perceived the want of something of the kind from the press in this country, while the subject has of late years received so much attention in Great Britain, and trusts that he has at last met it in a certain measure. How far he has succeeded in his attempt, he leaves it to the literary portion of the community to judge.

The principal authorities consulted in preparing this work, have been the *Angelsaksisk Sprogloere* of the late distinguished philologist, Prof. Rask, of Copenhagen, the learned *Deutsche Grammatik* of Prof. Grimm, and the *Compendious Grammar of the Primitive English or Anglo-Saxon Language* and larger *Dictionary* of that eminent Saxon scholar, the Rev. J. Bosworth, LL. D., PH. D., etc., etc., etc. In the general order and arrangement of his matter the author has differed both from Prof. Rask and Dr. Bosworth, and likewise from them and the rest who have written upon the subject, in many of his views of the language. In some few instances he has used the

expressions of others, either through inadvertence, or where he had found the same employed by more than one to such an extent as to become common property.

It was intended at first to introduce the Ablative, but upon mature reflection, deemed unnecessary, as however general and express that case may have been in earlier times, with the exception of a few peculiar forms, it evidently does not belong to the language as we now have it, distinct from the Dative. It would seem to have been gradually laid aside, while the Dative finally, in almost every instance, was used in its stead.

The accent has been employed in every case in which analogy would justify it. How much the proper pronunciation, as well as distinction, of words depends upon its adoption, will be easily seen.

Not only has the "monkish" character been rejected and the Roman substituted in its place, but the *D*, *þ*, has been represented by *Th*, *th*, and the *Ð*, *ð*, by *Th*, *th*. While nothing is lost by this further change, typographical uniformity has been gained.

ST. JAMES, SANTEE, S. C. }
 April 1, 1842 }