

**A PRACTICAL GRAMMAR OF  
THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE; FOR  
THE USE OF THE STUDENTS OF  
LONDON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

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A Practical Grammar of the Italian Language; For the Use of the Students of London University College by L. Mariotti

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**L. MARIOTTI**

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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There is no English-Italian Grammar in common use in this country. Those generally placed in the student's hands—such as Vergani's—are mere translations of French-Italian Grammars, too often regardless of idiomatic peculiarities, either French or English.

The "Italian Grammar" published years ago, in the United States, by Pietro Bachi, teacher of Italian in Harvard University, a work of great merit, is utterly unknown in England; perhaps owing to its bulk—500 pages—perhaps also to the bigoted views of old-fashioned classicism, which prompted the author to choose his examples and his very exercises, almost exclusively from the writers of the fourteenth century, as if his object had been to train the English learner to write in the style of Boccaccio and his age.

Robello's "Grammaire Italienne" is also entitled to great respect: the writer, however, enters into inquiries more strictly belonging to universal than to special grammar; not a few of his remarks are original, all of them ingenious; but their soundness, and still more their pertinence, may be questioned.

The book is, moreover, only available for French pupils; for, notwithstanding the contrary opinion and practice of some schoolmistresses and certain instructors, we hold that a language should always be taught by the means of the tongue that comes more immediately home to the learner.

The present grammar is largely indebted to Robello's work: and we would have preferred to give merely an English version of the latter, had it been possible to undertake it without frequent and important modifications, which a proper regard for the author forbade.

The present work presupposes in the pupil the knowledge of general grammar. The common-place definitions of Nouns, Adjectives, &c., have been purposely omitted: the rules have been condensed within the narrowest limits of clearness and precision, and the practical advantages of the book will be found in the Examples and Exercises, which have also been reduced to the shortest sentences, so as to enable the pupil to comprehend them, and, if possible, to commit them to memory.

These few pages do not profess to teach "Italian without a Master." On the contrary, the writer relies on the constant co-operation and direction of an able and intelligent Teacher.



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