

**AN ITALIAN AND ENGLISH GRAMMAR,
FROM THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH
GRAMMAR OF VERGANI AND PIRANESI;
EXEMPLIFIED IN TWENTY LESSONS, WITH
EXERCISES, DIALOGUES, AND
ENTERTAINING HISTORICAL ANECDOTES**

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An Italian and English Grammar, from the Italian and French Grammar of Vergani and Piranesi; Exemplified in Twenty Lessons, with Exercises, Dialogues, and Entertaining Historical Anecdotes by J. Guichet & Signor A. Tomassi

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J. GUICHET & SIGNOR A. TOMASSI

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EXERCISES, DIALOGUES, AND ENTERTAINING HISTORICAL ANECDOTES.

ALSO, NOTES AND REMARKS

CALCULATED TO
Facilitate the Study of the Italian Language.

BY J. GUICHET,

PROFESSOR OF LANGUAGES,

A NEW EDITION, ENLARGED AND CORRECTED,

BY SIGNOR A. TOMMASI.

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A KEY

TO THE

ITALIAN AND FRENCH GRAMMAR,

BY VERGANI AND PIRANESI;

AND TO THE

ITALIAN AND ENGLISH GRAMMAR,

BY J. GUICHET.

A NEW EDITION, REVISED AND CORRECTED,

BY SIGNOR A. TOMMASI.

PREFACE.

THE Italian Grammar of VERGANI, revised and improved by PIRANESI, having been for many years past universally approved of in France, as containing, in a small compass, what was necessary to acquire the rudiments of the Italian Language, it was considered advisable to make an English version of it for the use of the English student. The study of this rich and harmonious language has, of late, become nearly as prevalent in England as that of the French, and a knowledge of it is considered, in polite society, as a necessary accomplishment.

The fundamental rules of this Elementary Grammar, and its method in general, have been carefully preserved in this new Edition; but in several parts, where the rules, (though sufficiently explanatory to the French student, on account of the great similarity between the two languages) were deemed not sufficiently intelligible to the English pupil, they are accompanied by such additional observations as were thought necessary, and in many parts, the syntactical rules, which were found contrary to the English construction, have been new-modelled, and adapted to that language, preserving, at the same time, the exemplary phrases employed in the original Grammar.

The Exercises have, in some parts, been enlarged, according to VERGANI'S Improved Edition.

To render this Grammar more complete, and, at the same time, to supply the place of an additional *Reading-book*, a number of Anecdotes have been subjoined, which it is hoped, will be found instructive, as well as entertaining, to the young student.

The Epistolary style has likewise been attended to, by the introduction of a selection of letters, written by and addressed to persons of the first distinction. They are followed by a few Poetical Extracts, from the Drama, by which the pupil may be prepared for reading the most celebrated of the Italian poets and prose writers.

As the Grammar contains a concise and perspicuous view of the principles, and an introductory specimen of each style of composition, the pupil is initiated, in an easy, amusing, and prompt manner, into the knowledge of this most beautiful, copious, and harmonious language.

No pains have been spared, nor any thing neglected, to render this Work as acceptable and useful as possible, to the notice and approbation of *Parents, Teachers*, and of the *Public* in general.

June 13, 1837.

PREFACE TO THE PRESENT EDITION.

ALTHOUGH the Italian and English Grammar of Vergani, by Guichet, was generally recognised as the best of the existing elementary grammars in England, yet something remained to be done to put it in accordance with the progress of grammatical science; and it is hoped that the present edition will prove successful.

A great number of orthographical and idiomatical errors that occurred here and there in the past editions have now been diligently corrected; the rules in Lessons II, III, IV, V, VI, X, and XVI, which, for want of clearness and proper exemplifications, were too difficult and embarrassing to students, have been rewritten and illustrated with new examples; the table of verbs has been corrected, and improved with some additions; several new dialogues have been added to the former ones, and the models on the epistolary style, which were rather of an old date, have been corrected, and a few new letters and short notes added;—all of which, it is presumed, will render the Grammar more acceptable and profitable to the young student.

A. TOMMASEI.

LONDON; May, 1852.

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DEFINITIONS.

GRAMMAR is the art of speaking and writing correctly.

The **ARTICLE** is a small word placed before the noun, and which describes its genders, number, and case.

The **NOUN**, or **SUBSTANTIVE**, designates persons or things.

The **ADJECTIVE** expresses a quality of the persons or things.

The **GENDERS** have in their origin a relation to the words belonging to either sex. In Italian there are two genders, the masculine and feminine. There are two numbers, the singular and plural; the former designating one person or thing, the latter several persons or things.

The **AUGMENTATIVE** is said of certain terminations which serve to augment the sense of nouns.

The **DIMINUTIVE** is a termination which diminishes the force of the word.

An **ADJECTIVE** is in the positive degree, when it expresses simply the quality; it is comparative, when, besides the quality, it expresses the comparison; it is superlative, when it expresses the quality in a very high, or in the highest degree.

The **SUPERLATIVE** may be absolute or relative. The absolute-superlative expresses a quality in the supreme degree, but without any relation to another object: the relative-superlative expresses the quality in the highest degree, with reference to another object.

NOUNS OF NUMBER are those which are employed in reckoning. There are two kinds of these; the *cardinal* and the *ordinal* numbers.

The **CARDINAL NUMBERS** are those which absolutely and simply serve to denote the different numbers.

The **ORDINAL NUMBERS** denote the order and rank.