

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
MONOGRAPHS, SCHOOL OF TEUTONIC
LANGUAGES, NO. 2; SYNTAX
OF THE VERB IN THE ANGLO-SAXON
CHRONICLE FROM 787 A.D. TO 1001
A.D.. DISSERTATION**

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HUGH MERCER BLAIN

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No. II.

EDITED BY JAMES A. HARRISON, PROFESSOR OF TEUTONIC LANGUAGES

SYNTAX OF THE VERB

IN

THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE FROM 787 A.D.
TO 1001 A.D.

DISSERTATION

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY

HUGH MERCER BLAIN, M.A.

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TO
MY FATHER

P R E F A C E.

THE object of this paper is to furnish a nucleus for a "Working Syntax of the Anglo-Saxon Verb." My original plan was to combine the results of this research with other treatises on the Verb in Anglo-Saxon (as suggested by Professor Chase in his "Bibliography of Anglo-Saxon Monographs"), thus forming a convenient working syntax of the verb. After much labor and delay, however, in endeavoring to obtain the necessary books and dissertations, I decided to present this part of the work, with the hope that I may be able in the near future to carry out the original plan.

The research is for the most part limited to the Parker (A) and Laud (E) MSS. of the Chronicle, between the years 787 and 1001, as being representative of the whole Chronicle. It is impossible here, — even were it necessary, — to discuss the origin of the Chronicle, the relative value of the MSS., and their dates of writing. For the full discussion of these important points, I would refer to Vol. II. of Earle and Plummer's "Two Saxon Chronicles Parallel." It is only necessary to state that this valuable authority concludes that the entries in the Parker MS. (787 to 1001) were made not long after the events which they describe, while the Laud MS. was written between the years 1121 and 1154. Thus our work is a comparison of the Anglo-Saxon Prose Syntax of the eighth, ninth, and tenth centuries with that of the twelfth. In case of doubtful points, however, the conclusions are based on the whole text as found in Vol. I. of Earle and Plummer.

In general arrangement I have followed Reussner's "Untersuchungen über die Syntax des Verbums im Heiligen Andreas," but

with numerous variations. Although there is necessarily little claim to originality in general, I would call especial attention to the treatment of Number and Person, which is original in both order and contents.

Other books from which I have gleaned valuable suggestions are: March's "Anglo-Saxon Grammar," Sweet's "New English Grammar," Nader's "Syntax in Beowulf," Blackburn's "Future in Old English," Smith's "Order of Words in Anglo-Saxon Prose," Smith's "Collective in Modern English," Gorrell's "Indirect Discourse in Anglo-Saxon," Harrison's "French Syntax" (condensed by H. M. Blain), Harrison and Baskerville's "New Anglo-Saxon Reader," Gildersleeve's "Latin Grammar," numerous issues of *Anglia* and *Modern Language Publications*, and the author's "Subordinate Clauses in Judith."

I am especially indebted to Prof. J. A. Harrison, of the University of Virginia, for his ready aid at all times and for the general oversight of the whole work.

Although one among many bearing on the same subject, it is my hope that this little monograph may serve to hasten, and may even furnish some suggestions to be incorporated in the much-needed "Working Syntax of Anglo-Saxon."

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