

**THE SCHOOL AND
UNIVERSITY ETON
LATIN GRAMMAR**

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The School and University Eton Latin Grammar by Roscoe Mongan

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ROSCOE MONGAN

**THE SCHOOL AND
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LATIN GRAMMAR**

THE
SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY
ETON LATIN GRAMMAR,

Explanatory and Critical:

WITH COPIOUS ANNOTATIONS FROM

MADVIG, ZUMPT, ARNOLD, DONALDSON,

AND THE MOST EMINENT LATIN GRAMMARIANS;

COMPRISING ALSO

A NEW AND IMPROVED SYNTAX,

AND THE RULES OF

ALVAREZ' LATIN PROSODY, CORRECTED AND CONSTRUED.

BY

ROSCOE MONGAN, A.B.

EX-CLASSICAL SCHOLAR, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, EDITOR OF "THE ALBINOX VIRGIL."



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3058. f. 10.



PREFACE.

Two great objects have been aimed at in the composition of the present work—the production of the Eton Grammar in its ancient simplicity, and its adaptation to the highest standard of modern improvements.

The Eton Grammar dates its origin from the early period of the Eighth Henry's reign, when the famous Dean Colet founded and endowed the School of St. Paul, and compiled for its use the "Rudiments of the Latin Accidence"—thus forming the nucleus of the present Grammar. The very history of this work recalls the time-honored memories of the dead; it was patronized by Wolsey, and the genius of Erasmus shed its lustre on its pages.

This early compilation was brief and simple; it was composed in *English*, and all the examples were translated. With the design of supplying a more complete treatise for advanced students, William Lily (the first Master of St. Paul's School) wrote a Grammar in *Latin*, and Dean Colet and Erasmus assisted him in the task. Both works were now combined into one; but in consequence of being composed of discordant elements, they failed to harmonize.

The Eton editors subsequently introduced various important changes, in order to obviate this inconvenience.

About the period of the Great Revolution of 1688, Bishop Wettenhall altered and improved the compilations of Lily, Colet, and Erasmus. But vast advances have been made both in Grammatical learning, and in the English Language, since the period of the Revolution. The ancient phraseology is far too quaint and obsolete for the present day; it is not easily understood by the young pupil, nor is it adapted for being retained in the memory.

Under these circumstances I have laboriously endeavoured to follow out my original design of producing the Eton Grammar in its ancient simplicity, and adapting it to the highest standard of modern improvements. Mature consideration has convinced me that such a work was really wanted, and I have anxiously endeavoured to supply the deficiency. After a very careful comparison of the Eton Texts, I have adopted, as the basis of this work, the excellent edition published at Eton, in 1758.

I would respectfully observe, that the present edition is not merely an Eton Grammar, enlarged with supplementary notes, selected from various authors. In many particulars it is completely different from its predecessors; every line of the Eton text has been tested and examined, according to the views of the best grammarians; and wherever they are unanimous in recommending a change, the improvement has been introduced into the body of the Grammar.

But even in introducing unquestionable improvements, I have endeavoured to act with extreme caution. Not one solitary change has been made without the sanction of

the very highest authorities, and distinct and specific references are supplied in the notes wherever an alteration occurs.

The very improvements are not merely matters of opinion—they are matters of certainty, in which the most celebrated authorities coincide. In illustration of my meaning, I may mention the omission of the “so-called” Latin Article. Any man would now be ashamed of his scholarship who would unguardedly assert that a Definite Article existed in the Latin Language. The supposition originated in a mistake; the ancient grammarians used the Demonstrative Pronoun *hic, hæc, hoc*, to indicate the Gender of Substantives, and by some oversight of the editors of the Grammar, it was styled the Latin Definite Article. *Arnold, Donaldson, Madvig, Zumpt*, and every other sound grammarian, unanimously condemned this practice; yet it was continued in many grammars, because the editors feared to make any change. Surely, in this particular, reform was really required, and I am much gratified in observing that the so-called Article has been expunged in the edition now used at Eton. *Why should a boy be taught what is wrong, particularly at the commencement of his educational career? Throughout this entire Grammar, Syntax and Prosody, the pupil will, at least, be taught not one single principle which he will afterwards be obliged to unlearn.*

This edition is designed for two classes of learners, and it has therefore been styled explanatory and critical. I have invariably endeavoured to appeal to the understanding of the youthful pupil, and to develope his faculties, by making him clearly comprehend what he learns. The meanings of the various terms, *Inflection, Case, Declension, &c.*,

and the reasons of the different grammatical rules and principles, are clearly explained in a simple and attractive style, which can be easily understood, and easily remembered. Examination Questions have been appended, not at the end of the book, but immediately after each section, in order to firmly imprint the ideas in the mind, while they are still fresh in the memory. The advanced student will find copious annotations selected from the highest authorities.

A novel feature has been introduced in this edition, by "the Comparative Views of the Latin and English Languages," which have been systematically arranged according to the various Parts of Speech. The Anglo-Saxon, as well as the Latin sources of modern English, have been distinctly traced, and the comparative anatomy of the languages is exhibited in a clear and concise form. In this department I gratefully acknowledge my obligations to Professor Latham.

The Syntax has been most carefully re-modelled and arranged, and to complete the work, I have added the Rules of Alvarez' Latin Prosody, with Dr. Carey's valuable emendations.

I am deeply indebted to many illustrious names for the great improvements which the sanction of their high authority has enabled me to introduce into the Eton Grammar and Syntax. Among these, I may specify Donaldson, Arnold, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Smith, Professors Key, Andrews and Stoddard, and the Rev. Musgrave Wilkins (Author of the "Latin Prose Composition)."
I have also made very copious extracts from the works of

Madvig and *Zumpt*, and from the old editions of *Ruddiman* and *Valpy*.¹

I have now only to hope that the well-pruned branches of the parent tree, and the foreign scions grafted on its stem, may plentifully yield the wholesome fruit of sound instruction.

ROSCOE MONGAN.

25, South Frederick-street, Dublin,
October, 1860.

1. I have derived valuable assistance from the Translations of *Zumpt's Grammar*, by Kenrick and Dr. Schmitz, and from the Translation of *Madvig's Grammar*, by the Rev. George Wood, of University College, Oxford.