

**THE CASE-
CONSTRUCTION
AFTER THE
COMPARATIVE IN LATIN**

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The Case-Construction After the Comparative in Latin by K. P. R. Neville

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THE COMPARATIVE IN LATIN

A Thesis presented to the University Faculty of Cornell
University, for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy, June, 1901

BY

K. P. R. NEVILLE

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1901

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PREFACE.

For the citations in this paper I have used the Teubner series, in the belief that they were the most accessible, complete texts of the authors included in the investigation. The reading and lining of Bernay's edition has been used for Lucretius; Eussner has been followed in Sallust; Peter for fragments of the historians; Baehrens for fragments of the poets; and Bickford-Smith for Publilius Syrus.

The abbreviations, for the most part, require no explanation; but for Cicero's Philosophical Works and Orations the notation employed by Merguet has been adopted.

I must thank Professor C. E. Bennett, of Cornell University, under whose direction this volume of the Studies has been prepared, for his untiring assistance and indispensable advice.

K. P. R. NEVILLE.

Cornell University,

June 15, 1901.

INTRODUCTORY.

Scope and Purpose of the Investigation.

Tradition is a factor whose potency in moulding the conceptions and methods of thought of the present is beyond question. It is in matters of religious and social institutions, perhaps, that we oftenest see the result of its influence; no enthusiast as yet, however, has felt himself called upon to point out that a blind confidence in tradition is responsible for many mistakes in our current Latin syntax. For example, we have always believed, without hesitation, the doctrine of the grammarians¹ who in their treatment of *refert* and *interest* state that 'this interests you' is rendered by '*hoc vestra interest*'; but 'this interests you all', by '*omnium vestrum hoc interest*'. Yet, on examination, it is found that there is no example of this latter construction in extant Latinity. Only when the material for forming a judgment is statistically complete, can we undertake with confidence to state a principle of syntactical usage. The following investigation is an attempt to present the material and draw conclusions for a single idiom—the comparative construction. My treatment is confined to the examples to be found in the Republican literature.

The Latin sentence that we render in English by 'he is taller than his brother' may assume either of two forms:

1. *Grandior est quam frater suus*;
2. *Grandior est fratre suo*;

i. e., the second element of the comparison may be expressed by *quam* + the proper case; or by the *ablative* without *quam*. The query naturally suggests itself: When do we have the one, when the other? Is there any rule? None of the existing answers to this question are adequate,—a fault that must be attributed primarily to the fact that no collection of all the material

¹ See Engelmann-Schneider, § 207, 1, and Landgräf, § 135.