

**A SHORT HISTORICAL
GRAMMAR OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE**

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A short historical grammar of the German language by Otto Behaghel & Emil Trechmann

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OTTO BEHAGHEL & EMIL TRECHMANN

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A SHORT HISTORICAL
G R A M M A R
OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED FROM PROFESSOR BELLAGHIEL'S
'DEUTSCHE SPRACHE'

BY

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PREFACE

THIS little book is published in the hope that it may be of some use to those who are entering upon the study of the history of the German language. It is a translation, slightly altered and adapted for English students, of Dr. Otto Behaghel's book of the same name (*Die deutsche Sprache*), which forms one of a series of little volumes intended to popularise science and knowledge in all its departments (*Das Wissen der Gegenwart*). The author is well known as one of the most diligent researchers in the field of Old German and Teutonic philology and literature, and his book is the only one hitherto published which attempts to give in small compass and in popular form the results of recent studies in that sphere.

The most important alterations which the translator thought advisable to make consist, firstly, in the elimination of a few pages here and there, where the author addresses himself to his German readers on the subject of solecisms and purity of speech; secondly, in a slight rearrangement of the subject-matter in the chapter on the Inflexions. Additional examples, both German and English, have also been introduced where necessary.

The thanks of the translator are due to Dr. H. Hager for valuable suggestions, and for help in correcting proofs.

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