

**GERMAN WORD-BOOK. A
COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY
DISPLAYING THE CLOSE
AFFINITY BETWEEN THE GERMAN
AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES**

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German Word-Book. A Comparative Vocabulary Displaying the Close Affinity Between the German and English Languages by Adolphus Bernays

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ADOLPHUS BERNAYS

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GERMAN WORD-BOOK ;
A COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY

DISPLAYING

THE CLOSE AFFINITY BETWEEN THE GERMAN
AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES ;

WITH

THE ALPHABET, RULES, AND EXAMPLES
FOR A CORRECT PRONUNCIATION.

BY

ADOLPHUS BERNAYS, PHIL. DOC.

PROFESSOR OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.



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P R E F A C E.

THE object of this little volume is threefold. In the first place it is to encourage the student of the German language, by showing him the great affinity that exists between this language and his own. Secondly, it is to facilitate his labour by supplying him with a large number of words, so arranged as to be easily remembered. And thirdly, to draw his attention to etymology in general by displaying before him in the simple form of a vocabulary, the development of a language from a comparatively few roots and stems, and the formation of words by internal changes, or by the addition of prefixes or affixes.

As it was thought, that the book would be used chiefly by beginners, it commences with the alphabet accompanied by a series of succinct rules and examples for a correct pronunciation.

These are followed by a list of words springing from the same roots, but which regularly differ in their chief consonants. To have extended this comparison to the vowels also would, in consequence of the frequency and capriciousness of the variations, have led to no satisfactory results. The bulk of the work consists of the great body of parallel words in the two languages, including a considerable number derived from Latin, Greek, French and Italian. It is true, that the latter have been objected to by purists, and many have been happily replaced by words of genuine German origin; yet they have been, and most of them are still employed by the best German writers, and therefore could not fairly be excluded here. The volume concludes with a number of words apparently related to English words of a similar form, but which differ from them, if not altogether, at least in some of their significations. By adding to these the translation of their seeming cognates in the English language, a new series of words has been introduced, which, in such a connexion, are likely to be better remembered than when they are met with elsewhere.

It will be perceived, that I have not always commenced a series of words with their apparent root, but with the cognate

English word nearest to it. Farther, it will be seen that I have not confined myself merely to the words of a family which happen to co-exist in the two languages. On the contrary, whenever I found an English word which gave me an opportunity to mention a parallel term in German, I have added all the kindred words formed in this language, giving their English meanings in italics. Thus I have frequently shown to how great an extent the English have renounced their privilege of developing their language from the Saxon roots, and have preferred to express their ideas in words borrowed from other languages. Such, for example, are the words derived from the Latin *scio*, under the head of *weise* *wise*, p. 24, and from *fluo*, *liquo*, *rivus*, under *fließen* *to flow*, p. 29.

The learner will also find the conjugation of the regular verb, together with the chief variations of the most common irregular verbs, besides various other hints, preparing him for a consecutive study of the German grammar.

It would have been very desirable to have added a list of the chief derivative and compound words, especially with the view of showing the great influence the Latin language has had in the development of the German in these directions.

But the fear of rendering the volume too bulky and expensive for schools has induced me to refrain from it for the present. And as, after all, the real power of words is shown by their use in sentences, I trust to be able to supply the above desideratum in the volume which is to follow the present, and in which the formation of sentences is to be displayed in a systematic succession. The two languages will there be closely compared; and it will be *practically* shown, how far they coincide, and how far they differ in their structure. And as its main object will be to facilitate the *speaking* of the language, the sentences will be of the most familiar kind, and such as are most commonly needed by travellers. It is to be entitled: GERMAN PHRASE-BOOK.

LONDON, Dec. 1851.

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