

**GUIDE TO THE PRONUNCIATION OF THE  
ITALIAN LANGUAGE; CONTAINING FULL  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING AND SPEAKING  
ITALIAN WITH PURITY AND ELEGANCE,  
ACCOMPANIED BY PRACTICAL  
RULES TO FACILITATE THE KNOWLEDGE OF  
PROSODY. [LONDON-1836]**

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Guide to the Pronunciation of the Italian Language; Containing Full Instructions for Reading and Speaking Italian with Purity and Elegance, Accompanied by Practical Rules to Facilitate the Knowledge of Prosody. [London-1836] by M. de la Claverie

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**M. DE LA CLAVERIE**

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KNOWLEDGE OF PROSODY :

*Illustrated by Exercises and miscellaneous Selections in Prose and Verse,  
with the Tonic Accent marked upon every word :*

FORMING, ALTOGETHER, AN EASY AND INTERESTING  
**Italian Reader.**

Designed for the use of Seminaries, for Private Tuition,  
and Self Instruction.

By M. DE LA CLAVERIE,

*Member of the Grammatical and Literary Society of Paris, Professor of the French and Italian  
Languages in Liverpool, late Teacher in the University of Oxford,  
Author of several Works on Education, and eight years a resident at Rome, during five of which he  
held, under the French Government, a situation directly connected with  
the Italian Language and Literature.*

" Il parlar che nell' animo si sente."      PERRANON.

— " Italis dedit ore rotundo  
Musa loqui." —

HORACE.



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MDCCCXXXVI.

588.

**ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.**

TO THE  
STUDENTS AND LOVERS  
OF THE  
ITALIAN LANGUAGE,

THE  
FOLLOWING PAGES,

In the hope that they may enable them to acquire a correct  
accent, and a pure and elegant pronunciation,

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY THEIR

MOST DEVOTED SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

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## PREFACE.

THE Italian is universally considered as the most mellifluous and musical, not only of the living, but also of the dead languages; it possesses likewise the great advantage of being pronounced exactly as it is written; but whilst it is admitted to be in England an essential branch of a liberal education, it is no less true that there are very few students who pronounce it correctly, or at least who pay due attention to the various sounds arising out of the different positions of the tonic accent belonging to Italian words. This can only be attributed to the want of a sure guide to the peculiarities of the pronunciation and an acquaintance with the

prosody of the language. In England, doubtless, many works may be found, the object of which is to facilitate the study of Italian; but their authors treat very briefly of the pronunciation, and are often mistaken in the applications which have reference to that of the English. Of the tonic accent they say nothing, or next to nothing. One would imagine that they looked upon it as of secondary, whilst it is really of primary importance;—for the tonic accent is more distinctly marked in Italian than in any other language, and being, under different circumstances, differently placed, constitutes by this variation the most essential part of Italian harmony.

The author of the following pages, therefore, ventures to assert that in England there is no work which treats thoroughly of the matters forming the subject of that which he now offers

to the public, viz :—the Pronunciation and the Tonic Accent of the Italian language. He has, thus, endeavoured to supply the want, which has long been experienced, of a book of this kind.—He will now proceed to notice the principle on which the contents have been arranged, and the method which he has adopted, to render his work instrumental to the progress of students of the Italian language.

It commences with a practical treatise on the Italian Pronunciation, which, through the medium of a parallel drawn between the Italian and the English languages, will communicate to the student the right sounds of the most difficult syllables and words. The precepts given on this subject are afterwards illustrated by reading exercises, against which is placed a recapitulation of the principal difficulties of the Italian Pronunciation; and, in order that they may be