

**THE ELEMENTARY
SPANISH READER
AND TRANSLATOR**

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The Elementary Spanish Reader and Translator by Miguel T. Tolon

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MIGUEL T. TOLON

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ELEMENTARY
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BY
MIGUEL T. TOLON,
PROFESSOR OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND SPANISH LITERATURE.

NEW YORK:
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1882.

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AL LECTOR CUBANO.

AL preparar esta pequeña serie de ejercicios de traducciones para los Ingleses que aprenden el español, he procurado que en alguna manera sirva también á los Cubanos que aprenden el inglés, como un curso fácil y preparatorio para emprender el estudio, ya más dilatado y difícil, de la composición en dicha lengua.

Las lecciones están dispuestas en un sistema progresivo, desde la forma más sencilla de construcción hasta entrar en algunos giros y peculiaridades difíciles del idioma español. Con muy pequeña alteración en el orden numeral de los ejercicios, se puede adaptar mi libro á la mayor parte de las gramáticas conocidas.

A fin de evitar al discípulo la incomodidad y pérdida de tiempo que ocasiona el uso de grandes diccionarios, he puesto al fin de este volumen un Vocabulario particular para cada lección, arreglado también en orden progresivo; y que, al mismo tiempo que facilita la versión literal, obliga al discípulo á ejercitar su memoria, y le proporciona un caudal de voces bastante considerable.

Las notas puestas al pié de cada lección para explicar ciertos casos en que no se puede traducir palabra por palabra, son también de grande ayuda para el estudiante.

Si mi ensayo no cumple satisfactoriamente al objeto, creo que, á lo ménos, remediará en parte la carencia de un libro de esta clase, y lo presento al público con la conciencia de haber procurado hacerle un servicio.

MIGUEL T. TOLON.

Nueva York, Setiembre, 1852.

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PREFACE.

IN my practice of teaching the Spanish language I have met with a great inconvenience both to myself and my scholars, that is, the want of a proper book of progressive exercises for the use of those who are not yet so far acquainted with the peculiarities and construction of that language as to undertake successfully the translation of such difficult text books as are in use at present. These reasons have induced me to prepare this small volume, which may, I presume, make the lack of a complete work less sensible either for professors or students.

The exercises are arranged in a progressive order: the first lesson is written in the plainest and easiest form of Spanish construction, while the last has something of the high and difficult style of our classical authors. Thus my small book may be considered as an appropriate introduction to any of those larger volumes now admitted as "Readers" and "Translators."

Each lesson will be found to offer a particular succession of exercises on a given theme of etymology and syntax. The first lesson, for instance, shows the various accidents of the Spanish definite article; the second lesson, those of the indefinite article as well as those of the former; the third lesson exhibits the mechanism of the formation of plurals, and so on through the whole series of exercises.

The end proposed in the preparation of this book required the addition of a particular vocabulary to each lesson, on a

plan which shall not only facilitate the learning of quite a numerous catalogue of words and phrases, but relieve the pupil from the trouble and loss of time unavoidably attending the use of large dictionaries, and which, also, are not calculated to assist beginners in their first attempts to translate.

The orthography of this book is exactly the same as that lately established by the Royal Academy of Madrid, with the exception only of some useful innovations introduced by several of the most distinguished Spanish philologists of the age, such as *Araujo, Salvá, Bello, &c.*

I respectfully submit my essay to the public, with a desire to be of some service to my fellow professors as well as to their pupils, and with the hope that I may meet their approbation.

MIGUEL T. TOLON.

New York, September, 1852.

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