

MEMORANDA IN GREEK GRAMMAR

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Memoranda in Greek Grammar by James Stewart

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JAMES STEWART

**MEMORANDA IN
GREEK GRAMMAR**

MEMORANDA
IN
GREEK GRAMMAR,

WITH A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF ACCENTUATION:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION THROUGHOUT,

WITH EXERCISES IN THE DIALECTS, ACCENTUATION,
AND THE PRINCIPAL GREEK METRES.

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P R E F A C E .

IN this little work there are contained those facts in Greek Grammar which even diligent students are apt to forget, although without a knowledge of them, there can be no real scholarship. They are put down in such a way, and with so many examination questions and exercises, that one who has forgotten all but his accidence, may by their means soon recover much of what he has lost, while by glancing over these notes from time to time, any student may keep a fair amount of this species of scholarship always alive.

It is hoped that this little book will be found useful in schools, as being easily learned and in a convenient form.

A complete system of accentuation has been given, as being a branch of scholarship often

too much neglected, though it is so interesting and so easily acquired.

Exercises will also be found on the chief Greek metres; few in number, but perhaps sufficient to impress the laws of each species of verse on the student's memory.

The author owes many observations to the Complete Greek Grammar (second edition), and to the new Cratylus and Varronianus of Dr. Donaldson, and to many other philological works, which it seems unnecessary to mention here.

He is sorry to have to apologize for a few errors of the press in the first twenty-four pages, which escaped his eye, as he had to correct the sheets amid very many academic duties. They are not, however, of a nature to mislead in any case, and he has noticed them in the list of errata at the end.

Dublin, June 1, 1859.

MEMORANDA
IN
GREEK GRAMMAR.

I. ORTHOGRAPHY AND ETYMOLOGY.

1. The Latin language is, *in its present form*, older than the Greek; 1. Because when a similarity exists, it is between the Latin and the *Æolic*, the oldest Greek dialect; and, 2. Because, while it is the tendency of all languages, in their progress, to substitute auxiliaries and particles for inflexions, this is more the case with the Greek than the Latin.

2. The Greek language was formed by two distinct tribes: the *Hellenes*, who came by land from Asia into the north of Greece; and the *Pelasgi*, who came across the sea from Asia-Minor into Greece.

3. The name *Pelasgi* is derived by some from *πέλαγος*, the sea; by others from *πελαργοί* (storks), as being migratory; and by

others from *πῆλορες* (swarthy Asiatics, or dark-faced men; *Donaldson's Varronianus*, p. 24); the latter part of the word (*asgi*) being, according to them, an ethrical designation connected with *Ascanius* and *Asia*.

4. The states in the north of the Peloponnesus, as well as Argos, Athens, Bœotia, Phocis, Eubœa, were Pelasgian; and hence originally their language was the same. From this common language, with slight modification, arose the Homeric or Epic dialect.

The Pelasgi were the original civilizers of the Peloponnesus (from them it had its name), and of many other parts of Greece. They were afterwards incorporated with the Hellenes, a cognate martial tribe from the mountains in the north of Thessaly. In proportion as the Hellenic or Pelasgian element in this admixture predominated, the tribes were called Dorians or Highlanders (*δα* and *ὑρος*), or Ionians (*Ἴωνες*, men of the coast, from *Ἰονία*).

When, however, the Dorians or Highlanders first descended from their mountains in the north of Thessaly and mixed with the Pelasgi in the plains, they were called Æolians (*Αἰολῆες*, particoloured) or mixed men; and this name was retained by the Thessalians and Bœotians long after the opposition of Dorian and Ionian had established itself in other parts of Greece.

5. The Spartans refused to improve the

crude speech of their progenitors, though the Epic language was well known to them. The other Dorians preserved their tongue less pure, and came nearer to the Epic. In this dialect lyric poetry was first composed, and hence even the Attic tragedians employed it in the choruses.

6. The Ionians kept most nearly to the Epic, so much so that the Epic is sometimes called the old Ionic. That dialect, in which Herodotus and Hippocrates wrote, is sometimes called the new Ionic. The Ionians, whose ear did not reject a concurrence of vowels, omitted the harsh consonants of the Pelasgian tongue, and sacrificed in a considerable degree the strength of the Epic to softness of sound.

7. The Athenians went a step further, and contracted into one the syllables which produced a hiatus.

8. The Æolians, like the Spartans, adhered very closely to the original type of the language, and hence some have considered the Æolic identical with the Doric, as they consider the Attic identical with the Ionic.

9. The aptness of certain dialects to certain kinds of writing, became in process of time an allowed fact; and hence Herodotus, though a Dorian, wrote in Ionic, his agreeable style harmonizing exactly with this smooth dialect; and Pythagoras, an Ionian,