

**THE SPEECH OF
MAN AND
HOLY WRIT**

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The speech of man and Holy Writ by William R. Gray

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WILLIAM R. GRAY

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AND
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Καὶ ἦν πάντα ἡ γῆ χεῖλος ἐν καὶ
φωνῇ μία πᾶσι



London
William R. Gray
1894

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PREFACE



LANGUAGE is the source and channel of all knowledge. As an educational subject, it increases in importance with the extension of commerce and international intercourse.

No accomplishment is more necessary at the present time than command of foreign tongues, and although individuals differ in natural facility of speech, a useful degree of proficiency may be easily acquired.

The mental qualities can be expanded and improved by patience and practice, that is especially true of the faculty of language; but experience confirms the advantage of a preliminary view of the nature and history of the subject, in order that lingual studies should be well founded and begun at the just point of departure.

The learning of any tongue commenced upon the true basis that speech is a natural attribute of man, and not a system of invention, compels attention to the general root-relationship of dialects, the surrounding philological circumstances, and avoids distracting speculations.

The study of one's own language must be facilitated by the scientific evidences of ancient related forms, which, it is hoped, may be found referred to briefly but sufficiently in the following pages.

Examples are abundant of the probable failure of even earnest and industrious workers, who proceed upon the misleading lines of sophistry and speculation.

But there is another aspect of the question still more important, relative to the verity of the Sacred Scriptures, which the science of language confirms in a marked manner.

By presenting to the mind of the general reader a synopsis of the various opinions held on the subject, the desire has been to afford assistance in the Biblical controversy to the searcher for truth.

It is not expected that this book should supersede the excellent philological works already provided, but that it should serve rather as an addition, in the form of a simplified argument from the point of view of the Jew and the Christian; and as it is intended for popular perusal in connection with others of an antagonistic class, abstruse references have been avoided.

November, 1894.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE absorbing exigencies of modern life, and the constant vigilance required in most departments of industry, leave little margin of time for abstract studies to the busy dwellers in large cities, who naturally prefer light entertaining literature, and to that very numerous class may be added the well-meaning people of more leisure, who frequently do not take the trouble to form definite opinions upon general subjects outside special interests, and are disinclined to labor through serious reading for impersonal purposes. To those large and important sections of the

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public mind, the easy and short approach is by the way of amusing and cleverly-written fiction.

Tales and romances of exceptional genius and style, naturally command a large degree of attention in directions probably beyond the reach of some other forms of literary work. Therefore they are shapes in which arguments, good or bad, may be widely circulated.

For instance, the mischievous effects from certain points of view are incalculable, which have resulted to many minds by unguarded perusal of the religious novel, as it has been termed, usually founded upon a plot embracing theological points moving round interesting personalities whose adventures, related with skill and power, are interspersed with the odd sides only, of old arguments and demolished contentions.

The pulpits may be filled, as they generally are, by earnest workers, but it is difficult to stem the current of indifference while the popular sensational novels of sceptical and antichristian views are being sold by tens of thousands, passed through the libraries from hand to hand among the congregations, a circumstance certainly which cannot be avoided;