

**A STUDY IN CASE RIVALRY: BEING
AN INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE
USE OF THE GENITIVE AND THE
ACCUSATIVE IN LATIN WITH VERBS
OF REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING**

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A Study in Case Rivalry: Being an Investigation Regarding the Use of the Genitive and the accusative in latin with verbs of remembering and forgetting by Clinton L. Babcock

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CLINTON L. BABCOCK

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BEING AN

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LATIN WITH VERBS OF REMEM-
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PRESENTED AS A THESIS

FOR

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

TO THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

BY

CLINTON L. BABCOCK

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INTRODUCTION.

It is a recognized fact that many of the statements touching Latin syntax, generally accepted as true, rest upon slight foundation. One after another, trusted "rules" have been weighed in the balance of exhaustive research, and found wanting, till the careful scholar finds himself regarding with great reserve even the most plausible statements of traditional grammar, unless those statements have been amply verified by thorough investigation. Unfortunately the number of instances in which such investigations have been made is comparatively few. This paper is presented in the hope that it may add one more to the list.

Primarily the object has been to present a complete, classified, list of all the examples in point that occur in extant Latinity down to the end of the Augustan period. No effort has been spared toward the attainment of this object. Sometimes, where no reliable index was available, a standard text has been carefully read the second time, lest any examples should escape notice. This has been done in the case of Plautus, and Terence, and Cicero's *Letters*. The accuracy of the text has been tested in the case of each example and the reading discussed when necessary. In spite of all precautions, however, it is possible that some few examples have been omitted. Moreover, scattered fragments, not found in standard collections such as the *Poetae Latini Minores* of Baehrens, and the *Scaenicae Romanorum Poesis Fragmenta* of Ribbeck, have not been hunted out. All material belonging to the post-Augustan period has been gleaned from lexicons and indexes. Some of these were good and some were not. No effort has been made toward completeness of the material belonging to this period of the language, but examples, so far as given, have been verified and are accurate. They are valuable as throwing light upon the later development of the construction which forms the subject of this paper, and they probably cover over seventy-

five per cent. of the instances occurring in the entire period from which they are drawn.

Two other objects have been kept in mind; and the three, treated separately, give rise to the division of the paper into three parts. Part One contains a collection of the statements regarding the subject made by scholars both ancient and modern, with an occasional criticism of statements of fact. Part Two contains the material gathered in the present investigation, as described above. Part Three includes criticisms of theories quoted in Part One, together with such independent suggestions and conclusions as may seem warranted by Part Two.

PART ONE.

HISTORY OF VIEWS.

Cicero, *de Div.* I, 63, writes *meminit praeteritorum*. In *de Fin.* I, 62, he writes *praeterita meminit*. Why? The following pages are devoted to an attempt to answer the general question of which this is a particular instance: Why did the Romans use now the genitive and now the accusative with verbs of *remembering* and *forgetting*?

The ancient grammarians have little or nothing to say about the matter. If they mention it at all, it is generally to quote without comment examples of the genitive and accusative with these verbs, under the heading "*Exempla locutionum*." However, Caper and after him Beda (see Keil, VII, pp. 92, 282) make the following positive statement: *Oblitus ne sis nostri, non nos: veteres tamen et hoc modo dixerunt*. This is wholly without explanation or comment. Nonius (L. Müller, 1888, Part II, p. 136 ff.), under the heading *De Numeris et Casibus*, makes the following interesting classification: *Accusativus pro genetivo*, dum homines perditam hastam illam cruentam meminere et sperabunt. M. Tullius, *de off.* II,

alternos Musae meminisse volebant. Vergilius in *Bucolicis*.

meminere officium suum: Plautus, *Cistellaria*.

propterea illius nomen memini facilius. *Menaechmis*.

heu me miserum cum haec recordor, cum illos reminiscor dies.

Accius, *Eurysace*.

veritus sum arbitros; adque utinam memet possim obliscier.

Athamante.

an ego Ulixem obliscar umquam aut quemquam praeponi velim?

Nyctegresia.

iam desine meminisse illius formam. Turpilius, *Pedio*.

adque ipsa mens, quae futura videt, praeterita meminit.