

**FIRST LATIN GRAMMAR
AND EXERCISES, ON
OLLENDORFF'S METHOD**

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WILLIAM HENRY PINNOCK

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BY

WILLIAM HENRY PINNOCK,

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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TO THE REV. THE
MASTER, AND FELLOWS,
&c. &c. &c.
OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
THIS SERIES OF WORKS
Is inscribed,
AS A VERY HUMBLE, BUT A SINCERE TRIBUTE OF
RESPECT AND ESTEEM,
BY THEIR OBLIGED AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
WILLIAM HENRY PINNOCK.



P R E F A C E.

It is admitted beyond all question, and every-day experience bears testimony to the fact, that the classic languages of Greece and Rome have become a most essential—the chief ingredient in the education of a gentleman. Not that he will make use of these tongues in the intercourse of his after-life; but because the mere learning of these languages has been found to be the best discipline for bringing out the various faculties of the youthful mind,—the simplest and surest method of awakening and maturing those intellectual powers which give rank and character to the future man. Beyond this, the acquaintance that he derives with those master-works of mind and action, so admirably and so strikingly portrayed in Grecian and Roman literature, cannot fail to stamp upon his mind such images of the noble and the grand, as will exercise a high and exalted influence over the inward feelings of the heart, and the outward bearing of his

growing years. Every attempt, therefore, to facilitate the acquirement of either of these languages, cannot but in some degree be welcome; but how far satisfactory, experience and an indulgent public can alone determine.—Now to the work before us.

This development of the structure of the Latin language has long been put in practice by the Author among his own pupils with considerable advantage. Etymological analysis,—continued repetition and explanation, with questions of *examination* and *inquiry*, so critical and diversified as to establish a sound knowledge of the language as it now exists in classic authors, and *arranged in close contiguity* with the parts they analyse, a point of great importance for practical application,—are some of its most important features. This *questioning* is carried out in all our public schools and universities, and the best modern editions of classic authors are not considered complete for the purposes of education without the appendage of examinatory questions;—how much more necessary, therefore, must it be in our introductory works on these important subjects! And further: the mathematical development here pursued has been applied most satisfactorily and successfully to the German and French languages by Mr. OLLENDORFF, whose celebrity in this department has obtained for him the flattering appellation of the "*Euclid*" in German.

In respect to the Latin tongue, every classic must be aware of the uncertain and inaccurate data left to

us from antiquity of its early structure. A mixture of Oscan, Umbrian, and Etruscan elements growing into a language by the accretion of the various dialects of the surrounding people, as they became amalgamated with the Roman empire, produced the rough material which the fascinating elegance of Grecian literature in the Augustan age moulded into something like a finished tongue. Though our knowledge of its actual growth and progress is imperfect, yet comparative philology, aided by the deep research of German scholars, has done much in explaining away many of the difficulties that encumbered its development; but till all the omissions and deficiencies have been accurately supplied,—till the abbreviations and the assimilation of literal elements have been lucidly explained, the etymological structure of the language cannot be thoroughly understood. In fact, the Latin language is a system of *abbreviation* from beginning to end; the whole process of mutilation by apheresis and syncope, by apocope and crasis, by antithesis and metathesis, has been at work unchecked to destroy the analogy of its structural development. There is not a part of speech,—there is not a declension, not a conjugation, that is free from this reproach. The letter *r* is continually usurping the place of *s*¹; as *arbor* for *arbos*, *Valerius* for *Valesius*, *Papirius* for

¹ In multis verbis, in quo antiqui dicebant *s*, postea dictum *r*.—*Varro de Ling. Lat.* vii. 26.

Papissius²; as well for *d*: as in *auris*, from aud-io; *l* also for *d*: as *sella*, from sedeo; *b* for *p*: as *bitumen* for pitumen, from pituita; and a host of others familiar to every scholar, without touching upon the derivations from the Greek, such as *fera*, from θηρ; *ambo*, from αμφω; *hortus*, from χορρος; *equus*, from ἵππος; &c.

Again, by ellipsis at the beginning, middle, or end, we find *neq* for *neque*, *im* for *infimus*, *otium* for *opitium*, *summus* for *supremus*, *hodie* for *hoc-die*, *malo* and *mauolo* for *magis-colo*, *nolo* for *non-colo*, *videlicet* for *videre-licet*, and so on: not omitting even proper names, which we learn from Varro constantly in colloquialism suffered syncopation: as *Artemas* for *Artemidorus*³. The great evil, however, arose from the practice of *writing* these abbreviations, so destructive of all analogy, rather than give to each word its full complement of letters; *etymology* gave way to a careless and negligent pronunciation,—sense yielded to sound. Augustus himself cared not for his orthography; he wrote just as he spoke.

On the subject of *declension*, where can we find uniformity? We will take one case for an example of existing deficiencies.—The ancient genitives uniformly ended

¹ Cicero forcibly shows this practice in his *ad Famil.* ix. 21.

² These practices occur in our own language in familiar conversation to a very great extent: as *'tis* for *it is*, *I'll* for *I will*, *won't* for *will not*, *don't* for *do not*, *ha'-penny* for *half-penny*, *Chomley* for *Choismondeley*, *Cohoun* for *Colquhoun*; and in provincialisms particularly: *Da'entry* for *Dasentry*, *Charvi* for *Chalk-field*, &c.