

A SIMPLIFIED LATIN GRAMMAR

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A Simplified Latin Grammar by Walter P. Powell

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WALTER P. POWELL

**A SIMPLIFIED
LATIN GRAMMAR**

A SIMPLIFIED

LATIN GRAMMAR,

BY

THE REV. WALTER P. POWELL, D.C.L.,

MASTER OF THE FREE-GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF QUEEN MARY,

IN CLITHEROE.

Pergamus igitur ad grammaticam. Ea vero veluti viatoris locum erga cæteras scientias obtinet; non nobilem illum quidem, sed imprimis tamen necessarium; præsertim cum scientiæ, nostris sæculis, et linguis eruditæ, non vernaculis, potissimum hauriantur.—*Lord Bacon, De Augm. Scient. Lib. vi. cap. 1.*

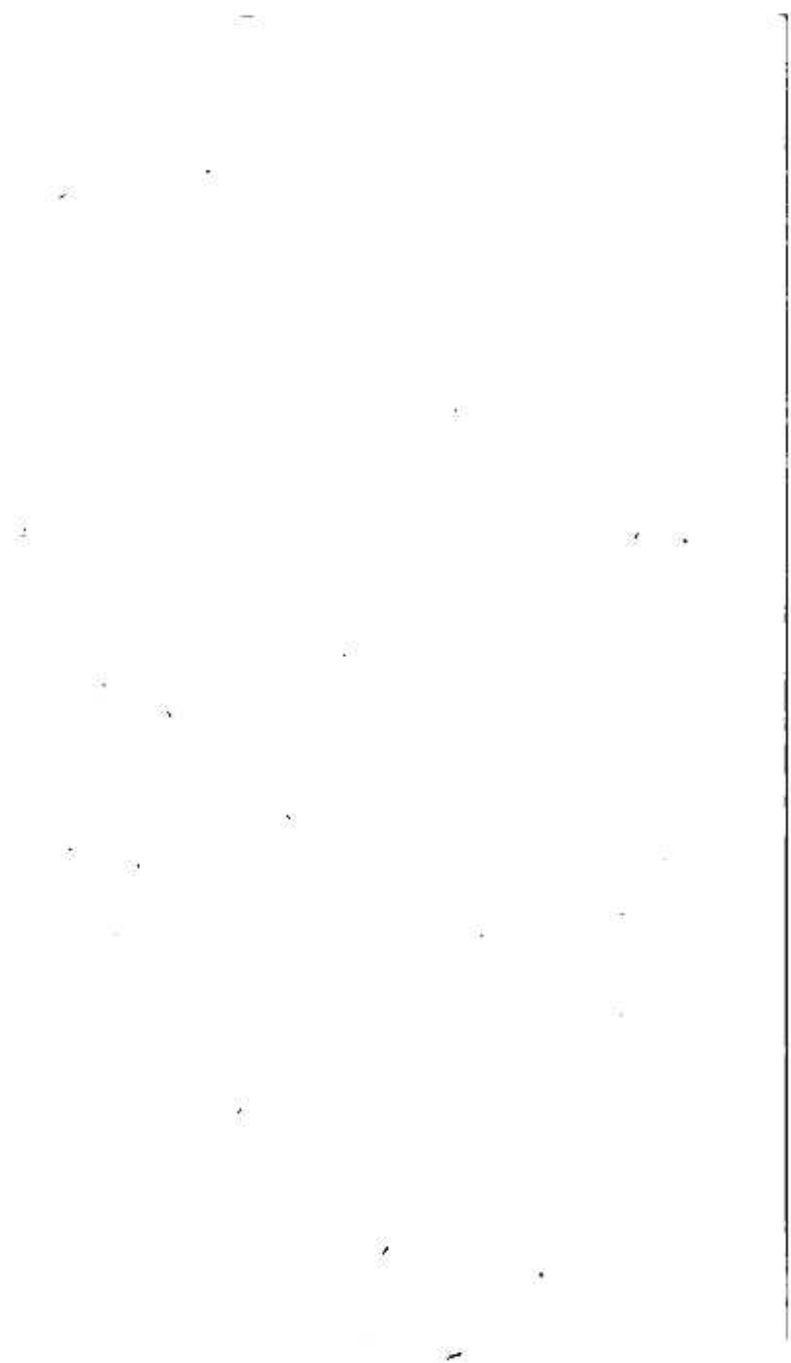


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252.



TO
THE RIGHT REVEREND
JOHN BIRD SUMNER, D.D.,
LORD BISHOP OF CHESTER,
PREBENDARY OF DURHAM,
ETC, ETC, ETC.
VISITOR OF CLITHEROE SCHOOL,

THIS ATTEMPT AT
SIMPLIFYING LATIN GRAMMAR

IS, WITH PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY
THE AUTHOR.

Τό, τε γάρ μιμῆσθαι, σύμφυτον τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἕκ παιδῶν ἐστὶ· καὶ τοῦτο διαφέρει τῶν ἄλλων ζῴων, ὅτι μιμητικώτατόν ἐστι, καὶ τὰς μαθήσεις ποιεῖται διὰ μιμήσεως τὰς πρώτας· καὶ τὸ χαίρειν τοῖς μιμήμασι πάντα.—*Ἀριστοτέλης, De Poetica, § 6.*

PREFACE.

A WELL-NIGH universal wish has long been evinced for an "Introduction to the Latin Tongue" more simple in its arrangement, and less cumbersome in its rules than what has hitherto been commonly employed; at the same time avoiding with equal care the obscurity of being too brief, together with the perplexedness of unnecessary innovation. The first of these wants evidently shows itself in the number of new Grammars which have appeared within the last few years; while the prevailing desire on the latter point is sufficiently demonstrated by the backwardness displayed in general to take advantage of those publications.

The age has passed when, "as for the Diversity of Grammars it is well and profitably taken away by the King's Majesty's Wisdom;" and I have very little doubt of there being but few in the scholastic profession unable to bear witness that at all events the age has not yet arrived in which the "changing of schoolmasters" is wholly unknown. I cannot therefore help persuading myself that no less happy a method can possibly be devised "for avoiding the Hurt" in such changes than the use of introductory systems of grammar altogether differing, and often quite unnecessarily—not to say wantonly, in principle, as well as detail, from that adopted in almost ninety-nine out of every hundred of English schools.

On the removal of a little boy from one school to another nothing can be more cruelly perplexing to his ideas than to find an entirely strange grammar set before him. Between the indistinct impressions of a former method, gradually receding into obscurity, and the imperfectly acquired notions of a new method, scarcely as yet emerging into light, his thoughts are perfectly bewildered; and the difficulty of learning what his master desires him to remember is considerably enhanced by the awkwardness of unlearning that which the same authority is anxious he should forget. But, if the young scholar be somewhat more advanced, and discover upon his admission into a public school, either that he is shut out of an upper form, or continually losing places in it, from an unexpected infelicity in parsing occasioned by nothing more or less than a thorough *revolution* in Syntax, Conjugation, Declension and Parts of Speech, he is meeting with discouragement which cannot but be pitied, and experiencing a check which will not fail of being injurious.

I have, notwithstanding, for some time entertained the opinion that Latin grammar might be put forth in a more desirable shape than as it appears in the Eton Introduction; and this opinion is confirmed not only by the observations made, but also by the plan invariably, and not unsuccessfully, pursued during several years of employment in tuition: otherwise I need not have obtruded this SIMPLIFIED LATIN GRAMMAR upon the attention of the public. Nevertheless I am very far from wishing to echo one half the vituperation which, for some time back, it has been so fashionable to utter against the Eton Grammar; inasmuch as therein, or rather in that upon which it is founded—the delightful “*BREVISSIMA*

INSTITUTIO" of William Lily, there certainly is contained much valuable matter; although that value appears to me to consist chiefly in its being a not very bulky compendium of useful reference for the more advanced school-boy or young collegian.

The object, therefore, which I have endeavoured to keep steadily in view, while preparing the following pages, has been to render as simple as possible the acquisition of the rudiments of Latin, and not to introduce any needless peculiarity. In this Grammar scarcely any thing will appear strange to a boy who has previously learned the Eton; and I am much deceived if that Grammar will not be found considerably easier, and more intelligible, to those who may have been made acquainted with this, than it has often proved to be in the case of others.

Neither has it been judged advisable here to make any attempt at what is commonly called a "Philosophical Grammar:" for, in the words of the great Bacon, "*Grammaticam etiam bipartitam ponemus, ut alia sit literaria, alia philosophica: altera adhibetur simpliciter ad linguas, nempe ut eas quis aut celerius perdiscat, aut emendatius et purius loquatur; altera vero aliquatenus philosophiæ ministrat*."—The duty of it is of two natures; the one popular, which is for the speedy and perfect attaining languages, as well for intercourse of speech, as for understanding of authors; the other philosophical, examining the power and nature of words as they are the footsteps and prints of reason†:—or, having re-

* Lord Bacon, *De Augmentis Scientiarum*, lib. vi. cap. 1.

† ——— Advancement of Learning, book ii.