

HANDBOOK OF LATIN WRITING

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Handbook of Latin Writing by Henry Preble & Charles P. Parker

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HENRY PREBLE & CHARLES P. PARKER

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OF
LATIN WRITING.

BY
HENRY PREBLE, A.B. (HARV.),
AND
CHARLES P. PARKER, B.A. (OXON.).

REVISED EDITION.

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GEORGE ARTHUR PARKER
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PREFACE.

IN preparing this handbook it has not been our object to write an exhaustive work upon Latin composition, but merely to make the labor of both pupil and teacher easier, by putting into compact form various points which we have found it necessary constantly to reiterate to our pupils. A knowledge of forms and of syntax, and some practice in turning easy narrative prose into Latin, has been presupposed.

Feeling that ill success in Latin writing is largely due to the habit of translating the words rather than the thought, we have aimed in the Introductory Remarks and the Suggestions at fastening attention upon the thought, and have tried to show the learner how to express in Latin form the ideas which he has grasped from the English words. We have endeavored to make our suggestions as concise as possible, and have purposely used examples rather sparingly, in the hope of encouraging close attention on the part of pupils.

We have tried to choose exercises which seemed to us to be of more general application, and less like Chinese puzzles than those commonly used, many of which, even when satisfactorily worked out, do not, in a degree at all

proportionate to the labor involved, increase the pupil's power to deal with the next exercise. We have graded the work in a general way, but have not considered it necessary to do so very minutely.

We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness on various points to the excellent works of J. E. Nixon, A. W. Potts, G. L. Bennett, and Allen & Greenough.

We would further express our sincerest thanks to Professors G. M. Lane, F. D. Allen, J. B. Greenough, and C. L. Smith of Harvard University, for their kindness in looking over proof, and for many valuable suggestions.

CAMBRIDGE, June 8, 1884.

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION.

THE first edition of this handbook grew out of the necessities of class work at Harvard College. The development of Latin writing there and the fuller experience of the authors make some modification of the handbook now seem desirable. In the new edition we have retained the essential principle of the first edition, but we have simplified and otherwise improved the introductory remarks and the suggestions in Part II. The treatment of Latin word-arrangement, in particular, has been much more systematized, while more explicit and, we hope, more practical suggestions have been given in regard to the subjunctive.

Forty of the exercises had proved less useful than was hoped, and others have been substituted for them. In making this change, we have aimed at securing a greater proportion of easier exercises, and have rearranged and more definitely graded all. We do not, however, mean to indicate that a slavish adherence to their sequence is desirable.

JUNE 18, 1890.

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PART I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

IN translating from English into Latin, the first thing to do is to find out exactly what the English means. The next thing is to put the thought (not the words) thus grasped into Latin form.

Latin differs from English fundamentally in regard to the arrangement of the words in a sentence. An ordinary English sentence, in the great majority of cases, has the following order: Subject, Verb, Object, Adverbial Modifier. So in short phrases there is a regular order: for instance, when an adjective modifies a noun it almost invariably precedes the noun; as, "a warm day," "that easy lesson"; when a prepositional phrase is connected with a noun, adjective, or verb, it follows these parts of speech; as, "the temple of Saturn," "good for ten days," "have you been to the Vatican?" In Latin, on the other hand, the words have no such fixed order based upon their grammatical relations to each other. They are arranged according to their relative importance in the thought, the most important word standing first, the next most important next, and so on. In short, simple expressions, the most important word corresponds to the word which we call the emphatic word of the expression and upon which we put the greatest stress of voice in spoken English. Thus if a Roman wished to indicate what we mean by saying "a *brave* man," he put the words in the order