

**THE GRAMMAR OF
WORDS: A
HANDBOOK FOR
ELEMENTARY CLASSES**

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The grammar of words: a handbook for elementary classes by William S. Laurie

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WILLIAM S. LAURIE

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FOR
ELEMENTARY CLASSES.

BY WILLIAM S. LAURIE,

WAREHOUSEMEN AND CLERKS' SCHOOLS,
MANCHESTER.



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PREFACE.

THE AIM of this work is simply to open up the way to an intelligent comprehension of the Functions of words, and their relations in a sentence; or, in other words, to enable the pupil to parse fully and intelligently any passage whose meaning he distinctly apprehends. As there is much in other elementary works which I consider irrelevant to my purpose, I have thought proper to omit it. The system of arbitrary rules and scientific definitions I have likewise discarded, and have endeavoured rather to embody the leading truths of the science, in such simple language as might prove suitable to the capacity of a child of tender years. The Exercises have been constructed on the same principle. A learner, in his first attempts to apply his knowledge, must be put to very great disadvantage, unless the sentences he has to deal with are perfectly simple and transparent. In these Exercises I have, accordingly, endeavoured to present the pupil not with a child's words only, but with childish thoughts and ideas even, that, in his first attacks upon syntax, he may have to deal with a language entirely his own.

For those Teachers who, in working with young classes, rely mainly upon oral instruction, the Exercises at least may be found useful, while the body of the work might be made to save a great deal of the labour of recapitulation. Under the system where it would be employed as a regular class-book, the daily lessons will be found in that part of the text, printed in prominent type, which may be committed to memory, like the Rules and Definitions of other Grammar-books.

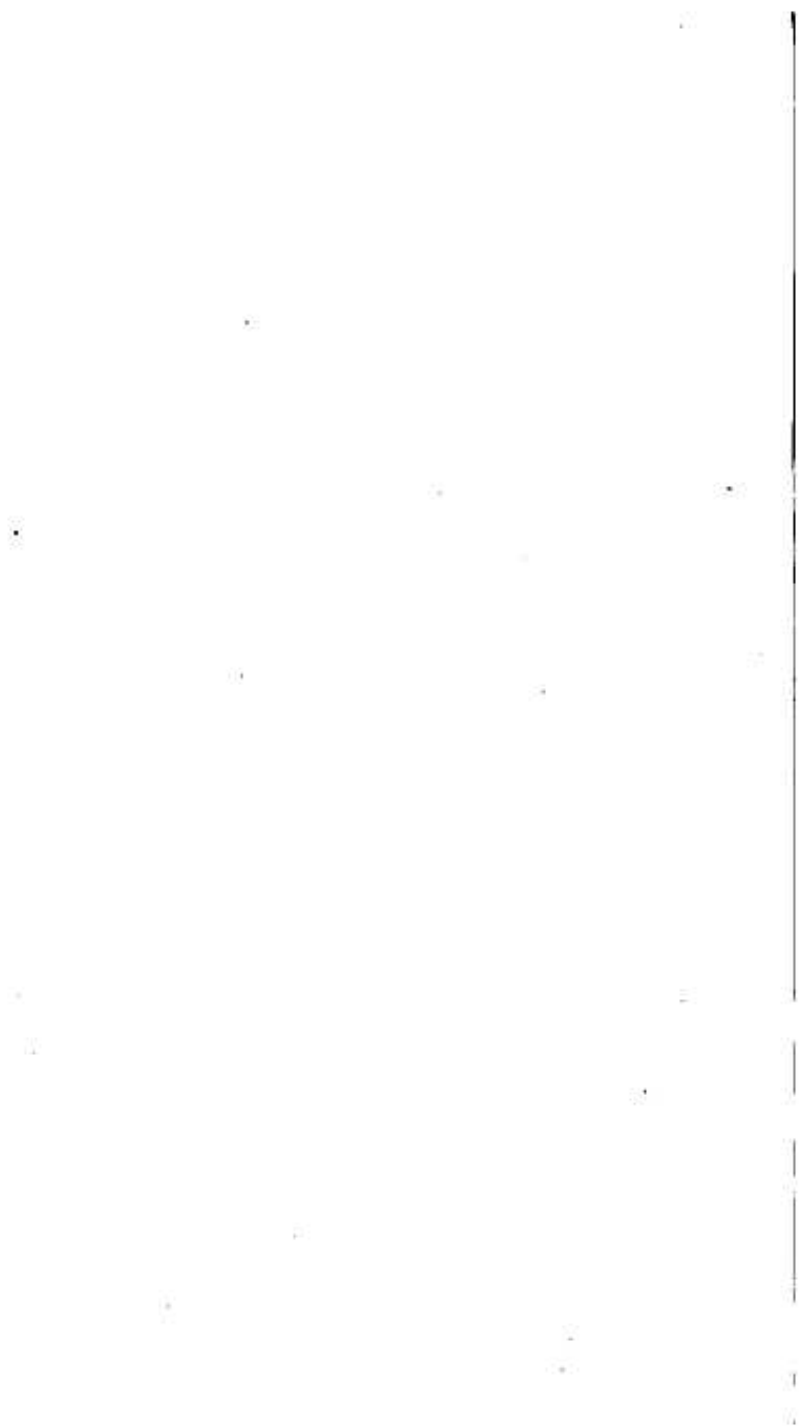
W. S. L.

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THE
GRAMMAR OF WORDS.

INTRODUCTORY—ABOUT WORDS.

WORDS are what we make use of to make known our thoughts to one another.

All the words spoken by any one people or nation make up a Language.

By the 'English Language' we mean, all the words that one Englishman might speak and which another Englishman would understand.

The English language contains, altogether, more than a hundred and fifty thousand words.* Of these, however, a very few may be enough by which to make known a single thought.

As many words as express a complete thought, or as many as make sense, when taken by themselves, apart from all others, are called a Sentence.

The words in a sentence have all a particular

* Including the inflected forms of words