

**LATIN PROSE THROUGH
ENGLISH IDIOM: RULES
AND EXERCISES ON LATIN
PROSE COMPOSITION**

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Latin Prose Through English Idiom: Rules and Exercises on Latin Prose Composition by Edwin Abbott A. Abbott & E. R. Humphreys

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EDWIN ABBOTT A. ABBOTT & E. R. HUMPHREYS

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PROSE COMPOSITION**

LATIN PROSE
THROUGH ENGLISH IDIOM.

Rules and Exercises

ON

LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION.

BY THE

REV. EDWIN A. ABBOTT, D.D.,

HEAD MASTER OF THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL.

WITH ADDITIONS BY

E. R. HUMPHREYS, A.M., LL.D.,

AUTHOR OF "LYRA HELLENICA," "MANUALS OF ADVANCED GREEK
AND LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION," "CIVIL LAW," ETC., ETC.

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PREFATORY NOTE

BY THE AMERICAN EDITOR.

IN using this excellent little Manual with my own pupils, I have felt the want of a series of simpler introductory exercises, illustrative of the "Rules and Reasons," and more especially of those applying to the prepositions; and I have therefore prepared the additional exercises now inserted. I would suggest to teachers the advantage of carrying out the same plan to a much fuller extent while using this textbook.

Much of the difficulty experienced by teachers in communicating, and by pupils in acquiring, a facility in Latin and Greek Composition would be removed, if the former would discard both the idea and the expression so constantly applied to the Greek and Roman tongues, — "the dead languages." Regard them, as what they are, and ever will be, so long as our English tongue survives, "living," and embodying the life-essence of all the best modern tongues, — teach them on the same common-sense, practical plans as you teach German, French, or Spanish, and

the duty will become an easier one to the teacher, a pleasanter and more profitable one to the taught.

From the long and successful experience I have had in teaching Latin and Greek composition, it will not, I trust, be deemed presumptuous in me to recommend—as I did, several years ago, in the Introduction to my *Livy*—as one of the most valuable aids to acquiring correctness and ease of composition, the frequent and close analysis and written translation of passages of Cæsar, Cicero, and Livy, in Latin, and of Xenophon and Plato, in Greek, and then the requiring the pupil on the following day to turn back the translation thus made into Latin or Greek, not insisting on a word-for-word agreement with the original, but allowing new turnings to stand, if not wrong. This last plan I have ever found most encouraging to the pupil.

While the "Scheme of Latin Pronunciation" is retained at the end of the volume, I feel it necessary to say that, beyond the Continental pronunciation of the vowels, which I have advocated and used for nearly twenty years, I dissent in *theory*—as do many scholars far more eminent than I—from many points in that "Scheme," and in the Syllabus, on which it is founded,—a syllabus which, to use the words of one of the professors who prepared it, "has fallen still-born in England." In *practice*, as a tutor for Harvard, I am almost of necessity led into its

PREFATORY NOTE.

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adoption, having to read with pupils who have been prepared on that system. I earnestly cherish the hope, however, that the Professors of Harvard, and other American Colleges, will yet reconsider this matter of Latin Pronunciation, and modify the rules laid down for the sounds of the consonants.

E. R. H.

293 COLUMBUS AVENUE, Boston,
July 18, 1876.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

THE title of this book, "*Latin Prose through English Idiom*," is not intended to be a meaningless antithesis. The Author's object is to prepare English students for the study and composition of Latin Prose, by calling their attention first to the peculiarities of English idiom, and then to the methods of representing the English in the corresponding Latin idiom.

The first part consists of 'Rules and Reasons.' The pupil is supposed to have gone through a course of Latin Grammar and Latin Exercises, and to be on the point of writing continuous Latin Prose; and this part is intended to give a rapid summary of the Rules of Latin Syntax *regarded from an English point of view*. The differences between English and Latin are not only brought prominently forward, but also, as far as possible, explained. The pupil's attention is called to the points in which English is superior to Latin, to the use of *a* and *the*, to the abundance of Tenses, of Verbal Nouns, and of Compound Prepositions, and, on the other hand, to the Latin superiority in Moods. Rules are not despised, and are frequently and prominently set forth; but an attempt

is made to prepare the pupil for them by analysing the English language, and by explaining the force of many English words that were, until lately, seldom explained, e.g. *that, than, of*.

A good deal of space has been given to the Prepositions. It is hoped that the Dictionary of Prepositions contained in Paragraph 41 may be found useful, not only in preventing a good many common blunders made by beginners in Latin Prose, but also in training pupils habitually to connect and explain the different meanings of Prepositions both English and Latin. This seems a very useful mental training.

The Rules are condensed, collected, and numbered at the beginning of the book, for easy reference.

One inconvenience arising from treating the subject generally from an English, but occasionally from a Latin, point of view, is this, that it is difficult to preserve any strictly logical order in the arrangement of the Rules. This would be a very serious defect in a book intended to serve the purpose of a Grammar; but in a book of reference it may, I hope, be excused, provided that the Index at the beginning is found sufficient to guide any moderately careless boy to the explanation and examples of each Rule.

The Examples at the end are purposely unarranged, or rather are arranged with no other object than that, by the time the pupil may be supposed to have forgotten a rule exemplified some six examples back, another exemplification may present itself to him