SWINTON'S GRADED WORD-BOOK.
WORD-ANALYSIS: A GRADED CLASSBOOK OF ENGLISH DERIVATIVE
WORDS, WITH PRACTICAL EXERCISES IN
SPELLING, ANALYZING, DEFINING,
SYNONYMS, AND THE USE OF WORDS

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Swinton's Graded Word-Book. Word-Analysis: A Graded Class-Book of English Derivative Words, with Practical Exercises in Spelling, Analyzing, Defining, Synonyms, and the Use of Words by William Swinton

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WILLIAM SWINTON

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BI

WILLIAM SWINTON, A.M.,

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PREFACE.

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IF the study of WORD-ANALYSIS has not yet the assured and definite place it should by rights have in our ordinary school course, we may perhaps find the reason in the lack, thus far, of text-books technically constructed with a view to such simplification and graduation of the study as are required to meet the needs of elementary instruction. There is, at least, a wide and growing realization of the fact that the study of the English language is very inadequately provided for in the old system, which deals but with the forms of our native speech, and does not even touch its substance. The barrenness of the ancient grammatical training is too notorious for it to be possible that it should long retain its usurped primacy as the sole means of linguistic discipline. Formal grammar will not lose its place, and should not lose its place; but we may well believe that it will undergo such a re-adjustment as the enlarged modern views demand-at any rate, that it shall not displace other branches of the study of English that are equally important and far more fruitful. Theoretically, the study of the English language embraces three departments:

- The study of the English vocabulary—WORD-ANALYSIS.
- The study of the structure of English—MIXED GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION.
 - 3. The study of English forms—Grammar.

The Graded Word-Book has for its object to supply a practical working manual treating of the *first* department of the study of our language—namely, the study of the *English vocabulary*. It presents three prominent points of peculiarity that distinguish it from all previous text-books of etymology:—

1. It is so graded that part I deals exclusively with English primitives and their derivatives. On this head little will need to be said in justification. It will probably be conceded by the majority of teachers that the main obstacle to the utility of existing class-books of etymology arises from the fact that they assume on the part of the pupil a knowledge of classical roots and forms which it is impossi-

ble he should possess. The author believes that the whole logic and rationale of word-formation may be amply illustrated without going beyond simple English and Saxon primitives. When once the real nature of the formative elements and the philosophy of word-building have been mastered by the scholar, he will advance with pleasure and profit to the study of Latin and Greek derivatives. Accordingly, all classical roots are relegated to Part II.

- 2. The treatment of the Latin derivatives in Part II presents a new and important feature, to wit: the systematic analysis of the structure and organism of derivative words, together with the statement of their primary meaning in such form that the pupil inevitably perceives its relation with the root, and in fact makes its primary meaning by the very process of analysing the word into its primitive and its modifying prefix or suffix. It presents, also, a marked improvement in the method of approaching the definition—a method by which the definition is seen to grow out of the primary meaning, and by which the analytic faculty of the pupil is exercised in tracing the transition from the primary meaning to the secondary and figurative meanings—thus converting what is ordinarily a matter of rote into an agreeable exercise of the thinking faculty.
- 3. The third point of novelty in the method of treatment is presented in the copious practical exercises on the use of words. It is believed this feature will readily commend itself to all practical teachers; and accordingly, the author refers the schoolmaster or schoolmistress to an examination of those exercises themselves. The experienced instructor very well knows that his scholars may memorize endless lists of terms and definitions without having any realization of the actual living power of words. Such a realization can only be gained by using the word—by turning it over in a variety of ways, and by throwing upon it the side-lights of its synonym and contrasted word. The method of thus utilizing English derivatives gives a study which possesses at once simplicity and fruitfulness—the two desiderata of an instrument of elementary discipline.

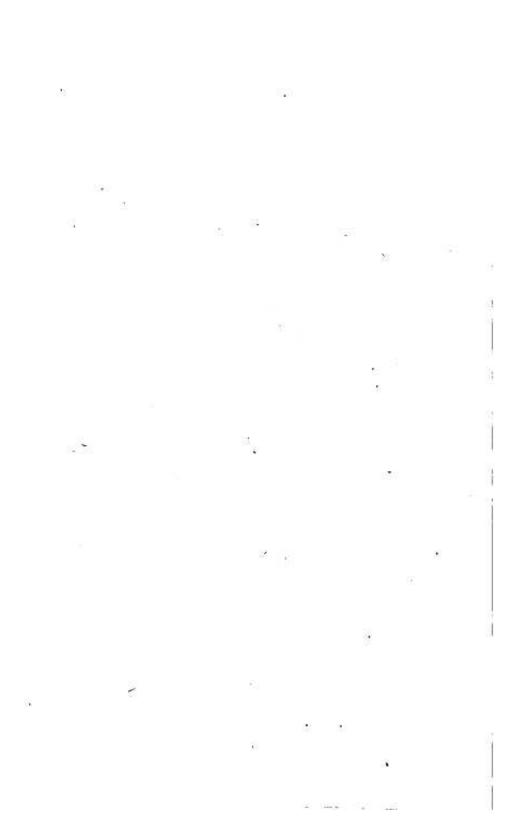
The prominent points in the GRADED WORD-BOOK are: -

- 1. The clear and simple method of word-analysis and definition.
- The practical exercises in spelling, defining, and the use of words in actual composition.
- The adaptation of the manual, by its progressive character, to the needs of the several grades of public and private Schools.

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WORD-ANALYSIS.

PART I.

L-DEFINITIONS.

 An English primitive word, or root, is a word in its simplest English form, without prefix or suffix. Give examples. Ans. Man, Safe, Tell, Navigate.

Part I. of the Word-Analysis takes no note of the origin of words back of the English language. "Navigate," for example, is derived from a Latin root—navis a ship, and is, with reference to Latin, a derivative word; but in Part I it is treated as a primitive word for the reason that it occurs in no simpler English form.

 A prefix is a significant syllable joined to the beginning of a primitive word. Give examples. Ans. Un, fore, circum.

Join the prefix un to the beginning of the primitive word 'safe,' and what word have you? Ans. Unsafe. Define it. Ans. Not safe. What, then, does the prefix un mean? Ans. It means not.

Join the prefix fore to the beginning of the primitive word 'tell,' and what word have you? Ans. Foretell. Define it. Ans. To tell beforehand. What, then, does the prefix fore mean? Ans. Beforehand, or previously.

Join the prefix circum to the beginning of the primitive word 'navigate,' and what word have you? Ans. Circumnavigate. Define it. Ans. To navigate or sail around the earth, or a part of it. What, then, does the prefix circum mean? Ans. Around.

A suffix is a significant syllable joined to the end of a primitive word. Give examples. Ans. Ly, er, less.

Join the suffix ly to the end of the primitive word 'man,' and what word have you? Ans. Manly. Define it. Ans. Man-like, or like a man. What, then, does the suffix ly mean? Ans. It means like. What is it originally? Ans. It is a shortening of the old English word lie, which signified like.

Join the suffix or to the end of the primitive word 'teach,' and what word have you? Ans. Teacher. Define it. Ans. One who