

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES. A PRIMER OF
THE GOTHIC LANGUAGE, CONTAINING
THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK, SELECTIONS
FROM THE OTHER GOSPELS, AND THE
SECOND EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY; WITH
GRAMMAR, NOTES, AND GLOSSARY**

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JOSEPH WRIGHT

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HENRY FROWDE, M.A.

PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



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WITH GRAMMAR, NOTES, AND GLOSSARY

BY

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE want of an elementary Gothic grammar written on scientific and historical principles must long have been felt in England by pupils and teachers alike. And as a knowledge of Gothic is indispensable to students of the oldest periods of the other Germanic languages, the following grammar will, I trust, be found useful at any rate to students whose interests mainly lie in the philological or linguistic side of these languages.

Considerable care and trouble have been taken in the selection of the matter contained in the chapters relating to phonology, and I venture to say that anyone, who conscientiously works through the book, will not only gain a thorough elementary knowledge of Gothic, but also of the principles of Germanic philology in general. I should however advise the beginner not to work right through the phonology at first, but to read Chapter I on Gothic pronunciation, and then to learn the Accidence. As soon as the paradigms have been learnt, he ought then to begin reading the Gothic Text and to work systematically at the phonology.

In the plan and scope of the book I have for the most part followed the lines adopted in my Old and Middle High German Primers, published by the Clarendon Press in 1888.

In all the three books my chief aim and object have been to furnish beginners with an accurate outline of the main features of the languages in question. But in the present book I thought it advisable to enter rather more fully into details, because most students, who worked through the two German Primers, would almost be sure to continue their studies in more advanced works on the subject. Whereas in the case of Gothic it is somewhat different. As most students simply wish to acquire an elementary knowledge of the phonology and accidence of the language for the great light which these throw upon the grammar of the other old Germanic languages, it is important that everything they require for that purpose should be put together in a convenient form. In fact a careful examination of the phonology and accidence will show that these parts of the work are much more complete than the title of the book indicates.

The Glossary not only contains all the words occurring in the Gothic Text (pp. 147-229), but also the words contained in the Accidence, each referred to its respective paragraph.

A short list of the most important works relating to Gothic will be found on pp. 145, 146. Amongst the works which I have found most useful in the writing of the present book, I would especially mention my indebtedness to the two excellent grammars by Douse and Braune.

In conclusion, I have to express my best thanks to my friend Prof. Napier for many valuable suggestions whilst the book was going through the press.

JOSEPH WRIGHT.

OXFORD, *January*, 1892.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IN revising this new edition, I have kept in view the class of students for which the book was originally intended. Although in the grammar the paragraphs remain the same as in the former edition, it will be seen that many additions and improvements have been made, especially in the Phonology, which in its present form will serve as an elementary introduction to Germanic Philology in general. I am sorry to be unable to comply with the wishes of the many teachers who desired me to treat the Accidence with special reference to the other Germanic languages, so that the book in its new form might serve as an elementary comparative grammar of these languages. After giving the matter serious consideration, I came to the conclusion that the book would become too large, and that through the necessary introduction of a great many details concerning the other languages, I should have been obliged to omit many important points relating to Gothic itself, and thus I should have defeated the object with which the book was originally written.

Some time ago I collected the material for an elementary Comparative Grammar of the Germanic languages, and had begun to prepare it for publication, but during the last few