

*FIRST, As a means of learning English more perfectly.*

In order to know precisely what a thing is, we must know what it is not. To get at the exact significance of a word, we must perceive what it excludes as well as what it includes. It is not sufficient to learn the definition of a geometrical term. You will not have a clear conception of its meaning till you have considered not only what does, but also what does not, come within its scope. Comparison is an almost indispensable means of gaining a true knowledge of anything. This holds true of a language. One cannot fully know one's mother tongue until he becomes acquainted with at least one other tongue, with which he may compare its structure and methods. Any one who understands French or German or Latin well, can testify that he knows English the better for it; and herein lies one of the reasons for teaching these languages in the schools. Latin and Greek are of very little benefit to the majority of those who study them, so far as the knowledge of the Latin and Greek themselves is concerned. The value is found chiefly in the special forms of mental exercise and culture afforded by their study, and the aid they give to the study of our native speech.

But the time and energy consumed in acquiring an adequate knowledge of Latin or Greek is in these days generally considered disproportionate to the benefits derived. This is largely due to the great difficulty of the grammatical and syntactical construction of these languages. Now substitute for Latin a speech that can be acquired in a few months of study with comparative ease, and the gain is manifest. There is not only a great saving of time and mental energy, but the process of learning, instead of being an irksome drudgery, becomes a source of pleasure. Volapük will be found to meet the requirements in an