

MODERN LANGUAGES.

[Embracing Practical School Work in English, French and German subjects.]

DICTATION EXERCISES.

ON SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS.

[The plan adopted in the following Exercises is to select a word representing a familiar idea, with its opposite; to place a few synonyms under each; and to follow these by short sentences, shewing the proper use of each word. These sentences are to be used as Dictation Exercises.]

SYNONYMS are words of similar meaning; as *joy, gladness; sorrow, grief.*

ANTONYMS are words of opposite meaning; as *joy, sorrow; gladness, grief.*

begin.	end.
commence.	conclude.
initiate.	perfect.
inaugurate.	consummate.

EXERCISE.—A river *begins* at its source. The year *begins* on the first of January, and *ends* on the last of December. An army *commences* operations in spring, and *concludes* them in autumn. We *initiate* a student in a certain study, but he must *perfect* himself. A great movement, such as the abolition of slavery, is *inaugurated* and *consummated*. A dignitary is *inaugurated* when he is inducted into office. Proceedings *commence* and *conclude*. A struggle *begins* and *ends*.

later.	earlier.
latter.	former.
this.	that.

EXERCISE.—A *later* train; a *later* addition. An *earlier* delivery. The *latter* of two trains, or editions. His *former* situation. The difference between education and instruction is, that the *former* trains the mind; the *latter* fills it with information; *that* draws out and stimulates its powers; *this* stores and often clogs it.

accomplish.	fail.
execute.	defeat.
achieve.	frustrate.
perform.	mar.
promote.	baffle.

EXERCISE.—We either *accomplish* an object, or we *fail* in it. A general has to *execute* his own projects, as well as to *defeat* those of the enemy. Great designs are often *frustrated*; seldom *achieved*. It is often easier to *mar* other folk's work than to perform our own. A scheme is *promoted* by its friends; *baffled* by its enemies. A schemer is *baffled*, as well as his design. It is easier to promise than to *perform*.

prosecute.	abandon.
remain.	leave.
support.	forsake.
protect.	desert.
vindicate.	renounce.
retain.	relinquish.

EXERCISE.—We *abandon* studies which it is not profitable to *prosecute*. A man *leaves* the party in which he does not wish to *remain*. Friends are *forsaken* and *deserted* by those who ought to *support* and *protect* them. We should *renoun* opinions which we cannot *vindicate*. We *relinquish* an office when we cannot *retain* it. A son often *deserts* the cause which his father *supported*. We *relinquish* purposes. We *abandon* principles. We *leave* the country.

constant.	irregular.
continual.	interrupted.
continuous.	broken.
perpetual.	limited.
uniform.	variable.

EXERCISE.—A *constant* friend, is one who never fails us. A *constant* demand, is one that never declines. An *irregular* demand.