

At the end of both editions of Ruddiman before us is a very comprehensive collection of matter, wholly in Latin, entitled "*Prima Morum et Pietatis Præcepta*," intended, I suppose, partly to be committed to memory, and partly to be used as a praxis in translating, and so on. This portion of the book is paged independently, and in the older copy bears the imprint, "*Edinburgi in Ædibus Tho. Ruddimanni, Anno Domini 1739.*" In the other copy the imprint is "*Cupri Fisanorum*,"—Cupar of Fife. In 1739, Ruddiman was engaged in printing (in association with his brother, a practical printer), publishing, and editing. He had previously been Master of the parish school of Lawrence Kirk. He likewise been assistant keeper of the Advocates' Library, of which he was afterwards principal keeper, in which office he was succeeded by David Hume. He was also printer to the University of Edinburgh. Strangely, moreover, he acted in the capacity of an auctioneer, especially of books, perhaps; as it was through him, we are told, that the sale of Dr. Pitcairne's library to the Czar Peter of Russia was negotiated. Ruddiman died at Edinburgh in 1757, at the ripe age of 83.

Of the "*Prima Morum et Pietatis Præcepta*," I shall have to speak further in another connection.

The *Rudiments* of Ruddiman were intended to be introductory to a larger treatise by the same learned author. This was entitled "*Grammaticæ Latinæ Institutiones*." I retain two copies of this work. One, the ninth edition, printed at Edinburgh in 1771, "*apud Wal. Ruddiman et Socios*," the successors probably of the original Ruddiman and Brother. The other, the thirteenth edition, printed at Glasgow in 1796, "*in Ædibus Academicis*," by Jacobus Mundell, *Academiæ Typographus*. The Edinburgh edition of the "*Institutiones*" is a closely printed

duodecimo of 180 pages. The Glasgow edition, being more openly printed, extends to 296 pages. The work is most minute and exhaustive in its discussion of Latin peculiarities, and is exceedingly interesting. The whole is in Latin, except where, here and there, an English word or expression, the equivalent or translation of an example, appears conspicuous in old English type or black letter. In his "*Rudiments*" Ruddiman shewed himself, as I thought, progressive; but here in his "*Institutiones*," he yields not by the breadth of a hair to innovators. Not only is everything in Latin, but everything is brought most laboriously and most ingeniously into the shape of hexameter verse. Even the Syntax and the Prosody, parts left in plain prose in "*Lily*," are here presented metrically. And this probably is what is implied, when on the title page of the "*Institutiones*," it is said that the instructions therein conveyed are delivered in a mode easy and adapted to the understanding of boys (*præscriptæ facili et ad Puerorum captum accommodata methodo*). Such was the welcome feat which the learned grammarian flattered himself he had accomplished for the ease and comfort of contemporary youth.

I must transcribe a line or two of Ruddiman's hexameters. They will be found rather difficult to enunciate. Nevertheless, I do not doubt, when they were once "well and thoroughly beaten in," as the old writer in "*Lily*" speaks, they were indelible and very helpful on certain occasions to the scholar. The pupil is being taught the quantity of the vowel in the increment of certain nouns, thus:—

Prægis vocalem rapit x. Producito rex, lex.
Ix icis abbreviat, vibex nisi. Cetera produc.
Præter abax, smilax, Atrax cum dropace et
anthrax
Fax et Atax, climaxque, pinaxque, styraque,
colaxque,