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## THE PLACE OF LATIN IN THE STUDY OF LANGUAGES.

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The relative value of subjects of study in secondary and higher institutions of learning will probably always be more or less a matter of dispute. Knowledge subjects and culture subjects, as they are sometimes classified, will continue for some time to come to have their respective advocates. The relation of the terms to each other should perhaps be clearly understood, and that might go far to settle the question. What, in the first place, is culture? Then how far is the acquisition of knowledge culture, or how far is culture possible without knowledge?

The term culture is used with a broad and a narrow meaning. It is in this narrower sense that it will be used here, that sense in which it means the peculiar quality of mind acquired from the study of certain subjects, viz., languages with their literatures in general, and the ancient classics in particular, to which is also often added philosophy.

Since the importance of English, as the open sesame to much knowledge and the vehicle to one of the richest of literatures, is now generally admitted, even if the treatment of it is not always

adequate, it may be dismissed from this discussion without further consideration. The modern languages, French and German, while not claiming the same status as English, demand at least the same rights as Greek and Latin. As Greek has at last been relegated to this position, it too will be passed by.

In its own place there is perhaps little to be said against Latin as a proper subject of study in a high school or university course. It is because it has been unduly magnified and given a fictitious value altogether out of proportion to its intrinsic worth, and this at the expense of more important subjects, that a protest is necessary. This has doubtless long been felt, but such is the force of tradition, even in presumably intellectual circles, that such a protest even now will no doubt seem a sacrilege.

In the place given language studies on our high school and university curricula, Latin ranks next to English, if, in some cases, it does not even equal or surpass it. It is at present practically compulsory on the majority of students during their high school course, just like