

at a great expense and in a style suited to the dignity of the republic. He speaks of himself as having been educated in early childhood in one of the public schools at Lausanne; where afterwards, by the favour of the authorities, he had been preferred to a "function," that of professor or teacher; and further, had been granted by them, a prolonged leave of absence at Paris, for the purpose of perfecting his *Lexicon*. He therefore thinks he will not be accused of audacity if he ventures to offer to them this his first literary production, which he hopes will be useful to studious youth everywhere, who are entering the field of Greek literature, but to the youth of the Bernese schools in particular. As in the erection of a great edifice, he says, those who assist in bringing even the small stones, earth, sand, and other like materials that are required, are held to help forward the work, as well as the architects and chief builders themselves, so he hopes by the timely presentation of his book, to contribute his humble quota of assistance to the Bernese Council or Senate in their noble undertaking, until he shall be able to present something of more value. He dates his epistle from Basle, Nov. 24, 1579 (viii Kal. Dec. MDLXXIX), the year, he observes, when the cap-stone was put to the new school of Berne, and the foundation of the *Gymnasium* at Lausanne was laid; in respect to which he piously prays "*quod faustum felixque esse velit præpotens rerum omnium opifex et moderator, Deus,*" subscribing himself "*vestræ amplitudini addictissimus, Johannes Scapula.*" After the dedication comes a long address to "Readers studious of the Greek language," in which he describes the scope and method of his book, and shows that its convenient grouping of words and compactness will

render Greek easy and pleasant to the scholar. As to the language itself, he remarks that no one can be considered learned who has not acquired some skill in it, whatever amount of erudition he may have acquired in other respects, for there is no art or science which can afford to dispense with the support it yields.

Henri Estienne, the second of that name in the famous family of the Estiennes or Stephani, asserts in the second issue of his "*Thesaurus Linguae Græcæ*," published at Paris in four volumes, folio, in 1572, that Scapula, while in his employment, extracted from that work the substance of the "*Lexicon Græco-Latinum*." But the way in which Scapula himself states his case, in his Address to the Readers, is this: He says that it was not until he had been working for a long time on his *Lexicon*, that he accidentally became acquainted with the *Thesaurus* of Henri Estienne, and that at the first view thereof he thought his own labour was now rendered useless, and might at once be brought to a close. But on second thoughts, he decided still to go on with his undertaking. A work of less intricacy, less size, and less price than Estienne's, he believed, would be advantageous to the cause of Greek learning. He speaks of Henri Estienne's *Thesaurus* as an achievement worthy of Hercules; and he does not deny that he availed himself of its help in the compilation of his *Lexicon*. It naturally followed that the publication of Scapula's book interfered with the sale of the *Thesaurus* at the time; but it does not appear that this was the sole cause, as some have supposed, of Estienne's subsequent pecuniary embarrassments. All the printers of ponderous works on Greek and Latin subjects in those days, who were not subsidized by princes and popes, became more or less embarrassed.