

spcare. Witness scenes in the Merry Wives, and in Much Ado (IV. 1.) Benedick's jest: "How now? Interjections? Why then some be of laughing, as Ah, ha, he."

I come now to a famous old Scottish classic, Ruddiman's Rudiments. I have two copies of this book; one dated Edinburgh, 1739, "printed and sold by the Author and the Booksellers there;" it is in its eighth edition; the other, dated 1823, also printed at Edinburgh, but now edited by Dr. John Hunter, Professor of Humanity in the University of St. Andrews', and printed by R. Tullis for Oliver & Boyd and others. On the latter little tome I look with a feeling of reverence, for from its pages I received my first impressions of Latin. Surely *penna*, a pen, Ruddiman's first example, was the first Latin noun one ever declined, albeit *penna* does not mean a pen at all, but only a quill or feather. Our pronunciation of the Latin which we obtained out of Ruddiman was that which was usual at the time in Scotland, the *a*'s given very broad. Insensibly, even our English, in some points, slightly acquired a Scottish accent, through sympathy with our instructor, the Rev. Dr. John Strachan, whose rich northern Doric can never be forgotten. There was something quite winning in the very title of our Grammar, "Ruddiman's Rudiments," when its happy alliteration was properly brought out in the Aberdonian manner. To this day, when rendered thinly in the Southron style, to me Ruddiman's title loses of its raciness, and is not specially attractive.

The instruction conveyed in this memorable manual is in catechetical form throughout, a dialogue being carried on between Magister and Discipulus, or Master and Scholar, abbreviated into M. and D., or M. and S. The matter on each page is printed in double columns; on the left side it is

Latin, on the right side it is English. We learn from the Preface, that with Ruddiman, as with others, trouble had arisen out of the theory that Latin was still to be regarded as a colloquial and all but vernacular speech, although at the moment the spirit of the age was insisting on the contrary practice. By the double column bi-lingual arrangement Ruddiman expected to surmount the difficulty, and to conciliate the favour of each of the two sets of teachers who wrangled over this point in Scotland. "Though the greater part," Ruddiman says, "incline to have the first principles of grammar communicated in a known language, there are not a few, and of these some persons of distinction, who are still for retaining them in Latin, which, though attended at first with more difficulty, makes (in their Judgment) a more lasting Impression on the Mind, and carries the Learner more directly to the habit of speaking Latin, a practice much used in our schools. It appeared next to an impossibility to satisfy so many different opinions. However, the Method I have taken seems to bid fairest for it." He then goes on to tell us that he has also endeavoured to satisfy those who demanded extreme simplicity in an Elementary Grammar, and those who preferred to have illustrative details and lists of exceptions; and this he has done by keeping the purely elementary parts up in the double columns, and placing his supplementary matter in the notes below.

I may add that it was to the English side in each page that our attention was chiefly drawn by Dr. Strachan.

Ruddiman's manual, like the Eton Grammar, is admirable as far as it goes. It is astonishing indeed how much is compressed into a volume of 104 duodecimo pages, notwithstanding the bi-lingual arrangement and the space taken up by the catechetical form which is adopted.