

is constructed on a plan very different from that of the English or French sentence, so that a student, though familiar with all the words before him, might fail to draw any sense from them, on account of their peculiar combination. Now, though it is a very simple matter to learn to understand the Roman sentence, there are few persons who do so, owing to the misleading instructions which they blindly follow.

The school text-book teaches that a Latin sentence must be carved up and picked to pieces, first, by extracting the subject, then the predicate, with its direct object (if any), next the modifiers of the subject, then the modifiers of the predicate, until the whole sentence is disposed of. With a complex sentence, the principal subject, we are told, must be sought for first, then the verb, etc., leaving the subordinate clauses to be worked out last. Let us take a sentence to illustrate this.

Orationem ducis secutus est militum ardor.

Here, then, is a very short, simple Latin sentence. Yet, if we wish to translate such a sentence as this (and at the same time follow the orthodox rule), we will first read it through in search of the subject. This we find to be **ardor**, *the ardor*. Looking next for the predicate, we find it to be **secutus est**, *followed*. The object is soon seen to be **orationem**, *the oration*. **Militum**, *of the soldiers*, appears to be a modifier of the subject, and **ducis**, *of the general*, a modifier of the object. Putting these together we have: THE ARDOUR OF THE SOLDIERS FOLLOWED THE SPEECH OF THE GENERAL.