

PREFACE.

THESE Notes were originally designed for senior pupils preparing for University and other entrance examinations, most of whom have come to me equipped with a medley of imperfect definitions and with recollections of some complicated mechanism for analysis, but without any intelligent grasp of the principles of Grammar. Something more is necessary before they can write good English or begin to translate correctly into a foreign language; and there is seldom time to master an exhaustive treatise. To such pupils my notes in MS. have proved of service.

In their present shape the Notes are slightly modified so as to form, in the hands of an intelligent teacher, the basis of a series of lessons for junior classes. At the same time they cover the points most generally found difficult.

I have sometimes made use of terms whose meanings are merely indicated by the context, and defined in the sequel; this may offend some who will not depart from the severely logical methods of Euclid and old Grammarians, but I believe it to illustrate the process by which we actually gain most of our knowledge.

In the same spirit I have made no attempt to avoid a difficulty because it occurs before the text has provided for it.

A pupil who is to be examined on a specified book must take the precaution to master his author's fads, such as distinctions between Verbal Noun and Gerund, Factitive Objects, the parsing of "what," "but," etc.

It is hoped that the shortness of these Notes will help pupils to realize how very little knowledge is required for ordinary parsing and analysis.

With what is contained in the following thirty-two pages, the average student should be able to give, even on knotty questions of English Grammar, an opinion worthy of consideration.

The Exercises may suffice for senior pupils, and can easily be supplemented to meet the requirements of junior classes.

I am publishing this little book to facilitate my own work; but shall be very glad if it prove of wider usefulness.

My thanks are due to Professor MacMechan, of Dalhousie College, for his kindness in reading over the first proofs.

THE AUTHOR.

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