

dilate on the place of Latin in the history of human speech; that it is expedient rather to treat Latin as a kind of isolated problem, of which the teacher is to lay down the conditions and laws dogmatically, while the pupil takes them up mechanically by an effort of memory in the language that is being learned; and that to the effecting of this with thoroughness, everything else in the youth's course of study must be subordinated. Wherever such convictions shall continue to predominate, no more excellent manual than the old Eton Latin Grammar can continue to be employed.

The German traveller, J. G. Kohl, in his work entitled "England and Wales," of which the United States edition is dated in 1846, devotes some space to the Eton Latin Grammar. After saying that most of the school-books read at Eton (at that period) are very old, he proceeds: "I bought one of these books, namely, the Eton Latin Grammar. This grammar," he observes, "is a little curiosity; and though printed very neatly on elegant paper, I would not willingly exchange for it our rational and modernized grammars. The first division of this Latin Grammar," Kohl goes on to say, "contains the parts of speech with the declensions and conjugations. It is a master-piece of brevity, and all the definitions are extremely laconic. To this part is attached a series of hexameters, twenty closely-printed pages long, in which are sung the rules and exceptions for the genders, the irregular verbs, etc. In our Grammar," Kohl observes, that is, in the German Latin Grammar, "these old-fashioned verses have long ago given way to clear rules in plain prose, addressed rather to the understanding than the memory. The syntax in the Eton Grammar is written, not in the English but in the Latin language. After it, come other rules occupying

a full third of the Grammar, on prosody, construction and other matters.

It is certain," Kohl then remarks, that "the thorny paths of Latin Grammar might be far more smoothed for the scholars of Eton than they are. But the English maintain that the wonderful old Grammar of theirs lays the foundations of learning more effectually than any modern compilation could; and the thorns themselves are dear to them, even when they draw blood and leave ineffacable marks behind."

But the specimen of the Grammar which Kohl then presents to his readers is very unfortunately chosen and gives a false impression. "These rules, the syntax rules, etc.," Kohl reports, "are written in English and Latin at the same time, and without any interpunctuation, in the most confused manner. The following is an instance: 'Impersonalia (scilicet verba) impersonal verbs non habent have not nominationem (scilicet casum) any nominative enunciatum expressed (scilicet in Latin) ut as tædet it wears me that is I am weary or tired vitæ of life.'" This is wholly unfair to the Eton Grammar, for the matter of which a sample is here given is no part of the Grammar proper, but simply a verbatim translation for the enlightenment of the very young, of what was contained in the text; and as to the absence of punctuation, it is explained by the fact which Kohl chooses not to notice, that the Latin is printed in Roman type and the English in Italic, other distinction being thus rendered quite unnecessary.

And when he wrote that the rules are sung in the Grammar in a series of hexameters, Kohl probably meant to be facetious. But there can be no doubt that the said hexameters ought to be recited by the scholar trippingly, with due attention to the scansion and elisions. A good deal of elegance is then to be detected in verses that