

ordinary persons. The enforcement of the Latin language on the pupils of their schools was a matter of course, inevitable, indispensable. Those schools were the seed plots to which they looked for the perpetuation to the end of time of their order and their power. It would have been a flagrant breach of principle to have given countenance for a moment, in a series of books likely to have a wide and long-lived circulation, to a system of interpretation which recognized a local vernacular as of co-ordinate importance with Latin, in the acquirement of a learned education. To make an exception, even in favour of the first-born son of the Grand Monarque of France, if he was to be a pupil of theirs, was impossible. We have here the *prima labes mali* of the Delphin series, and the source of many of the drawbacks from which education afterwards suffered throughout Europe.

I have reserved to the last one more Delphin specimen which I chance to have, because it is a relic of the period when a renaissance of common sense in the matter of annotating Latin authors was beginning on this continent, as well as in Great Britain and Ireland. It is, in reality, a duplicate of the Select Orations of Cicero with Merouille's notes, at which I have already glanced. But it is an edition with Merouille's notes, or the most important of them, translated into English. The scholar who ventured on this innovation was Mr. John G. Smart, of Philadelphia. His book is an octavo, published at Philadelphia in 1826. The title-page, characteristically, is half Latin, half English. The upper portion reads: "*M. T. Ciceronis Orationes Selectæ, in Usum Delphini, etc.*;" while the lower runs thus, in English: "In this edition are introduced all the valuable notes of the Dauphin edition, translated into English, etc., etc., by John G. Smart,

Philadelphia. Published and for sale by Towar and Hogan, No. 255, Market Street, 1828." (This is the second edition.)

A sentence or two of Mr. Smart's Preface will put into words the conclusion we have doubtless all come to, in regard to the Delphin Classics. "The compilers of the notes in the Dauphin editions of the Classics," Mr. Smart remarks, "took great care to collect a mass of useful information; and many of their notes and observations are of such importance as to merit the attention of the student. But, as they have hitherto appeared, that which was intended to aid the scholar, is of no advantage to him. This was a difficulty which could not be entirely removed by the use of dictionaries; the variety of significations of which many words are susceptible, and of which an enumeration is always indispensable in a lexicon, often perplexed the scholar and rendered a short explanatory note desirable. We need say nothing of the advantages which he will derive from having the notes and explanations given him in a language to which he has been accustomed from his infancy, as they must be evident to every one." The Testimonial given by the Rev. Dr. Wylie, a distinguished Professor of the day, in the University of Pennsylvania, contains also some just remarks on the subject: "The value of this edition in the existing state of classical literature will be greatly enhanced by the consideration of the following fact, but too well attested by the experience of most teachers,—That many of their pupils are too indolent, not to say too ignorant, to peruse the Latin notes for themselves. Moreover, we are beginning now to admit as a truth what should always have been considered as axiomatic, viz.: That all helps, introductory to an acquaintance with the dead languages, should be more plain and more easily