

Of the Orthographie and Congruitie of the Britan Tongue eBook

Of the Orthographie and Congruitie of the Britan Tongue by Alexander Hume

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Page 1

OF THE GROUNDES OF ORTHOGRAPHIE.

Cap. 1.

1. To wryte orthographically there are to be considered the symbol, the thing symbolized, and their congruence. Geve me leave, gentle reader, in a new art, to borrow termes incident to the purpose, quihilk, being defyned, wil further understanding.
2. The symbol, then, I cal the written letter, quihilk representes to the eie the sound that the mouth sould utter.
3. The thing symbolized I cal the sound quihilk the mouth utteres quhen the eie sees the symbol.
4. The congruence between them I cal the instrument of the mouth, quihilk, when the eie sees the symbol, utteres the sound.
5. This is the ground of al orthographie, leading the wryter from the sound to the symbol, and the reader from the symbol to the sound. As, for exemple, if I wer to wryte God, the tuich of the midle of the tongue on the roofe of the mouth befor the voual, and the top of the tongue on the teeth behind the voual, myndes me to wryte it g_o_d. The voual is judged be the sound, as shal be shaued hereafter. This is the hardest lesson in this treates, and may be called the key of orthographie.

OF THE LATINE VOUALES.

Cap. 2.

1. We, as almaest al Europ, borrow our symboles from the Romanes. Quherforr, to rectefie our aun, first it behoves us to know their's. Thei are in nu_m_ber 23: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, x, y, and z.
2. To omit the needless questiones of their order and formes; of them, five be vouales, ane a noat of aspiration, and all the rest consonantes.
3. A voual is the symbol of a sound maed without the tuiches of the mouth.
4. They are distinguished the ane from the other be delating and contracting the mouth, and are a, e, i, o, u.
5. Quhat was the right roman sound of them is hard to judge, seeing now we heer nae roman; and other nationes sound them after their aun idiomes, and the latine as they sound them.



6. But seeing our earand is with our aun britan, we purpose to omit curiosities, *et quae nihil nostra intersunt*. Our aun, hou-be it dialectes of ane tong, differing in the sound of them, differ alsoe in pronouncing the latine. Quherfoer, to make a conformitie baeth in latine and English, we man begin with the latine.

7. A, the first of them, the south soundes as beath thei and we sound it in bare, nudus; and we, as beath thei and we sound it in bar, obex.

8. But without partialitie (for in this earand I have set my compas to the loadstar of reason), we pronunce it better. If I am heer deceaved, reason sall deceave me.

9. For we geve it alwaies ane sound beath befoer and behind the consonant: thei heer ane and ther an other. As in amabant, in the first tuae syllabes they sound it as it soundes in bare, and in the last as it sounds in bar. Quherupon I ground this argument. That is the better sound, not onelie of this, but alsoe of al other letteres, q_uhi_lk is alwayes ane. But we sound it alwayes ane, and therfoer better. Ad that their sound of it is not far unlyke the sheepes bae, q_uhi_lk the greek symbolizes be *eta* not *alpha*, +be: + not +ba+. See Eustat. in Homer.

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10. Of this letter the latines themselves had tuae other sounds differing the ane from the other, and beath from this, quhilk they symbolized be adding an other voual, ae and au. And these they called diphthonges.

11. The diphthong they defyne to be the sound of tuae vouales coalescing into ane sound, quhilk definition in au is plaen, in ae obscurer as now we pronounce it, for now we sound it generallie lyke the voual e, without sound of the a, q_uhi_lk, notwithstanding is the principal voual in this diphthong sound. Questionles at the first it semes to have had sum differing sound from a, sik as we pronounce in stean, or the south in stain. But this corruption is caryed with a stronger tyde then reason can resist, and we wil not stryve with the stream.

14. E followes, q_uhi_lk in reason sould have but ane sound, for without doubt the first intent was to geve everie sound the awn symbol, and everie symbol the awn sound. But as now we sound it in quies and quiesco, the judicious ear may discern tuae soundes. But because heer we differ not, I wil acquieess. My purpose is not to deal with impossibilities, nor to mend al crookes, but to conform (if reason wil conform us) the south and north beath in latine and in English.

15. Af this voual ryseth tuae diphthonges, ei and eu, quhilk beath standes wel with the definition, sect. 11.

16. Of the next, i, we differ farder, and the knot harder to louse, for nether syde wantes sum reason. Thei in mihi, tibi, and sik otheres, pronounce it as it soundes in bide, manere; we as it soundes in bid, jubere.

17. Among the ancientes I fynd sum groundes for their sound. Cic. epist. fam. lib. 9, epis. 22, avoues that bini, in latin, and +binei+ in Greek, had ane sound. And Varro, with sundrie ancientes, wrytes domineis and serveis, for dominis and servis, quhilk is more lyke the sound of bide then bid. If this argument reached as wel to i short as i lang, and if we wer sure how +ei+ was pronounced in those dayes, this auctoritie wald over-weegh our reason; but seing i, in mihi, etc., in the first is short, and in the last co_m_mon, and the sound of ei uncertan, I stand at my reason, sect. 9, q_uhi_lk is as powerful heer for i as ther for a. They pronounce not i in is and quis, id and quid, in and quin, as they pronounce it in mihi, tibi, sibi, ibi, etc., and therfoer not right.

18. As for o, in latin, we differ not; u, the south pronu_n_ces quhen the syllab beginnes or endes at it, as eu, teu for tu, and eunum meunus for unum munus, q_uhi_lk, because it is a diphthong sound, and because they them selves, quhen a consonant followes it, pronounce it other wayes, I hoep I sal not need argumentes to prove it wrang, and not be a pure voual.



OF THE BRITAN VOUALES.

Cap. 3.

1. Of a, in our tongue we have four soundes, al so differing ane from an other, that they distinguish the verie signification of wordes, as, a tal man, a gud tal, a horse tal.



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2. Quherfoer in this case I wald co_m_mend to our men the imitation of the greek and latin, quho, to mend this crook, devysed diphthongs. Let the simplest of these four soundes, or that q_uhi_lk is now in use, stand with the voual, and supplie the rest with diphthonges; as, for exemple, I wald wryte the king's hal with the voual a; a shour of hael, with ae; hail marie, with ai; and a heal head, as we cal it, quhilk the English cales a whole head, with ea. And so, besydes the voual, we have of this thre diphthonges, tuae with a befoer, ae and ai, and ane w_i_th the e befoer, ea. Ad to them au, howbeit of a distinct sound; as, knaulege with us, in the south knowlege.

3. These and al other diphthonges I wald counsel the teacheres not to name be the vouales quherof they are maed, but be the sound q_uhi_lk they maek, for learneres wil far maer easelie take the sound from the mouth of the teacher, then maek it them selves of the vouales ingredient.

4. Of e, we have tuae soundes, q_uhi_lk it is hard to judge q_uhi_lk is simplest; as, an el, ulna; and an el, anguilla; hel, infernus; and an hel, calx pedis. Heer I wald com_m_end to our men quhae confoundes these the imitation of the south, q_uhi_lk doth wel distinguish these soundes, wryting the el, ulna, with the voual e, and eel, anguilla, with the diphthong ee. I am not ignorant that sum symbolizes this sound w_i_th a diphthong made of ie; eie, oculus; hiel, fiel, miel, etc. Here I am indifferent, and onelie wishes that the ane be used; let the advysed judge make choise of q_uhi_lk, for my awne paert I lyke the last best; 1. becaus eie, oculus, can not wel be symbolized ee; 2. because the greekes expresse eta be +ee+, q_uhi_lk, as appeares be the loneanes and Doreanes, drawes neerar to *alpha*, than *epsilon*.

5. Of i, also, our idiom receaves tuae soundes, as in a man's wil, and the wil of a fox. Heer, also, I wald have our men learne of the south, for these soundes they wel distinguish, wryting wil, fil, mil, stil, with i; and wyl, fyl, myl, styl, with y.

6. Heer I see be Barrat, in his Alvearie, that sum wald be at symbolizing these soundes, the ane with the greek diphthong +ei+, and the other with "i" inverted; as, r+ei+d, equitare; b+ei+d, manere; r"i"d, legere; h"i"d, cavere. In this opinion I se an eye of judgement, and therfoer wil not censure it, except I saw the auctour's whole drift. Onelie for my awn parte I will avoid al novelties, and content my self with the letteres q_uhi_lk we have in use. And seeing we have no other use of y distinguished from i, condiscend to the opinion of the south using i for ane, and y for the other.

7. O, we sound al alyk. But of it we have sundrie diphthonges: oa, as to roar, a boar, a boat, a coat; oi, as coin, join, foil, soil; oo, as food, good, blood; ou, as house, mouse, &c. Thus, we com_m_onlie wryt mountan, fountan, q_uhi_lk it wer more etymological to wryt montan, fontan, according to the original.



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8. In this diphthong we co_m_mit a grosse error, saving better judgement, spelling how, now, and siklyk with w, for if w be (as it sal appear, quhen we cum to the awn place of it) a consonant, it can noe wayes coalesse into a diphthong sound, sik as this out of controversie is.

9. U, the last of this rank, the south, as I have said in the latin sound of it, pronu_n_ces eu, we ou, both, in my simple judgement, wrang, for these be diphthong soundes, and the sound of a voual sould be simple. If I sould judge, the french sound is nearest the voual sound as we pronu_n_ce it in mule and muse.

10. Of it we have a diphthong not yet, to my knowlege, observed of anie; and, for my awn parte, I am not wel resolved neither how to spel it, nor name it. Onelie I see it in this, to bou, a bow. I wait not quhither I sould spel the first buu, or the last boau. As, for exemple, if Roben Hud wer nou leving, he wer not able to buu his aun bou, or to bou his aun boau. And therfoer this with al the rest, hou be it in other I have more for me, I leave to the censure of better judgement.

OF CONSONANTES.

Cap. 4.

1. This for the vouales, and diphthonges made of them without the tuiches of the mouth. Now followe the consonantes.

2. A consonant is a letter symbolizing a sound articulat that is broaken with the tuiches of the mouth.

3. The instrumentes of the mouth, quherbe the vocal soundes be broaken, be in number seven. The nether lip, the upper lip, the outward teeth, the inward teeth, the top of the tongue, the midle tong, and roof of the mouth. Of these, thre be, as it were, ha_m_meres stryking, and the rest stiddies, kepping the strakes of the ha_m_meres.

4. The ham_m_eres are the nether lip, the top of the tongue, and the midle tongue. The stiddies the overlip, the outward teeth, the inward teeth, and the roofe of the mouth.

5. The nether lip stryking on the overlip makes b, m, p, and on the teeth it makes f and v.

6. The top of the tongue stryking on the inward teeth formes d, l, n, r, s, t, and z.

7. The midle tongue stryking on the rouf of the mouth formes the rest, c, g, k, j, q, and x, and so we have 18 consonantes borrowed of the latines.



8. These they borrow al from the greekes, saving j and v, quhilk our age soundes other wayes then it seemes the romanes did; for Plutarch, more then 100 yeeres after Christ, expressing the sound q_uhi_lk they had in his tyme, symbolizes them neerar the sound of the vouales quherof they are maed then now we sound them in latin, for in Galba he symbolizes junius vindex, +iounios ouindex+, q_uhi_lk, if then it had sounded as now we sound it, he sould rather have written it with *gamma* and *beta*, +gounios bindex+.



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9. We have in our use the same soundes q_uhi_lk it seemes these consonantes had in Plutarch's dayes, as in yallow, winter. Quhilk, seeing now they are worn out of the latin use, my counsel is that we leave the sound of them q_uhi_lk now is in the latin use to the latines, and take as our's the sound q_uhi_lk they have left, and geve to the sound, q_uhi_lk now we use in latin, the latin symbol; as, jolie jhon; vertue is not vain; and to the soundes quhilk they have left the symboles q_uhi_lk we have usurped to that end; as, yallow, youk; water, wyne.

10. And heer, to put our men af their error quho had wont to symboliz yallow with an {gh}, and to put noe difference between v and w, {gh} is a dental consonant, broaken between the top of the tongue and root of the teeth; yal, a guttural sound, made be a mynt of the tongue to the rooffe of the mouth, and therfoer the organes being so far distant, and the tuich so diverse, this symbol can be no reason serve that sound, nor nane of that kynd.

11. As for v and w, seeing we have in our idiom, besyd the latin sound, an other never hard in latin, as now it is pronu_n_ced, I can not but com_m_end the wisdom of the south, q_uhi_lk gave the latin sound their awn symbol, and took to our sound a symbol quhilk they use not. Lyke was their wisdom in j and y; for as the latines usurped the voual i for a consonant in their use, q_uhi_lk the greekes had not, so they usurped y, a voual not mikle different from i, for the correspondent sound, not used in the latin as now it is pronu_n_ced.

12. Heerfoer, for distinctiones of both sound and symbol, I wald commend the symbol and name of i and u to the voual sound; as, indifferent, unthankful; the symbols of j and v to the latin consonantes, and their names to be jod and vau; as, vain jestes; and the symboles y and w to our English soundes, and their names to be ye and we, or yod and wau; as, yonder, wel, yallow, wool.

13. Now remaineth h, q_uhi_lk we have called a noat of aspiration, cap. 2, sect. 2, and is, in deed, noe voual, because with a consonant it makes noe sound; as, ch; nor consonant, because it is pronu_n_ced without the tuich of the mouth; as, ha.

14. It may affect al vouales *and* diphthonges; as, hand, hen, hind, hose, hurt, hail, hautie, health, heel, heifer, *etc.* But behind the voual in our tong (so far as yet I can fynd) it hath no use. Of consonantes, it affecteth g beyond the voual; as, laugh; p befoer the voual; as, phason; s and t also befoer the voual; as, think, shame. With c we spil the aspiration, tur_n_ing it into an Italian chirt; as, charitie, cherrie, of quhilk hereafter.

OF OUR ABUSING SUM CONSONANTES.

Cap. 5.



1. Now I am cum to a knot that I have noe wedg to cleave, and wald be glaed if I cold hoep for help. Ther sould be for everie sound that can occur one symbol, and of everie symbol but one onlie sound. This reason and nature craveth; and I can not but trow but that the worthie inventoures of this divyne facultie shot at this mark.



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2. But, contrarie to this sure ground, I waet not be quhat corruption, we see, not onelie in our idiom, but in the latin alsoe, one symbol to have sundrie soundes, ye, and that in one word; as, lego, legis.

3. First, to begin with c, it appeeres be the greekes, quho ever had occasion to use anie latin word, quharein now we sound c as s, in their tymes it sounded k; for Cicero, thei wryt Kikero; for Caesar, Kaisar; and Plut., in Galba, symbolizes principia, +prinkipia+.

{Transcriber's Note:

The word is written with nu, not gamma.}

4. This sound of it we, as the latines, also keepe befoer a, o, and u; as, canker, conduit, cumber. But, befoer e and i, sum tymes we sound it, with the latin, lyke an s; as, cellar, certan, cease, citie, circle, etc.

5. Behind the voual, if a consonant kep it, we sound it alwayes as a k; as, occur, accuse, succumb, acqyre. If it end the syllab, we ad e, and sound it as an s; as, peace, vice, solace, temperance; but nether for the idle e, nor the sound of the s, have we anie reason; nether daer l, with al the oares of reason, row against so strang a tyde. I hald it better to erre with al, then to stryve with al and mend none.

6. This consonant, evin quher in the original it hes the awne sound, we turn into the chirt we spak of, cap. 4, sect. 14, quhilk, indeed, can be symbolized with none, neither greek nor latin letteres; as, from cano, chant; from canon, chanon; from castus, chast; from +kyriake:+, a church, of q_uhi_lk I hard doctour Laurence, the greek professour in Oxfoord, a man bothe of great learni_n_g and judgement, utter his opinion to this sense, and (excep my memorie fael me) in these wordes: +kyriake:+ ut +basilike:+ suppresso substantivo +oikia+ domus domini est. Unde nostrum derivatur, quod Scoti et Angli boreales recte, pronu_n_ciant a kyrk, nos corrupte a church.

7. Yet, notwithstanding that it is barbarouse, seing it is more usual in our tongue then can be mended befoer the voual, as chance, and behind the voual, as such, let it be symbolized, as it is symbolized with ch, hou beit nether the c nor the h hath anie affinitie with that sound; 1, because it hath bene lang soe used; and 2, because we have no other mean to symbolize it, except it wer with a new symbol, q_uhi_lk it will be hard to bring in use.

8. Now, quheras ch in nature is c asperat, as it soundes in charus and chorus; and seing we have that sound also in use, as licht, micht; if I had bene at the first counsel, my vote wald have bene to have geven ch the awn sound. But as now the case standes, ne quid novandum sit, quod non sit necesse, I not onlie consent, but also com_m_end the wisdom of the south, quho, for distinction, wrytes light, might, with gh



and referres ch to the other sound, how be it improperlie, and this distinction I com_m_end to our men, quho yet hes not satis attente observed it.

9. Next cumes g, howbe it not so deformed as c; for, althogh we see it evin in latin, and that, in one word (as is said cap. 5, sect. 2), distorted to tuo sonndes, yet both may stand with the nature of the symbol and differ not in the instrumentes of the mouth, but in the form of the tuich, as the judiciousse ear may mark in ago, agis; agam, ages.



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10. This consonant, in latin, never followes the voual; befoer a, o, u, it keepes alwayes the awn sound, and befoer e and i breakes it.

11. But with us it may both begin and end the syllab; as, gang; it may, both behind and befoer, have either sound; as, get, gist, gin, giant.

12. These the south hath providentlie minted to distinguish tuo wayes, but hes in deed distinguished noe way, for the first sum hath used tuo gg; as, egg, legg, bigg, bagg; for the other dg; as, hedge, edge, bridge; but these ar not +kata pantos+. Gyles, nomen viri, can not be written dgiles; nor giles doli, ggiles; nether behind the voual ar they general; age, rage, suage, are never wrytten with dg. Quherfoer I conclud that, seeing nether the sound nor the symbol hath anie reason to be sundrie, without greater auctoritie, nor the reach of a privat wit, this falt is incorrigible.

13. Here I am not ignorant quhat a doe the learned make about the symboles of c, g, k and q, that they be al symboles, but of one sound; but I wil not medle in that question, being besyde my purpose, q_uhi_lk is not to correct the latin symboles, but to fynd the best use of them in our idiom.

14. T, the last of these misused souldiours, keepes alwayes it's aun nature, excep it be befoer tio; as, oration, declamation, narration; for we pronounce not tia and tiu as it is in latin. Onelie let it be heer observed that if an s preceed tio, the t keepes the awn nature, as in question, suggestion, etc.

15. Thus have I breeflie handled the letteres and their soundes, quhilk, to end this parte, I wald wish the printeres, in their a, b, c, to expresse thus:—a, ae, ai, au, ea, b, c, d, e, ee, ei, eu, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, oa, oo, ou, p, q, r, s, t, u, ui, v, w, x, y, z, and the masteres teaching their puples to sound the diphthonges, not be the vouales quharof they be made, but be the sound quhilk they mak in speaking; lykwayes I wald have them name w, not duple u nor v, singl u, as now they doe; but the last, vau or ve, and the first, wau or we; and j, for difference of the voual i, written with a long tail, I wald wish to to be called jod or je.

OF THE SYLLAB.

Cap. 6.

1. Now followes the syllab, quhilk is a ful sound symbolized with convenient letteres, and consistes of ane or moe.

2. A syllab of ane letter is symbolized with a voual onelie; as, a in able, e in ever, i in idle, o in over, u in unities, for a consonant can make no syllab alane.



3. A syllab of moe letteres is made of vouales onelie, or els of vouales and consonantes. Of onlie vouales the syllab is called a diphthong, of quhilk we have spoaken in the vouales quherof they ar composed.

4. A syllab of vouales and consonantes either begin_n_es at the voual, as al, il, el; or at one consona_n_t, as tal man; or at tuo consona_n_tes, as stand, sleep; or els at thre at the maest, as strand, stryp. It endes either at a voual, as fa, fo; or at one consonant, as ar, er; or at tuo, as best, dart; or at thre at the maest, as durst, worst.



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5. Heer is to be noated, that in divyding syllabes, the consonantes, one or moe, that may begin a syllab anie way in the middes of a word belong to the voual following, as in que-stion, qua-rel, fi-shar, sa-fron, ba-stard, de-scrib, re-scue.

6. It is alsoe heer to be observed in printing and wryting, that quhen a word fales to be divyded at the end of a lyne, that the partition must be made at the end of a syllab, soe that the one lyne end at the end of the whol syllab, and the other begin the next lyne. As, for exemple, if this word magistrat fel to be divided at the first syllab, it behoved to be ma-gistrat; if at the second, it behoved to be magi-strat; but no wayes to parte the m from the a, nor the g from the i, nor the s from t, nor the t from r.

OF THE RULES TO SYMBOLIZE.

Cap. 7.

1. To symboliz right, the sound of the voual is first to be observed, quhither it be a simple voual or a compound, and quhilk of them is to be chosen, for quhilk no rule can be geven but the judgeme_n_t of the ear.

2. Next the consonantes are to be marked; and first, quhither they break the voual befoer or behind; then quhither they be one or moe; and lastlie, w_i_th quhat organes of the mouth they be broaken.

3. For be the organes of the mouth, quherwith the syllab is broaken, the consonantes are discerned be quhilk the syllab must be symbolized, quhilk we have said, cap 1, sect. 5.

4. The consonantes may differ in hammar (as we called it, cap. 4, sect 3) and stiddie, as b and d. Or they may agre in ham_m_er and differ in stiddie, as b and v. Or they may agre in both and differ in the tuich, as f and v, m and p, t and g.

5. The tuich befoer the voual is be lifting the ham_m_er af the stiddie; as da, la, pa; and behind, be stryking the hammer on the stiddie; as ad, al, ap. And quhen the hammer and the stiddie are ane, the difference is in the hardnes and softnes of the tuich; as may be seen in ca and ga, ta and da. But w and y maekes sae soft a mynt that it is hard to perceave, and therfoer did the latines symboliz them with the symbol of the vouales. They are never used but befoer the voual; as we, ye, wil, you; behynd the voual thei mak noe consonant sound, nor sould be written, and therefore now and vow, with sik otheres, are not [to] be written w_i_th w, as is said befoer.

6. Of this q_uhi_lk now is said may be gathered that general, q_uhi_lk I called the keie of orthographie, cap. 1 sect. 5, that is the congruence of the symbol and sound symbolized; that is, that bathe must belong to the same organes and be tuiched after the same form.



7. And, be the contrarie, here it is clere that soundes pronu_n_ced with this organ can not be written with symboles of that; as, for exemple, a labiel symbol can not serve a dental nor a guttural sound; nor a guttural symbol a dental nor a labiel sound.



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8. To clere this point, and alsoe to reform an errour bred in the south, and now usurped be our ignorant printeres, I wil tel quhat befel my self quhen I was in the south with a special gud frende of myne. Ther rease, upon sum accident, quhither quho, quhen, quhat, *etc.*, sould be symbolized with q or w, a hoat disputation betuene him and me. After manie conflictes (for we ofte encountered), we met be chance, in the citie of Baeth, w_i_th a Doctour of divinitie of both our acquentance. He invited us to denner. At table my antagonist, to bring the question on foot ama_n_gs his awn condisciples, began that I was becum an heretik, and the doctour spering how, ansuered that I denyed quho to be spelled with a w, but with qu. Be quhat reason? quod the D_octour_. Here, I beginni_n_g to lay my gru_n_des of labial, dental, and guttural soundes and symboles, he snapped me on this hand and he on that, that the d_octour_ had mikle a doe to win me room for a syllogisme. Then (said I) a labial letter can not symboliz a guttural syllab. But w is a labial letter, quho a guttural sound. And therfoer w can not symboliz quho, nor noe syllab of that nature. Here the d_octour_ staying them again (for al barked at ones), the proposition, said he, I understand; the assumption is Scottish, and the conclusion false. Quherat al laughed, as if I had bene dryven from al repleye, and I fretted to see a frivolouse jest goe for a solid ansuer. My proposition is grounded on the 7 sectio of this same cap., q_uhi_lk noe man, I trow, can denye that ever suked the paepes of reason. And soe the question must rest on the assumption quhither w be a labial letter and quho a guttural syllab. As for w, let the exemples of wil, wel, wyne, juge quhilk are sounded befoer the voual with a mint of the lippes, as is said the same cap., sect. 5. As for quho, besydes that it differres from quo onelie be aspiration, and that w, being noe perfect consonant, can not be aspirated, I appele to al judicious eares, to q_uhi_lk Cicero attributed mikle, quhither the aspiration in quho be not ex imo gutture, and therfoer not labial.

OF RULES FROM THE LATIN.

Cap. 7. (*sic.*)

1. Heer, seeing we borrow mikle from the latin, it is reason that we either follow them in symbolizing their's, or deduce from them the groundes of our orthographie.
2. Imprimis, then, quhatever we derive from them written with c we sould alsoe wryte with c, howbeit it sound as an s to the ignorant; as conceive, receive, perceive, from concipio, recipio, percipio; concern, discern, from concerno, discerno; accesse, successe, recesse, from accedo, succedo, recedo, w_i_th manie moe, q_uhi_lk I com_m_end to the attention of the wryter.
3. Also quhat they wryte w_i_th s we sould alsoe wryte with s; as servant, from servus; sense, from sensus; session from sessio; passion, from passio.



4. Neither is the c joined w_i_th s here to be omitted; as science and conscience, from scientia, conscientia; ascend and descend, from ascendo, descendo; rescind and abscind, from rescindo and abscindo.



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4 (*sic*). This difference of c and s is the more attentivelie to be marked for that wordes of one sound and diverse signification are many tymes distinguished be these symboles; as, the kinges secrete council, and the faithful counsil of a frende; concert in musik, and consent of myndes; to duel in a cel, and to sel a horse; a decent weed, and descent of a noble house. These tuo last differes alsoe in accent.

5. Lykwayes, that we derive from latin verbales in tio, sould also be wrytten with t; as oration, visitation, education, vocation, proclamation, admonition, *etc.*

6. Wordes deryved from the latin in tia and tium we wryte with ce; as justice, from justitia; intelligence, from intelligentia; vice, from vitium; service, from servitium. In al q_uhi_lk, houbeit the e behind the c be idle, yet use hes made it tollerable to noat the breaking of the c, for al tongues bear with sum slippes that can not abyde the tuich stone of true orthographie.

7. C is alsoe written in our wordes deryved from x in latin; as peace, from pax; fornace, from fornax; matrice, from matrix; nurice, from nutrix, q_uhi_lk the south calles nurse, not without a falt both in sound and symbol; be this we wryte felicitie, audacitie, tenacitie, *etc.*

8. Lykwayes we sould keep the vouales of the original, quherin the north warres the south; from retineo, the north retine, the south retain; from foras, the north foran, the south forain; from regnu_m_, the north regne, the south raigne; from cor, the north corage, the south courage; from devoro, the north devore, the south devour; from vox, the north voce, the south voice; from devoveo, the north devote, the south devoute; from guerrum, the north were, the south war; from gigas, gigantis, the north gyant, the south giaunt; from mons, montis, the north mont, the south mount. Of this I cold reckon armies, but wil not presume to judge farther then the compasse of my awn cap, for howbeit we keep nearar the original, yet al tongues have their idiom in borrowing from the latin, or other foran tongues.

OF SUM IDIOMES IN OUR ORTHOGRAPHIE.

Cap. 8.

1. In our tongue we have some particles q_uhi_lk can not be symbolized with roman symboles, nor rightlie pronounced but be our awn, for we in manye places soe absorb l and n behynd a consonant, quher they can not move without a voual intervening, that the ear can hardlie judge quhither their intervenes a voual or noe.

2. In this case sum, to avoid the pronu_n_ciation of the voual befoer the l and n, wrytes it behind; as litle, mikle, muttne, eatne. Quhilk houbeit it incurres in an other inconvenience of pronu_n_cing the voual behind the l or n, yet I dar not presume to



reprove, because it passeth my wit how to avoid both inconveniences, and therfoer this I leave to the wil of the wryter.

3. Sum of our men hes taken up sum unusual formes of symbolizing, q_uhi_lk I wald wish to be reformed, yet if I bring not reason, let no man change for my phantasie.



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4. First, for peple they wryte people, I trow because it cumes from populus; but if that be a reason, I wald understand a reason quhy they speak not soe alsoe. Or gif they speak not soe, I wald understand quhy they wryte not as they speak. I knawe they have the exemple of France to speak ane way and wryte an other; but that exemple is as gud to absorb the s in the end of everie word. Al exemples are not imitable.

5. They use alsoe to wryte logicque, musicque, rhetoricque, and other of that sorte, with cque. If this be doon to make the c in logica, *etc.*, subsist, quhy wer it not better to supply a k in the place of it, then to hedge it in with a whol idle syllab; it wer both more orthographical and easier for the learner, for c and k are sa sib, *that* the ane is a greek and the other a latin symbol of one sound. In this art it is alyke absurd to wryte that thou reades not, as to read that thou wrytes not.

6. We use alsoe, almost at the end of everie word, to wryte an idle e. This sum defend not to be idle, because it affectes the voual before the consonant, the sound quherof many tymes alteres the signification; as, hop is altero tantu_m_pede saltare, hope is sperare; fir, abies, fyre, ignis; a fin, pinna, fine, probatus; bid, jubere, bide, manere; with many moe. It is true that the sound of the voual befoer the consonant many tymes doth change the signification; but it is as untrue that the voual e behind the consonant doth change the sound of the voual before it. A voual devyded from a voual be a consonant can be noe possible means return thorough the consonant into the former voual. Consonantes betuene vouales are lyke partition walles betuen roomes. Nothing can change the sound of a voual but an other voual coalescing with it into one sound, of q_uhi_lk we have spoaken sufficientlie, cap. 3, to illustrat this be the same exemples, saltare is to hop; sperare to hoep; abies is fir; ignis, fyr, or, if you wil, fier; jubere is bid; manere, byd or bied.

7. Yet in sum case we are forced to tolerat this idle e; 1. in wordes ending in c, to break the sound of it; as peace, face, lace, justice, *etc.*; 2. behind s, in wordes wryten with this s; as false, ise, case, muse, use, *etc.*; 3. behind a broaken g; as knowlege, savage, suage, ald age. Ther may be moe, and these I yeld because I ken noe other waye to help this necessitie, rather than that I can think anye idle symbol tolerable in just orthographie.

OF THE ACCENTES OF OUR TONGUE.

Cap. 9.

1. Seing that we fynd not onelie the south and north to differ more in accent then symbol, but alsoe one word with a sundrie accent to have a diverse signification, I com_m_end this to him quho hes auctoritie, to com_m_and al printeres and wryteres to noat the accented syllab in everie word with noe lesse diligence then we see the grecianes to noat their's.



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2. Cicero, in his buik de Oratore ad Brutum, makes it a natural harmonie that everie word pronounced be the mouth of man have one acute syllab, and that never farther from the end then the third syllab, quhilk the grammareanes cales to the same end the antepenult. Quhilk observation of so noble a wit is most true in tongues q_uhi_lk he understud, the greek and latin. But if Cicero had understud our tongue, he could have hard the accent in the fourth syllab from the end; as in m{a'}trimonie, p{a'}trimonie, v{a'}dimonie, int{o'}llerable, int{e'}lligences, and whole garrisones of lyke liverie. This anie eare may if he accent the antepenult matr{i'}monie, or the penult matrim{o'}nie, or the last as matrimon{i'}e.

3. Then to the purpose we have the same accent es q_uhi_lk the latin and the greek hath, acute, circ_u_m_flex, and grave.

4. The acute raiseth the syllab quheron it sittes; as prof{e'}sse, pr{o'}fit, {i'}mpudent.

5. It may possesse the last syllab: as suppr{e'}st, pret{e'}nce, sinc{e'}re; the penult: as s{u'}bject, c{a'}ndle, cr{a'}ftie; the antepenult: as diff{i'}cultie, m{i'}ster, f{i'}nallie; and the fourth also from the end, as is said sect. 2; as sp{e'}ciallie, ins{a'}tiabile, d{i'}ligentlie. In al q_uhi_lk, if a man change the acce_n_t, he sall spill the sound of the word.

6. The grave accent is never noated, but onelie understood in al syllabes quherin the acute and circumflex is not. Onlie, for difference, sum wordes ar marked with it, thus ` , leaning contrarie to the acute.

7. The circumflex accent both liftes and felles the syllab that it possesseth, and combynes the markes of other tuae, thus ^ . Of this we, as the latines, hes almost no use. But the south hath great use of it, and in that their dialect differes more from our's then in other soundes or symboles.

8. The use of the accent wil be of good importance for the right pronu_n_ciation of our tongue, quhilk now we doe forte, non arte, and conforming of the dialectes, q_uhi_lk, as I have said, differes most in this.

OF THE APOSTROPHUS AND HYPHEN.

Cap. 10.

1. The learned printeres uses to symboliz apostrophus and hyphen as wel as a, b, c.

2. Apostrophus is the ejecting of a letter or a syllab out of one word or out betuene tuae, and is alwayes marked above the lyne, as it wer a com_m_a, thus ' .



3. Out of one word the apostrophus is most usual in poesie; as Ps. 73, v. 3, for quhen I sau such foolish men, I grug'd, and did disdain; and v. 19, They are destroy'd, dispatch'd, consum'd.

4. Betuene tuae wordes we abate either from the end of the former or the beginni_n_g of the later.

5. We abate from the end of the former quhen it endes in a voual and the next beginnes at a voual; as, th' ingrate; th' one parte; I s' it, for I see it.

6. In abating from the word following, we, in the north, use a mervelouse libertie; as, he's a wyse man, for he is a wyse man; I'l meet with him, for I wil meet with him; a ship 'l of fooles, for a ship ful of fooles; and this we use in our com_m_on language. And q_uhil_k is stranger, we manie tymes cut of the end of the word; as, he's tel the, for he sal tel the.



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7. This for apostrophus. Hyphen is, as it wer, a band uniting whol wordes joined in composition; as, a hand-maed, a heard-man, tongue-tyed, out-rage, foer-warned, mis-reported, fals-deemed.

OF THE CONGRUITIE

OF OUR BRITAN

TONGUE.

LIB. 2.

OF THE PERSON.

Cap. 1.

1. Al wordes q_uhi_lk we use to expresse our mynde are personal or impersonal.
2. A personal word is q_uhi_lk admittes diversitie of person.
3. Person is the face of a word, quhilk in diverse formes of speach it diverselie putes on; as, I, Peter, say that thou art the son of God. Thou, Peter, sayes that I am the son of God. Peter said that I am the son of God.
4. Quherupon person is first, second, and third.
5. The first person is of him that speakes; as, I wryte.
6. The second person is of him that is spoaken to; as, thou wrytes.
7. The third person is of him that is spoaken of; as, Peter wrytes.

OF NU_M_BER.

Cap. 2.

1. Number is distinction of person be one and moe; and soe is singular and plural.
2. The singular speakes of one; as, a hand, a tree, a sheep, a horse, a man.
3. The plural speakes of moe then one; as, handes, trees, sheep, horses, men, tuo, three, foure, or moe, or how manie soever.



4. This difference is com_m_onlie noted with es at the end of the word singular; as, a house, houses; a windoe, windoes; a doore, tuo doores.
5. Sum tymes it is noated be changing a letter; as, a man, men; a woman, wemen; a goose, geese.
6. Sum tyme be changing noe thing; as, a sheep, a thousand sheep; a horse, an hundred horse; a noute, ten noute.

OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE PERSON.

Cap. 3.

1. A personal word is a noun or a verb. A noun is a word of one person w_i_th gender and case; as, I is onelie of the first person; thou is onelie of the second; and al other nounes are onelie the third person; as, thou, Thomas, head, hand, stone, blok, except they be joined with I or thou.
2. The person of a noun singular is determined or undetermined.
3. The determined person is noated with the, and it is determined either be an other substantive; as, the king of Britan; or be an adjective; as, the best king in Europ; or be a relative; as, God preserve the king quhom he hath geven us.
4. The undetermined noun is noated with an befoer a voual; as, an ald man sould be wyse; and with a befoer a consonant; as, a father sould com_m_and his son.

OF THE GENDER OF A NOUN.

Cap. 4.

1. Gender is the affection of a noun for distinction of sex.
2. Sex is a distinction of a noun be male and female, and these are distinguished the one from the other, or both from thinges without sex.



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3. The one is distinguished from the other be he and she.
4. He is the noat of the male; as, he is a gud judge; he is a wyse man; he is a speedie horse; he is a crouse cock; he is a fat wether.
5. She is the noate of the femal sex; as, she is a chast matron; she is a stud meer; she is a fat hen; she is a milk cowe.
6. Nounes that want sex are noated with it; as, it is a tale tree; it is a sueet aple; it is a hard flint; it is a faer day; it is a foul way.
7. In the plural number they are not distinguished; as, they are honest men; they are vertueouse ladies; they are highe montanes.

OF THE CASE OF THE NOUN.

Cap. 5.

1. Case is an affection of a noun for distinction of person; as, the corner stone fel on me; stone is the nominative case. The corner of a stone hurt me; stone is the genitive case. Quhat can you doe to a stone; stone is the dative case. He brak the stones; it is the accusative case. Quhy standes thou stone; it is the vocative. And he hurt me with a stone; it is the ablative case.
2. This difference we declyne, not as doth the latines and greekes, be terminationes, but with noates, after the maner of the hebrues, quhilk they cal particules.
3. The nominative hath no other noat but the particle of determination; as, the peple is a beast with manie heades; a horse serves man to manie uses; men in auctoritie sould be lanternes of light.
4. Our genitive is alwayes joyned with an other noun, and is noated with of, or s.
5. With of, it followes the noun quhar w_i_th it is joined; as, the house of a good man is wel governed.
6. With s it preceedes the word quherof it is governed, and s is devyded from it with an apostrophus; as, a gud man's house is wel governed.
7. This s sum haldes to be a segment of his, and therfoer now almost al wrytes his for it, as if it wer a corruption. But it is not a segment of his; 1. because his is the masculin gender, and this may be foeminin; as, a mother's love is tender; 2. because his is onelie singular, and this may be plural; as, al men's vertues are not knawen.



8. The dative is noated w_i__th to, and for; as, geve libertie evin to the best youth and it wil luxuriat. Al men doeth for them selves; few for a frende.

9. The accusative hath noe other noat then the nominative; as, the head governes the bodie.

10. The vocative is the person to quhom the speach is directed; as, quhence cumes thou Aeneas.

11. The ablative is noated w_i__th prepositiones in, with, be, and sik lyke; as, be god al thinges wer made; God w_i__th his word his warkes began; in my father's house are manie mansiones.

OF THE DEGREES OF COMPARISON.

Cap. 6.

1. Al nounes that wil join with a substantive ar called adjectives; as, gud, high, hard, suet, sour.



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2. These, and al that wil admit mare and mast, are compared be degrees; as, sueet, more sueet, most sueet.
3. Of comparison ther be thre degrees: the positive, comparative, and superlative, if the first may be called a degre.
4. The positive is the first position of the noun; as, soft, hard; quhyte, blak; hoat, cald.
5. The comparative excedes the positive be more, and is formed of the positive be adding er; as, softer, harder; quhiter, blaker; hoater, calder.
6. The superlative excedes the positive be most, and is formed of the positive be adding est; as, softest, hardest; quhytest, blakest; hoatest, caldest.

OF THE VERB'S PERSON AND NUMBER.

Cap. 7.

1. This for the noun. The verb is a word of al persones declyned with mood and tyme; as, I wryte, thou wrytes, he wrytes.
2. We declyne not the persones and nu_m_beres of the verb, as doth the latine, but noat them be the person of the noun.
3. They are noated w_i_th I, thou, and he in the singular number; we, ye, and they in the plural.
4. The nu_m_ber is noated with I and we; thou and ye; he and they.

OF THE MOOD OF THE VERB.

Cap. 8.

1. The mood is an affection of the verb serving the varietie of utterance.
2. We utter the being of thinges or our awn wil.
3. The being of thinges is uttered be inquiring or avouing.
4. We inqyre of that we wald know; as, made God man w_i_thout synne; and in this the supposit of the verb followes the verb.
5. We avoue that q_uhi_lk we know; as, God made man without sinne; and in this the supposit preceedes the verb.



6. We utter our wil be verbes signifying the form of our wil, or postposing the supposit.
7. We wish be wald god, god grant, and god nor; as, wald god I knew the secretes of nature.
8. We permit the will of otheres be letting; as, let God aryse; let everie man have his awn wyfe.
9. We bid our inferioures, and pray our superioures, be postponing the supposit to the verb; as, goe ye and teach al nationes; here me, my God.

OF THE TYME OF THE VERB.

Cap. 9.

1. Tyme is an affection of the verb noating the differences of tyme, and is either present, past, or to cum.
2. Tyme present is that q_uhi_lk now is; as, I wryte, or am wryting.
3. Tyme past is that q_uhi_lk was, and it is passing befoer, past els, or past befoer.
4. Tyme passing befoer, q_uhi_lk we cal imperfectlie past, is of a thing that was doeing but not done; as, at four hoores I was wryting; Quhen you spak to me I was wryting, or did wryte, as Lillie expoundes it.
5. Tyme past els is of a thing now past, q_uhi_lk we cal perfectlie past; as, I have written.



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6. Tyme past befoer is of a thing befoer done and ended; as, at four hoores, or quhen you spak to me, I had written.

7. Tyme to cum is of that q_uhi_lk is not yet begun; as, at four houres I wil wryte.

OF THE POWER OF THE VERB.

Cap. 10.

1. A verb signifies being or doeing. Of being ther is onelie one, I am, and is thus varied.

2. In the present tyme, I am, thou art, he is; we are, ye are, they are.

3. In tyme passing befoer, I was, thou was, he was; we wer, ye wer, they wer.

4. In tyme past els, I have bene, thou hes bene, he hes bene; we have bene, ye have bene, they have bene.

5. In tyme past befoer, I had bene, thou had bene, he had bene; we had bene, ye had bene, they had bene.

6. In tyme to cum, I wil be, thou wilt be, he wil be; we wil be, ye wil be, they wil be.

7. Verbes of doing are actives or passives.

8. The active verb adheres to the person of the agent; as, Christ hath conquered hel and death.

9. The passive verb adheres to the person of the patient; as, hel and death are conquered be Christ.

10. These our idiom conjugates onelie in tuo tymes, the tyme present and tym past; as, I wryte, I wrote; I speak, I spak; I here, I hard; I se, I saw; I fele, I felt.

11. The other differences of tyme ar expressed be the notes of the verb of being, or be the verb of being it self, and a participle; as, I was wryting; I have written; I had written; I wil wryte.

OF THE ADVERB.

Cap. 11.



1. A word impersonal is q_uhi_lk in al formes of speach keepes one face, and this is adverb or conjunction.
2. An adverb is a word adhering mast com_m_onlie w_i_th a verb with one face in al moodes, tymes, nu_m_beres and persones; as, I leve hardlie, thou leves hardlie; I did leve hardlie; I have leved hardlie; I had leved hardlie; I wil leave hardlie; leve he hardlie; God forbid he leve hardlie.
3. Our men confoundes adverbs of place, q_uhi_lk the south distinguishes as wel as the latin, and therfoer let us not shame to learne.
4. They use quher, heer, ther, for the place in q_uhi_lk; quhence, hence, thence, for the place from quhilk; quhither, hither, thither, for the place to q_uhi_lk; as, quher dwel you? quhence cum you? quhither goe you?
5. They also distinguish wel in, into, and unto: in, they use with the place quher; into, with the thing quhither; and unto, for how far; as, our father, q_uhi_lk art in heavin, admit us into heavin, and lift us from the earth unto heavin.
6. Heer, becaus sum nounes incurre into adverbs, let us alsoe noat their differences.
7. First no and not. Noe is a noun, nullus in latin, and in our tongue alwayes precedes the substantive quhilk it nulleth; as, noe man, noe angle, noe god.



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8. Not is an adverb, non in latin, and in our tong followes the verb that it nulleth; as, heer not, grant not; I heer not, I grant not; I wil not heer, I wil not grant.

9. Ane, in our idiom, and an. Ane is a noun of nu_m_ber, in latin unus; an a particule of determination preceding a voual, as we have said cap. 3, sect. 4.

10. Thee and the. Thee is the accusative of thou; as, thou loves God, and God loves thee. The is the determined not of a noun, of q_uhi_lk we spak cap. 3, sect. 3.

OF THE CONJUNCTION.

Cap. 12.

1. Conjunction is a word impersonal serving to cople diverse senses. And of it ther be tuoe sortes, the one enu_n_ciative, and the other ratiocinative.

2. The conjunction enunciative copies the partes of a period, and are copulative, as and; connexive, as if; disjunctive, as or; or discretive, as howbe it.

3. The ratiocinative coples the partes of a ratiocination, and it either inferres the conclusion or the reason.

4. Therfoer inferres the conclusion; as, noe man can keep the law in thought, word, and deed: and therfoer noe man befoer the judg of the hart, word, and deed, can be justified be the law.

5. Because inferres the reason; as, I wil spew the out, because thou art nether hoat nor cald.

OF DISTINCTIONES.

Cap. 13.

1. A distinction is quherbe sentences are distinguished in wryting and reading. And this is perfect or imperfect.

2. A perfect distinction closes a perfect sense, and is marked with a round punct, thus . or a tailed punct, thus ?

3. The round punct concludes an assertion; as, if Abraham was justified be workes, he had quherof to glorie.



4. The tailed punct concludes an interrogation; as, sal we, quha are dead to syn, leve to it?
5. The imperfect distinction divydes the partes of a period, and is marked with tuoe punctes, the one under the other, thus : and is red with half the pause of a perfect punct; as, al have synned, and fallen from the glorie of god: but are justified frelie be his grace.
6. The com_m_a divydes the least partes of the period, and is pronounced in reading with a short sob.
7. The parenthesis divydes in the period a sentence interlaced on sum occurrences q_uhi_lk coheres be noe syntax w_i_th that q_uhi_lk preceedes and followes; as, for exemple of beath, and to conclud this treatesse:

Bless, guyd, advance, preserve, prolong Lord (if thy pleasur be)
Our King *and* Queen, and keep their seed thy name to magnifie.

* * * * *

NOTES.



Page 18

The foregoing Tract is one of great interest, not only on account of its intrinsic merit, but also for the racy style of writing adopted by its author. We find him continually garnishing his language with such idiomatic and colloquial expressions as the following: —“Quhae’s sillie braine will reache no farther then the compas of their cap” (page 2); and again, “but will not presume to judge farther then the compasse of my awn cap” (p. 20). He observes of the printers and writers of his age that they care “for noe more arte then may win the pennie” (p. 2), and on the same page he says, “quhiles I stack in this claye,” which appears to be equivalent to our term “stuck in the mud.” At p. 3 he says, “and it wer but a clod;” at p. 14, “neither daer I, with al the oares of reason, row against so strang a tyde;” and again, on p. 18, we find reason under another aspect, thus, “noe man I trow can denye that ever suked the paepes of reason.”

It seems that the expression, *Queen’s English*, is by no means of modern date, as we have it as the *king’s language* at p. 2.

Hume laments, in his Dedication, the uncertainty of the orthography prevailing at the time he writes, and yet we find him spelling words several different ways, even within the compass of a single sentence, without being able to lay the blame upon the printers; thus we find him writing ju_d_gement on p. 11, ju_d_ge p. 8, and ju_d_g p. 33, but juge p. 18; and there are numberless other instances that it would be tedious to enumerate. Again, the author uses a mixture of Scotch and English, so we have sometimes ane and sometimes one; nae on page 1 and noe on p. 2; mare and mast, and more and most, even in the same sentence (p. 30); and two is spelt in three different ways, tuae, tuo, and tuoe.

Our author’s stay in England appears to have drawn his attention to the differences between the two languages of Scotland and England, which he distinguishes as North and South. He certainly shows, in some instances, the greater correctness of the Scotch with regard to the spelling of words derived from the Latin; as, retine instead of retain, corage instead of courage, etc. (p. 20), in which words the redundant letters that we Southerners have introduced are thrown out. He is, however, by no means partial, and gives us praise when he thinks we deserve it.

Page 9. The arguments in favour of the sound given by the English Universities to the Latin *i* are curious: it is stated to have its value in the Greek +ei+; but the author seems to have been in error as to the English sounding mihi and tibi alike, or our pronunciation must have changed since his time. P. 10. The author speaks of the letter *y* as being used by the South for the sound now symbolized by *i* with a final *e* following the succeeding consonant, as *will* with an *i*, and *wile* with a *y* in place of the *i* and final *e*; thus in the same way he spells write, *wryt*.

P. 11 (7). He gives food, good, blood, as examples of the same sound, thus inferring that the English pronounced the two latter so as to rhyme with food.



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P. 11 (8). He objects to the use of *w* for *u* in the diphthongal sound of *ou*, and therefore spells *how*, *now*, *etc.*, *hou*, *nou*.

P. 11 (10). It is difficult here to see what the pronunciation of *buu* would be, which the author gives as the sound of bow (to bow). Probably the sound he meant would be better represented by *boo*.

P. 13 (12). The author here recommends the distinction both of sound and symbol of *j* and *v* as consonants, and *i* and *u* as vowels, and proposes that we should call *j jod* or *je*, and *v vau* or *ve*, and not single *u*, "as now they doe" (p. 16), and *w* he would call *wau* or *we*, and moreover he places them in his alphabet on the same page. If this proposal was originally his own, it is curious that the name *ve* should have been adopted, though not the *we* for *w*. Ben Jonson points out the double power of *i* and *v* as both consonant and vowel, but he does not attempt to make them into separate letters as Hume does. P. 15 (12). He gives as an anomaly of the South that while the *d* is inserted before *g* in *hedge*, *bridge*, *etc.*, it is omitted in *age*, *suage*, *etc.* He does not see that the short vowel requires a double consonant to prevent it from being pronounced long. P. 21 (6). He disputes the possibility of a final *e*, separated from a preceding vowel by a consonant, having any effect whatever in altering the sound of the preceding vowel, and recommends the use of a diphthong to express the sound required; as, *hoep* for *hope*, *fier* for *fire*, *bied* for *bide*, *beofer* for *before*, *maed* for *made*, *etc.* He uniformly throughout follows this rule.

P. 22 (5). Hume here accents *difficultie* on the antepenultimate instead of the first syllable.

P. 23 (7). He puts down *outrage* as an instance of two distinct words joined by a hyphen, which is the derivation given by Ash in his dictionary, in strange obliviousness of the French word *outrage*.

P. 27 (1, 6). *T* is omitted after *s* in the second person singular of the verb, and so no distinction is made between the second and the third persons; thus, *thou wrytes*, and at p. 32 *thou was*, and *thou hes*.

P. 29 (7). The supposition that the apostrophe 's as a mark of the possessive case is a segment of his, a question which has been lately revived, is here denied.

P. 34. In this last chapter on Punctuation, which the author styles "of Distinctiones," no mention whatever is made of the "semicolon," though it occurs frequently in the MS., as, for instance, p. 30, cap. 6. This stop, according to Herbert, was first used by Richard Grafton in *The Byble* printed in 1537: it occurs in the Dedication. Henry Denham, an English printer who flourished towards the close of the sixteenth century, was the first to use it with propriety.

P. 34 (6). The explanation of the mode of pronouncing the comma “with a short *sob*” is odd.[5]

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[Footnote 5: It will be here as well to mention that as the punctuation in the MS. is extremely unsystematic, it has been dispensed with whenever the meaning was confused by it.]

The author continually uses a singular verb to a plural noun; for instance, “of this we, as the latines, hes almost no use” (p. 22), though on p. 20 he writes, “in our tongue we have some particles.”

With regard to the Manuscript, there are two corrections in it worth noting. At p. 10 (6), in the phrase, “the auctours *whole* drift,” the word had been originally written *hael*, but is marked through, and *whole* substituted for it in the same handwriting. At p. 21 (4), the word *frensh* has been inserted before *examples*, but has been afterwards struck through.

The numbering is wrong in three places, but it has not been corrected. At p. 8 there are no sections 12 and 13, at pp. 17, 19, there are two cap. 7, and at p. 19 there are two sections 4.

GLOSSARIAL INDEX.

[The words in the present Tract that really required to be glossed are but few; I have, however, inserted in the following list most of the variations from ordinary modern usage, in order that it may serve as an Index.]

Af = of, p. 9.

Af = off, p. 12.

Ald = old, pp. 3, 21, 28.

Amangs = amongst, p. 18.

Ane = a, one.

Angle = angel, p. 33.

Auctoritie = authority, pp. 22, 29.

Aun = own, pp. 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 15.

Awn = own, pp. 11, 18, 20, 30, 31.

Awn = proper, pp. 9, 11, 13, 15.

Awne = proper, p. 14.

Awne = own, p. 10.

Baeth = both, pp. 8, 34.

Bathe = both, p. 17.

Be = by.

Britan = British.



- Cald = cold, pp. 30, 33;
caldest, p. 30.
- Cales = calls, pp. 10, 22.
- Chirt = a squirt, or a squeeze through the teeth, pp. 13, 14.
See Ruddiman's Glossary to G. Douglas (*chirtand*).
- Cold = could, p. 20.
- Coples = couples, p. 33.
- Corage = courage, p. 20.
- Crouse = brisk, p. 28.
- Cum = come, pp. 11, 31;
cumes = comes, p. 29.
- Devore = devour, p. 20.
- Devote = devout, p. 20.
- Distinctiones = punctuation, p. 34.
- Doon = done, p. 21.
- Doting = giving, p. 3.
- Earand = errand, p. 8.
- Evin = even, p. 29.
- Faer = fair, p. 28.
- Falt = fault, pp. 15, 20.
- Fand = found, p. 1.
- Fele = feel, p. 32.
- Felles = lowers, p. 22.
- Finnes = fineness, p. 2.
- Fontan = fountain, p. 11.
- Foran = foreign, p. 20.
- Frelie = freely, p. 34.
- Geve = give, pp. 7, 8, 9, 12, 28, 29.
- Gif = if, p. 21.
- Glim = glimpse, p. 2.
- Gud = good, pp. 2, 18, 21, 28, 29.
- Hael = hail, p. 10.
- Hald = hold, p. 14;
haldes, p. 29.
- Hame = home, p. 2.
- Hard = heard, pp. 2, 3, 13, 14, 22, 32.
- Hart = heart, p. 33.
- Heal = whole, p. 10.
- Heer = hear, p. 33.
- Here = hear, pp. 31, 32.
- Hes = has, pp. 3, 14, 15, 19, 22, 32.
- Hes = hast, p. 32.



Hes = have, pp. 20, 22.

Hoat = hot, pp. 18, 30, 33;
hoater, p. 30.

Hoores = hours, p. 31.



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Ida, Scotland or Edinburgh, p. 2.
Incurre, v. = to run into. Lat. *incurro*, pp. 20, 33.

Ken = know, p. 21.
Kep, v. = to intercept, p. 14.
Kepping = receiving in the act of falling, p. 12. *Jamieson*.
Knau = know, p. 2.
Knaulege = knowledge, pp. 3, 10;
 knowlege, pp. 11, 21.
Knaw = know, pp. 7, 30;
 knaue, p. 21;
 knawen = known, p. 29.

Laggared = loitered or rested, p. 2.
Lang = long, pp. 9, 14.
Leave = live, p. 32.
Leve = live, pp. 32, 34.
Leving = living, p. 11.
Louse = loose, p. 9.
Lykwayes = likewise, p. 19.

Maer = more, pp. 2, 10.
Maest = most, pp. 1, 2, 16.
Man = must, p. 8.
Mare = more, p. 30.
Mast = most, pp. 30, 32.
Meer = mare, p. 28.
Middes = middle, p. 16.
Mikle = much, pp. 13, 18, 19, 20.
Mint = aim, pressure, p. 18.
Minted = attempted, p. 15.
Moat, probably *moot*, discussion, chat, etc., p. 2. A.S. *m{o}'t*.
Moe = more, pp. 16, 19, 21, 27.
Moien = means for attaining an end, p. 2. *Jamieson*. Fr. *moyen*.
Mont = mount, p. 24.
Montan = mountain, pp. 3, 11, 28.
Mynt = aim, pp. 12, 17.

Nae = no, pp. 1, 8.
Nane = none, p. 13.
Noat, v. = note, pp. 19, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33.
Noat = note, pp. 7, 13, 28, 29;
 noate, p. 28;
 noates = notes, p. 29.



Nor = than, p. 3.

Nor, God nor, p. 31.

This most probably means God comfort or nourish us, connected with *norice*, a nurse, and *norie*, a foster-child. There is also a substantive *nore* in Chaucer, meaning comfort. *Norne* is to entreat, ask (see *Alliterative Poems Glossary*), and may have something to do with this expression, but it is hardly so probable as the above.

Noute = black cattle, p. 27;

connected with *neat*, as in neat-cattle, neat-herd.

Nulleth = negatives, p. 33.

Nurice = nurse, p. 19.

Of = off, p. 23.

Ones, at ones = at once, p. 18.

Paen = trouble, p. 2.

Paert = part, p. 10.

Peple = people, pp. 20, 29.

Phason = pheasant (?), p. 13.

Pover = poor, p. 3.

Punct = stop, p. 34.

Qu.

At p. 18 the author gives his reasons for making use of the guttural *qu* in the place of the labial *w*. The following are the words in which it is thus used:—

Quha = who, pp. 2, 3, 34.

Quhae = who, pp. 1, 10;

quhae's = whose, p. 2.

Quhaer = where, p. 2.

Quhar = where, p. 29.

Quharein = wherein, p. 14.

Quharof = whereof, p. 16.

Quhat = what, pp. 2, 8, 15, 17, 18, 28.

Quhatever = whatever, p. 19.

Quhen = when, pp. 2, 9, 11, 23, 31.

Quhence = whence, pp. 29, 32.

Quher = where, pp. 2, 14, 20, 32.

Quheras = whereas, p. 14.

Quherat = whereat, p. 18.



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Quherbe = whereby, pp. 11, 34.
Quherfoer, quherforr = wherefore, pp. 7, 8, 10, 15.
Quherin = wherein, pp. 20, 22.
Quherof = whereof, pp. 29, 34.
Quheron = whereon, p. 22.
Quherupon = whereupon, pp. 8, 27.
Quherwith = wherewith, p. 2.
Quhil, quhiles = while, p. 2.
Quhilk = which.
Quhither = whether, pp. 11, 17, 18, 20, 32.
Quho = who, pp. 12, 14, 15, 18, 22.
Quhom = whom.
Quhy = why, pp. 20, 21, 29.
Quhyte = white, p. 30;
 quhiter, p. 30;
 quhytest, p. 30.
Quod = quoth, p. 18.

Rease = rose, p. 18.
Red = read, p. 34.
Regne = reign, p. 20.
Retine = retain, p. 20.
Ryseth = ariseth, p. 9.

Sa = so, p. 21;
 sae = so, p. 17.
Sal = shall, pp. 9, 11, 23, 34.
Sall = shall, pp. 8, 22.
Shaued = showed, p. 7.
Shour = shower, p. 10.
Sib = related, p. 21.
Sik = such, pp. 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 17, 29.
Sillie = wretched, poor, p. 2.

Skuiographie,
 probably an invented word, the intention of the author being to
 oppose skew or askew to +orthos+, straight. It has been suggested
 that it may be intended for sciagraphy, +skiagraphia+, also spelt
 sciography; but this is improbable, as the meaning of that word,
 viz., the art of shadows, including dialling, is so inappropriate
 in this passage, p. 2.



Sould = should, pp. 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 22, 28, 29.

Spering = inquiring, p. 18.

Spil = destroy, spoil(?), p. 13;
spill, p. 22.

Spilt = corrupted, spoilt(?), p. 2.

Stack = stuck, p. 2.

Stean = stone, p. 8.

Stiddie = anvil, pp. 12, 17.

“And my imaginations are as foul
As Vulcan’s stithy.”

Hamlet, Act iii., sc. 2.

Strang = strong, p. 14.

Sum = some, pp. 8, 9, 10, 21, 34.

Supposit = subject, pp. 30, 31.

Syllab = syllable, pp. 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22;
syllabes, p. 8.

Ben Jonson spells this word *syllabe* in his *English Grammar*.

Syne = since, p. 1.

Tal = tale, p. 9.

Tal = tail, p. 9.

Tale = tall, p. 28.

Trow = believe, pp. 13, 18.

Tuae = two, pp. 1, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23.

Tuelfe = twelve, p. 3.

Tuich = touch, pp. 7, 13, 15, 17;
tuiches, p. 11.

Tuiched = touched, pp. 3, 17.

Tuich stone = touchstone, p. 19.

Tyme passing befoer = imperfect tense, pp. 31, 32.

Tyme past befoer = pluperfect tense, pp. 31, 32.

Tyme past els = perfect tense, pp. 31, 32.

Vadimonie = recognisance, p. 22. Lat. *Vadimonium*.

Voce = voice, p. 20.

Waet = know, p. 14.

Wait = know, p. 11.

Wald = would, pp. 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 30, 31.

Warkes = works, p. 29.

Weer = war, p. 3.

Were = war, p. 20.

Whither = whether, p. 2.

The author in this place uses the letter *w* instead of *qu*,
although at p. 18 he is so strenuous against its use.

Wrang = wrong, pp. 2, 9, 11.



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Ye = yea, p. 14.

Yeld = yield, p. 21.

Early English Text Society.

Report of the Committee, January, 1865.

The close of the first year of the Society's operations affords the Committee the welcome opportunity of congratulating the members on the Society's success. Instead of two Texts, which the first Circular to the Society suggested might perhaps be issued, the Committee have been enabled to publish four, and these four such as will bear comparison, as to rareness and intrinsic value, with the publications of any of the longest established societies of the kingdom. The *Arthur* was edited for the first time from a unique MS., wholly unknown to even the latest writers on the subject, and exhibits our national hero's life in a simpler form than even Geoffrey of Monmouth, or Layamon. The *Early English Alliterative Poems*, though noticed long ago by Dr. Guest and Sir F. Madden, for their great philological and poetical value, had been inaccessible to all but students of the difficult and faded MS. in the British Museum: they have been now made public by the Society's edition, with their large additions to our vocabulary, and their interesting dialectal formations. The *Sir Gawayne*, from the same MS., could only have been had before in Sir Frederick Madden's rare and costly edition, printed by the Bannatyne Club. And the *Lauder* has restored, as it were, to Scotland, a Poet whose name had found no place in the standard History of Scottish Poetry, and the Biographical Dictionaries.

Though the Society started late in the past year, these four Texts were published within a fortnight of its close; and before that time the first Text for the second year was in the printer's hands. The Committee pledge themselves to continue their exertions to render the Texts issued worthy of the Society, and to complete the issue of each set within the year assigned to it. They rely with confidence on the Subscribers to use their best endeavours to increase the list of Members, in order that funds may not be wanting to print the material that editors place at their service. The aim of the Committee is, on the one hand, to print all that is most valuable of the yet unprinted MSS. in English, and, on the other, to re-edit and reprint all that is most valuable in printed English books, which from their scarcity or price are not within the reach of the student of moderate means.[6] Those relating to KING ARTHUR will be the Committee's first care; those relating to our Language and its Dialects the second; while in due proportion with these, will be mixed others of general interest, though with no one special common design. The Committee hope that no year will pass without the issue of one Text in the Northern dialect, as well in acknowledgment of the support that the Society has received in Scotland, as to obviate the hitherto limited circulation of the works of the early Scotch writers among students south of the Humber.

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[Footnote 6: "A vast mass of our early literature is still unprinted, and much that has been printed has, as the late Herbert Coleridge remarked, 'been brought out by Printing Clubs of exclusive constitution, or for private circulation only, and might, for all that the public in general is the better for them, just as well have remained in manuscript, being, of course, utterly unprocurable, except in great libraries, and not always there.' It is well known that the Hon. G. P. Marsh, the author of 'The Origin and History of the English Language,' could not procure for use in his work a copy of 'Havelok' for love or money; and the usual catalogue-price of 'William and the Werwolf,' or 'The Early English Gesta Romanorum,' etc., etc., is six guineas, when the book should be obtainable for less than a pound. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Percy, Camden, and other Societies and Printing Clubs, more than half our early printed literature—including the Romances relating to our national hero, Arthur—is still inaccessible to the student of moderate means; and it is a scandal that this state of things should be allowed to continue.... Those who would raise any objection to these re-editions—as a few have raised them—are asked to consider the absurdity and injustice of debarring a large number of readers from the enjoyment of an old author, because a living editor has once printed his works, when the feeling of the editor himself is well expressed in the words of one of the class, 'You are heartily welcome to all I have ever done. I should rejoice to see my books in the hands of a hundred, where they are now on the shelves of one.'"—*Extract from the first Prospectus.*]

The publications for 1864 are:—

1. Early English Alliterative Poems in the West Midland Dialect of the fourteenth century (ab. 1320-30 A.D.). Edited for the first time from a unique MS. in the British Museum, with Notes and Glossarial Index, by Richard Morris, Esq. 16_s._
2. Arthur. Edited for the first time from the Marquis of Bath's MS. (ab. 1440 A.D.), by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A. 4_s._
3. Ane compendious and breve Tractate, concernyng ye office and dewtie of Kyngis, Spirituall Pastoris, and temporall Jugis; lailie compylit be William Lauder. Reprinted from the edition of 1556, and edited by Prof. Fitz-Edward Hall, D.C.L. 4_s._
4. Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight. Edited by R. Morris, Esq., from the Cottonian MS., Nero, A x. (ab. 1320-30 A.D.) 10_s._

The publications for the present year (1865) will comprise Texts from at least four unique MSS., two of which will be edited for the first time.

5. Of the Orthographie and Congruitie of the Britan Tongue, a treatise noe shorter then necessarie, be Alexander Hume. Edited for the first

time from the MS. in the British Museum (ab. 1617 A.D.), by Henry B. Wheatley, Esq. 4_s._

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6. Syr Lancelot du Lak. Edited from the MS. in the Cambridge University Library (15th century), by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A.

[In the Press.]

7. Morte Arthure: the Alliterative Version. Edited from Robert Thorntone's MS. (ab. 1440 A.D.) at Lincoln, by the Rev. F. C. Massingberd, M.A.
8. Various Poems relating to Sir Gawayne. Edited from the MSS. by Richard Morris, Esq.
9. Merlin, or the Early History of Arthur. Edited for the first time from the MS. in the Cambridge University Library (ab. 1450 A.D.), by F. J. Furnivall, Esq. Part I.

Also, the following, if the amount of subscriptions will justify the Committee in issuing them:—

Animadversions upon the Annotations and Corrections of some imperfections of Impressions of Chaucer's Workes reprinted in 1598, by Francis Thynne. Edited from the MS. in the Bridgewater Library, by Henry B. Wheatley, Esq.

The Story of Genesis and Exodus in English verse of about 1300 A.D. To be edited for the first time from the unique MS. in the Library of Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge, by F. J. Furnivall and R. Morris, Esqrs.

The Harrowing of Hell. To be edited from the MS. in the Bodleian Library, by R. F. Weymouth, Esq.

The following is a list of Texts, which it is proposed to print (among others) in future years:—

The Romance of Arthour and Merlin. To be edited from the Auchinleck MS. (ab. 1320-30 A.D.)

Mirk's Duties of a Parish Priest. To be edited for the first time from the MSS. in the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries (ab. 1420 A.D.), by E. Peacock, Esq.

The Romance of William and the Werwolf. To be edited from the unique MS. in the Library of King's Coll., Cambridge.



The Gospel of Nicodemus in the Northumbrian Dialect. To be edited for the first time from Harl. MS. 4196, &c., Cotton-Galba E ix., by R. Morris, Esq.

The Romance of Melusine. To be edited for the first time from the unique MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Syr Thomas Maleor's Mort d'Arthur. To be edited from Caxton's edition (1485 A.D.) with a new Preface, Notes, and a Glossary.

The Arthur Ballads.

The Romance of Sir Tristrem. To be edited from the Auchinleck MS.

The English Charlemagne Romances. To be edited from the Auchinleck MS.

The Early English Version of the Gesta Romanorum. To be edited from the MSS. in the British Museum and other Libraries.

The two different Versions of Piers Plowman, in parallel columns.

Gawain Douglas's Aeneis. To be edited from the Cambridge MS. by Professor Fitz-Edward Hall, D.C.L.



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The Romance of Kyng Horn. To be edited from the MS. in the Library of the University of Cambridge.

Robert of Brunne's Handlyng Synne, a treatise on the sins, and sketches of the manners, of English men and women in A.D. 1303. To be re-edited from the MSS. in the British Museum and Bodleian Libraries by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Cursor Mundi, the best dialectal version. To be edited from the MS. by Richard Morris, Esq.

The History of the Saint Graal or Sank Ryal. By Henry Lonelich, Skynner (ab. 1440 A.D.). To be re-edited from the unique MS. in the Library of Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge, by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Dan Michel's Ayenbite of Inwyt, the most valuable specimen of the Kentish dialect, 1340 A.D. To be edited from the MS. in the British Museum by Richard Morris, Esq.

Froissart's Chronicles translated out of Frenche into our maternall Englyshe Tonge, by Johan Bourchier Knight, Lord Berners. To be edited by Henry B. Wheatley, Esq.

Skelton's Translation of Diodorus Siculus, oute of freshe Latin, that is of Poggius Florentinus, containing six books. To be edited for the first time from the unique MS. in the Library of Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge.

Sir David Lyndesay's Monarchie. Edited by Prof. Fitz-Edward Hall, D.C.L., from the first edition by Jhone Skott.

Some of the earliest English Dictionaries, as—
Abecedarium Anglico-latinum, by Richard Huloet (1552); and Baret's Alvearie or Quadruple Dictionarie, to be edited from the editions of 1573 and 1580 by Henry B. Wheatley, Esq.

The Subscription is $\{L\}1$ 1_s_ a year, due in advance on the 1st of January, and should be paid either to the Society's Account at the Union Bank of London, 14, Argyll Place, W., or by Post Office Order to the Hon. Secretary, 53, Berners Street, London, W.; to whom Subscribers' names and addresses should be sent.

The Committee wish to draw the attention of the Subscribers to the fact that the Society's Account has been transferred from the London and Birmingham Bank to the Regent Street Branch of the Union Bank of London.



The Committee invite offers of voluntary assistance from those who may be willing to edit or copy Texts, or to lend them books for reprinting or for re-reading with the original MSS.

The Honorary Secretary's Cash Account is annexed.

Abstract of the Income and Expenditure of the EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY for the Year ending December 31st, 1864.

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1864. {L} s. d. One hundred Subscriptions, at 1_l._1_s._ 105 0 0 Forty-five ditto (through Agents), at 1_l._ 45 0 0 1865. Two Subscriptions, at 1_l._ 1_s._ 2 2 0



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{L}152 2 0

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PAYMENTS.

1864. {L} s. d.

Printing Account (Austin)—

Alliterative Poems 62 7 6

Arthur 8 14 0

Lauder's Tractate 15 14 0

Sir Gawayne 35 16 0

3,500 Prospectuses 5 5 0

Packing, Postage, &c., of

Alliterative Poems and Arthur 1 16 6

129 13 0

Less Discount 6 9 0

123 4 0

Petty Expenses—

Purchase of Books for Re-editing 5 18 0

Stationery, &c. 0 18 6

Postages (Circulars, &c.) 4 4 6

Deduction on Country Cheque 0 0 7

Balance in the hands of the Hon. Secretary 0 13 0

Balance at the Bankers 17 3 5

{L}152 2 0

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We have examined this Account with the Books and Vouchers, and certify that it is correct.

Wm. CUNNINGHAM GLEN,
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