

**PRACTICAL RULES FOR GREEK  
ACCENTS AND QUANTITY.  
FROM THE GERMAN OF P.  
BUTTMANN AND F. PASSOW**

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Practical Rules for Greek Accents and Quantity. From the German of P. Buttmann and F. Passow by Moses Stuart

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**MOSES STUART**

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**P. BUTTMANN AND F. PASSOW.**

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BY

**MOSES STUART,**

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Andover.

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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, to wit:

*District Clerk's Office.*

Be it remembered, that on the 25th day of February, A. D. 1829, and in the fifty second year of the Independence of the United States of America, Moses Stuart, of the said district, has deposited in this Office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit: "Practical Rules for Greek Accents and Quantity, from the German of P. Buttman and F. Passow. By Moses Stuart, Associate Professor of Enc. Lit. in the Theol. Institution at Andover."—In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an act entitled, "An act supplementary to an act, entitled, An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

JOHN W. DAVIS, } *Clerk of the District*  
                          } *of Massachusetts.*

## PREFACE.

The history of the following Treatise is brief. In writing my Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews, I was compelled to make some acquaintance with the system of Greek accents; and of course to direct my attention, in some degree, to the quantity of the language. In all my Greek studies, during the earlier part of my life, I had, (in common I believe with most of my fellow-countrymen), entirely, or almost entirely, neglected accent and quantity. In order to publish a book, furnished in a proper manner with the accents, I was led to investigate the best grammars and treatises on this subject; and on the whole, I was better satisfied with the views of Buttmann, than with those of any other writer. But these views lay scattered through the whole body of his large Grammar; a little here, and a little there, and sometimes so little, as almost to elude the most diligent research. For convenience's sake, I began to digest this scattered mass, and to bring into one compact form all its various parts. I did not always literally translate the words of Buttmann; but his ideas I aimed to translate exactly, and to express them freely and simply in our own vernacular language: a practice which I would fain commend to all who translate German books for English use. Most of Part I., in the following sheets, was composed in this way, and preparation was thus substantially made for printing it, in case this might be deemed expedient.

Friends, with whom I conversed at various times on the importance to a student of some good knowledge of Greek accentuation and quantity, and to whom I stated what I had done to make myself acquainted with it, frequently expressed a wish that I would publish the abstract which I had made. When I had obtained the masterly exhibition of Passow, in his Tables respecting the quantity of the Greek language, I was induced to comply with their request; because I found that both the subject of accentuation and quantity might be comprised in one little volume. Every one acquainted at all with the subject, will spontaneously feel, that the two things ought to go together. Certainly the accentuation is mostly regulated by the quantity of syllables, and a treatise on the former, without comprising some exhibition of the latter, must be very incomplete.

Passow on Greek Quantity (Part II. in this work), I have translated in a good degree literally, because I found no better way. With Buttmann I have, (as is stated above), taken such liberties as one must take, who desires to make out of a widely separated and disjointed mass one compact body, and to transfer the ideas rather than the expressions. I have arranged the whole in the order of Sections, for the sake of convenient reference; and I trust that any one, by the help of the heads and the running titles, may speedily find what he desires in respect to the subject of quantity or accents.

In regard to the utility of this little volume, I can only say, that I could not part with what I have obtained by attention to the subjects which it comprises, with-

out great reluctance, nor without the full belief that what I should thus dispense with, is of sufficient value to be worth far more than all the time and trouble which I have expended upon it. There is not a small number of cases, where the accents serve to distinguish the nature, and of course the meaning, of words spelled in the same manner, but having different significations. All the modern Greeks cleave tenaciously to the accents. What the more ancient ones thought on this subject, is sufficiently testified, by the fact that the great body of the Greek manuscripts are furnished with the accents. No Greek scholar, in the European world, would think of professing himself an adept in this language, without a knowledge of accent and quantity. One may indeed say, in regard to this, what Cicero said in regard to a knowledge of the Greek language in his time; "It is not so much a matter of praise to understand it, as it is of shame to be ignorant of it."

One word as to the use of the following sheets, should they be so fortunate as to find their way into our Schools and Colleges. The *Exercises* at the end point out the manner of this use. Excepting a few pages in the beginning of Part I. and Part II., I should think it inexpedient to recite this book. Let it be consulted as a Lexicon is; and let the teacher require of the student, *exercises* in accentuation and quantity, on the plan pointed out at the close of this volume.

From the very outset, the student should be accustomed to associate a knowledge of accent and quantity, with a knowledge of the meaning of every Greek word which he learns. In this way, all the trouble would be spared of subsequent drilling in respect to accent and quantity. The student should learn them, *ab initio*, just as he practises the accent and quantity of his own mother-tongue, from his infancy.

If I mistake not, exercises in the way above recommended, will be far from being unpleasant to learners; and the consciousness of standing on the same basis with the scholars of Europe, in regard to a knowledge of accent and quantity in the Greek language, will give a satisfaction which will more than compensate for the trouble of learning them; not to mention the manifest utility of such a knowledge, in various respects. It is to be hoped, that all our Seminaries, where Greek is taught, will no longer propose to themselves a point of attainment in this language, which places our students so far below the general standard.

It hardly need be said, that Part II. is specially designed for aid in reading Greek poetry; where indeed it becomes matter both of necessity and of interest, to apply the principles which it develops, unless the business of scanning be entirely superseded.

To those who know the reputation of Buttman as a grammarian, and Passow as a lexicographer skilled in the science of Greek quantity, it will be unnecessary to state any apology for preferring their treatises to those of others, on the subjects in question.

M. STUART.

Theol. Seminary;  
Andover, 20 Feb. 1839.



## PART I.

### OF THE ACCENTS.

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#### *Nature and object of the Accents.*

§ 1. THE Greek language not only makes a distinction between syllables as long and short,\* but it places on every word, with very few exceptions (§ 5), an *accent*, in order to regulate the tone of the voice with which it is to be pronounced. The expression of this is very difficult for those who speak the languages of western Europe, on account of their views and their habits of pronunciation, which are so diverse, in some respects, from those of the ancient Greeks. In the language of the latter, the accent as often falls upon a *short* syllable as upon a long one; while we, in endeavouring to throw the tone upon the short syllable, convert it into a long one; e. g. in *πίθημι*, *Σοκράτης*.

§ 2. It is placed beyond all doubt, however, by ancient testimonies, that the intonations which the accents mark, are as old as the language itself. But this must be understood, of the intonations *generally* considered; for in respect to particular words, the accents in Greek (as in every language) were subject to change, by process of time, and by a variety of causes. The common accentuation, as it stands in the best Greek classics, was derived from the manner of pronouncing the Greek language, at the most blooming period of the Attic dialect.

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\* Of this, Part II. of the present work treats.

It began, however, to be marked in *books*, only after the incorrect pronunciation of common life began to introduce erroneous intonations. Grammarians endeavoured to correct these, by marking words in such a way as to guide the reader to right intonations; and this was plainly the first occasion of *written* accents. From the practice of thus marking the accents for books used in the schools, it gradually extended itself to all other books; and thus has been transplanted down to us, at least the *theory* of Greek intonation.

Note. From testimony which cannot with any propriety be suspected, it appears that Aristophanes of Byzantium was the first who introduced the *written* accents, about 200 years before the Christian era.

§ 3. Reflection and practice may contribute much to remove the difficulty that exists, in regard to our pronouncing an accented syllable with a proper tone, without spoiling the quantity; and it certainly is worth a serious effort on our part, to restore the ancient euphony of the Greek tongue, which may be rendered audible to our ears. But this cannot be done, without an accurate knowledge of the present system of accents.

§ 4. But if no reference at all be had to a circumstance so pleasing in itself, still, the Greek accents are not to be regarded as unimportant. Very often the quantity of the doubtful vowels may be known by them. Many words, also, of apparently the same sound and form, are distinguished by them from each other; and even where they do not serve either of these purposes, the manner in which they are arranged, leads us to a knowledge of the *laws* by which they are regulated, without which we could not judge correctly of those cases, where the utility of the accents is evident.

Note. The student should be on his guard against reading,

with a reference to the accents, in such a way as to spoil the quantity. If the accent cannot be made, after sufficient trial, without injuring the quantity of syllables, it is more important to preserve the quantity than to follow the tone.

*Kinds of accents, and the manner in which they affect the pronuniation.*

§ 5. Ordinarily, every Greek word has an accent upon one of its vowels, (for exceptions, see § 11); and this is properly only the *Acute*, ὀξεῖα, (i. e. ὀξεῖα προσῳδία, *acute accent*), which means a sharp or clear tone, marked thus (´).

§ 6. According to the theory of the ancient grammarians, to every syllable which has not the tone, there belongs the *grave* accent, (gravis, βαρῆα), i. e. a sinking tone. But this is not marked in Greek writings, at present, although the ancients marked it, (at least occasionally), by the descending stroke (˘). This stroke is now employed only to mark the *Acute* under certain circumstances, † 12.

§ 7. Practice, however, has varied the theory in § 5, and according to usage, a long vowel may take the *circumflex* accent, περισπωμένη, i. e. the inflected or protracted tone, designated by (ˆ). According to the decision of ancient grammarians, a long vowel with this mark, is to be regarded as composed of two short ones drawn together, the first of which is an *Acute ascending* (´), the second, a *Gravis* (˘); e. g. ῶ̀, combined in one sound, makes ῶ. On the other hand, ὢ, (the order of the accents in the former case being reversed), when combined in one sound, can make only ὠ, i. e. Omega with an *Acute*.

Note. A difference of sound, in these two cases, we can hardly make perceptible to the ear. But let the student guard well against two errors; (1) Let him not pronounce ῶ or ὠ with an accent, like ω without one; nor should he pronounce ω with-