

**A SELECTION OF PASSAGES FROM THE  
SPECTATOR FOR TRANSLATION INTO  
LATIN PROSE. WITH HINTS FOR THE  
ASSISTANCE OF BEGINNERS AND AN  
APPENDIX OF CICERONIAN PHRASES**

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A Selection of Passages from the Spectator for Translation into Latin Prose. With Hints for the Assistance of Beginners and an Appendix of Ciceronian Phrases by John Richardson Major

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**JOHN RICHARDSON MAJOR**

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SELECTION OF PASSAGES

FOR

TRANSLATION INTO LATIN PROSE

A SELECTION  
OF  
PASSAGES FROM THE SPECTATOR  
FOR  
TRANSLATION INTO LATIN PROSE.  
WITH  
HINTS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF BEGINNERS  
AND AN  
APPENDIX OF CICERONIAN PHRASES.

EDITED BY  
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## P R E F A C E.

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THESE Exercises are intended to be a sequel to those of Arnold or of Ellis, and to lead the student one step further in the practice of Latin composition. While using them, it is expected that he should be reading portions of Cicero, particularly the treatises *de Senectute* and *de Amicitia*, and by translation and re-translation acquiring caution and discrimination in the idioms and elegancies of the two languages. The Editor, in his experience, has found a difficulty in meeting with passages altogether suitable for beginners in the writing of Latin Prose. In the published selections, or in papers set in University Examinations, the pieces are frequently too abstruse and technical; or, being taken from writers antiquated and obsolete, present discouragements *in limine* to a novice, even should he set at defiance the caution of Horace :

“*Nec verbum verbo curabis reddere.*”

To obviate these objections, the Editor has selected a series of Exercises from the Spectator, of which the style is uniformly clear and simple, and which has long

been acknowledged as well adapted for being rendered into Latin. After the practice which these will afford, the learner may be expected to grapple successfully with more formidable trials of his classical taste and ingenuity.

The work has been divided into four parts :

Part 1.—Passages (120 in number) of moderate and gradually increasing length.

Part 2.—A literal version of Translations by the Editor of half of these ; and the suggestion of words and phrases for adoption in the remaining half.

Part 3.—Supplementary Passages (80 in number) in the translation of which the student is left to his own resources.

Part 4.—A century of Ciceronian Phrases ; suggestive (by means of the words in italics) of peculiarities in idiom, construction, or arrangement ; and for the further elucidation of which the study of Syntax in the Grammars of Zumpt or Madvig is earnestly recommended.



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## PASSAGES FOR TRANSLATION.

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### PART I.

#### I.

NOB is it sufficient for an epic poem to be filled with such thoughts as are natural, unless it abound also with such as are sublime. Virgil, in this particular, falls short of Homer. He has not, indeed, so many thoughts that are low and vulgar; but at the same time has not so many thoughts that are sublime and noble. The truth of it is, Virgil seldom rises into very astonishing sentiments, where he is not fired by the Iliad. He everywhere charms and pleases us by the force of his own genius; but seldom elevates and transports us, where he does not fetch his hints from Homer.

#### II.

"This is the rarest old fellow!" says Jupiter; "he has made this prayer to me for above twenty years together. When he was but fifty years old, he desired only that he might live to see his son settled in the world. I granted it. He then begged the same favour for his daughter, and afterward that he might see the education of a grandson. When all this was brought about, he puts up a petition that he might live to finish a house he was building. In short, he is an unreasonable old cur, and never wants an excuse; I will hear no more of him."