ELEMENTS OF SYRIAC GRAMMAR

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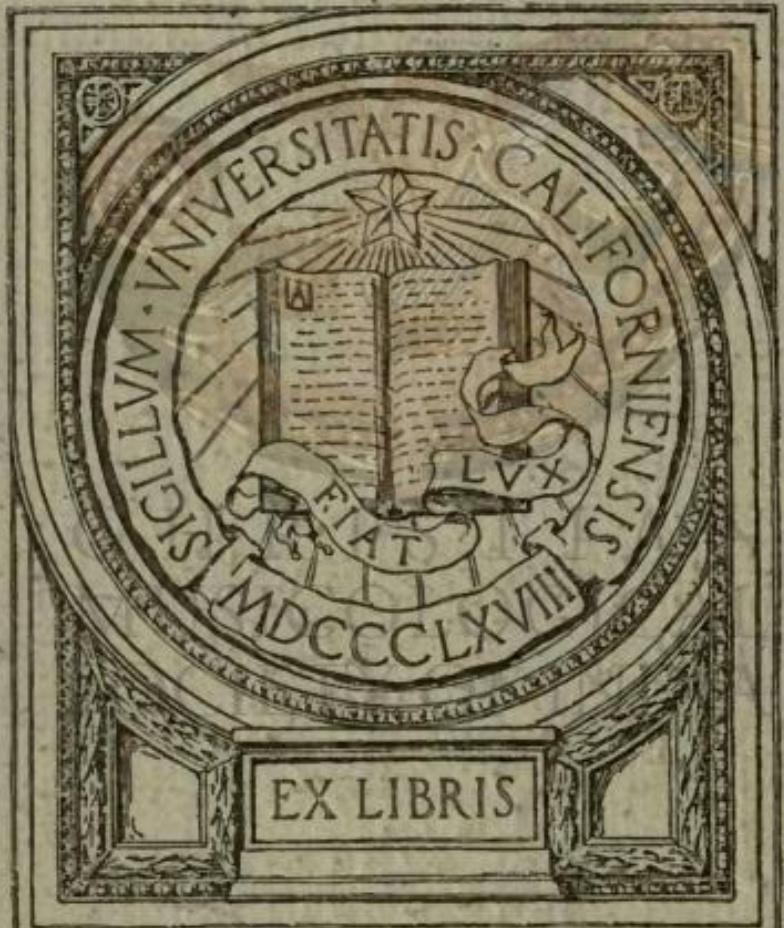

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ELEMENTS

OF

SYRIAC GRAMMAR

BY AN

INDUCTIVE METHOD

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS Syriac grammar was undertaken six years ago at the suggestion of Professor W. R. Harper, Ph.D. It is designed to do in a measure for the Syriac language that which Professor Harper's text-books have done for the Hebrew. In the orthography and etymology the author has sought to draw his illustrative examples, as far as possible, from the chrestomathy published in his MANUAL OF SYRIAC. These are denoted by the page and line upon which they occur; thus, 2. 2. after an example shows that it is found on page 2, line 2, of the MANUAL. References to the Bible are to the Peshito version when not otherwise indicated.

In the syntax, the author has aimed to give two examples, at least, on which to base every rule, statement, or remark. It was his object to adduce one of these examples from the Peshito version and the other from some native classical source. It will be noted that Joshua the Stylite, in the edition of Professor W. Wright, Addai the Apostle, by Professor George Phillips, D.D., and the Spicilegium Syriacum, by W. Cureton, have been more frequently cited than any other original authorities. The reason for this was that they are all accessible to American or English students who may make use of the grammar. Indeed, it has been the author's hope that students, after they had mastered the MANUAL, would secure Joshua the Stylite, Addai the Apostle, and the Spicilegium Syriacum (the last of which was a text-book at Berlin some years ago), and continue their studies by reading these books in the unpointed text in which they have been published. The simplicity of the first, the intrinsic interest of the second, which centres around Abgar's letter to the Christ, and the variety of style and literature of the third, give wings to the student's zeal and further his rapid progress while making him unconscious of the labor of acquisition.

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due to Mrs. Ella Wilson Stewart, A.B. (Vassar), and to the Rev. W. O. Elterich, A.M.

The author has received inestimable assistance in regard to rules and examples from the grammars of Hoffmann, Hoffmann-Merx, Uhlemann, Phillips, Martin, and Agrell, but especially from those of Duval and Nöldeke, though he has throughout conscientiously worked up his material according to his own plan, and has enriched the store of illustrations by hundreds of new citations. The rules have been based upon the examples given, and it is hoped by the author that they are not merely more numerous, but better classified and more clearly defined than has ever before been accomplished in English.

The examples have been taken from accessible sources, denoted by the page and line, or by section, so that they can be readily confirmed. In the syntax, when the examples could not be verified, the grammar from which they have been taken has been noted.

The hope that this grammar would be a means of furthering the study of Syriac by American students, and of throwing fresh light upon the Sacred Scriptures, has encouraged the author, and, as he thinks, justified him in the publishing of this book.

The plates for the first sixty pages were made by Messrs. Tuttle, Moorhouse & Taylor, of New Haven, Conn.; those for the remainder by the firm of W. Drugulin, of Leipsic, Germany.

For convenience of cross reference, the order and arrangement of Professor Harper's "Elements" and "Syntax" have been followed as closely as practicable. Those who wish to compare the Syriac with the Hebrew can readily find where the two languages agree and differ by following the index of this volume (upon which much time and care have been expended in the effort to make it a full and accurate guide to the contents), and by comparing it with the indexes of Harper's or other Hebrew grammars.

In the citations, the following abbreviations occur:

A. A. or Ad. Ap. = Addai the Apostle;
J. S. or Jos. Sty. = Joshua the Stylite;
Spic. Syr. = Spicilegium Syriacum;
Aphr. = Aphraates, by Professor W. Wright;
Overbeck = S. Ephraemi Syri aliorumque opera selecta, by J. J. Overbeck.

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