

PORTA
LINGUARUM ORIENTALIUM

INCHOAVIT

J. H. PETERMANN

CONTINUAVIT

HERM. L. STRACK.

ELEMENTA LINGUARUM

HEBRAICAE, PHOENICIAE, BIBLICO-ARAMAICAE, TARGUMICAE,
SAMARITANAE, SYRIACAE, ARABICAE, AETHIOPICAE,
ASSYRIACAE, AEGYPTIACAE, COPTICAE, ARMENIACAE,
PERSICAE, TURCICAE,

ALIARUM

STUDIIS ACADEMICIS ACCOMMODAVERUNT

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DELITZSCH, C. SALEMAN, W. SHUKOWSKI,
G. JACOB, ALII.

PARS V.

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EDITIO ALTERA AUCTA ET EMBENDATA

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SYRIAC GRAMMAR

WITH

BIBLIOGRAPHY, CHRESTOMATHY AND GLOSSARY

BY

DR. EBERHARD NESTLE.

SECOND ENLARGED AND IMPROVED EDITION

OF THE

BREVIS LINGUÆ SYRIACÆ GRAMMATICA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY

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PREFACE TO THE GERMAN EDITION.

Had I alone been concerned, I should not have undertaken a new edition of the Syriac Porta. For what we need for Syriac, as for most other Semitic languages, is the investigation of *special* questions, linguistic, historic and other, similar to those which de Lagarde has given us on the figtree and Astarte or Wellhausen on the remains of Arabic heathendom, and not fresh presentations of what everybody knows. Moreover, since the appearance of the first edition (1881), I have ceased to have occasion to lecture on Syriac. On the other hand, the speedy sale of my book showed me that it really supplied a want, and accordingly I have done what I could for the new edition. Like other parts of the Porta, the Syriac grammar no longer appears in Latin but in German and English—which explains the arrangement of the second half of the book. The part comprising the *Grammar*, notwithstanding the addition of a few observations on the Syntax, occupies less space than in the first edition. As regards the *Bibliography*, I thought

first of omitting almost entirely sections I and II (pp. 3—30), retaining only such books as are still of importance; finally, however, I resolved to make the bibliography in these and the other divisions as complete as possible. Somewhere, it seems to me, one ought to find such a record of the labours of our predecessors. Up to p. 30, books which I have not seen myself are indicated as before by an asterisk. The difficulties with which I had to contend, in having to work at a distance from a library, can only be understood by those who are similarly situated; even Klatt's Bibliography was not accessible. On the other hand I have here to thank a number of friends, particularly abroad, most of them personally unknown to me, who have helped me by sending me their publications, a number of which will be found in the "appendicula"; I would specially thank Prof. I. H. Hall of New York for the aid he has rendered me in the Bibliography. This section of the book, large enough as it is, I could easily have increased in one direction at least, for I have made a practice of noting down all the reviews with which I have become acquainted; of these, however, I have only occasionally cited one or two, it being still worth while to see, for example, what a scholar like de Sacy had to say to the elder Hoffmann in 11 pages of the *Journal des Savants*. From A. Müller's new *Oriental Bibliography* (I, 1—3) I might have added a few more titles; I mention the