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Latin and Greek Etymology *La Lingua Greca Antica*. By Prof Pezzi, Turin. 1888. 12 lire.

E. R. Wharton

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THE VOCALIC LAWS OF THE LATIN LANGUAGE.

The Vocalic Laws of the Latin Language. By
E. R. WHARTON, M.A.

THIS interesting paper was read at the meeting of the Philological Society held on June 1st, 1888. The author has collected a large number of facts, some of them necessarily very familiar, and has suggested a considerable number of new derivations, all of which are ingenious, and some of which are convincing. The only important generalisation that he offers which is not already well known to students of philological literature is one with which his name is already connected—that by which an originally pretonic *e* or *o* becomes *a*. The theory is at least eminently plausible, enabling us as it does to get over the difficulties that have long attended the identification of *vas* (*vadīs*) and *ἀέθλον*, *magnūs* and *μέγας*, *manēo* and *μένω*, *salvūs* and *solidus*. In other cases Mr. Wharton has not done much more than collect the facts; in the case, for instance, of the variation between *i* and *e*, and *o* and *a* in root syllables, it may be true that we have the influence of contending dialects, but if nothing more definite than this can be said, we may well despair of ever arriving at any scientific statement of the laws of Latin vocalism. Some of Mr. Wharton's etymologies do not carry conviction—such as the connection of *taurus* and *obturo* ('to put a dead weight on'—compare, it would seem, *βοῦς ἐπὶ γλώσση*), or the suggestion that the diphthong in *Aesculapius* as compared with *Ἀσκληπιός* is due to the god of healing having always suggested to the Latin mind the physician's fee (*aes*). Why the *u* of *euntis*

should be due to dissimilation and this form alone have suggested the whole series of gerundives of the type *dicundi* is not clear. It is more satisfactory to suppose that both *euntis* and the gerunds in *-undo-* represent the strong form of the participial suffix *-ont-*, which is all but universal in Greek. And though the derivation of the much disputed *sirempse* is undeniably ingenious, it might be well if Mr. Wharton would produce any other instance of a perfect infinitive passing into a substantive; for the hypothesis is not sufficiently supported by Wölfflin's very risky *instar(e)*.

It is not without a considerable feeling of discouragement that we lay down this paper. If Mr. Wharton, with his intimate acquaintance with the science and with all the ingenuity that was abundantly shown in his *Etyma Graeca*, and which makes his promised *Etyma Latina* so eagerly expected, can yet contribute so little towards putting the laws of Latin on a sound scientific basis, we may well ask where the solution is to come from. It is evidently not the workmen that are at fault, but the tools that are deficient. All that can be done with the known laws of language has been done admirably. But plainly some new departure is required, and until by some stroke of luck or genius a theory is hit on which shall do for Latin what Verner's law, for example, did for the German languages, we must be content to glean some new but isolated fact here and there, and for all practical purposes the science must remain at a standstill.

CHR. COOKSON.

LATIN AND GREEK ETYMOLOGY.

La Lingua Greca Antica. By PROF. PEZZI.
Turin. 1888. 12 lire.

THE student of Greek etymology, whatever his nationality, cannot complain that his requirements have been neglected since Brugmann in 1876 revolutionised the science by his discovery of the vocalic laws of the Aryan languages. The first fruit of the discovery was Gustav Meyer's *Greek Grammar* (1880: a second edition in 1886), which for combination of thoroughness and judg-

ment has not yet been surpassed. Then came Brugmann's masterly abstract of the subject in Iwan Müller's *Handbuch der Klassischen Altertumswissenschaft* (1885): in 1887 (the date on the title-page is prospective) appeared the work now under review, and in 1888 Victor Henry's inimitable *Précis de Grammaire Comparée du Grec et du Latin*, and Messrs. King and Cookson's *Principles of Sound and Inflection as illustrated in the Greek and Latin Languages*.

Prof. Pezzi is known to the English

reader through his *Glottologia Aria Recentissima* (1877), translated as *Aryan Philology according to the Most Recent Researches* (1879). In that work he gave a clear and useful account of Greek etymology as it stood up to 1876, the chief advance which he describes being Ascoli's discovery of the 'velar' gutturals (1870); but Brugmann's brilliant discoveries of 1876 had not reached him, he has no notion of 'sonant' liquids, or Ablaut-series, or of any pure vowel but *a*. The *Glottologia* appeared a year too early, and now seems to us quite old-fashioned.

The *Lingua Greca Antiqua* however is of quite another stamp, and up to the latest views: no writer on the subject, whether German, French or English, seems to have escaped the author's notice (e.g. on p. 426 he quotes the *Transactions of the Oxford Philological Society*). The work falls into three distinct divisions: Preliminary in 80 pages, Part I. (*Panellenismo Glottico*) in 228, and Part II. (*Dialetti Ellenici*) in 166. The first of these divisions is a succinct and thoughtful account of the history of Greek philology from the first Greek grammarians and lexicographers down to the latest productions of Germany. The latter part of this introduction is agreeably free from all trace of partisanship or unfairness: each work is judiciously characterised without reference to the personality of its author.

It is in the second division of his work—which embraces the sounds, inflexions and syntax of the language—that Prof. Pezzi becomes subject to comparison with other workers in the same field. In his method he combines Victor Henry's arrangement with Gustav Meyer's: the text is a brief account of Greek etymology, morphology and construction, while in the notes, which take up about two-thirds of the whole space, he gives authorities, details and discussions of points at issue. Henry's plan, of giving at the beginning of his work a list of authorities and then dispensing in the text with special references, possesses certain advantages over Prof. Pezzi's, and for the learner is much more convenient: but in fulness and thoroughness Prof. Pezzi has no rival except Gustav Meyer. It is to be regretted that he evades, on the pretext of want of space, any explanation of the origin of $\pi\tau$, $\chi\theta$ and $\phi\theta$ (p. 124): the subject is so obscure, and so unsatisfactorily treated by our German authorities, that any fresh light on it would have been welcomed.

But the distinctive portion of the work is Part II., on the Greek dialects: their

general characteristics are given in the text, their peculiarities in elaborate notes, with information brought up to date by the help of Collitz's *Sammlung der Griechischen Dialektinschriften* as far as it has gone. This part would seem especially worthy of a translation: no recent writer has treated the subject more freshly or instructively. In Greek, despite all the attention which has been spent on it since it supplanted Sanskrit as the language best worth studying for the etymologist, plenty yet remains to be done; and it is only by a wide knowledge of the Greek dialects that any success can be hoped for.

The printing of the book is admirable, the beauty of the Greek type especially noticeable. On p. 59, note, the name of the Dean of Christchurch is wrongly spelt.

E. R. WHARTON.

Victor Henry's *Précis de Grammaire Comparée du Grec et du Latin* (2nd edition, Paris, 1889). 8 francs.

No better introduction to classical etymology than this has yet appeared. Prof. Henry has the advantage of writing in a language of such unrivalled lucidity that in it the most abstruse subjects seem plain and simple; and he is himself a master in whose hands we may feel safe, who is conversant with the latest philological literature and can take a connected view of his science. The book is one which may be read with pleasure as well as profit. The introductory list of authorities is extremely valuable, and saves the need of detailed references: Prof. Henry does not care to do as the Germans do and give his work the appearance of a bookseller's catalogue. Only those who have worked in the same field will understand the severe self-repression which he exhibits. His account of the Indo-European languages is a model of brevity and clearness. His main subject he divides, as Brugmann does, into the three heads of Phonetic, Etymology (*i.e.* the analysis of terminations: a somewhat arbitrary restriction of the use of the term), and Morphology or flexion (which, as he says, might also, but less conveniently, be put under the second head). The whole work is divided into 300 sections, to the numbers of which we shall refer below.

The book is especially valuable as a protest against that revival of the old 'Agglutination-theory' with which the Germans threaten us: the explanation of *e.g. herbīdus*