

The only other grammar to be mentioned in the curricula at all is Ceperinus at Norwich in 1566. An edition of this was printed in England in 1585, and I have William Lambarde's copy as printed Tiguri, 1550. In Shakspeare's time in grammar school, then, Clenardus was by odds the favorite, being in fact the official grammar, and has the best chance of having been Shakspeare's Greek grammar. According to the terms of Marshe's patent in 1572, only English printed copies of Clenardus would have been for sale, if Shakspeare got a new book; but we cannot take these terms too literally.

A Greek grammar by an Englishman, that of Edward Grant, printed in 1575, should probably have been available when Shakspeare had need of it; but it seems to have made no headway, only one edition being called for before Camden systematized it into the grammar bearing his name. Shakspeare's Greek grammar is thus almost certain to have been either Clenardus, Ceperinus, or Grant, the order of mention being the order of probability. If one wishes to get a pragmatic test of the state of Shakspeare's Latinity at the time he began to acquire his less Greek, let him pick up any one of these three and read it. If he cannot do so, then upon the authority of Ben Jonson and the tradition, his Latin is "littler" than that of Shakspeare. For, of course, all these Greek grammars were written in unsimplified Latin; there was no Greek grammar in English for many a year to come, and even those in Latin made no concessions. I have not read these three grammars in detail to see if I could catch Shakspeare passing through. That I leave for some more heroic soul.

After the boy had entered his Greek grammar, he would, of course need authors for construction. So in Brinsley Spoudeus asks, "But with what Author would you begin, to enter them into Construction?" and Brinsley-Philoponus answers,

I hold the Greeke Testament to bee most fit; and that for these reasons:

1. Because, that through the familiarnesse of the matter, (in that children are so well acquainted with it, by daily hearing or reading of it) the Greeke thereof which is easie of it selfe, will be made yet farre more easie to the learner; for that the matter will bring the words, as I haue oft said.

2. Because all Schollers who can haue meanes to come to any knowledge of the Greeke, should indeauour aboue all other Authors, to be well acquainted with this. First, for that this booke together with the Hebrew of the Old Testament, were written by the Lord himselfe; not onely the matter, but also euen the very words of them.

Secondly, for that eternall life is onely in these bookes, being truly vnderstood and beleueed. So that wee may rightly tearme these the Bible, or