

authority to intrinsic excellence. The friends and correspondents to whom I have been indebted for occasional help in this or former editions are too numerous to rehearse; of these I will only name Dr. Geddes, the Principal of the University of Aberdeen, who furnished me with a highly interesting particular in Scottish philology.

Besides these, I have to acknowledge a liberal and a most disinterested contribution, which must have a paragraph to itself. The Third Edition had not long appeared when Mr. Abijah Murray, a gentleman who was at that time an entire stranger to me, sent me from Edinburgh an almost complete parallel statement of Scottish forms and examples, by means of which I have been enabled to bring this edition distinctly nearer to a condition of harmony with its title. I had always been sensible that the book was deficient in regard to the Anglian element, that early national speech which in our history and literature has the priority, a dialect gifted with lyric touch and crowned with romantic fame, a dialect upon which Englishmen look with pride as upon a charming and universally admired sister;—without this kindred branch any philological description of the English Tongue must be fragmentary and imperfect.

It has been the aim of the present revision to attain such completeness as belongs to a Handbook, and with this view insertions have been made wherever they appeared requisite, while to balance these and keep the book within compass the pruning-knife has been freely applied; but some special parts have been rewritten. These occur chiefly in the Chapter on the Verbs and that on the Numerals, and in the Section on the Gender of Substantives.

I am again indebted to the untiring kindness and patience of my friend Mr. H. N. Harvey, for a revision of the Verbal Index.

SWANSWICK RECTORY, August 1887.

(X) "Eases' Philology of the English Tongue"

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Saxon in the University of Oxford
Clarendon Press Series, Oxford University