



BIBLIOTECA

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Ernesto G. Ortiz.

PREEAOE.

THE public being ever the acknowledged judge of literary productions, it is but just that it should be furnished with the requisite information concerning the special utility claimed for a work in a department of letters already occupied; but this obligation brings with it the disagreeable task of detailing the improvements claimed to have been made, and of exposing to view the deficiencies and errors that have been supplied or corrected,—a task rendered still more painful to a sensitive mind, inasmuch as it involves the necessity of seeming to exalt one's self at the expense of one's predecessors in the same career, and of endeavoring at the same time to diminish their merits and expose their faults.

The Editor is anxious to disavow motives so mean and dishonorable, especially when convinced, as he is by experience, of the difficulties attending every step in the labors of a lexicographer—labors in which the highest excellence can be considered only as an approximation to that standard of perfection which dwells in the mind of an author. So far from wishing to detract in the least from the works of his predecessors, the Editor is willing frankly to confess, that without their labors he should never, perhaps, have undertaken the task of the present publication; and he considers it but just to say to them, in the words of the Spanish fabulist Iriarte—

“Gracias al que nos trajo las gallinas.”—FAB. xii.

There are undoubtedly faults in the Spanish and English Dictionaries that have preceded the present work, but it is also true that they embody many excellencies: the Editor has endeavored to avail himself of the latter, while at the same time he has carefully corrected the former.

A Bilingual Dictionary is undoubtedly the surest means of obtaining a knowledge of a foreign tongue; but, to secure this end, it should contain a copious vocabulary, not only of words generally admitted, but also of those not found in common dictionaries which are in use among the polite and well educated. Language, like dress, is subject to continual change; and many phrases which were deemed elegant two centuries ago are almost unintelligible at the present day, in consequence of being displaced by others which were then unknown. In speaking we naturally desire to be understood; we ought therefore to learn and make use of those signs which put us in possession of one of the greatest gifts of our beneficent Creator, namely, the ability of communicating our ideas for our mutual benefit and improvement. Without this requisite all our labor is vain.

A Dictionary of two languages cannot be perfect unless it contain an exact and rigorous translation of the words, unencumbered by useless definitions. The most common idioms and

phrases that are current in good society should also be incorporated, and even some of those which may be properly classed as vulgar, when they serve to elucidate the peculiar customs and usages of a country. To these should be added the corresponding signification of words in the mercantile vocabulary, as well as of the terms in most frequent use in the arts and sciences.

These latter classes of words are extremely various, particularly in those new republics of America which were formerly Spanish possessions. Many words are there in use which are not known in the Peninsula. For example: the TURKEY, which in Spain is known as *el pavo* or *pavito*, in Mexico is called *el guajolote*, in Cuba *el guanajo*—a word which is also there used figuratively, in allusion to the qualities of this fowl, to denote a stupid or half-witted person—and in some parts of South America it is termed *el chumpipe* or *chinquique*. The SWEET POTATO is called in Spain *la patata dulce*; in Mexico, *el camote*; in Cuba, *el boniato*, *buniato*, or *moniato*. A TWIN, in Europe, is *gemelo* or *mellizo*; but in Cuba it is *jimagua*; in some parts of South America, *morrocho*; and in Mexico, familiarly, *cuate*. In allusion to this latter term it is often said, *Eso no tiene cuate*, instead of *Eso no tiene igual*.

In this manner we might arrange alphabetically a large catalogue of words and idioms which ought to be known to the traveller, or to any one in communication with the countries we have named; since, for ordinary intercourse, familiar words and phrases are of greater utility than more classical expressions.

The Castilian language in America has undergone various alterations in the acceptations of words, as well as by the addition of many terms which the Academicians have not thought proper to insert, but which were well worthy of a place in their Dictionary. This deficiency has been in some measure supplied by the indefatigable SALVÁ. It is to be regretted, however, that the patriotic literary designs of this erudite Spaniard had not been sometimes seconded by persons of greater intelligence, since they have often given him erroneous definitions and descriptions.

In preparing the present work, besides the Dictionaries of BARETTI, NEUMAN, CONNELLY, and particularly that of Dr. DON MATEO SEOANE, the Editor has consulted the last edition of the *Diccionario de la Academia Española*, as well as the Dictionaries of SALVÁ and TERREROS; the treatise on *Etimologías Castellanas* by CABRERA, and on *las Voces Cubanas* by PICHARDO. In the English part he has taken for his guides the well-known Dictionaries of WEBSTER and WORCESTER, and in some cases the treatise on *Americanisms* by BARTLETT. "*La Guía Mercantil de Madrid*" has supplied him with the names of many articles of commerce, to which he has added a long catalogue, obtained by careful examination of the "Price-currents" of Cadiz, Vera Cruz, Havana, and New Orleans, besides an excellent collection generously furnished him by his esteemed friend, ALEXANDER L. COTHEAL, Esq., a merchant of this city well known for his extensive erudition, particularly in languages. He ought also to make mention of Mr. JOHN L. JEWETT, who, besides correcting many of the articles, and furnishing various additions, has carefully revised the whole work.

The last revised and enlarged edition of the Dictionary of DON MATEO SEOANE has been made the basis of the present work. For the orthography and prosody of SEOANE, however, which are now almost entirely disused, the Editor has substituted the new and improved orthography and prosody of the last edition of the Dictionary of the Academy. He has also added to SEOANE'S work more than EIGHT THOUSAND articles, including words, idioms, and proverbs. Many of the definitions of SEOANE he could not do less than retrench, especially in cases like the following: BEBER, To drink, *to swallow any liquid*

He certainly could not imagine that any person speaking the English language, and wishing to consult a Spanish and English Dictionary, could need a definition in his own language of the simple verb *to drink*. He has also corrected many of SEOANE'S definitions, as in the following examples: FROCK-COAT, *Especie de casaca muy ajustada al cuerpo*, instead of *Levita*. CROSS-LEGGED, *El que tiene las piernas cruzadas*, instead of *Patizambo*. KEG, *Barrica, especie de tonel*, instead of *cuñete* or *barrilito*. PURLOINER, *Ladron que hurta á escondidas*, instead of *ratero*. SOUNDING-BOARD, *Sombrero de púlpito*, instead of *tornavoz*. SPAN, *Palmo, la distancia que hay desde el dedo "pólce,"* instead of "*el pulgar*." There are also a great number of verbs, adjectives, and substantives in SEOANE'S work, which, instead of being accurately rendered by equivalents, are obscurely and often erroneously defined by periphrasis. The following examples must suffice: TO IMPRECATE, *Maldecir*, instead of *Imprecar*. HENPECKED, *El que está gobernado por su mujer*, instead of *Gurru-mino*. INSERVICEABLE, *Lo que no sirve para nada*, instead of *Inservible*, &c., &c.

The Editor does not flatter himself that his own work is perfect; but, at the same time, he feels at liberty to assert, that in many important respects it is greatly superior to its predecessors. It contains, in both languages, the exact equivalents and correspondents of the words in general use, both in their literal and metaphorical acceptations. The technical terms most frequently used in the arts, and in chemistry, botany, medicine, and natural history, as well as nautical and mercantile terms and phrases,—the greater part of which, as may be seen by comparison, are not contained in other Dictionaries,—have been carefully selected and arranged in the present work. It also contains many Spanish words used only in those countries of America which were formerly dependencies of Spain. The irregularities of the verbs, in Spanish and English, are here, for the first time, given in full, in their alphabetical order; and, in addition to this, the work also contains a grammatical synopsis of both languages, arranged for ready and convenient reference.

The pronunciation of the Castilian language is so clearly set forth in this Dictionary, as to render it well-nigh impossible for any person who can read English readily, to fail of obtaining the true sounds of the Spanish words at sight.

Particular attention is invited to the *Phonetic Alphabet* used in the English-Spanish Part, for conveying the true pronunciation of English words. The Editor respectfully asks of all who, with himself, acknowledge the Castilian as their mother-tongue, that before condemning in advance this new and perfect method of expressing the sounds of the letters in the English alphabet, they will carefully read the "INTRODUCCION" to the Second Part of this work. He is well assured that by so doing they will, with moderate effort, find themselves able, in a very short time, to conquer all the manifold difficulties of English pronunciation; and by obtaining the assistance of an American or an Englishman, to read to them carefully once or twice the examples attached to the "KEY" in the "Introduccion," they cannot fail to obtain readily a knowledge of the true sounds of the *Phonetic Alphabet*.

The constantly increasing intercourse between those countries where the English and Spanish languages are respectively spoken; the friendly relations that exist, and which it is so desirable may continue to exist, between the governments and people of those countries; the proximity in this Western hemisphere of two great people speaking these noble languages; the incessant migration and immigration which are daily bringing them face to face in all the relations of political, commercial, and social life, and the cheering promise which science holds out, in the wonderful achievements of steam and magnetism, of still greater and more frequent intercourse among civilized nations,—these are facts which may suggest a field of extended usefulness even to the humble compiler of a Dictionary. It has

accordingly been the aim and constant desire of the Editor to lay a foundation for mutual esteem and respect, and strengthen the bonds of an enduring intercourse between the people of his own and his adopted country, by furnishing to each the means of becoming better acquainted with that great exponent of a nation's interior life which is found in its permanent literature. The hope, on the one hand, that his labors might lead the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon race to a more intimate knowledge and appreciation of the immortal works of Cervantes and his worthy compeers, as they exist in pure Castilian, and, on the other, that they might also be instrumental in giving to the Spanish mind a renewed and quickened desire to become more intimately acquainted with the rich and varied stores of English and American literature and science—this hope has been sufficient to convert what would otherwise have been intolerable drudgery into a useful and ennobling occupation.

As the Editor has been guided in his labors, for the most part, by his own limited attainments, he has reason to fear, in a work composed of so great a variety of articles upon so extensive a diversity of matters, that he has not always succeeded in avoiding errors. Should such be found, he has no desire that they should be concealed, but will feel thankful rather to all who may assist him to correct them, for the benefit of the public, whose true interests, and no other motive, have compelled him to undertake his laborious and unappreciated task.

Quid est suavius quam bene rem gerere bono pullico?—PLAUT.

M. V. C.

NEW-YORK, March, 1852.

Ant. Gomez

A SYNOPSIS

OF THE

SPANISH OR CASTILIAN LANGUAGE.

THE PARTS OF SPEECH are: the *Article*, the *Noun* (substantive and adjective), the *Pronoun*, the *Verb*, the *Participle*, the *Adverb*, the *Preposition*, the *Conjunction*, and the *Interjection*.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE.

Masculine, sing. *The*, Pl. *Los*.
Feminine, " " *La*; " " *Las*.

When the article *el* comes after *de* (of or from), or *a* (to), the *e* is suppressed and they are thus written; of the, *del*, to the, *al*, instead of *de el*, *a el*. No apostrophe is used in Spanish.

1. *Agua*, water; *águila*, eagle, &c., though feminine, take the masculine article; but only in the singular, and when they are immediately preceded by it.—*Ollendorff*, pp. 235, 460.

2. Common nouns taken in a general sense in English, require the definite article in Spanish: as, Man is mortal, *El hombre es mortal*. Charity is the first of virtues, *La caridad es la primera de las virtudes*. But when the sense is indeterminate, they do not admit it: as, Give him bread, *Dale pan*.

3. Before nouns of measure, weight, or number, the English indefinite article is rendered into Spanish by the definite, and frequently omitted; as, He paid six dollars a barrel, *El pagó á cinco pesos el barril*, or *cinco pesos barril*.

4. The English definite and indefinite articles before ordinal numbers preceded by proper names, nouns in apposition, national nouns, as well as those signifying dignity, profession, trade, &c., of persons, and in exclamations, are omitted in Spanish: as, Charles the Fifth, *Carlos quinto*; Madrid the capital of Spain, *Madrid capital de España*; He is an American, *El es Americano*; She is a milliner, *Ella es modista*; What a pity! *¡Que lástima!*—*Ollendorff*, p. 462.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

Masculine, sing. *A* or *an*, Un. Feminine, sing. *A* or *an*, Una. The plural *unos* (masculine), and *unas* (feminine), are translated into English by the pronoun *some*: as, a man, *un hombre*; some men, *unos hombres*.

5. The English indefinite article coming between an adjective or a pronoun and a noun, generally is not translated; but when it is emphatical it is placed before the adjective; as, So beautiful a woman, *Tan hermosa mujer*, or *Una mujer tan hermosa*. Such a man, *Tal hombre*, or *Un tal hombre*.

THE NOUN SUBSTANTIVE.

Spanish Nouns have Gender, Number, and Case.

GENDER.

It is masculine or feminine. Every he, or male animal, is of the masculine gender; every she or female is of the feminine. For the particular manner to be observed about the gender of some nouns, see *Ollendorff*, p. 421.

6. The names of inanimate objects, or of things ending in *a*, *ad*, *ion* (*bre*, when it signifies quality), are for the most part feminine; and those terminating in *e*, *i*, *o*, or *u*, are generally masculine. For the exceptions see *Ollendorff*, p. 423.

7. Common nouns ending in *o*, change *o* into *a* to form the feminine; as, son, *hijo*, daughter, *hija*. Those terminating in *an*, *on*, or *or*, add *a* for the feminine; as, a man loiterer, *un holgazán*; a woman loiterer, *una holgazana*; patron, *patrón*; patroness, *patrona*; shepherd, *pastor*; shepherdess, *pastora*.

8. There are some nouns that express the difference of gender by a different word or termination; as, father, *padre*; mother, *madre*; poet, *poeta*; poetess, *poetisa*.—*Ollendorff*, pages 246, 247.

NUMBER.

Singular and Plural.

9. Nouns ending in a short, or unaccented vowel form the plural by adding *s* to the singular; as, boy, *muchacho*; boys, *muchachos*.

10. Nouns terminating in a long, or accented vowel, or in any consonant, or in *y*, add *es* to form the plural; as, ruby, *rubi*; rubies, *rubies*; captain, *capitan*; captains, *capitanes*; ox, *buey*; oxen, *bueyes*. Nouns terminating in *z*, change it into *c*, or retain it, and add *es*; as, judge, *juez*; judges, *jueces*, or *juezes*. The first is most commonly used. *Papá*, *mamá*, *café*, &c., are exceptions.—*Ollendorff*, p. 420. Consult the same page for the nouns used only in the singular, or in the plural termination.

CASE.

11. The *Nominative* case expresses the subject of the verb; as, The man gives, *El hombre da*.

12. The *Objective* case direct points out the immediate object of the action of the verb; as, The man gives alms, *El hombre da limosna*.

13. The *Objective* case indirect, or complement, indicates the term, or end of the action expressed by the verb; as, The man gives alms to the poor, *El hombre da limosna á los pobres*.

14. When the object direct of an active transitive verb is a person, a proper or personified noun, it must be preceded by the preposition *á*; as, A man must