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Title: Letter from James Ross to William Young

Date: April 26, 1786

Location: MC 2001.5, B1, F12

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Dissimul. Coll. Article. Apr 26. 1786

Sir, I recd. the Smart's Review with a letter, in which you mention your having nearly reprinted your edition of the Rudiments, & that you are about printing Ross's Prose-
Book along with it to render it more complete - 'tis true a Rudiment, or in other words, a Grammar must be incomplete without one of its fundamental parts, but if you supply the rudiments with a prologue, why not with one more full, & less erroneous than the above-mentioned?

Yet, if I rightly understand you, you mention, that if an improvement of Ross's would come to hand in two weeks, at farthest you would wish the publishing it. I have accordingly set about transcribing a copy I had for our printers here, but who I found upon application to them were not furnished with Italian types to print it & I have executed the writing-part as well as my scanty time, & scribbling hand permitted: in short I have sent it to you for printing along with your edition of the rudiments now in the press. I have shav'd no ham to examine the best authorities, & to ~~make~~ ^{the memory} assist, as well as to animate the attention of the student, I have compriz'd many rules, observations in Latin versus the labours of many hours. The verses were first numbered, but afterwards, judging that unnecessary, I erased the numbers, & mark'd them

By drawing over them a black line, which I request you
to notice as in page 2. I would request you to print ~~the~~
~~the greater part of~~ ~~examples~~ of the verses in Italian. I have marked the
most of them with a black line underneath ~~them~~ —
for that purpose. — The examples are vastly copious, & there
in, as I think, lies the excellency. — The rules are comprised
in the fewest words, so as to be intelligible, I would make
a sufficient system without the examples which render
very things plain to the weakest capacity. — What needs
many words? if you print it with your edition of
the rudiments, we will be induced to purchase your
edition in preference to any other — your edition with my
name's sake. ~~A~~ ~~prose~~ ~~prose~~ cannot (according to
any edition of it I ever saw) encourage the purchase. but

I am inadvertently saying things I ought not to say,
I must take care against commending my own, while I can
not speak the most respectfully of the performance of
another. I conclude by saying, that if you publish it with
your edition of the rudiments, I only ask 50 copies of the prologue
in sheets for my trouble chiefly designed for the Trustees of Dick-
in son Coll. If you cannot publish it, ~~please~~ on those
conditions please to return me the copy by the most secret
opportunity. — I have added to it neither my name, nor title of
Professor of Languages in Dickin son Coll. which in publishing
we please not to insert. I am yours respectfully J. Robt.

Dickinson Coll. Carlisle. Apr 26th. 1786

Sir,

I reed the Smart's Horace with a letter, in which you mention your having nearly reprinted your edition of The Rudiments, & that you are about printing Ross's Prosody along with it to render it more complete, 'tis true a rudiments, or in other words, a Grammar must be incomplete without one of its fundamental parts, but if you supply the rudiments with a prosody, why not with one more full, & less erroneous than the above-mentioned? Yet, if I rightly understand you, you mention, that if an improvement of Ross's would come to hand in two weeks at farthest you would risk the publishing it. I have accordingly set about transcribing a copy I had for our printers here, but who I found upon application to them were not furnished with Italic types to print it. I have executed the writing-part as well as my scanty time, & scribbling hand permitted: in short I have sent it to you for printing along with your edition of the rudiments, now in the press. I have spared no pains to examine the best authorities, & to ~~make~~ assist the memory as well as to animate the attention of students, have comprised many rules, observations in Latin verses the labours of many hours. The verses were first numbered, but afterwards judging that unnecessary, I erased the numbers, & marked them

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by drawing over them a black line, which I request you to notice, as in page 2. I would request you to print [*three words illegible*] ^ the greater part of the verses in Italics. I have marked the most of them with a black line underneath them for that purpose. The examples are vastly copious, & therein as I think, lies the excellence. The rules are comprised in the fewest words, so as to be intelligible, & would make a sufficient system without the examples which render every thing plain to the weakest capacity. What needs many words? if you print it with your edition of the rudiments, we will be induced to purchase your edition in preference to any other - your edition with my name's sakes [*one word illegible*] prosody, cannot (according to any edition of it I ever saw) encourage the purchase - but I am inadvertently saying things I ought not to say, I must take care against commending my own, while I can not speak the most respectfully of the performance of another. I conclude by saying, that if you publish it with your edition of the rudiments, I only ask 50 copies of the prosody in sheets for my trouble chiefly designed for the Trustees of Dickinson Coll., If you cannot publish it, ~~please~~ on those conditions please to return me the copy by the most secret opportunity - I have added to it neither my name, nor title of Professor of Languages in Dickinson Coll. which in publishing be pleased not to insert.

I am yours respectfully

Ja. Rofs. [*James Ross*]