

HOW A DEAD LANGUAGE LIVES.

"I can't see any use in spending my time in studying this old dead language," exclaimed George, who was trying to memorize a Latin declension and found it very difficult to remember the case endings. Uncle Howard was reading in the same room and heard George's remark.

"Come here, George," said he, "and let me see what you are studying."

George handed his open book to his uncle.

"Ah, I see, the declensions of nouns.

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'Pes pedis, a foot.' What words do we have in our language that are derived from this noun?"

George thought for a moment, but could not recall one.

"Come, now," said Uncle Howard, "wake up, and look out of the window and tell me what you see."

"I see old Mr. Graham walking across the street."

"Good! What do we call a person who walks?"

"A pedestrian," answered George.

"Just so. A person who walks uses his feet. The word pedestrian is derived from pes, pedis, a Latin word meaning 'foot.'"

"Where does Mr. Graham live? I see he is going down toward the railway station."

"He lives in the suburbs," answered George, wondering why his uncle should be interested in old Mr. Graham.

"Sub, a Latin word meaning 'near,' and 'urbs, 'a city;' therefore the suburbs are near the city. Is it not so?"

George acknowledged that it was.

"There, I see a number of people passing who are carrying valises, as though they had been some place out of the city," said Uncle Howard.

"Yes, there is Alfred Rhodes among them. He has been up to Newark to attend the convention," replied George.

"To a convention? Latin again; from convinire, meaning 'to come together.'"

"There is a boy going into Mr. Adams' store," continued Uncle Howard, looking from the window. "Do you know his business?"

"Yes, he is a messenger boy from the telegraph station," answered George, greatly interested.

"Telegram," said Uncle Howard, "is from the word tele, meaning 'afar off,' and grandmamma, 'writing,' and that is what telegraphing is, 'writing afar off.'"

George began to feel a little sheepish over his exclamation about a useless "dead language," and in order to turn the conversation he said:

"The boys are going over to skate on Brice's pond, near the aqueduct."

"Aqua, meaning 'water,' dictus, 'a canal for conveying it,'" said Uncle Howard, with a twinkle in his eye.

"I imagine the boys—" began George, but his uncle interrupted him with:

"Imagine, from Latin imago, 'an image,' hence a representation, and from what we get our words 'imagine' and 'imagination.' Do you still think there is no good in studying Latin? Eh, George?" Uncle Howard broke into a laugh.

George's brother Milo, a college graduate, came into the room. He inquired if his uncle had read the autobiography of General Thomas, who was a distinguished neighbor of the boy's parents, but his uncle began:

"Auto, the Greek word for 'self,' bois, 'life,' grapho, 'to write,' meaning, 'to write the life of one's self,'" while Milo's eyes opened in astonishment, and George enjoyed his brother's surprise.

Then, to explain to the elder brother, Uncle Howard said, "George thinks there is no use in studying Latin, as it is 'a dead language.'"

Milo's eyes became brighter as he said "That is in consequence of his not understanding its importance."

"Con, Latin for 'with,' sequens, 'to follow,'" said the merry uncle.

"But, uncle, you did not respond to my question about the book of General Thomas," expostulated Milo.

"Re, meaning 'again,' and spondo 'to answer,' hence respond means 'to answer again,'" said that gentleman.

George thought Latin a most lively "dead language" after his uncle's explanations, and took a new interest in the study after that day's conversation. —Our Young Folks.

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WHY HE CHOSE SANDY.

"There will be room for one more boy," said the children's uncle, "as Phil is not well enough to go. Phil, you may choose a boy to take your place."

Uncle Travers had promised the Moore children a moonlight ride, and now Phil was laid up with tonsillitis and couldn't go.

"I choose Sandy Magill," said Phil. "Sandy," cried the others in surprise; "why do you choose Sandy? We never play with Sandy."

Phil wouldn't say at first why he wanted Sandy to have his ride; he seemed to be shy of telling the little story, but after some coaxing he did tell it.

"I know Sandy is a quiet sort of chap," he said, "and the fellows have always said he hadn't any spirit; but when the school got into trouble the other day about breaking Mr. Mason's window, Sandy was the only boy that didn't run; he didn't throw the ball, but he was in the game, and he paid for it out of his own money that he earned by carrying milk. He said it wasn't fair to Mr. Mason, but he didn't seem to care that it wasn't fair to himself. I like him for that."

"I like him for that, too," said Uncle Travers; "it's a good sign to see a man or boy looking out for other people's rights. He may not have the sort of spirit of the Christian who 'seeketh not his own,' and there is something God put in all our hearts that make us admire that spirit. You see, as soon as Philip saw it in Sandy he liked him for it, and wants to do him a good turn."

"We'll send for Sandy to come to take tea with Phil," said poor Phil's mother; she hated to see her boy miss his ride.

"Mother hopes that 'seeking not his own' will be catching, though tonsillitis isn't," said Phil, smiling to himself from his white pillow.—The Children's Friend.

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