

THE
ART OF TRANSLATING

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
CAUER'S DIE KUNST DES UEBERSETZENS

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TO
MY SISTER
ANNA TOLMAN
IN TOKEN OF HER MANY YEARS' WORK
IN THE
FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

PREFACE.

I have read no book during my eight years of teaching which has been so suggestive as Cauer's "*Die Kunst des Uebersetzens.*" That work has proved itself to me what the author entitles it: "*Ein Hilfbuch für den lateinischen und griechischen Unterricht.*" I have found the principles therein laid down not only sound theoretically, but of practical benefit in the teaching of the classics. These same principles we ought, I believe, to extend and apply in the translation of any language, ancient or modern.

Our teaching of a foreign tongue is apt to be too mechanical. The student must be made to feel that the language he is studying is not something strange and mysterious, but natural and simple. This he cannot do until he changes his position and looks at the unfolding of the thought from the standpoint of the original. It is then, and not till then, that he really reaches the heart of his Latin or Greek, his French or German. It is then that he is prepared to enter upon what is as much an art as that of the sculptor, of the painter, of the designer; I mean the art of reproducing into living English his appreciation of all that the original has brought to him.

This little book is not based on that of Cauer in the sense that it is a translation or an adaptation of his work. I alone am responsible for many of the views herein expressed. Whatever I have translated from the German is indicated by quotation marks. Wherever an idea of Cauer's has been put in my own