

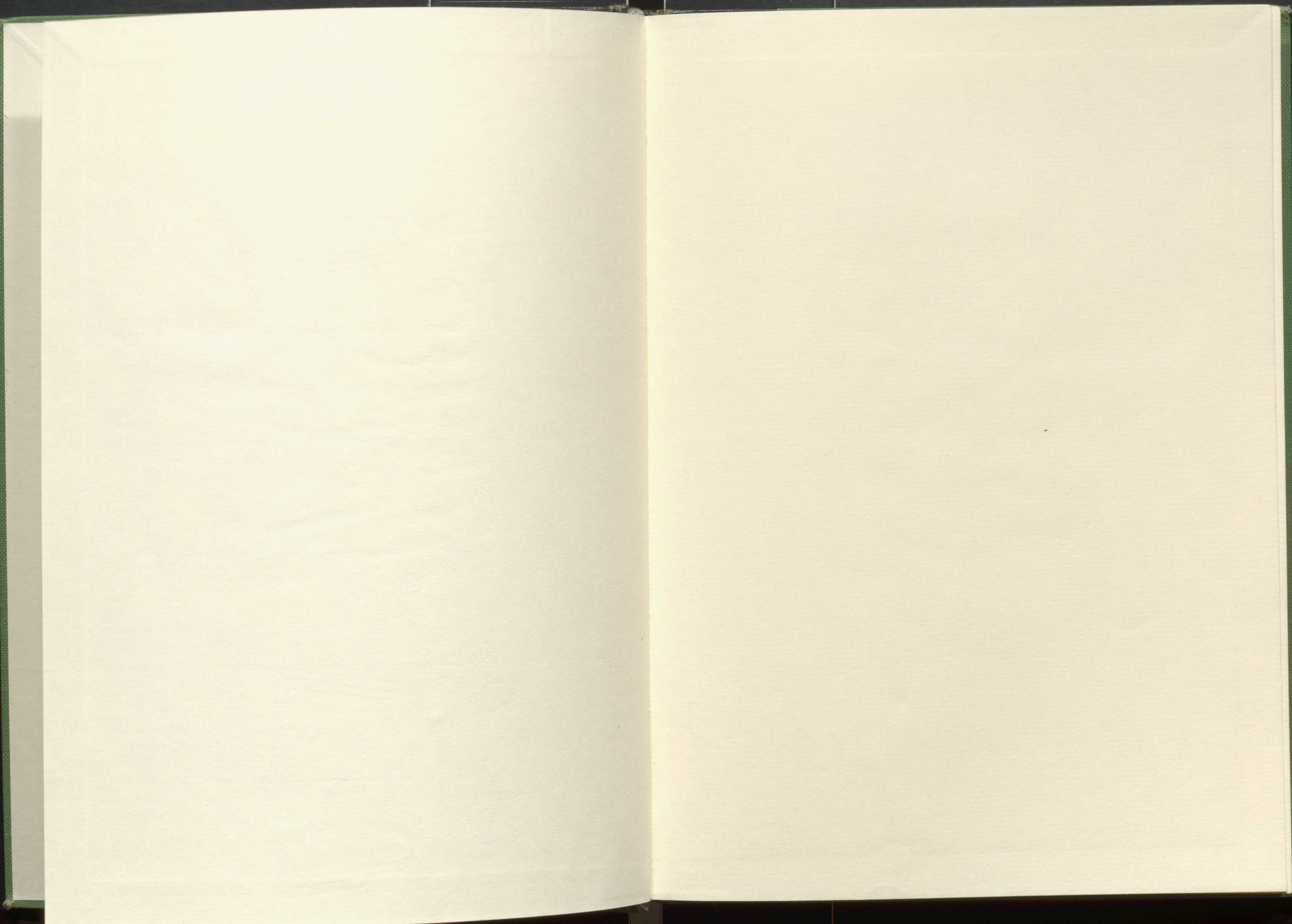
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LODOWYCK • GROUND-WORK 1632 • SCOLAR

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THE SCOLAR PRESS LIMITED  
MENSTON, ENGLAND  
1968

FRANCIS LODOWYCK

THE GROUND-WORK  
OF A NEW PERFECT  
LANGUAGE

1652



A Scholar Press Facsimile

THE SCOLAR PRESS LIMITED  
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#### NOTE

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Francis Lodowyck was one of a distinguished group of linguists who, during the period extending roughly from 1645 to 1670, attempted to solve the problem of constructing a universal language. His output was not large, and he certainly never refined and elaborated his system in the way that Bishop John Wilkins did in his monumental *Essay towards a Real Character* (1688), but his two surviving works on the subject, the *Groudwork*, and *A common writing* (1647), are undoubtedly significant landmarks in a highly important movement in seventeenth century linguistics. Lodowyck also wrote, for the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* (1686, Vol. XV, no. 182 pp. 126-137), an "Essay towards an universal alphabet" — a work which is important for the history of phonetic theory but not, in fact, concerned with universal language as such. The "Essay" was subsequently reprinted, doubtless for private circulation. At the end of this volume one page from the original "Essay" has been reproduced to illustrate Lodowyck's proposed alphabet.

NOTE: J. I. H. Mendels, "Een Phonicus uit de 17de Eeuw", *Neophilologus*, XXI, 1936, 219-225; D. Abercrombie, "Forgotten Phoneticians", *Transactions of the Philological Society*, 1948, 2-11; E. J. Dobson, *English Pronunciation 1500-1700*, Oxford, 1957, 271-280.

Reference: Alston, VII, 280.

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103c

THE

GROUND-WORK, K

OR

FOUNDATION LAID,

(or so intended)

For the Framing of a New Perfect

LANGVAGE:

And an Vniverfall or

COMMON WRITING.

And presented to the consideration of  
the LEARNED,

---

*By a Well-willer to Learning.*

---



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Printed, Anno M DC LII. 14



(1)



## The Introduction.



He expression of the minde or thoughts; is either by the Tongue or Pen most generally performed, in both these, as at present used, I have observed these inconveniencies:

1 Concerning language, which, for the common use it hath with rationally creatures, should be in rules certain and easie, the contrary of which I have observed in most Languages at present in use amongst the Nations of these Western parts of the World, and more especially in those called Learned Languages, which are, as it were, become common Languages, by reason of the knowledge and learning by them divulged; and which should in all reason be the easiest and certainest, both for the truer description of things, and the easier attaining of the said

A 3.

Lan-



(2)

Languages, which are but as the gates to Sciences, and therefore should admit easie and quick entrance to the things themselves, else it proveth a greater discouragement in Students, or at best, a losse of pretious time.

The difficulty appeareth in the multiplicity of forms of the variations of the *Verb* in its *Moods, Tenses, Persons* and *Numbers*: of the *Noun* in its *Cases*, and of the *Derivatives* from the *Radix*, distinguished by their *Terminations*.

The uncertainty is manifested by those many *Anomalies* which the Grammer mentioneth after its Rules, where having first taught Rules for speech, proceedeth to the increasing of them by the manifold *Anomalies*.

The expression by the Pen is either real representations of things, or notionall, or accidentall.

*Reall*, is when to expresse a man, we draw the picture of a man, &c.

*Notionall* or *Relative*, when we represent fiercenesse by the figure of a Lion, Watchfulnesse by a Dog, &c.

*Accidentall*, is by figures stated at pleasure, to signifie such things as the figures thereof have no relation thereto, and that is twofold: either literall, as when we represent the single sounds whereof words are composed by Characters at pleasure: Or secondly, when whole words, or rather things, their actions, qualities, with circumstances are described, and not sounds.

The former of these two is the most common in use, and of easiest attaining, yet having its inconveniences, as wanting in extensivenesse, being limited to the Languages, and joyntly travelling with them; so that what is written according to the sound of any Language, is not understood with-

(3)

without the knowledge of the said Language. But the latter hath this advantage, that what is written thereby, is understood by all alike, who notwithstanding understand not one the others Language, the Characters intending by a generall content, the representations of things, and not of sounds. Which we see plainly demonstrated by the figures of Number in Arithmetick, as likewise in other common received Characters, as of Weights used by Physicians, &c. The preference of this last is here likewise recommended, and the Ground-work of both this and a new Language here following laid down, or at least so intended, all which is presented to the consideration of the Learned.

If what is done prove only a motive to others of effecting the aime and designe of the Author, he hath his desire, and remaineth their well-willers.

---

The

---



# THE BEGINNING.

ALL words of speech may be comprised under three heads,  
 As words of  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Action,} \\ \text{Quality,} \\ \text{Help,} \end{array} \right\}$  and these either  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Primitive,} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Derivative.} \end{array} \right\}$

By words of action, we mean such as are distinguished by the word [*Verb,*] or by circumlocution, words signifying with time, as the words *to move, to live, to eat, to suffer.* The denomination of words of action may seem somewhat unproper, because some words, coming thereunder, have rather a passive signification, as *to suffer, &c.* but we shall not herein be too nice, it bearing no great inconvenience to our intended purpose.

By words of quality, we intend such as express any circumstance of a thing, or that which distinguisheth one substance from another, as *hot, cold, dry, sharp.*

By

By words of help we intend such as expresse time, place, person, &c. as *now, then, where, who, &c.*

The primitive words are such, as are of the first and simplest position, as *love, long, when, &c.*

Derivatives are those as come from the said Primitives, and that either by adding some common prepositions or terminations, or by conjunction of two or more radixes together.

### Concerning words of Action.

The Primitives of those words we suppose to be such as are indefinite neither to *Verb* or *Noun*, or something that is neither *Verb* nor *Noun*, but that out of which both proceed; for instance, the Latine Radix, or primitive *am*, is indifferent to *Verb* or *Noun*, and is made either by the additions, as

*am-o am-as am-or am-icus, &c.*

Of the Primitives, for abbreviation, there might be a derivation supposed, as that of those which in the main end agree, but differ in Quality, Proportion, &c. that which seemeth in signification to be the simplest, to be placed as the Radix, and the rest as derivatives.

### For instance.

1 Those which are in signification directly opposite, the worthier put for the Radix, as

<i>to Curse,</i>	}	<i>to Blesse,</i>
<i>to Feed,</i>		<i>to Fast,</i>
<i>to Live,</i>		<i>to Die.</i>

B

2 Those

2 Those which have a graduall difference, as

- to Go, Run, Trot, Amble :
- to Speak, Read, Preach, Call :
- to Smile, Laugh, &c.

Unto these might be added a derivation in respect to these following congnifications.

- |                           |        |                               |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1 a custome to act,       | } as { | to be accustomed to swearing. |
| 2 a simulating of action  |        | to imitate crying or singing. |
| 3 an inchoation,          |        | to begin to do a thing.       |
| 4 an inclinatio or desire |        | Esurio Lar.                   |
| 5 a diminution,           |        | to sing low.                  |
| 6 a negation,             |        | not to sing.                  |

More of like congnifications might be added, of which these may serve as instances.

The Verb, the first derivation hath under it the distinction of Moode and Tense.

Mood is the manner of expression, which is either Indicative or Imperative, as for those other Moods, namely, the Optative, Potentiall, and Subjunctive, they may be all supplied by the Indicative, with their signes added; as that, when.

The Imperative Moode is discernable without variation, from the Indicative Mood thus.

1 By a post-posing of the personall auxiliary word, which in the Indicative should be preposed; as

Imparative {  
 Go thou,  
 Go we,

Indicative {  
 Thou goest,  
 We go.

2 By

2 By standing without the personall word; as

Go to the doore.

The Infinitive Mood may likewise be known by the signe [to] as teach him [to] read.

The Tenses are three, Past, Present, Future.

The Present Tense being the first, will need no distinction in respect to the other Tenses, namely, the Past, and the Future, which may have their distinctionall additions.

The Past Tense is commonly distinguished in three parts;

Preterit. imperfect,  
 Perfect,  
 Plus perfect.

The Imperfect and Perfect might without inconvenience be united in one, and so have one distinctionall addition.

The Plus perfect may remain distinguished, yet as a sub-distinction unto the Perfect Tense.

Unto the Future might be added a sub-distinction, and named the Conditionall Future; for instance,

If he had done that I should have loved him.

The distinction for Person and Number in the Verb is needlesse, it being sufficient when the same is performed in the Noun, for instance,

I love,  
 we love,  
 ye love,  
 they love.

What with  
 more is needlesse.  
 B 2

of

Of Nouns.

The *Nomme*, the second derivation, is either Common or Proper.

By Common, we understand those Nouns which are not proper names of things, but common Derivatives from most *Verbs*, as *Lover, Loved, Love, Loveliness, &c.*

By Proper names we understand those names of substances, whether reall or fictitious, whereby they are distinguished in their species or individuums, as

*Man, Horse, Table, House, &c.*  
*Peter, Thomas, Pretty, Palace, &c.*

The common *Nouns* I have distinguished in nine distinctions, as follow.

1 The action denominated.	2 That acteth.	3 On whom acted.
<i>Amor</i> <i>Lectio</i> <i>Visio</i>	<i>Amator</i> <i>Lector</i>	<i>Amatus</i>
4 Inclination to action.	5 Qualification to receive the actiō.	6 The excess of the action.
<i>Amorosus</i> <i>Audax</i> <i>Communicativus</i>	<i>Amabilis</i> <i>Legibilis</i>	<i>Amabundus</i> <i>Drunk</i>

OF

7 Of or belonging to an action or thing.	8 The abstract of denomination.	9 The manner of being or acting.
<i>Doctrinalis</i>	<i>Amorositas</i> <i>Docibilitas</i>	<i>Amorosè</i> <i>Docibiliter.</i>

Note that the eighth and ninth distinctions are double derivatives, and appliable to the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh distinctions.—

The seventh distinction is likewise appliable to words proper, as to denominate any one from the place of his birth, as from

*Rome a Roman,*  
*Naples a Neapolitan, &c.*

Or from his Calling, as a *Clothier* from *Cloth-making,*  
a *Barber* from *Cutting of beards.*

There are four distinctions more, which because they seem more as Proper names than Common names, we have placed them by themselves, as

1 The instrument wherewith chiefly acted, as	2 The time of action the hour of	3 The place of action, as of drinking wine.	4 The substance of the action
from to See the Eye	<i>Dining</i> <i>Supping</i>	a <i>Tavern</i> of beer or ale, an <i>Alehouse.</i>	<i>Meat</i> <i>Drink</i>

OF

Of the nine distinctions of *Nouns* Common, the first, second, and eighth are only Substantives, the rest all Adjectives; the four last distinctions are all Substantives.

No distinction for Number is needfull to the Nouns Adjectives, for their number is sub-understood in the Substantives unto which they relate.

The substantives need likewise no distinction of Number, except they intend a plural number Indefinite; as There were *Men*, which because no by-standing word will expresse the plurality according to our position, therefore the plurality is to be distinguished by addition in the word *Man*. But if the plurality be defined by the words, *One, Ten, many, &c.* as

*ten pound,* } the distinction in the words defining  
*many pound.* } are sufficient without more.

The *Verb passive* is made of the third distinction of Nouns common before mentioned, with the aiding *Verb, to be*; as

*I am beloved,*  
*Thou shalt be beloved.*

The proper names of things to give them signification, is the work, we suppose, of a sound Philosopher, who from the knowledge of things and their order in nature, should give them names accordingly, describing that in them by their name, by which in the naming they may be known.

The Cases of Nouns, as the *Genitive, Dative, and Ablative* may be distinguished by the signes, *of, to, from*, adjoyned.

The

The *Passive* or *Accusative* will be known by its place in the order of Words, as hereafter.

*The second sort of Radixes*

Are those of quality; as, *hot, cold, &c.*

The number of which might be diminished by a subordination as before in the *Verbs* was noted, for instance,

First, the opposition in signification, as  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Hot, Cold,} \\ \text{Soft, Hard, \&c.} \end{array} \right.$

Secondly, the graduall difference, as  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Hot, Warm :} \\ \text{Wet, Moist, \&c.} \end{array} \right.$

Of these Qualitative words may proceed *Verbs* signifying action, using only the Radix, without any consignificative words adjoyned; as,

*I hot,* or *make hot,* or *heat,*  
*I cold,* or *maki cold,* &c.

Secondly, *Verbs passive*, but with a distinctionall addition; as, *I become Hot, Cold, &c.*

Unto these *Verbs* might likewise be appropriated the consignifications before mentioned; as,

*I am accustomed* to *make hot,* to *become hot,*  
*I begin* to *make hot* to *become hot, &c.*

Those Qualitative words have derivatives of the same nature with the eighth sort of *Nouns* common; as,

*Hotnesse,* *Coldnesse.*

Unto

Unto these Qualitative words, as unto the former names appellative, belongeth an augmentation and diminution, with their comparative and superlative degrees, as

<i>Positive,</i>	<i>Comparative,</i>	<i>Superlative</i>
<small>Diminution, Augmentation.</small>	<small>Diminution, Augmentation.</small>	<small>Diminution, Augmentation.</small>
<i>a little man, a great man.</i>	<i>a lesser man, a greater man.</i>	<i>least man, greatest man.</i>

*The Auxiliary Words.*

The third sort of Radicall words which are according to Grammar nominated, *Pronouns, Adverbs, Prepositions, Interjections, and Conjunctions.*

The Pronouns,

*I, thou, he, this, that,* may be radicall: the Plurall, *we, ye, they, these, those,* may have an additionall signe of plurality: From these may derivatively proceed of the eighth sort of Common names:

*Ego-itas ipse-itas, &c*

The other following sorts may be reduced to a certain number, and the number probably lessened by a subordination as before.

The Nouns numerall might be thus described in Language. Suppose nine single consonants for the nine first numbers from one to nine inclusive; and nine Vowels for nine dignities, each increasing ten times the value of the other; the first Vowell to signify only the single value of the nine Consonants, in which place the second Vowell coming to signify the Decimall dignity; the third, the Centenall; and so forth, this in conjunction you may expresse in few syllables, and without reiteration a very large number.

The

The principles or Groundwork of our new Language and Writing proposed; the application we thus prescribe.

First, we prescribe a collection of all the Radixes of the three sorts of words before mentioned, wherein care should be had to ordain for Radixes none but those which are really such. Secondly, rightly to order a subordination of them as is before required; the same thus ordered should be the contents of the first part of the *Lexicon*; and for the wording of those radicall significations, it will be pre-required to have ordained a certain number of single sounds both of Vowels and Consonants, really such, and which may constantly keepe their stated sounds without alteration, out of which the foresaid Radixes should be worded. Thus might these Radixes be ordered and ranked, first, in their sounds in any known Language, thereto adjoining the new invented words for the same.

The second part of the said *Lexicon* should contain all the proper names of things, given them according to the forementioned requisites.

The second Book required to be the Law of this new Language and Writing, wherein all the Rules aforementioned to be set down with such more as shall be found requisite, which should be constant, never suffering the least deviation when once stated: these Rules thus being not many, and being constant without any Anomalies or exceptions, would be no great burthen to memory.

Note, For the wording of the Radixes, our advise would be, that all such ordained words should be Monosyllables, containing a certain number of letters, among which but one Vowell, and that never used but in the Radix, and in all Radixes. Secondly, that all the distinctionall additions

C

signi-

significative, be all Consonants, and the Vowelling of them to be left at pleasure; also to place them where he please, & to make one or more syllables as he shall please, only that in so doing of them, he seem not to divide them in more words then one. Secondly, that he divide not the Radix: Our reason for this liberty is, that from the vowels have proceeded the greatest variations of Languages, whose force therefore in this Language we advise to be abated.

The different placing of words in severall Languages, hath produced no small inconvenience to the learners of a new Language, who in that new learned Language remain still subject to observe the order of their first known Language, from whence often proceedeth a harshness to the understanding of such misordered sentences: To prevent which inconvenience, and to maintain, if possible, the constancie of our new Language, we have endeavoured by a collection of the most, if not all the sentences or forms of speech, & in them propounded an order for all the words, which, or a better, when obtained, we would recommend as a constant rule to be observed, and to have its place in our Grammar or Law of Language.

Sentences as we ordinarily express them.	The same according to our proposed order.	Their distinction.
John <i>lovesh</i> Mary, <i>who</i> <i>s</i> .	John <i>lovesh</i> Mary <i>who</i> .	{ 1 The Noun Agent or Relative. 2 The Verb. 3 The Noun Patient.
<i>A short stick</i> <i>A rod of Iron.</i> <i>His Book</i> Johns <i>Book</i> .	<i>Stick shors</i> <i>Rod of Iron</i> <i>Book his</i> <i>Book Johns</i>	{ 1 the Thing. 2 Its description or relation.

<i>Is loved</i> <i>Is spent</i>	<i>Is loved</i> } <i>Is spent</i> }	{ 1 The Auxiliary Verb. 2 The Noun Adjective.
<i>This man</i> <i>That thing</i>	<i>This man</i> } <i>That thing</i> }	{ 1 The demonstrative. 2 The demonstrated.
<i>I have seen the thing</i>	<i>I have seen thing</i>	The word <i>the</i> left out.
<i>It was done</i> <i>It hapned</i> <i>There hapned.</i>	<i>Was done</i> } <i>Hapned</i> } <i>Hapned</i> }	The word <i>it, there,</i> left out.
<i>William is loved of his father</i>	<i>William is loved of father his</i>	{ 1 The Noun Patient. 2 The Verb, 3 The Noun Agent.
<i>John and Peter travelled together so Rome, Peter ran hastily to London</i>	<i>John and Peter travelled together to Rome, Peter ran hastily to London</i>	{ 1 The Agent. 2 The Verb. 3 The Manner. 4 The place.

<i>Thomas is much loved of his Father</i>	<i>Thomas is loved much of Father his</i>	(tient. { 1 the Noun Patient. 2 the Verb. 3 the manner. 4 the agent.
<i>Thomas did beat his man very hard on the back with a stick</i>	<i>Thomas did beat man his very hard with stick on back</i>	{ 1 the Noun Agent. 2 the Verb. 3 the Noun patient. 4 the manner. 5 the instrument. 6 the part suffering.

Yesterday John  
went to France

idem

When time is expressed, it  
should alwayes precede  
the action, &c.

With him,  
From him,  
To Spain.

}

idem

The Auxiliary words, with,  
to, from, &c. to precede  
the object.

I love him not.

I love not him.

1 The Agent.  
2 The Verb.  
3 The Negation.  
4 The Patient.

Did use to say.

idem

1 The Verb.  
2 The Infinitive Mood.

There are people  
in the yard.

In yard are  
people.

1 The place where.  
2 The Auxiliary Verb.  
3 Who.

I give thee this.  
He held his hand  
on them.

I give this to thee.  
He held hand his  
on them.

1 The Agent.  
2 The Verb.  
3 The Patient.  
4 on, to, from, &c.

Do ye help them?  
Help ye them.

Interrog.  
Imperat. }

Help ye them

1 The Verb.  
2 The Agent.  
3 The Patient.

Whom ye know.

idem

1 The Re'ative.  
2 The Agent.  
3 The Verb.

For

For the plainer expression, and easier understanding of  
speech, it were best to convert all participles in other  
manner of expression, neglecting the use of them.

So much for application of the principles or grounds  
before proposed to our new Language, now followeth  
their application to our new writing: which as in this  
Introduction is not to have relation to sounds but things,  
wherefore, for all the radicall words of the three sorts as  
they stand, for such in the *Lexicon* are to have characters  
assigned them, which may be described anent the words  
there set down.

Then in the Grammar are to be described those addi-  
tionall marks for the derivative distinctions, with rules for  
the use of them.

Now that the Characters might be known, and readi-  
ly found in the *Lexicon*, when the signification of any of  
them are desired to be known, we have pitched on this  
invention.

First, that ten single figures be invented, whereof, nine  
to signifie the nine single numbers, and one of them the  
Cypher. Suppose these or the like.

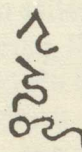
I / \ - ( ) U n o ~  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Out of these might be framed Characters signifying  
any number more or lesse, as thus.










signifying





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
	235
signifying	3568
	9050

Or else instead of the Character for the Cypher, you might draw a stroke through the Character of which the Cypher is to follow, thus

								
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90.


And then if two Cyphers follow immediately one the other, then might you describe the first of them this way, and the second as before, as

	for 900
	for 9065

By these kinde of Characters might you describe or Characterize all the radicall words comprised in the Lexicon, and in the order as they there stand, applying to the first the Character I; to the fifth, the Character C, to the fiftieth, the Character  or C, to the five-hundredth, the Character ; and so forth. Thus when the signification of a Character is required, knowing the order of it by its number con-signified, you may finde it out in the Lexicon; for instance:

Sup-

(19)

Suppose the Character whose signification we would know, to be , signifying in number 569, and suppose the Lexicon we look for the said number, and so finde its radicall signification to *Love*, then the Grammer is supposed to have told us, that the prick on the right side doth signifie the Past Tense, from whence the signification may be concluded to be *Loved*.

*The End.*

## APPENDIX

The following page is reproduced from Lodowyck's essay in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 1686, Vol. XV, No. 182, page 137, by permission of the Curators of the Bodleian Library.

# The Univerfall Alphabet .

*The Table of Consonants*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	ʒ b	ʒ d	ʒ j	ʒ g	ʒ =	ʒ =	P L
2	ʒ p	ʒ t	ʒ ch	ʒ k	ʒ =	ʒ =	
3	ʒ m	ʒ n	ʒ gn	ʒ ng	ʒ =	ʒ =	
4	ʒ =	ʒ dh	ʒ j	ʒ g	ʒ v	ʒ z	B L h
5	ʒ =	ʒ th	ʒ sh	ʒ ch	ʒ f	ʒ s	
6		ʒ ñ					
	8	9	10	11	12		
	ʒ h	ʒ y	ʒ r	ʒ w	ʒ n		

*The Table of Vowels*

14	15	12	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ	ʒ
ou	ou	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u	u

## The Lords Prayer in English

Iſt b̄b̄h̄ h̄ȳh̄ iſt h̄īm̄ h̄b̄m̄; h̄p̄p̄ī ʒ̄ b̄m̄m̄. b̄ h̄m̄  
 īm̄ h̄m̄. b̄ ȳp̄ ʒ̄ īm̄ īm̄ ȳh̄b̄, īb̄ īh̄ īb̄ īm̄ h̄b̄m̄. ȳb̄  
 īb̄ b̄b̄ ʒ̄ īh̄ ʒ̄ ʒ̄. īm̄ b̄h̄ ȳb̄ īb̄ īh̄ h̄b̄b̄b̄, īb̄ ȳ  
 b̄h̄ ȳb̄ b̄m̄ b̄h̄ h̄b̄b̄h̄t̄ īȳm̄b̄h̄ īb̄. īm̄ p̄p̄ īb̄ m̄h̄ īm̄.  
 h̄ h̄m̄ h̄b̄m̄; ʒ̄ h̄ ʒ̄ b̄h̄ īb̄ b̄h̄m̄. īb̄p̄. b̄h̄ b̄m̄ īb̄ b̄ȳm̄.  
 īm̄; īm̄ ʒ̄ h̄īh̄, īm̄ ʒ̄ ȳp̄ȳ, b̄h̄ īb̄h̄ īm̄ ʒ̄ īb̄h̄. īm̄ m̄.

*[Faint, illegible text and a table grid are visible on the left page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

*The following blank pages in this copy have been inserted to allow for a better binding.*