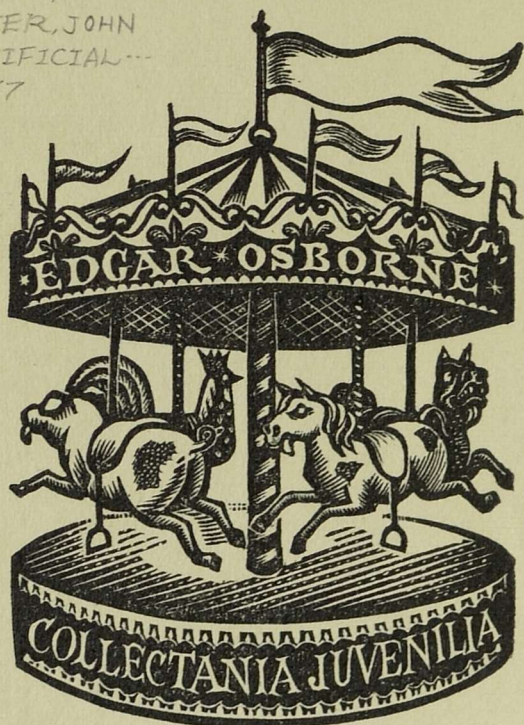


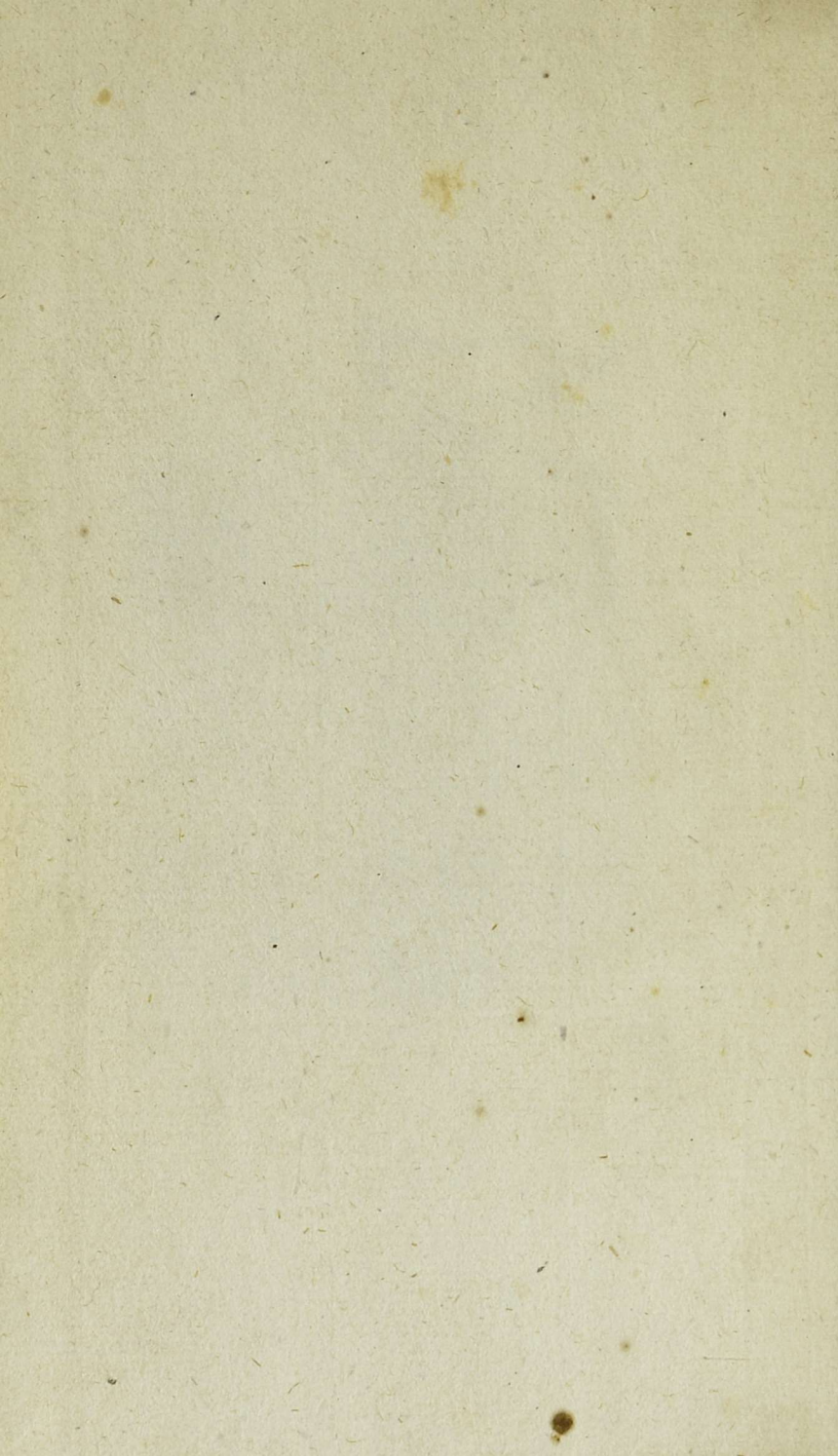
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1677



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By John Peter

There was a 3rd ed in 1685

This ed not recorded
in W. m.

ARTIFICIAL VERSIFYING
OR; THE
SCHOOL-BOYS
Recreation.

A New WAY to make
LATIN VERSES.

WHEREBY
Any one of ordinary Capacity,
that only knows the A.B.C. and can Count 9
(though he understands not one word of *Latin*, or what a *Verse* means) may be plainly
taught, (and in as little a time as this
is Reading over,) how to make
Hundreds of *Hexameter Verses*,
which shall be *True Latin*, *True*
Verse, and good *Sense*.

Arithmeticæ ignarus hic ingrediatur.

Never before Publish'd.

LONDON, Printed for John Sims at the Kings Head, in
Cornhill, 1677.

OF THE

REGISTRATION

AND WAY TO MAKE

AT THE VEST

WHILE BY

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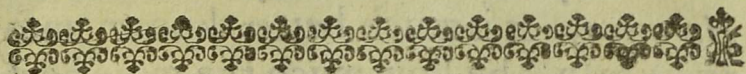
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Artificial Versifying, Or, The School-Boy's Recreation,

GREAT is the *Force of Numbers* in the Discovery of *Natures Secrets*; the *Reason of Numbers* (if we dare Credit *Solomon*, in *Wisd. 11. 20.*) was one of the chiefest *Rules* according to which *God* fram'd the *World*, so that to set light by the power of *Numbers*, is to undervalue the *Wisdom* of the great *Creator*, who made use of *them*, as the *Prime Instruments*, by which he *Modulated* the whole *Creation*: All the pleasure and satisfaction we can receive from *Natural Speculations*, is but dull and insipid, in comparison to the transporting *Complacencies*, which from

thence may be extracted by *this kind of Harmony*, as is much better known unto every man, by how much the more he is exercised in *these Operations*.

There hath been much time and diligence bestowed by industrious and learned Men of *Communicative Spirits*, of *Former Ages*, and of *late years*, to Reduce their *Arithmetical Theories* into *Practice*, to *Fit* their *Conclusions* to *Instrumental Work*, for the benefit of *illiterate Artificers*: And so successful have their endeavors proved, that thereby *commodious Advantages* have accrued to Persons of *diverse Faculties*; who though they have been altogether ignorant of *Arithmetick*, and of *all Literature*, yet by the benefit of *Instrumental Operation*, they have been capacitated to perform such *Conclusions* as their respective *Faculties* required, though thereof they have not been able to give a better Reason, then, *That it is so, because it is so.*

Now least the *Common Fidler*, (who, though ignorant in *Musical Proportions*,
can

can notwithstanding Play Tuneably on his Instrument.) And lest the Carpenter, Glazier, or Brick layer, (who, though not at all Vers'd in *Arithmetick*, can by his Rule know the Content of his Work,) should boast of their *Advantages* and *Triumph* over the *Latinist* and the *Poet*, I have thought Fit to Publish this following *Invention*, to stop the Career of their *Mechanical Ostentation*.

For by the following *Tables*, any one of the *meanest* Capacity, that only knows the *A. B. C.* and can count 9, (though he understands not *one word* of *Latin*, or what a *Verse* is) may be immediately Taught how to Compose *Hundreds* of *Hexameter Verses*, which shall be *True Latin*, *True Verse*, and *Good Sense*.

The Versifying Tables

. J .

i	s	a	t	t	h	t	p	p	m	o
s	u	r	o	u	e	e	p	r	p	r
i	r	r	s	r	i	d	e	b	s	r
p	s	f	a	i	r	i	t	i	i	i
i		d	a	d	i	d	a	m	d	b
a		a	a	a		a	a	b		b
			b							

. 2 .

d	f	f	b	i	v	v	d	d	i	a
a	e	u	o	e	o	a	c	c	t	l
r	t	r	n	m	t	t	a	l	a	a
b	a	n	a	a		a			a	
a			b		b	i		b		

3.

m	t	i	v	m	v	r	a	s	i	i
n	i	a	i	e	l	c	h	b	q	r
l	d	o	i	i	i	i	u	o	i	e
r	i	o			a		s	s		s
	b	r	m	b			b			r
b										

4.

p	p	m	p	p	c	c	p	c	r	r
o	o	r	a	o	r	o	a	o	n	r
o	u	n	o	n	d	c	s	t	m	s
c	d	f	i	u	t	a	i	a	e	u
i	c	r	r	b	t	b	d	c	r	u
a	a	u	t	u	u	u	m	n	n	b
n	u	n	n	n	a	t	t	u	t	n
t	t	t	n			n		t		
	t	b	b	t	r		b	r	b	
b	b									

5.

s	s	p	f	c	t	d	i	p	i
o	i	æ	r	e	o	u	o	d	m
g	d	i	m	g	r	c	e	n	n
e	m	p	m	g	u	r	i	o	r
i	o	a	i	l	a	a	r	a	n
r	t	a	a			a		a	a
a			b	r		b			

6.

m	q	c	t	p	s	p	s	s	u	u
e	a	t	o	r	e	æ	l	æ	r	n
a	t	a	m	p	t	d	t	t	n	a
v	p	e	a	a	a	u	e		a	e
		m		m		b		r	r	b
	b		d	b	r					

The Use of the TABLES, and Manner of Operation.

I. **Y**OU are to know, that every Verse which you are to make by these Tables, will be an *Hexameter Verse*, (so called, because those kind of Verses consist of *Six Feet*, neither more, nor less,) and will be made up of just Six *Latin Words*.

II. You are to Note, that every one of those six Words, are orderly to be produced out of the six Tables respectively, viz. the *first Word* of the Verse is to be wrought out of the *First Table*, the *Second Word* of the Verse is to be produced out of the *Second Table*, the *Third Word* is to arise out of the *Third Table*, and so the *Fourth*, *Fifth* and *Last Words* of the Verse, are to be wrought out of the *Fourth*, *Fifth* and *Sixth Tables* respectively.

III. You

III. You are to understand, that whenever you shall be minded to make a *Verse* by *these Tables*, you must set down on a piece of Paper any *Six* of the *Nine Figures*, called *Digits*, viz. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

But he that cannot write or reade, may conceive any *Six* of *them* in his Minde; and since he may be taught the Use of *these Tables*, either by *Word of Mouth*, or by *Hearing these Directions* read, the thing to him will be the same, thoroughout the whole Operation, as to him that can write and reade.

IV. Six of any of those *Nine Figures* being set down on a *Piece of Paper*, are as so many respective *Keyes* to the *Six Tables*: The *first Figure* towards the left Hand, is always to be applied to the *first Table*, and is the *Proper Key* to *that Table*; The *second Figure*, (always reckoning their places orderly towards the right Hand) is to be always appropriated to the *second Table*; The *Third Figure*, in order, is as the

Artificial Versifying.

5

the proper *Key* to the *Third Table*: and so every one of the *Six Figures* are orderly to be applied to their respective *Tables*, so that the *first Figure* out of the *first Table* produces the *first Word* of the *Verses*; the *second Figure* by the *second Table*, works out the *second word* of the *Verses*; and so the *Six Figures* do produce the *six words* of the *Verses* out of their respective *Tables*.

V. When you have Pitched upon any *six Figures* to make your *Set* of, and put them down on Paper, the way to work them out so, that every of the *six Figures* may produce its respective *Latin word* out of its proper *Table*, (to which by its place or order it appertains) I say, the Rule for Operation is this, *viz.* With the *Figure* that belongs to its *proper Table*, you must Number on with the *Columns* of the said *Table*, till you come to 9 in count upon the *Columns*, (reckoning the first *Column* of the *Table* always one more then the *Figure*,) at which *Ninth Column* you

you are always to make a *Stop*, (for in the whole Operation you are never to count past 9) and diligently mark the *Letter* you shall finde *therein*, and write it down on a Piece of Paper, (which is to be the *first* Letter of your *Latin* word,) and as diligently you are to observe the *Column*, wherein you found that *Letter*, (which if you mistake, your whole Operation for *that word* will be frustrated,) from which *Column*, count the *succeeding Columns* till you come to the Ninth, and mark well that Ninth *Column*, and the *Letter* in it, which you must put down on the Paper to the *other* Letter, and so counting forward to the Ninth *Column*, see what *Letter* is *therein*, and add it to the other on the Paper, and so do till the *Word* is wrought out by *that Table*, which that you may know, it is so contrived, that when the *Word* is ended, the *last Count* of 9 will fall upon a *Blank-Column*.

But since the Use of the *Tables* will be more clear by *Example*, I shall so clearly
and

and evidently declare *their use* by this *Set of Figures* (467182) working every *Figure* thorough its *proper Table*, that it shall be apprehended by the *meanest Capacity*.

Example, 467182.

The *first Figure* towards the left Hand being (4) belongs to the *first Table*, and therefore I shall call the *first Column* of that *Table* 5, the *second Column* 6, the *third Column* 7, the *fourth Column* 8, and the *next Column* 9, at which I stop, and observing the *Letter* that is in *that Column*, which is (t). I set it down on a *Piece of Paper*: and because it is to be the *first Letter* of the *first word* of the *Verse*, I put it down at the beginning of a *Line*, and with a great *Letter* thus,

I	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Tristia fata tibi producunt Sidera prava:

Then the *next Column*, wherein I found that *t*, I reckon 1, the *next Column* to that 2, the next 3, and so I count the
Columns

Columns on in order, till I come to the Ninth *Column* from the said *t*, wherein finding the Letter (*r*) I put it down next to *t* as above; then well marking the *Column* in which I found that *r*, I from thence count on (as I did from *t*) orderly to the ninth *Column*, and therein finding the Letter (*i*) I add *that* to *r* as above: from *this, i*, I reckon till I come to the ninth *Column*, wherein I finde the Letter (*s*), which putting down to *i*, as above, I go on to count from *this s*, to the ninth *Column*, and therein finding the Letter (*t*), I add it to *s*, as you see above; I proceed to reckon the ninth *Column* from *this t*, and therein finding the Letter (*i*), I put it down next to *t*, as above: then to the ninth *Column* from *this i*, I therein finde the Letter (*a*), which putting down next to *i*, I proceed to count on to the ninth *Column* from *a*, but therein finding a *Blank*, I thereby know that the whole word is wrought out, and there are to be no more Letters in the first word of the Verse, then those above, viz. *Tristia*. To

To work out the *second word* of the *Verse* by the *second Figure* in order, which is (6), I apply it to the *second Table*, and call the *first Column* thereof 7, the *second Column* in order 8, and next 9, at which I stop, and finding therein the *Letter* (f), I put it down on the paper in the *same Line* with *Tristia* at a convenient distance, because it is to begin another word, and beginning from the *Column* in which I found f, to count the *Columns* till I come to the ninth, I finde therein the *letter* (a), and putting it down to f, as above; from this a I reckon till I come to the ninth *Column*, I therein meeting with the *Letter* (t), and putting it down to a as before, I from thence count to the ninth *Column*, and finding therein the *Letter* (a), I adde it to t, as you see before, and proceed to reckon on to the ninth *Column* from thence, wherein finding a *Blank*, I thereby do know, that the *Word* is composed, and that there is to be no more *Letters* in the *second word* of the *Verse* then, *fata*.

To

To work out the *third Word* of the *Verse* by the third *Table*, I apply to it the third *Figure* (in order in the *Set*) which is (7) and do therefore call the *first Column* of that *Table* 8, the second *Column* 9, in which I find the *Letter* (t), which I put down in the same line next to *Fata*, at a convenient distance, because it is to begin another word, from which *Column* I count till I come to the Ninth, and therein finding the *Letter* (i), I put it down to t, as before, and from thence reckoning to the Ninth *Column*, I there Find the letter (b), which adding to i, (as you see before) I from thence count to the ninth *Column*, and therein Finding the *Letter* (i) I put it down to (b), and counting from this i, to the Ninth *Column*, I there do Find a *Blank*, by which I know that there are to be no more *Letters* in the third *Word* of this *Verse* then, *tibi*.

To Work out the fourth *Word* of the *Verse*, I apply the fourth *Figure* in order in the *Set*, which is (1) to the fourth *Table*,
and

and count the *first Column* thereof 2, the *second Column* 3, and so on till I come to the *Ninth Column*, wherein finding the *Letter* (*p*) I put it down at a convenient distance from the Word *tibi*, in the *same line* (it being the *first Letter* of another Word) and counting to the *Ninth Column* from *p*, I therein find the *Letter* (*r*) which putting down to *p*, (as you may see done before) I from thence reckoning to the *Ninth Column*, do therein find the *Letter* (*o*) which I add to *r*, and from thence counting to the *Ninth Column*, I there meet the *Letter* (*d*) which I put down next to *o*, and from thence I go on to the *Ninth Column*, wherein finding the *Letter* (*u*) I add it to *d*, and from thence count to the *Ninth Column*, and therein finding the *Letter* (*c*), I put it down next to *u*, and counting from thence to the *Ninth Column*, I find therein the *Letter* (*n*), which putting to *c*, I reckon from thence to the *Ninth Column*, and finding therein the *Letter* (*n*), I add it to *n*, and counting

B

from

from thence to the ninth *Column*, I find there the *Letter* (*t*), which putting down next to *n*, I proceed to count from thence to the ninth *Column*, in which finding a *Blank*, I thereby know that the fourth *Word* of this *Verse* is wrote out, and that that it hath *no more letters, then producunt*.

To work out the *fifth word* of the *Verse*, I apply the fifth *Figure* in order (which is 8) to the fifth *Table*, and counting the first *Column* thereof 9, I there make a stop, and finding therein the *letter* (*s*), I put it down (as you see above) at a fit distance from the word *producunt*, and from thence counting to the ninth *Column*, I therein find the *letter* (*i*), and setting it down next to *s*, I from thence reckon to the ninth *Column*, and finding there the *letter* (*d*) I add it to *i*, from whence counting to the ninth *Column*, I find therein the *letter* (*e*) which I put down next to *d*, and counting from thence to the ninth *Column*, I there find the *letter* (*r*), which I add to *e*, and proceed to reckon from thence to the
ninth

ninth Column, in which Finding the letter (a) I put it down to r, and numbring from thence to the ninth Column, I Find there a Blank, by which I know that there are to be no more letters in the Fifth Word of the Verse, then *Sidera*.

To work out the sixth and last Word of the Verse, I apply the sixth and last Figure, viz. 2, to the sixth and last Table, and counting the first Column thereof 3, the next 4, and forwards till I come to the ninth Column, wherein Finding the letter (p) I write it down at a convenient distance from the Word *Sidera*, and from the Column wherein I found this p, I count to the ninth Column, and therein Finding the letter (r) I write it down next to p, and reckoning on to the ninth Column from thence, I Find therein the letter (a), which putting down next to r, I reckon from thence to the ninth Column, wherein Finding the letter (v), I add it to a, and counting from thence to the ninth Column, I do therein Find the letter (a), and putting it

down next to *v*, I from thence proceed to count to the ninth Column, and finding therein a *Blank*, I thereby understand that this Word is ended, and there a *e* to be no more letters in the sixth and last Word of the Verse, then *prava*.

By which several Operations I have made it plain to you, that in this Set of Figures, (467182) the Figure (4) in the first place produceth the first word of the Verse, *Tristia*; the Figure (6) in the second place bringeth out the second word, *Fata*; the Figure (7) in the Third place produceth the third word, *tibi*; the Figure (1) in the fourth place worketh out the fourth word, *producunt*: the Figure (8) in the fifth place formeth out the fifth word, *Sidera*, and that the Figure (2) in the sixth and last place doth work out the sixth and last word of the Verse, *Prava*. Every of which 6 words being wrote down on a piece of Paper (as before is taught) as they were wrought out, makes this Hexameter Verse.

Tristia

Tristia fata tibi producunt sidera prava.

As to the *Trueness* of the *Latin*, and the *Verse*, I appeal to any ingenious *Grammarians*, and as to the *Sense*, I could wish the *Physiologists* had not subscribed *their* *Probatum est*.

You must *Remember*, that when you put the *Figure 9* amongst any *Set* of *Figures*, and appropriate it to its proper *Table*, you always count the *first Column* of that *Table*, as 1, the next *Column* 2, and so reckon on till you come to the *Ninth*, and so to proceed in the *Operation*, as with any other *Figure*.

As for *Example*, you will find done in this *Set* of *Figures* (988978) (where the *Figure 9* is in the *first* and *fourth* place) which being workt out by these *Tables*, produceth this *Verse*:

Perfida dicta mihi confirmant somnia multa.

Which Set of *Figures* if you place exactly backwards, thus (879889) you will have a *Verse* wrought out consisting of *Latin words* quite different from the former, which make an absolute *Alteration* in the *Sense* also: For you are to know, that the *Alteration* of the place of any of the six *Figures*, (you propose to make your Set of) produceth a *Verse* different in *Words* and *Sense*: You will find the last inverted Set of *Figures* (if truly workt out by their respective *Tables*) to yield this *Verse*.

Impia facta, scio, pradicunt sidera saepe.

By every way changing the *Figures* places will be produced such variety of different *Latin words* to compose *Verses* of, causing such various *Alteration* in their *Sense*, that these *Operations* cannot but prove very delightful to him that understands the *Latin Tongue*; and not a little grateful to him takes pleasure in the Power of *Numbers*.

F I N I S.

