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Curtis Tocqueville Gogol Gogol Busch  
Homer Tolstoy Tolstoy Gogol Busch  
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Andersen Andersen Andersen Harte  
London Descartes Cervantes Burton Hesse  
Poe Aristotle Wells Wells Wells Cooke  
Hale James Hastings Hastings Hastings Cooke  
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# **The Schoolmaster**

Roger Ascham

# Imprint

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THE  
SCHOLEMASTER

*Or plaine and perfite way of tea- chyng children, to vnderstand, write, and speake, the Latin tong, but specially purposed for the priuate brynging vp of youth in Ientlemen and Noble mens houses, and commodious also for all such, as haue forgot the Latin tonge, and would, by themselves, with- out a Scholemaster, in short tyme, and with small paines, recouer a sufficient habilitie, to vnderstand, write, and speake Latin.*

By Roger Ascham.

An. 1570.

AT LONDON.

Printed by Iohn Daye, dwelling  
ouer Aldersgate.

*Cum Gratia & Priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis, per Decennium.*

To the honorable Sir William  
Cecill Knight, principall Secretarie to  
the Quenes most excellent Maiestie.



*S*Ondry and reasonable be the causes why learned men haue vsed to offer and dedicate such workes as they put abrode, to some such personage as they thinke fittest, either in respect of abilitie of defense, or skill for iugement, or priuate regard of kindenesse and dutie. Euery one of those considerations, Syr, moue me of right to offer this my late husbands M. Aschams worke vnto you. For well remembryng how much all good learnyng oweth vnto you for defense therof, as the Vniuersitie of Cambrige, of which my said late husband was a member, haue in chosing you their worthy Chaunceller acknowledged, and how happily you haue spent your time in such studies & caried the vse therof to the right ende, to the good seruice of the Quenes Maiestie and your contrey to all our benefites, thyrdly how much my sayd husband was many wayes bound vnto you, and how gladly and comfortably he vsed in hys lyfe to recognise and report your goodnesse toward hym, leauyng with me then hys poore widow and a great sort of orphanes a good comfort in the hope of your good continuance, which I haue truly found to me and myne, and therefore do duely and dayly pray for you and yours: I could not finde any man for whose name this booke was more agreable for hope [off] protection, more mete for submission to iudgement, nor more due for respect of worthynesse of your part and thankefulnesse of my husbandes and myne. Good I trust it shall do, as I am put in great hope by many very well learned that can well iudge therof. Mete therefore I compt it that such good as my husband was able to doe and leaue to the common weale, it should

be receiued vnder your name, and that the world should owe thanke therof to you, to whom my husband the authour of it was for good receyued of you, most dutiefully bounden. And so besechyng you, to take on you the defense of this booke, to auauance the good that may come of it by your allowance and furtherance to publike vse and benefite, and to accept the thankefull recognition of me and my poore children, trustyng of the continuance of your good memorie of M. Ascham and his, and dayly commending the prosperous estate of you and yours to

*God whom you serue and whoes you  
are, I rest to trouble you.  
Your humble Margaret  
Ascham.*

*A Præface to the  
Reader.*

WHen the great plage was at London, the yeare 1563.  
the Quenes Maiestie Queene *Elizabeth*, lay at her  
Castle of Windsore: Where, vpon the 10. day of December,  
it fortun'd, that in Sir *William Cicells* chamber, hir Highnesse  
Principall Secretarie, there dined together these personages,  
M. Secretarie him selfe, *Syr William Peter*, *Syr J. Mason*,  
*D. Wotton*, *Syr Richard Sackuille* Treasurer of the Exchequer,  
*Syr Walter Mildmaye* Chauncellor of the Exchequer, M.  
*Haddon* Master of Requestes, M. *John Astely* Master of the  
Iewell house, M. *Bernard Hampton*, M. *Nicasius*, and J.  
Of which number, the most part were of hir Maiesties most  
honourable priuie Counsell, and the reast seruing hir in verie  
good place. I was glad than, and do reioice yet to remember,  
that my chance was so happie, to be there that day, in the  
companie of so manie wise & good men together, as hardly  
than could haue beene piked out againe, out of all England  
beside.

M. Secretarie hath this accustomed maner, though his head  
be neuer so full of most weightie affaires of the Realme, yet, at  
diner time he doth seeme to lay them alwaies aside: and findeth  
euer fitte occasion to taulke pleasantlie of other matters,  
but most gladlie of some matter of learning: wherein, he will  
curteslie heare the minde of the meanest at his Table.

Not long after our sitting doune, I haue strange newes  
brought me, sayth M. Secretarie, this morning, that diuerse  
Scholers of Eaton, be runne awaie from the  
Schole, for feare of beating. Whereupon, M. //M. *Secreta-*  
*Secretarie* tooke occasion, to wishe, that some //rie.

more discretion were in many Scholemasters, in vsing correction, than commonlie there is. Who many times, punishe rather, the weakenes of nature, than the fault of the Scholer. Whereby, many Scholers, that might else proue well, be driuen to hate learning, before they knowe, what learning meaneth: and so, are made willing to forsake their booke, and be glad to be put to any other kinde of liuing. *M. Peter*, as one somewhat seuerer of nature, said plainlie, *M. Peter*. // that the Rodde onelie, was the sworde, that must keepe, the Schole in obedience, and the Scholer *M. Wotton*. // in good order. *M. Wotton*, á man milde of nature, with soft voice, and fewe wordes, inclined to *M. Secretaries* iudgement, and said, in mine opinion, the Schole- Ludus li- // house should be in deede, as it is called by name, *terarum*. // the house of playe and pleasure, and not of feare *Plato de* // and bondage: and as I do remember, so saith *Rep. 7*. // *Socrates* in one place of *Plato*. And therefore, if a Rodde carie the feare of á Sworde, it is no maruell, if those that be fearefull of nature, chose rather to forsake the Plaie, than to stand alwaies within the feare of a Sworde in a fonde mans handling. *M. Mason*, after his maner, was *M. Mason*. // verie merie with both parties, pleasantlie playing, both, with the shrewde touches of many courste boyes, and with the small discretion of many leude Scholemasters. *M. Haddon* was fullie of *M. Peters* opinion, and said, that *M. Haddon*. // the best scholemaster of our time, was the greatest beater, and named the Person. Though, quoth I, it was his good fortune, to send from his Schole, The Author of // vnto the Vniuersitie, one of the best Scholers in this booke. // deede of all our time, yet wise men do thinke, that that came so to passe, rather, by the great towardnes of the Scholer, than by the great beating of the Master: and whether this be true or no, you your selfe are best witnes. I said somewhat farder in the

matter, how, and whie, yong children, were soner al-  
 lured by loue, than driuen by beating, to atteyne good  
 learning: wherein I was the bolder to say my minde,  
 bicause M. Secretarie curteslie prouoked me thereun-  
 to: or else, in such à companie, and namelie in his  
 præsence, my wonte is, to be more willing, to vse  
 mine eares, than to occupie my tonge.

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Syr *Walter Mildmaje*, M. *Astley*, and the rest, said  
 verie litle: onelie Syr *Rich. Sackuill*, said nothing at all.  
 After dinner I went vp to read with the Queenes  
 Maiestie. We red than together in the Greke tongue, as  
 I well remember. // Demost. that noble Oration of  
*Demosthenes* against *æschines*, // peri pa- for his false  
 dealing in his Ambassage to king // rapresb. *Philip* of  
 Macedonie. Syr *Rich. Sackuile* came vp sone after: and  
 finding me in hir Maiesties priuie chamber, he // Syr  
 R. tooke me by the hand, & carying me to à //  
*Sackuiles* windoe, said, M. *Ascham*, I would not for à  
 good // communi- deale of monie, haue bene, this  
 daie, absent from // cation with diner. Where,  
 though I said nothing, yet I gaue // the Author as  
 good eare, and do consider as well the taulke, // of  
 this that passed, as any one did there. M. Secretarie  
 said very // booke. wisely, and most truely, that  
 many yong wittes be driuen to hate learninge, before  
 they know what learninge is. I can be good witnes to  
 this my selfe: For à fond Scholemaster, before I was  
 fullie fourtene yeare olde, draue me so, with feare of  
 beating, from all loue of learninge, as nowe, when I  
 know, what difference it is, to haue learninge, and to  
 haue litle, or none at all, I feele it my greatest greife,  
 and finde it my greatest hurte, that euer came to me,  
 that it was my so ill chance, to light vpon so lewde à  
 Scholemaster. But seing it is but in vain, to lament  
 thinges paste, and also wisdome to looke to thinges to

cum, surely, God willinge, if God lend me life, I will make this my mishap, some occasion of good hap, to litle *Robert Sackuile* my sonnes sonne. For whose bringinge vp, I would gladlie, if it so please you, vse speciallie your good aduice. I heare saie, you haue à sonne, moch of his age: we wil deale thus together. Point you out à Scholemaster, who by your order, shall teache my sonne and yours, and for all the rest, I will prouide, yea though they three do cost me a couple of hundred poundes by yeare: and beside, you shall finde me as fast à Frend to you and yours, as perchance any you haue. Which promise, the worthie Ientleman surelie kept with me, vntill his dyinge daye. We had than farther taulke together, of bringinge vp of children: of the nature, of quicke, and hard wittes: // The cheife of the right choice of à good witte: of Feare, and // pointes of loue in teachinge children. We passed from // this booke.

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children and came to yonge men, namely, Ientlemen: we taulked of their to moch libertie, to liue as they lust: of their letting louse to sone, to ouer moch experience of ill, contrarie to the good order of many good olde common welthes of the Persians and Grekes: of witte gathered, and good fortune gotten, by some, onely by experience, without learning. And lastlie, he required of me verie earnestlie, to shewe, what I thought of the common goinge of Englishe men into Italie. But, sayth he, bicause this place, and this tyme, will not suffer so long taulke, as these good matters require, therefore I pray you, at my request, and at your leysure, put in some order of writing, the cheife pointes of this our taulke, concerning the right order of teachinge, and honestie of liuing, for the good bringinge vp of children & yong men. And surelie, beside contentinge me, you shall both please and

profit verie many others. I made some excuse by lacke of habilitie, and weakenes of bodie: well, sayth he, I am not now to learne, what you can do. Our deare frende, good M. *Goodricke*, whose iudgement I could well beleue, did once for all, satisfye me fullie therein. Againe, I heard you say, not long agoe, that you may thanke Syr *John Cheke*, for all the learninge you haue: And I know verie well my selfe, that you did teach the Quene. And therefore seing God did so blesse you, to make you the Scholer of the best Master, and also the Scholemaster of the best Scholer, that euer were in our tyme, surelie, you should please God, benefite your countrie, & honest your owne name, if you would take the paines, to impart to others, what you learned of soch à Master, and how ye taught such à scholer. And, in vttering the stuffe ye receiued of the one, in declaring the order ye tooke with the other, ye shall neuer lacke, neither matter, nor maner, what to write, nor how to write in this kinde of Argument. I beginning some farther excuse, sodeinlie was called to cum to the Queene. The night following, I slept litle, my head was so full of this our former taulke, and I so mindefull, somewhat to satisfie the honest request of so deare à frend, I thought to præpare some litle treatise for a New yeares gift that Christmas. But, as it chanceth to busie builders, so, in building thys my poore Scholehouse (the rather because the forme of it is somewhat new, and differing from others) the worke

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rose dailie higher and wider, than I thought it would at the beginninge. And though it appeare now, and be in verie deede, but a small cotage, poore for the stuffe, and rude for the workemanship, yet in going forward, I found the site so good, as I was lothe to giue it ouer, but the making so costlie, outreaching

my habilitie, as many tymes I wished, that some one  
 of those three, my deare frendes, with full purses,  
*Syr Tho. Smithe, M.* // {*Smith. Haddon, or M. Watson,*  
 had had the doing of it. // *M.* {*Haddon.* Yet, neuerthe-  
 lesse, I my selfe, spending gladlie // {*Watson.* that lit-  
 tle, that I gatte at home by good *Syr Iohn* // *Syr\_ I\_*  
*Cheke,* and that that I borrowed abroad of my //  
*Cheke.* frend *Sturmius,* beside somewhat that was left  
 me // *I. Sturmius.* in Reuersion by my olde Masters,  
*Plato, Aristotle,* // *Plato.* and *Cicero,* I haue at last  
 patched it vp, as I could, // *Aristotle.* and as you see.  
 If the matter be meane, and meanly handled, // *Cice-*  
*ro.* I pray you beare, both with me, and it: for neuer  
 worke went vp in worse wether, with mo lettes and  
 stoppes, than this poore Scholehouse of mine. West-  
 minster Hall can beare some witnesse, beside moch  
 weakenes of bodie, but more trouble of minde, by  
 some such sores, as greue me to toche them my selfe,  
 and therefore I purpose not to open them to others.  
 And, in middes of outward iniuries, and inward  
 cares, to encrease them withall, good *Syr Rich. Sackuile*  
 dieth, that worthie Ientleman: That earnest // *Syr R.*  
*fauorer and furtherer of Gods true Religion:* //  
*Sackuill.* That faithfull Seruitor to his Prince and  
 Countrie: A louer of learning, & all learned men: Wise  
 in all doinges: Curtesse to all persons: shewing spite  
 to none: doing good to many: and as I well found, to  
 me so fast à frend, as I neuer lost the like before.  
 Whan he was gone, my hart was dead. There was not  
 one, that woare à blacke gowne for him, who caried à  
 heuier hart for him, than I. Whan he was gone, I cast  
 this booke àwaie: I could not looke vpon it, but with  
 weping eyes, in remembring him, who was the onelie  
 setter on, to do it, and would haue bene, not onelie à  
 glad commender of it, but also à sure and certaine  
 comfort, to me and mine, for it. Almost two yeares  
 together, this booke lay scattered, and neglected, and  
 had bene quite giuen ouer of me, if the goodnesse of

one had not giuen me some life and spirite againe.  
God, the

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mouer of goodnesse, prosper alwaies him & his, as he hath many times comforted me and mine, and, I trust to God, shall comfort more and more. Of whom, most iustlie I may saie, and verie oft, and alwaies gladlie, I am wont to say, that sweete verse of *Sophocles*, spoken by *Oedipus* to worthie *Theseus*.

Soph. in // echo [gar] acho dia se, kouk allon broton.  
Oed. Col. //

Thys hope hath helped me to end this booke: which, if he allowe, I shall thinke my labours well employed, and shall not moch æsteme the misliking of any others. And I trust, he shall thinke the better of it, bicause he shall finde the best part thereof, to cum out of his Schole, whom he, of all men loued and liked best. Yet some men, frendly enough of nature, but of small iudgement in learninge, do thinke, I take to moch paines, and *Plato* in // spend to moch time, in settinge forth these initio // childrens affaires. But those good men were *Theagis*. // neuer brought vp in *Socrates* Schole, who saith ou gar esti // plainlie, that no man goeth à more godlie peri otou // purpose, than he that is mindfull of the good theiot-erou // bringing vp, both of hys owne, and other mens anthropos // children. an bouleu- // saito, e // Therefore, I trust, good and wise men, will peri pai- // thinke well of this my doing. And of other, that deias, kai // thinke otherwise, I will thinke my selfe, they are ton auton, // but men, to be pardoned for their follie, and kai ton // pitied for their ignoraunce. oikeion. // In writing this booke, I haue had earnest respecte to three speciall pointes, trothe of Religion, honestie in liuing, right order in learning. In which three waies, I praie God, my poore children may dili-

gently waulke: for whose sake, as nature moued, and reason required, and necessitie also somewhat compelled, I was the willinger to take these paines. For, seing at my death, I am not like to leaue them any great store of liuing, therefore in my life time, I thought good to bequeath vnto them, in this litle booke, as in my Will and Testament, the right waie to good learning: which if they followe, with the feare of God, they shall verie well cum to sufficiencie of liuinge. I wishe also, with all my hart, that yong M. *Rob. Sackuille,*

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may take that fructe of this labor, that his worthie Grauntfather purposed he should haue done: And if any other do take, either proffet, or pleasure hereby, they haue cause to thanke M.

*Robert Sackuille,* for whom speciallie this my Scholemaster was provided.

And one thing I would haue the Reader consider in readinge this booke, that bicause, no Scholemaster hath charge of any childe, before he enter into hys Schole, therefore I leauing all former care, of their good bringing vp, to wise and good Parentes, as à matter not belonging to the Scholemaster, I do appoynt thys my Scholemaster, than, and there to begin, where his office and charge beginneth. Which charge lasteth not long, but vntill the Scholer be made hable to go to the Vniuersitie, to procede in Logike, Rhetoricke, and other kindes of learning.

Yet if my Scholemaster, for loue he beareth to hys Scholer, shall teach hym somewhat for hys furtherance, and better iudgement in learning, that may serue him seuen yeare after in the Vniuersitie, he doth hys Scholer no more wrong, nor deserueth no worse name therby, than he doth in London, who sellinge silke or cloth vnto his frend, doth giue hym better measure,

than either hys promise or bargaine was.

*Farewell in Christ.*

*The first booke for the youth.*

AFTER the childe hath learned perfitlie the eight partes of speach, let him then learne the right ioyning together of substantiues with adiectiues, the nowne with the verbe, the relatiue with the antecedent. And in learninge farther hys Syntaxis, by mine aduice, he shall not vse the common order in common scholes, for making of latines: wherby, the childe Cic. de // commonlie learneth, first, an euill choice of wordes, Cla. or. // (and right choice of wordes, saith *Cæsar*, is the foundation of eloquence) than, a wrong placing of wordes: and lastlie, an ill framing of the sentence, with a peruerse iudgement, both of wordes and sentences. These Making of // faultes, taking once roote in yougthe, be neuer, or Lattines // hardlie, pluckt away in age. Moreouer, there is marreth // no one thing, that hath more, either dulled the Children. // wittes, or taken away the will of children from learning, then the care they haue, to satisfie their masters, in making of latines.

For, the scholer, is commonlie beat for the making, when the master were more worthie to be beat for the mending, or rather, marring of the same: The master many times, being as ignorant as the childe, what to saie properlie and fitlie to the matter.

Two scholemasters haue set forth in print, either of them *Horman*. // a booke, of soch kinde of latines, *Horman* and *Whitting-* // *Whittington*.  
*ton*. //

A childe shall learne of the better of them, that, which an other daie, if he be wise, and cum to iudgement, he must be faine to vnlearne againe.

There is a waie, touched in the first booke of *Cicero De Oratore*, which, wiselie brought into scholes, // 1. *De Or.* truely taught, and constantly vsed, would not onely take wholly away this butcherlie feare in making of latines, but would also, with ease and pleasure, and in short time, as I know by good experience, worke a true choice and placing of wordes, a right ordering of sentences, an easie vnderstandyng of the tonge, a readines to speake, a facultie to write, a true iudgement, both of his owne, and other mens doinges, what tonge so euer he doth vse. The waie is this. After the three Concordances learned, as I touched before, let the master read vnto hym the Epistles of *Cicero*, gathered together and chosen out by *Sturmius*, for the capacitie of children. First, let him teach the childe, cherefullie and plainlie, the cause, and matter of the letter: then, let him construe it into Englishe, so oft, as the childe may // The order easilie carie awaie the vnderstanding of it: // of teaching. Lastlie, parse it ouer perfitlie. This done thus, let the childe, by and by, both construe and parse it ouer againe: so, that it may appeare, that the childe douteth in nothing, that his master taught

him before. After this, the childe must take a paper booke, and sitting in some place, where no man shall prompe him, by him self, let him translate into Englishe his former lesson. Then shewing it to his master, let the master take from him his latin booke, and // Two pa- pausing an houre, at the least, than let the childe // per bokes. translate his owne Englishe into latin againe, in an other paper booke. When the childe bringeth it, turned into latin, the master must compare it with *Tullies* booke, and laie them both together: and where the childe doth well, either in chosing, or true placing of *Tullies* wordes, let the master // Children praise him, and saie here ye do well. For I // learne by assure you, there is no such whetstone, to // prayse. sharpen a good witte and encourage a will to learninge, as is praise. But if the childe misse, either in forgetting a worde, or in chaunging a good with a worse, or misordering the sentence, I would not haue the master, either froune, or chide with him, if the childe haue done his diligence, and vsed no trewardship

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therein. For I know by good experience, that a childe shall lentlenes // take more profit of two

faultes, ientlie warned of, in teaching. // then of foure thinges, rightly hitt. For than, the master shall haue good occasion to saie vnto him. *N. Tullie* would haue vsed such a worde, not this: *Tullie* would haue placed this word here, not there: would haue vsed this case, this number, this person, this degree, this gender: he would haue vsed this moode, this tens, this simple, rather than this compound: this aduerbe here, not there: he would haue ended the sentence with this verbe, not with that nowne or participle, etc. In these fewe lines, I haue wrapped vp, the most tedious part of Grammer: and also the ground of almost all the *Rewles*, that are so busilie taught by the Master, and so hardlie learned by the Scholer, in all common Scholes: which after this sort, the master shall teach without all error, and the scholer shall learne without great paine: the master being led by so sure a guide, and the scholer being brought into so plaine and easie a waie. And therefore, we do not contemne *Rewles*, but we gladlie teach *Rewles*: and teach them, more plainlie, sensible, and orderlie, than they be commonlie taught in common Scholes. For whan the Master shall compare *Tullies* booke with his Scholers translation, let the Master, at the first, lead and teach his Scholer, to ioyn the *Rewles* of his Grammer booke, with the examples of his present lesson, vntill the Scholer, by him selfe, be hable to fetch out of his Grammer, euerie *Rewle*, for euerie Example: So, as the Grammer booke be euer in the Scholers hand, and also vsed of him, as a Dictionarie, for euerie present vse. This is a liuely and perfite waie of teaching of *Rewles*: where the common waie, vsed in common Scholes, to read the Grammer alone by it selfe, is tedious for the Master, hard for the Scholer, colde and vncumfortable for them bothe. Let your Scholer be neuer afraide, to aske you any dout, but vse discretlie the best allurements ye can, to encorage him to the same: lest, his ouermoch fearinge of you, driue him to seeke some disorderlie shifte: as, to seeke to be helped by

some other booke, or to be prompted by some other Scholer, and so goe aboute to begile you moch, and him selfe more.

*the brynging vp of youth.* 185

With this waie, of good vnderstanding the mater, plaine construinge, diligent parsinge, dailie translatinge, cherefull admonishinge, and heedefull amendinge of faultes: neuer leauinge behinde iuste praise for well doinge, I would haue the Scholer brought vp withall, till he had red, & translated ouer y<sup>e</sup> first booke of Epistles chosen out by *Sturmius*, with a good peece of a Comedie of *Terence* also. All this while, by mine aduise, the childe shall vse to speake no latine: For, as *Cicero* saith in like mater, with like wordes, *loquendo, male loqui discunt*. And, that excellent // Latin learned man, *G. Budæus*, in his Greeke Com- // speakyng. mentaries, sore complaineth, that whan he began // *G. Budæus*. to learne the latin tonge, vse of speaking latin at the table, and elsewhere, vnadvisedlie, did bring him to soch an euill choice of wordes, to soch a crooked framing of sentences, that no one thing did hurt or hinder him more, all the daies of his life afterward, both for redinesse in speaking, and also good iudge-