

is to attain in the shortest time possible a mastery of the German language. There is, indeed, not a better way to acquire a foreign language than to live in the country where that tongue is spoken; and persons endowed with some talent, and having the earnest desire, to make use of it, may accomplish their purpose in a short time. However a great deal of such success depends also on the ability and method of the teacher. If the teacher gives his whole mind to his profession, if he is ambitious to forward his pupils, and recognises in their proficiency an honor to himself of which he has reason to be proud — the pupils must needs derive much benefit from his instruction; but if, on the contrary the teacher attends to his task in a drowsy, mechanical manner, only for the sake of pocketing his fees, and never caring about the progress or non-progress of his pupils, the accomplishing of their object, if not defeated entirely, will at all events be considerably retarded. As in other cities, so also in Dresden, a great many ignorant persons, especially females, have, in want of occupation, and considering teaching an easy, genteel way of earning a livelihood, been tempted to set up for teachers. The competition being so large, the charge of these persons for instruction — if this term may be justly used for it — has, as is always the case under such circumstances, been reduced to some times a mere nominal compensation. Strangers allured by the cheapness of the terms and engaging the service of such