



Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association, Vol. 42: 1911 (Classic Reprint)

By American Philological Association

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association, Vol. 42: 1911 Shall and Will An Historical Study By Professor Cornelius Beach Bradley University Of California I. The Modal Auxiliaries Shall and Will belong to a little group of verbs remarkable for the very great changes both of function and of meaning to which they have been subjected within the historical period of English. As regards function, in the earliest English they were still independent verbs, capable of complete predication either alone or along with the objects or complements common to other verbs. Their meanings, however, were such as to bring them more and more frequently into relation with infinitive complements, until in the end they lost their other uses, and became absolutely dependent on the help of an infinitive to enable them to make any statement whatever. Their parasitism thus rendered complete, they became what we know as modal auxiliaries. They furnish, that is, the formal predication which the tradition of our Indo-European sentence inexorably demands, and, at the same time, they add each its...



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