#### THE MORNING OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1900.

# THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROMAN LITERATURE

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE manent the great consolidation which Cae-sar had planned and inaugurated. With the order and peace which Augustus estab-

#### IX.-THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROMAN LITERATURE.

BY JOHN EBENEZER BRYANT, M. A.

erally called the Augustan age. The history of Rome for the 50 or 60 years that ended with the death of Caesar was a fearful thing. No modern history parallels it, except that of France, for a little while during and just after the rev-olution. There was no lefsure, no room, no possible chance for the development of the literary spirit as a factor of general culture. The nation-if Rome at that time can be called a untion-was wholly time can be called a notion-was wholly engrossed in the turmolis, the embroil-ments, the upheavals of flerce internedine struggle. And yet, out of the chars of those times were developd two literary products that had the quality and matter of universal fame in them. Cleero (B. C. 105-43) was a great man-if

mere intellectual qualities be considered, one of the very greatest men of antiquity, He was an orator, a pleader at the bar, a parlimentary debater, a scholar, a critic, an essnyist in polite literature, a philoso-



pher-all of the first rank; and as such he has always been regarded. His main am bition, however, was to be a successful, practical politician. In this he failed, His character was not strong enough, either on its good side or on its faulty side, for effectual coping with the master-ful unscrupulousness of his age. In the end his head was struck off, taken to Rome and displayed in the senate housea proceeding which, though it seems wan dy atrocious, was only typical of the

Cicero is known to scholarship principalby for his parliamentary orations and for-ensic addresses, his philosophic treatises, his erroys and his familiar letters. These have served as inexhaustible fields of study for the academic youth of 20 centu-ries. But Cleero's greatest title to fame rests upon the splendlid fact that it was he who by his literary art and literary power fixed the character of the Latin tongue as a vehicle for literary expression power fixed the character of the Latin tongue as a vehicle for literary expression for the greatest nation of antiquity during the whole period of its greatness, and inti-tuted models of style and construction which all subsequent Latin authors fol-lowed. And when we reflect that the Latin language of the whole civilized world, this great achievement of his measures up to a much greater magnitude than even first much greater magnitude than even first appears. Indeed, it is scarcely too much to say that the models of literary style and rhebrical construction which Cheero set up are the models that have been acknowledged wherever oratory is practiced or literature written, right up to the pres-

Caesar (B. C. 100-44), the other great

lished men's minds had opportunity to de-velop along the lines of their natural bents. Literature blossomed out once more into beauty and strength, and the

BY JOHN EBENEZER BRIANT, M. A. There are two epochs in the history of Rome when literature shone resplendent. The earlier epoch was that of Cleero and Caesar. It is generally spoken of as the Cleeronian age. The later epoch was that of Virgil and Horace. This epoch is gen-erally called the Augustan age. The history of Rome for the 50 or 60 years that ended with the death of Caesar was a fearful thing. No modern history was a fearful thing. No modern history the same for the solor 60 years that ended with the death of Caesar was a fearful thing. No modern history the same for the solor 60 there was an age of prose (for the really was an age of prose (for the really was an age of prose (for the real the solor 60 there was an age of prose (for the real the solor 60 there was an age of prose (for the solor 60 the solor 60 there was an age of prose (for the solor 60 the solor

Lucretius, it will be remembered, was but little known in his day), the Augustan age was an age of poetry. The one spoch represented, indeed, the culmination of prose literature among the Romans: the newspapers have been making spiteful thrusts at The Oregonian because it made a statement some time ago that Hon. T. H. Tongue, among others, had not, in other, the culmination of poetry.

H. Tongue, among others, had not, in former times, been sound on the money question. The Gregonian will revile not in return, but will content litself by re-printing the letter sent to it by Mr. Tongue." Then follows Mr. Tongue's letter of November 3, 1894. The authenticity of this letter is not questioned by me. I read it carefully at the time of its due unblochtion and reother, the culmination of poetry. Virgil (B. C. 70-19) ranks as one of the world's greatest poets. For many cen-turies he was named with Homer, which, of course, was to place him in the highest rank of all. Then a reaction set in and he was looked upon for a time as some what thin and artificial. Of late years a truer criticism has placed him back in a questioned by me. I read it carefully at the time of its first publication, and re-marked to a friend that Mr. Tongue was just to the point where he would make a special study of the money question. This, it appears, he did, for in the latter part of the June campaign of 1896 I had the pleasure of listening to a speech from Mr. Tongue, which had the true ring of the "single" gold standard. I recognized in that letter of November 3, 1884, the grooping for light, which I had position corresponding closely to his ear-lier one. While not the equal of Homer in force, in rapidity of movement, in ple-turesqueness or vital interest, Virgil yet possessed qualities which Homer did not have and which no other poet showed till comparatively modern ages were reached. For with all his brilliancy of objective description Virgil also was a subjective poet. He brooded over the pathos of life. 'the tears of things,' to use his own phrase. His heart went out in pity for the distresses which fate imposes on hu-manity. Whereas Homer is as uncon-cerned with the destinies of human beings, errord to portray them accurately as any have and which no other poet showed this

except to portray them accurately, as any pugan god upon Olympus. Virgil is read today mostly for his "Acneid." an epic poem, describing chiefly the fall of Troy, taking up the sloty where Homer left it in the "filad." but dwelling chiefly upon the exploits and ad-ventures of Acneys a Trojan here who ard of value, and that the gold standard. I have never seen anything since to change that bellef; but, on the other hand, much to confirm it. much to confirm it. That the result would be the same with Mr. Tongue I did not doubt for an incentures of Aeneos, a Trojan hero who ventures of Aeners, a from here who after the fall of Troy came to Italy and became the reputed progenitor of the Ro-man people. But the "Aeneid" was a pos-humous publication. On his denthbed Virgil made it his last draite that the manuscript of his poem should be d-stroyed, for though he had been at work work it it work he induced they three stant. ple to a better state of financial condition, pie to a better state of financial condition. I think you will agree, permeates his en-tire letter. Mr. Tongue made a study of the question, and very soon after seeing the light, he embraced the true faith and has ever since been a stendfast advocate of the gold standard. Every speech and communications for the other of upon it il years, he judged that three years more were necessary to perfect it. This wish was not carried out only beevery vote cast has been for the right of sause of the express command of Augusthis

estion

us. The publication of the poem was flected immediately, and so much ap-proved was it by the Roman people that arcely a century had elapsed before Vir-l's tomb became, as it were, the shrine of a good.

Virgil was a post for all time. Horace trict in the United States holding an elec-tion that year, thus conferring upon Mr. Tongue an honor very seldom accorded to (B. C. 65-8) also was a poet for all time, and yet he was distinctively and emphatically a poet of the age he belonged to. The "Odes" of Horace derived their origin, their being, their very soul, and essence from the life of the times they dea member of Congress before the expiration of his first term. Criticism of the public acts, of public oleted. Horace is the singular example of a poet who is really not a great poet, be-oming by his art, the infinite felicity of a very salutary practice. But spiteful thrusts back at those critic ems only stulit-fies those who make them. The great his art, greater-that is to say, more wide-ly read, more enduringly renowned-than the very greatest of poels. For without difficulty with the parties who have been making thrusts at The Oregonian, I ap-prehend, was that they fancied it was anloubt, Horace has been more widely and tagonizing the return of Mr. Tongue to nore continuously read, more widely and nore frequently quoted, than any other

Congress, instead of showing that all Re-publicans were not the original gold-stand-ard Republicans. poet who ever lived. He owen this marelous popularity-a popularity extending hrough every age and throughout every That Mr. Tongue once held a friendly regard for sliver is manifest; still, you know, a wise man changes his opinion, upon evidence to warrant such change, but a fool, never. Mr. Tongue has been, since his election to Congress, a conscientious worker for the true principles of Repub-licanism. He has been, and is now, right upon every National question affecting his district, the state or the Nation, and I hope to see him succeed himself in Con-

gress



as be was justly called: Tachtus, the his-torian: Quintilian, the rhetorician, and Juvenal, the satirist. Of these the most worthilly renowned was Tachtus. Tachtus (A. D. 61-1177) has been aptly called the Jatin Cariyle. The piercing, scorching phrasee by which he transfixed a charac-ter and showed the evil lurking within or ill up as with strokes of lurid color his upually somber and avesome portraiture of the fateful procession of historical worthilly somber and avesome portraiture of the fateful procession of historical whistorical writers the, world has haven. **REPRESENTATIVE TONGUE.** FOREST GROVE, Or, March 6-("the Editor,-in' your article of last "for say that "several individuals and some newspapers have been making spiteful thrusts at The Oregonian because it made

A. M. Brown, J. C. Jameson and Fred A. Balley, the last two being members by constitutional provision.

owing appointment of these commit tees the hall question was disposed of by motion to rent Gomez Hall for every Wednesday night, which prevalled. Then followed other discussions and short ad-The club is now thoroughly organized for campaign work.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

## Value of Education in Sciiling the

I recognize'd in that jetter of November 3, 1884, the groping for light, which I had myself feli in 1577-33. I had shouted for the "dollars of our daddles," and had been asked if I had ever made a special study of the money question, and had forth by Rev. Edgar Gardner Murphy, of Montgomery, Ala., at the annual meet-ing of the Armstrong Association last night. Among the most interested listen-ers was Professor Booker T. Washing-ion, of the Tuskegee Institute. William J. Schieffelin, the president of the association second or president of

esting study. I studied it carefully and conscientiously, the result being that I became a firm believer in the single standthe association, reported great progress in the work done at the Hampton Insti-tute, which was founded by General Armstrong, and said that graduates were now competent to uplift their fellows, instead of going out into the world merely as skilled mechanics, as they did a few years ago. This was due, he said, to improved instruction, which had added more than \$20,000 a year to the salary list of the in-The evident desire to help the peo-

120,000 a year to the salary list of the in-stitution. "The bad Southerner, the poor white trash," he said, "complain that they can-not get work owing to the competition of educated colored men, and a man is running for Governor on a ticket calling for the abelition of theye acheoja." for the abolition of these schools

Mr. Ogden introduced Mr. Murphy, who said in part: "It gives me great pleasure to talk to the representatives of the Arm-He has been so "sound" on the money question that the National Congressional Committee, in 1898, selected one of Mr. Tongue's speeches, in Congress, on the money question, as a campaign document strong Association, for the reason that upon the platform of helpfulness in re-lation to the problem of education of the colored man, the North and the South are for circulation in every Congressional disunited. North and South agree that the chief problem before the negro today is his practical efficiency in relation to his actual opportunities. Northern interforence is resented, for there is bitter feel ing in the South, not only because of the reconstruction policy, but because the white master feels that the negro was men, through the medium of the press, is a very salutary practice. But spiteful the instrument of his humiliation.

Mr. Murphy objected to President Schleffelin's remarks about the "white trash," and said that the poor whites of the South had much to compialn of. "He feels," he said, "that every dollar going to the negro is a dollar taken from the educational opportunities of his own chil-dren." Mr. Murphy advised the Northern

people to invest in philanthropic under-takings in the South. Professor Washington said: "We have emphatically heard the voice of the politician, but with this conference we hear the voice we have much need of -the voice of the highly educated people of the South."

Other speakers were R. Fulton Cutting. George Foster Peabody and Silas McBee. Reports showed a membership of 60 and a prosperous financial condition. In close ing the meeting, Mr. Schleffelin said that Four years of service, fairly good coming the meeting, ar. Schenein said that for the first time the appropriation for the Indian teaching at Hampton was cut off on the ground that it was a sec-tarian institution. A motion was adopt-ed authorizing the officers to write letmittee positions and an acquaintance with the men who shape the affairs of our Nathe men who snape the commendations, and flon, are among his recommendations, and are certainly worth a great deal to the district and state. With these, he ought to he able to accomplish more for the district and, state than men who possess district and, state than men who possess to have the appropriation re-stored.



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name of the Ciceronian epoch of Roman literature, was a greater man than even Cicero was. Carear was indeed, the great-est man in all antiquity. And, unlike the case of Cicero, the more critically Cae-sar's character and achievement are stud-ied the greater do they measure. He was a great general, a great statesman, a great empire-builder and codifier of law; also a great politician and orator. In lit-enture, however, Caesar was great not because of conscious effort spent on lit-eraty labors, but through the sheer in-evitableness of gentus. His only literary evitableness of gentus. His only literary habors so far as the world now possesses the fruits of them, were his abonymous, or, rather, impersonal, records of his own exploits in war. And yet these simple rec ords—"notes," he called them, or "com-mentarice," as we now say-were, in his own time, and have ever since remained, in succinctness, perspicuity and brilliancy of phrase the despair of all who tried or have tried to imiliate them. Even Cicero acknowledged this. cknowledged this. The age of Cicero and Caesar was illu-

minated by other great names in literature besides the two great names in litera-ture besides the two greatest ones. But these need not be mentioned here. There is one writer of the age, however, who merits special mention. Lucretius (R. C. 95-52), the author of "De Recum Natura" 96-65), the author of "De Recum Naturn" ("On the Nature of Things), was a poet whose genius was so remarkable that it lacked adequate recognition almost down to our own day. Only with the advance in science and the explanation of the enuses of natural processes which the 12th confury has withersed, has the far-reach-ing scope of the great poem of Lucreius, written nearly "O conturing and here fully written nearly 30 centuries ago, been fully understood. In its own day it was but little understood, and, indeed, but little

Caesar achieved the unification and con-solidation of the Roman world. He re-



duced chaos to order, faction and internee

Julius Cacsar.

oleth of culture. Readers of Bulwer's ovels will remember how continually Horace is quoted by him and by his charac-ters. If men of polite society met any-where, their discourse with one another, their jests, their repartees, were sure to be flavored by Horatian allusions, and often-times, indeed, by direct Horatian quota-

That time is past. The great expansion of knowledge in these inter days has made the isisurely study of classic literature, once the rule-once, indeed, imperative on all who aspired to culture-quite impossi-ble. Today even the professed classical scholar scarcely knows his Horace as well as 40 years ago the well-trained schoolboy knew It Some

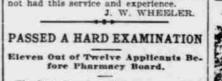
knew it. " Some idea of the most classical authors can be obtained from translations. Ho-mot, especially the "Odyssey," has been well rendered into English. So, too, has Virgil, but with less success. Virgil's art is too personal, too characteristic of his own individuality, to be adequately trans-ferred by another mind into another lan-guage. But of all classic authors none is so impossible to translate as Horace. His aptness of phrase, his crystal-cut definess

aptness of phrase, his crystal-cut definess of metrical construction, in a translator's hands vanish entirely. The result is prose -bare, commonplace prose. Even Bui-wer-Lytton, with all his abounding love wer-Lytton, with all his abounding tore of Horace, with all his wealth of classi-cal scholarship and skill in English versi-fication, made nothing of his attempt. To fication, made nothing on this attempt. To

the original the original. Besides Virgil and Horace, there were other ornamenis of literature in the Au-gustan age, but none, of course, who ap-proached these two. Ovid (B. C. 31-A. D. 6), a younger member of the Augustan group, was a more typical representative of the ideas and manners of the Augustan are than even Morace. But Ovid theorem

of the ideas and manners of the Augustan age than even Horace. But Ovid, though a poet of exquisite feileity of expression and almost unequaled narrative power, does not rank and never has ranked with his older contemporaries. Another great name of the Augustan age was Livy. Livy (B C. 28-A. D. 17) was not a poet. He was a prose writer, and one of the first rank. He was a his-torian-up to his time the greatest of Latin historians. Livy was not critical. He was not exact or painstaking. But he narrated history dramaticaliy, and gave narrated history dramatically, and gave to the world pictures of men and man-nera which, if not true to actual fact are, like Shakesphare's dramatic histories, accepted by the world as truer in their gen-eral correctness of pertraiture than the narratives of more technically accurate

dneed chaos to order, faction and internee-ine contention to cohesion and strength. He paid the price of his achievements with his life. After his assassingtion (B. C. 40 faction and contention raked head once mare and chaos again ruled every-where. But only for a short time. Cas-sar's work had been too well done, and Caesar's grand-nephew and heir. Octa-tiantis, known to fame as Augustus (B. C. 6-A. D. 14) perfected and made per-



The State Board of Pharmacy completed the business of the session yesterday in the pariors of the Imperial Hotel. The only thing that came before the board was the examination of the applicants for state certificates, of which there were 12, seven juniors and five seniors. All passed the examination but one junior. The state law reads that a person must scrive two years' apprenticeship before tak-ing his first examination, and he is ell-gible to the second a year after passing the first. The examination completed yes terday is regarded as the hardest one in five years, which accounts for the low standing of the successful candidates.

Those who made over 70 per cent and are entitled to certificates are: Juniors-O. W. Casileman, Weston, 80.8

Juniors-O. W. Casileman, Weston, 80.8; Fred G. Walch, Portland, 80.6; Chester Lewis, Portland, 79; Arthur W. Foshay, Albany, 78.4; J. H. Hill, Junction, 73, and C. Ross King, Weston, 72.4. Seniors-W. N. Morse, Oregon City, 52.2; E. E. Larks, La Grande, 81.2; H. McKea, Salem, 73.4; S. H. Merriman, Hills-boro, 77.6, and E. C. Iilidge, Portland, 71 Having no more business, the board ad-journed, subject to the call of the presi-dent, E. A. Verington, which will be some time early in June.

Albina Republican Club.

The Albina Republican Club held its bi-ennial meeting for election of officers and other purposes last evening in Gomez Hall, on Russell street. There was a large at-tendance of Republicans of the Tenth ward when President Whalley called the meeting to order. Some lively music was furnished by a colored quartet at the opening, and then business was taken up.

PRICE



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