

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

IX.—THE GOLDEN AGE OF ROMAN LITERATURE.

BY JOHN EBENEZER BRYANT, M. A.

There are two epochs in the history of Rome when literature shone resplendent. The earlier epoch was that of Cicero and Caesar. It is generally spoken of as the Ciceronian age. The later epoch was that of Virgil and Horace. This epoch is generally 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 revolution. There was no leisure, 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 nation—was wholly engrossed in the turmoil, the embroilments, the upheavals of fierce internecine struggles. And yet, out of the chaos of those times were developed two literary products that had the quality and matter of universal fame in them.

Cicero (B. C. 106) was a great man—more intellectual qualities be considered, one of the very greatest men of antiquity. He was an orator, a pleader at the bar, a parliamentary debater, a scholar, a critic, an essayist in political literature, a philoso-

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

Cicero is known to scholarship principally for his parliamentary orations and forensic addresses, his philosophic treatises, his essays and his familiar letters. These have served as the chief material of study for the academic youth of 20 centuries. But Cicero's greatest title to fame rests upon the splendid fact that it was he who by his literary art and literary power fixed the construction which Cicero set up as a vehicle for literary expression for the greatest nation of antiquity during the whole period of its greatness, and initiated a mediaeval style and construction which all subsequent Latin authors followed. And when we reflect that the Latin language was for 16 centuries the language of the whole civilized world, this great achievement of his reaches up to a much greater magnitude than even first appears. Indeed, it is scarcely too much to say that the models of literary style and rhetorical construction which Cicero set up are the models that have been acknowledged wherever oratory is practiced or literature written, right up to the present day.

Caesar (B. C. 100-44), the other great name of the Ciceronian epoch of Roman literature, was a greater man than even Cicero was in all antiquity, and unlike the case of Cicero, the more critically Caesar's character and achievement are studied the greater do we measure. He was a great general, a great statesman, a great empire-builder and codifier of laws, also a great politician and orator. In literature, however, Caesar was great not because of conscious effort spent on literary labors, but through the sheer inevitableness of genius. His only literary labors, so far as the world now possesses the fruits of them, were his anonymous, or, rather, impersonal, records of his own exploits in war. And yet these simple records—"notes," he called them, or "commentaries," 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 imitate them. Even Cicero acknowledged this.

The age of Cicero and Caesar was illuminated by other great names in literature besides the two greatest ones. But these need not be mentioned here. There is one writer of the age, however, who merits special mention. Lucræcia (B. C. 96-2), the author of "De Rerum Natura" ("On the Nature of Things"), was a poet whose genius was so remarkable that it lacked adequate recognition in her own day. Today even the professed classical scholar scarcely knows his Horace as well as 40 years ago the well-trained schoolboy knew it.

moment the great consolidation which Caesar had planned and inaugurated. With the order and peace which Augustus established, men's minds had opportunity to develop along the lines of their natural bent. Literature blossomed out once more into beauty and strength, and the glory of letters in his reign was such that his name, as applied to a literary epoch, has ever since been regarded a synonym for transcendent excellence. The Augustan age of literature in Rome was, in good reality, a "golden age."

And yet that age derived its principal luster from only two great names. Both of these were poets. So that when the Ciceronian age was an age of prose (for Lucræcia it will be remembered, was but little known in his day), the Augustan age was an age of poetry. The one epoch represented some time ago the Hon. H. T. Tongue, among others, had not, in former times, been sound on the money question. The Oregonian will recall not in return, but will content itself by reprinting a 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 the time of its first publication, and remarked 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 "admirable gold standard."

I recognized in that letter of November 3, 1894, the groping for light, which I had myself felt in 1873. I had shouted for the "dollars of our daddies," and had been asked if I had ever made a special study of the money question, and had been told that I would find it a very interesting study. I studied it carefully and conscientiously, the result being that I became a firm believer in the single standard of value, and that the gold standard. I have never seen anything since to change that belief; but, on the other hand, much to confirm it.

That the result would be the same with Mr. Tongue I did not doubt for an instant. The evident desire to help the people to a better state of financial condition, I think, was the dominant motive in his entire 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 steadfast advocate of the gold standard. Every speech and every vote cast has been for the right of this question.

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 for circulation in every Congressional district in the United States holding an election that year, thus conferring upon Mr. Tongue an honor very seldom accorded to a member of Congress before the expiration of his first term.

Criticism of public acts, of public men, through the medium of the press, is a very salutary practice. But spiteful thrusts back at those critics who so stultify their own minds, and thus do the great difficulty with the parties who have been making thrusts at The Oregonian, I apprehend, was that they fancied it was antagonizing the return of Mr. Tongue to Congress, and thus changing his Republicanism. 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 Congress.

Four years of service, fairly good committee positions and an acquaintance with the men who shape the affairs of our Nation, are among his recommendations, and are certainly worth a great deal in the district and state. With these, he ought to be able to accomplish more for the district and state than men who possess equal ability and earnestness, but who have not had this service and experience.

J. W. WHEELER.

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

as he was justly called; Tacitus, the historian; Quintilian, the rhetorician; and Juvenal, the satirist. Of these the most worthily renowned was Tacitus. Tacitus (B. C. 57-117) has been aptly called the Latin Carlyle. The piercing, scorching phrase by which he transfixed a character and showed the evil lurking within or lit up as with strokes of lurid color his usually somber and austere portraits of the fateful procession of historical events, are unique in literature. Tacitus, indeed, in his way, was one of the greatest historical writers the world has known.

REPRESENTATIVE TONGUE.

Reasons Advanced in Favor of His Re-election.

FOREST GROVE, Or., March 6.—(To the Editor:—In your article of last Friday's issue, "A Leaf From History," you say that "several individuals and some newspapers have been making spiteful thrusts at The Oregonian because it made a statement some time ago that Hon. H. T. Tongue, among others, had not, in former times, been sound on the money question. The Oregonian will recall not in return, but will content itself by reprinting a letter sent to it by Mr. Tongue. Then follows Mr. Tongue's letter of November 3, 1894.

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The secretary read the constitution of the club, adopted in 1892, which included some ancient history of the organization. That document was held in force except the membership provision, this having been modified so that only residents of the Tenth ward are eligible to membership. Following the reading of the constitution a long list of new members was received and ordered enrolled. President Whalley announced that biennial election of officers was in order. The following were then chosen for the ensuing two years: President, John J. Jamerson, vice-president, Dr. W. H. Boyd; secretary, Fred A. Bailey; assistant secretary, E. C. Robbins; treasurer, T. W. Vreeland. Each of these responded thanks for the honors bestowed. Mr. Jamerson, the new president, on taking the chair, asked for the cooperation and support of every Republican in the ward. The president then appointed the following committees:

Finance—John T. Whalley, M. A. McEchern and N. C. Meyers. Membership—L. R. Cottingham, J. W. Shaunnessy, A. F. Nichols, S. E. Willard, A. M. Brown, J. C. Jamerson and Fred A. Bailey, the last two being members by constitution. Following appointment of these committees the hall question was disposed of by motion to rent Gomez Hall for every Tuesday night, which prevailed. Then followed other discussions and short addresses. The club is now thoroughly organized for campaign work.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

Value of Education in Settling the Race Question in the South.

NEW YORK, March 14.—The difficulties of the race problem of the South, which are rarely realized by the people of the North, were set forth by Rev. Edger Gardner Murphy, of Montgomery, Ala., at the annual meeting of the Armstrong Association last night. Among the most interested listeners was Professor Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee Institute.

William J. Schieffelin, the president of the association, reported great progress in the Hampton Institute. The Hampton Institute, 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 a burden to the community. This was due, he said, to improved instruction, which had added more than \$200,000 a year to the salary list of the institution.

"The bad Southerner, the poor white trash," he said, "complain that they cannot get work owing to the competition of the educated colored men, and a man is running for Governor on a ticket calling 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 Armstrong Association, for the reason that upon the platform of helpfulness in relation to the problem of education of the colored man, the North and the South are united. North and South agree that the chief problem before the negro today is his practical efficiency in relation to his social opportunities. Northern interference is resented, for there is bitter feeling in the South, not only because of the reconstruction policy, but because the white master feels that the negro was the instrument of his humiliation."

Mr. Murphy objected to President Schieffelin's remarks about the "white trash," and said that the poor whites of the South had much to complain of. "He feels," he said, "that every dollar going to the negro is a dollar taken from the educational opportunities of his own children." Mr. Murphy advised the Northern people to invest in philanthropic undertakings 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 long needed—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 600 and a prosperous financial condition. In closing the meeting, Mr. Schieffelin said that for the first time the appropriation for the Indian teaching at Hampton was cut off on the ground that it was a sectarian institution. A motion was adopted authorizing the officers to write letters to Senators, who now have the bill in hand, to have the appropriation restored.

"Don't swap horses while you are crossing the stream!"

When there is illness in the family there is a stream to cross, then a tried and true remedy is needed; that is not the time to change a time-honored, thoroughly tested preparation for something new and untried. Stick to what you KNOW is good.

Scott's Emulsion is well known throughout the world, has stood the test of many years; it attacks imitators and substitutes only proclaim its superior merit. If you are losing flesh, are nervous and run down; if a cough has settled on your lungs, SCOTT'S Emulsion is what you need. If you have never taken it, ask any good doctor about it. At drug stores, etc.

Putting food into a diseased stomach is like putting money into a pocket with a hole. The money is lost. All its value goes for nothing. When the stomach is diseased, with the allied organs of digestion and nutrition, the food which is put into it is largely lost. The nutriment is not extracted from it. The body is weakened and the blood impoverished.

The pocket can be mended. That sterling medicine for the stomach and blood, Doctor Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, acts with peculiar promptness and power on the organs of digestion and nutrition. It is a positive cure for almost all disorders of these organs, and cures also such diseases of the heart, blood, liver and other organs, as have their cause in a weak or diseased condition of the stomach.

There is no alcohol or other intoxicant contained in "Golden Medical Discovery." Substitutions are imitations. Imitation money is worthless. So are imitations of Dr. Pierce's "Discovery." Get the genuine.

Mr. John L. Coughenour, of Greensboro, N. C., writes: "I had been doctoring for about a year and a half, being unable to work most of the time. The doctor said I had heart disease and indigestion. My appetite was unusually poor. I was weak and nervous, and my heart kept throbbing continually, and I was short of breath. Finally I wrote to you for advice. I did not think your diagnosis was right, but I ordered six bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery' and began its use. After using three bottles I began to improve slowly and soon went to work, and I have been working ever since."

Free. Doctor Pierce's Common Sense Medical Advice, 1000 pages, 70 illustrations, is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper-bound edition, or 31 stamps for the cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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EMPIRE LINE SEATTLE CAPE NOME Yukon River Ports. Steamer OHIO (3500 tons) has been released by the United States Government after nearly two years' service as a transport to the Philippines, and will sail for CAPE NOME on or about MAY 24, 1900.

WASHINGTON & ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. Steamer "CITY OF SEATTLE" will leave Seattle at 8 P. M. on Thursday, Feb. 22, and every 10 days thereafter, for Vancouver, British Columbia, Seattle, Alaska, and Seattle, Alaska.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE. O.R.&N. Union Depot, Sixth and J Streets.

TWO TRAINS DAILY FOR ALL POINTS EAST. "FAST MAIL AND PORTLAND - CHICAGO SPECIAL ROUTE." Leave for the East via Spokane daily at 3:45 P. M. Arrives at 8:30 A. M.

COLUMBIA RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. Steamer Hascall leaves Portland daily, except Sunday, at 8:00 P. M.; on Saturday at 10:00 P. M. Returning leaves Astoria daily, except Sunday, at 7:00 A. M.

WILLAMETTE RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND CORVALLIS, OR. Steamer Ruth, for Salem, Albany, Corvallis and Way Point, leaves Portland, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:00 A. M. Returning leaves Corvallis Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00 A. M.

YAMHILL RIVER ROUTE. PORTLAND AND DAYTON, OR. Steamer Elmore, for Dayton and way points, leaves Portland Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 A. M. Returning leaves Dayton for Portland and way points Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 A. M.

Snake River Route. HIPARIA, WASH. AND LEWISTON, IDAHO. Steamer Frank E. Lester leaves Lewiston daily at 1:20 A. M. Arriving at Lewiston at 12 o'clock noon. Returning, the Spokane leaves Lewiston daily at 9:30 A. M. Arriving at Hiparia same evening.

New Steamship Line to the Orient. CHINA AND JAPAN, FROM PORTLAND. In connection with the OREGONIAN RAILROAD & NAVIGATION CO. Schedule, 1900 subject to change without notice.

THE FASTEST AND MOST DIRECT LINE TO THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. IS THE UNION PACIFIC OVERLAND ROUTE. WORLD'S PICTORIAL LINE.

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FOR CAPE NOME. The Magnificent Trans-Pacific Passenger Steamship TACOMA. Registered tonnage, 211 tons; capacity, 600 tons; passenger accommodations, 100 first class, 500 second class.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE. EAST VIA SOUTH. SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY.

Table with columns: Leave, Depot, Fifth and J Streets, Arrive. Includes routes to OVERLAND EXPRESS TRAINS, ASTORIA, and PORTLAND.

YAMHILL DIVISION. Passenger Depot, foot of Jefferson Street. Leave for Oregon daily at 7:20, 9:40 A. M.; 12:30, 1:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:00, 11:15 P. M.

NORTHERN PACIFIC. YELLOWSTONE PARK ROUTE. THE DINING CAR ROUTE FROM PORTLAND TO THE EAST.

Table with columns: Leave, Depot, Fifth and J Streets, Arrive. Includes routes to Tacoma, Seattle, Olympia, Spokane, and other points.

A. D. CHARLTON. Assistant General Passenger Agent, 255 Morrison St., Cor. Third, Portland, Oregon.

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THE GREAT NORTHERN. Ticket Office: 122 Third St., Phone 089. LEAVE: The Flyer, daily to and from St. Paul, Minn., and all points East.

WHITE COLLAR LINE. COLUMBIA RIVER & PUGET SOUND NAVIGATION PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. BAILEY GATHEBY (Albermarle dock) leaves Portland daily except Monday at 7 o'clock, except Sunday, Oregon night at 7 o'clock, except Sunday.