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EPIGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE FOR
THE REIGNS OF VESPASIAN AND
TITUS**

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Vespasian and Titus by Homer Curtis Newton

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HOMER CURTIS NEWTON

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PREFACE.

The study of inscriptions and the evidence gathered from these monuments of past ages are greatly changing our histories of ancient Greece and Rome. By means of them disputed points are settled with certainty, dates are fixed, and innumerable facts are brought to light that could never have been learned from our extant literary sources.

Hence it is that no historian of the present day can afford to neglect the science of epigraphy. This is true for any period from the late republic down to the fourth century of the empire, but it is especially true for the period of the Flavian emperors. Students of Roman history have suffered an irreparable loss from the fact that the *Histories* of Tacitus have survived only in a fragmentary form, breaking off just after the accession of Vespasian. Through this misfortune we are confined almost solely to the meagre outlines of Suetonius and Dio Cassius for the facts of the reigns of Vespasian and Titus.

Under these circumstances the knowledge gained from the inscriptions of this period becomes invaluable. In this investigation, it is the aim to gather this material, to arrange it in convenient order for historical study, and to append such comments and cross references as may be of value in this connection. As far as I know, nothing of this nature has previously been undertaken. No striking results are expected; but if something can be added to the facts gained from the histories, in the nature of not unimportant details and greater accuracy in dates, the work will, it is hoped, be found to be not without its justification.

No attempt has been made to differentiate absolutely the reigns of Vespasian and Titus,—that is, there has been no sharp division of the work on this point. Such a division would be practically impossible, and would certainly be entirely unnecessary. Titus

was made joint emperor, with powers almost equal to those of his father, early in the latter's reign, while his own reign after the death of Vespasian was so short that there is no real break discernible. Hence it has been deemed better to make the necessary distinctions under each of the separate divisions of the work.

Such a task as this has been rendered possible by the publication of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, which has formed the basis of the work. Other collections, in particular those of Orelli-Henzen, Wilmanns, Dessau, and the collections of Greek inscriptions, have been employed. While it has been the aim to acknowledge a debt wherever this was clearly marked, a general indebtedness is here acknowledged to the notes of these collections, as well as to the various epigraphical, historical, and institutional works.

The attempt has been made to make the collection of inscriptions as complete as possible, but there are undoubtedly some omissions.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Professor Fred B. R. Hellems, of the University of Colorado, at whose suggestion this work was undertaken, and to Assistant Professor Charles L. Durham, of Cornell University, for reading of both manuscript and proof, and for valuable criticisms and suggestions.

Ithaca, N. Y., October 1, 1901.

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