

**ANCIENT CLASSICS FOR
ENGLISH READERS.
CATULLUS, TIBULLUS,
AND PROPERTIUS**

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Ancient classics for English readers. Catullus, Tibullus, and Propertius by James Davies

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JAMES DAVIES

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CATULLUS, TIBULLUS,
AND PROPERTIUS**

830 -

Ancient Classics for English Readers

EDITED BY THE

REV. W. LUCAS COLLINS, M.A.

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CATULLUS, TIBULLUS,

AND

PROPERTIUS

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CATULLUS, TIBULLUS,
AND
PROPERTIUS

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PREFACE.

IN the following chapters special acknowledgment is due to Mr Theodore Martin for numberless extracts from his admirable and now perfected version of Catullus; and an almost equal debt has been incurred to Dr James Cranstoun by loans on his Tibullus and Propertius, both of them scholarly performances, and at present the most adequate English versions of those poets in a complete form. Through the kindness of friends, and the publicity of reviews, some variety has been imparted to the translations—*e.g.*, in poems of Catullus rendered by Mr R. Doddridge Blackmore, the author of 'Lorna Doone;' in the "Nuptials of Peleus and Thetis," a portion of which has been given in a free translation by the Rev. A. C. Auchmuty; and in pieces of Catullus and Propertius, borrowed from Hummel and Brodrigg's 'Lays from Latin Lyres' (1876: Longmans); and from the late Sir Edmund Head's 'Ballads and

Poems' (Smith & Elder: 1868), in which the translations of Propertius are sadly too few. In the course of the work the writer has found that it is perfectly vain to expect the reader to take kindly to the versions of Professor Robinson Ellis; but he may tolerate the few that are given for their exact literality and evident scholarship. Mr Paley's versions, where they have been used, will be found to combine poetic feeling with these merits. It has seemed well to designate all the versions of the three poets for which the author of the volume is himself responsible with the letter "D.;" and he desires to plead for these not so much a claim of superiority to other versions, as a scruple to avail himself of the honey of other bees, without samples and contributions from his own hive. There is room for even more workers in this special field of translation; and the volume will have done good if it inspires a friendly rivalry in rendering three specially delightful poets into congenial English.

J. D.

MOOR COURT, *September 1, 1876.*

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