

**THE HABITS, CUSTOMS,  
AND ANTIQUITIES OF  
THE ROMANS**

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The Habits, Customs, and Antiquities of the Romans by W. Andrew

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**W. ANDREW**

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DEDICATION.



TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE, LORD HATHERTON,

&c. &c.

MY LORD,

By your very kind permission, I do myself the honour to dedicate to your Lordship, "The Habits, Customs, and Antiquities of the Romans."

I sought your Lordship's patronage for my work, firstly, because I knew the great value it would place upon it:—secondly, I conceived your Lordship would not be indifferent to a publication, small, and insignificant, as it might appear, whose object, was to create a spirit of inquiry, and a veneration for those relics of a former age, it should be our pleasure, with moral advantage, to reflect upon.

The exceedingly kind way, in which your Lordship answered my request, leads me to suppose, that you feel much interest in those Antiquities of the Romans, in which this country, as well as your Lordship's estates abound.

Under this supposition, and with the hope, that others may feel equally interested, in the preservation of such remains, as may, from time to time, be brought to light; I have the ambition, to imagine my Lord, that the little treatise, you have so kindly patronized, will not only add pleasure, to the study of History, but be the means likewise, of affording considerable information, to that class of people, whose occupations in life, preclude the possibility of lengthened study, and, whose means are inadequate, to obtain information, at a more costly price.

Thankful to your Lordship, for this, and other, favours,

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

With profound respect,

Your Lordship's most obliged,

and grateful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Elmer Green,  
31st July, 1848.

## PREFACE.

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Some portion of the following pages, formed the subject of a Lecture, delivered before the members of a "Mental Improvement Society," in the County of Stafford, and with some additions they are now published, at their request.

Considering the limited knowledge which is extant, respecting our forefathers,—the trifling regard which is paid to the discovery of antiquities,—and the difficulty which the humbler classes of society experience, in their inability to purchase expensive works; the author has the vanity to suppose, that his efforts will at least remove some of these barriers towards their amusement, and that in the conciseness of his work, as well as from its reasonable charge, he is induced to hope, that many will peruse its contents.

It has been said, that "there is but one step, from the sublime to the ridiculous;" and bearing this in mind, the author has carefully endeavoured to steer a medium course, pointing, the morals in his History, towards a religious tendency, as preferable to the high colours of either fiction, or romance.

By the study of History, and past ages,—by reflecting on the ivy-grown tower,—the desolated abbey,—or, the still, exhaustless beauty of our cathedrals, and churches;—we stimulate the mind to inquiry, and although gloomy, and unpalatable, such reflections may be, to the worldly-minded.

there are those, to whom the study we conceive, will form a delightful theme; with this, the sad, and the serious, at least will coincide, as a *grave* subject, is the kindest solace for a weary heart!

For certain historical facts, contained in the work, advantage has been derived from both ancient, and modern writers; and for copies of some figural embellishments, which are interspersed, kind acknowledgments are due, to Mr. Knight, of Fleet Street.

Having stated the reasons for publishing;—the author leaves his work to the stream of time, and the kind reception, of a discerning public.



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Whether we survey the lives and characters of the Romans—their habits, customs, and antiquities—as a source of amusement, a matter of reverence, or as a profitable example to our own lives, they are equally deserving our most scrutinizing attention.

As a source of amusement, we look upon them as upon a mirror of fine reflective power, which to our curiosity raises up the virtues of the past, and at a view exhibits, as by magic, those quicksands of crime, and error, it should be our duty to shun in the future.

As a matter of reverence, we look on the Roman, as the son in filial duty should look upon his father: the Roman taught us warfare and self defence; what is better, too, he taught us agriculture; nay, indeed, every science those early days could inculcate.

The knowledge which Egypt had imparted to Greece, and Greece to Rome, had now in turn been imparted to us; we had fallen, as if by heirship, upon a rich mine, the careful working of which, in a few centuries, was to make us an envied and an extraordinary nation: for our early knowledge, therefore, we reverence the Roman: but for the glorious halo of honor, freedom, and virtue which surrounds our happy Isle, we bow in submissive thankfulness to the Creator.

We hold the Roman as an example to our own lives, because we see the rocks on which he foundered: and profiting by the lessons painful experience has long since taught that once most honoured nation, we shall view her habits, customs, and antiquities, with all the favour to which fallen greatness is entitled.

In prosecution of our subject we shall observe—

I. THE CAUSE OF CÆSAR'S INVASION, AND ITS EFFECTS.

II. THE HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

III. THE CHARACTERS, COINS, AND MILITARY STATIONS, OF THE ROMANS.

IV. THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY, AND THE FALL OF ROME.

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I. CÆSAR'S INVASION.—Various motives have been ascribed to Julius Cæsar for his invasion of Britain: amongst the foremost is the circumstance of our shores possessing pearls. It is more probable, however, that the love of conquest prompted the design, or a curiosity to view the interior of a nation till then supposed to form a distinct and insulated world.

On the 26th of August, fifty-four years before the coming of Christ, Julius Cæsar, with two legions of Infantry,—ten thousand men,—which he had collected together between Calais and Cologne, crossed the English Channel, and on a flat beach, between Walmer Castle and Sandwich in Kent, effected a landing.

The Britons were not surprised by the visit of Cæsar, for, with the more civilized portions of the inhabitants dwelling along the sea coasts, there had long been communication; hostages had been sent to Gaul,—modern France,—then under the dominion of Rome, to avert the threatened invasion: but submission was useless, and the Emperor's will was not in this manner to be turned aside.

From the narrative of Suetonius,\* it appears that Cæsar would not risk the Roman discipline in a battle against the British courage, on a coast so girt with natural defences, and in consequence more

\* Who presided over Britain for twenty years, and was afterwards made Consul.