SCENES FROM PLAUTUS. FOR THE HIGHER FORMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Scenes from Plautus. For the Higher Forms in Public Schools by W. Powell James

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W. POWELL JAMES

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SCENES FROM PLAUTUS.

Mith Introductions and Short Botes.

FOR THE HIGHER FORMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY

W. POWELL JAMES, M.A., Oxon.



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PREFACE.

The object of this little book is to render the abundant stores of idiomatic Latin contained in Plautus more accessible for teaching purposes. A selection has been made which will be found free from the difficulties and objections which beset entire plays. Though from its plan it fails to do justice to the Roman dramatist's linguistic boldness and variety, it gives some idea of his fresh, racy, vigorous style, of his comic power and lively dialogue. It is hoped that such a work will be of service in giving greater insight into Latin idioms, and, consequently, more freedom in Latin Prose.

With regard to spelling and archaisms a compromise has been made; old forms have not been retained for their own sake, but appear occasionally for metrical or grammatical reasons. The compiler is afraid that this middle course will satisfy no one: he has been mainly guided by a consideration of the needs of those for whom it is written. This book will thus be a stepping-stone to the study of a critical edition.

The texts used have been that of Brix for the Menschmi, of Lorenz for the Mostellaria, and of Fleckeisen for the rest.

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SCENES FROM PLAUTUS.

I. TRINUMMUS.

ACT IV. SCENE 2.

CHARMIDES has just landed from a long trading voyage undertaken to repair his fortune shattered through the extravagance of his son Lesbonicus. During his absence his daughter is asked in marriage, but Lesbonicus declines the match, as he cannot provide her with a fitting dowry. But the father had left behind him a secret store of 3,000 gold pieces in charge of an old friend Callioles. This Callioles with one of his cronies hits upon a plan of relieving Lesbonicus in his difficulty. They hire a needy adventurer, and employ him to convey a thousand gold pieces to the young