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Addresses and Essays by Morris H. Morgan

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MORRIS H. MORGAN

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BY

MORRIS H. MORGAN





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PREFATORY NOTE

THE contents of this volume, with the exception of the first address, have already appeared in print at intervals during the past seventeen years in the different periodicals which are cited under each title. Consequently they do not form a real unity, for they are sometimes merely the natural outcome of occasions, sometimes the result of more continuous thought bestowed upon a single subject. They are not chronologically arranged. Two addresses dealing with classical study in general are placed first; then something in lighter vein; then certain detached notes followed by longer studies in a Latin author on whom much of my time has been spent for several years; and, finally, I have ventured to add three copies of occasional verse.

CAMBRIDGE, June 28, 1909.

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ADDRESSES AND ESSAYS

THE STUDENT OF THE CLASSICS¹

IN January, 1644, Mr. John Evelyn, an English gentleman who was then on the grand tour of the continent, visited the University of Paris, and afterwards made the following entry in his now famous Diary: 'We found a grave Doctor in his chaire, with a multitude of auditors, who all write as he dictates; and this they call a Course.'

It is obvious that worthy Mr. Evelyn, accustomed to Oxford methods, looked with some suspicion upon this manner of imparting instruction, yet we all know that it is far more prevalent to-day than it was two hundred and sixty years ago, and that it is not confined to the continent of Europe. If the shade of Evelyn ever visits these shores, he finds it flourishing—some might say, 'like a green bay tree'—not far from the place where I am speaking. It is a comfortable method—comfortable for the professor, who can pour forth his accumulated floods of learning undisturbed by the feeling that it is his duty to find out whether his hearers have prepared themselves to appreciate what he is saying,—uninterrupted, also, at least in our larger lecture courses, by questioning from

¹ An address before the Harvard Classical Club, March 2, 1905.

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