

**THE LETTERS OF CICERO TO  
ATTICUS. BOOK I. WITH  
NOTES AND AN EASSY ON THE  
CHARACTER OF THE AUTHOR**

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The Letters of Cicero to Atticus. Book I. With Notes and an Essay on the Character of the Author  
by Alfred Pretor

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LETTERS OF CICERO  
TO ATTICUS.

BOOK I.  
WITH NOTES AND AN ESSAY ON THE CHARACTER  
OF THE AUTHOR.

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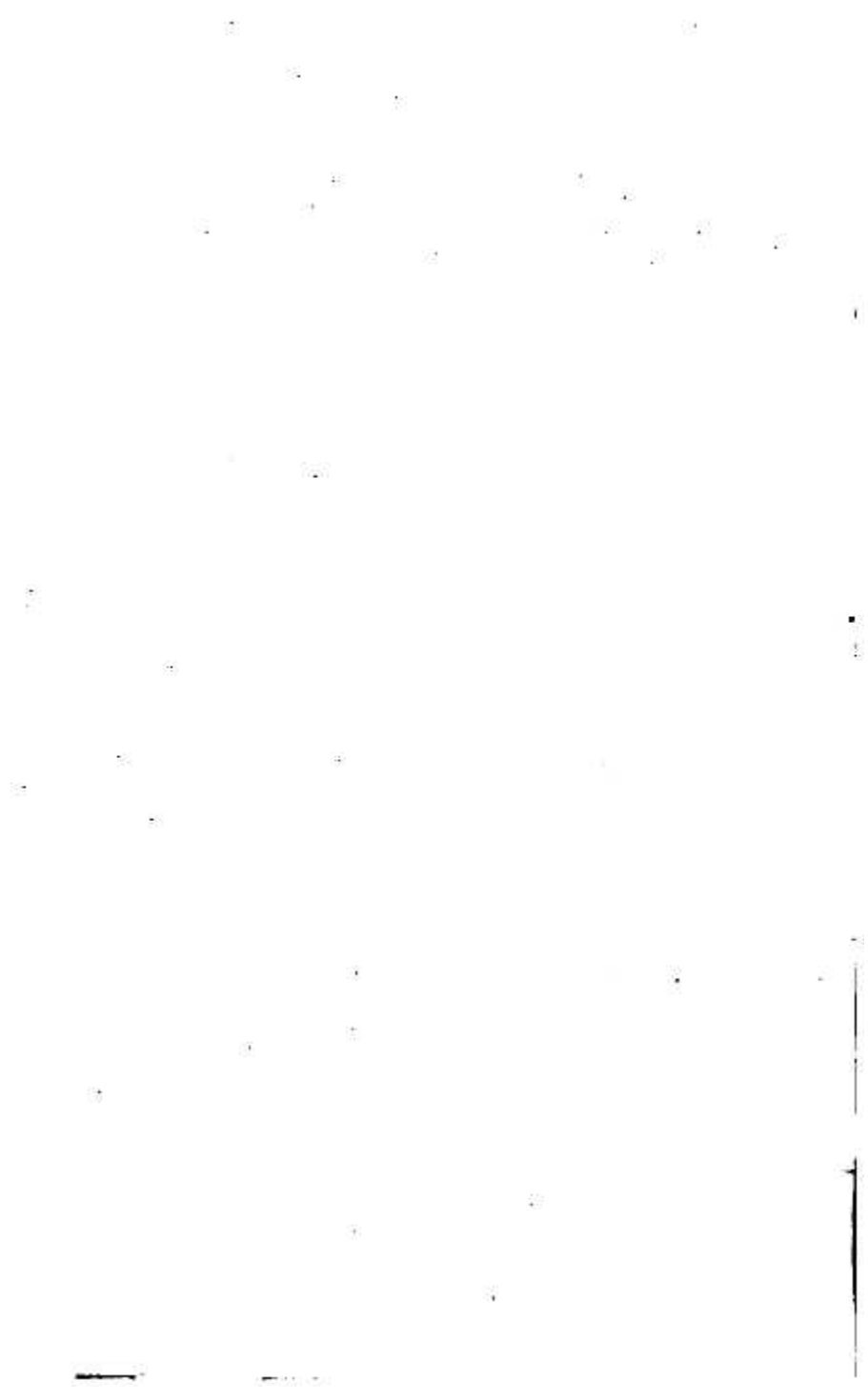


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1873.

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## P R E F A C E.

THE following text has been formed by a careful comparison of the editions of Schütz, Ernesti, Klotz, Nobbe and Boot. In some of the more important letters I am indebted likewise to Matthiae and the more recent edition of Mr Watson. In respect to the notes, if in any case I have borrowed without an acknowledgment, I have done so only when it was impossible to verify the actual author from the many who had adopted his results at second-hand. For the arrangement of the letters I should much have preferred the chronological order of Schütz, but, though indispensable if the edition had been a complete one, it would have been of little real advantage in editing a fragment like the present.

My best thanks are due to Mr W. W. Radcliffe, Fellow of King's College, for his kindness in undertaking to revise the sheets for the Press.

One word in conclusion on the vexed question of translations. If a schoolboy is sufficiently advanced to be reading Cicero's Letters, he is past the stage at which his scholarship will be injured by a bad translation, while his style may gain much from a good one. Accordingly for the amount of translation contained in the notes I offer no apology: for its shortcomings as a translation, many.

It is also my hope that the more continuous passages may be found available for teaching Latin Prose by the only sure method, that of retranslation.

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE,

*January, 1873.*

## ON THE CHARACTER OF CICERO.

A biography of Cicero is no desideratum, when such authorities on the subject as Mommsen, Merivale and Forsyth are accessible to every schoolboy; but on the question of his character, there seems as little prospect as ever of a unanimous verdict, and, while this is so, an editor can scarcely do otherwise than range himself with one or other of the two contending parties. My own opinion, formed at school under circumstances and teaching the least likely to foster it, that Cicero's character is a weak and a selfish one, has only been confirmed by a more careful study of his works: nor can I read the panegyrics which have been lavished upon him without a real feeling of surprise that such scanty materials should have been found sufficient for the construction of this gigantic idol. In their judgment of this one man, his critics have tacitly ignored the ordinary canons by which men measure goodness, justice and the like, and, in their desire to do him honour, have invented an arbitrary interpretation for the most negative and commonplace characteristics. Words and actions the most trivial and the most unfrequent are thrown out in strong relief, and quoted triumphantly in support of his character;