

**ALLITTERATIO LATINA; OR, ALLITERATION IN
LATIN VERSE REDUCED TO RULE, WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CATULLUS, HORACE,
JUVENAL, LUCAN, LUCRETIUS, MARTIAL,
OVID, PERSIUS, PHAEDRUS, PRAEPEIA,
PROPERTIUS, STATIUS, TIBULLUS, AND VIRGIL**

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Allitteratio latina; or, Alliteration in Latin verse reduced to rule, with special reference to Catullus, Horace, Juvenal, Lucan, Lucretius, Martial, Ovid, Persius, Phaedrus, Priapeia, Propertius, Statius, Tibullus, and Virgil by Walter J. Evans

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WALTER J. EVANS

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OR

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WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO

CATULLUS, HORACE, JUVENAL, LUCAN, LUCRETIUS,
MARTIAL, OVID, PERSIUS, PHAEDRUS, PRIAPEIA,
PROPERTIUS, STATIUS, TIBULLUS, AND VIRGIL

BY

WALTER J. EVANS, M.A.

PRINCIPAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, CARMARTHEN,
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Fronte exile negotium
et dignum pueris putes:
adgressis labor arduus.

Ter. Maur. 63-5.

LONDON

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE

14 HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C. 2

1921

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E8
1921
MAIN

TO
THE MEMORY OF
MY EARLIEST INSTRUCTOR IN LATIN,
MY FATHER,
AND TO THAT OF
MY BRAVE, SELF-SACRIFICING, DEVOTED MOTHER,
WHO SURVIVED HIM
NEARLY HALF A CENTURY
(1864-1910)

498281

PREFACE

ABOUT twelve years ago I rose from a perusal of Lombroso's *Man of Genius* with the knowledge that a tendency to alliteration in verse and prose was a well-marked feature of insanity in Italy; and in some of the illustrations quoted from the writings of French mattoids I thought I saw a general resemblance to what is known in Welsh poetry as *cynghanedd* :

*La nomade a mis la madonne
A la paterne de Pétronne
Quand le grand Dacier était diacre
Le caffier cultivé du fiacre.*

To me who had not given much attention to the complicated system inherited by my countrymen the coincidence appeared highly amusing; and, when opportunity offered, I could not help rallying my friends among the bards on their affinity to the lunatics of the South. None of them seemed much hurt, and one of them took my fun in such good part that when I was elected Dean of Divinity in the University of Wales he addressed some complimentary verses to me in a local journal. Needless to say, the characteristic alliteration was there in force, and I examined it with uncommon interest. It so happened that I was reading Persius at the time, and when I came upon the line (iv. 33)

ac si unctus cesses et figas in cute solem

it occurred to me to wonder why the poet had chosen that peculiar ending, and how such writing could have commanded the popularity