

THE FABLES OF AVIANUS

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The Fables of Avianus by Flavius Avianus & Robinson Ellis

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FLAVIUS AVIANUS & ROBINSON ELLIS

**THE FABLES
OF AVIANUS**

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THE FABLES OF AVIANUS

ELLIS

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THE
FABLES OF AVIANUS

605-40.

EDITED, WITH

*PROLEGOMENA, CRITICAL APPARATUS, COMMENTARY
EXCURSUS, AND INDEX*

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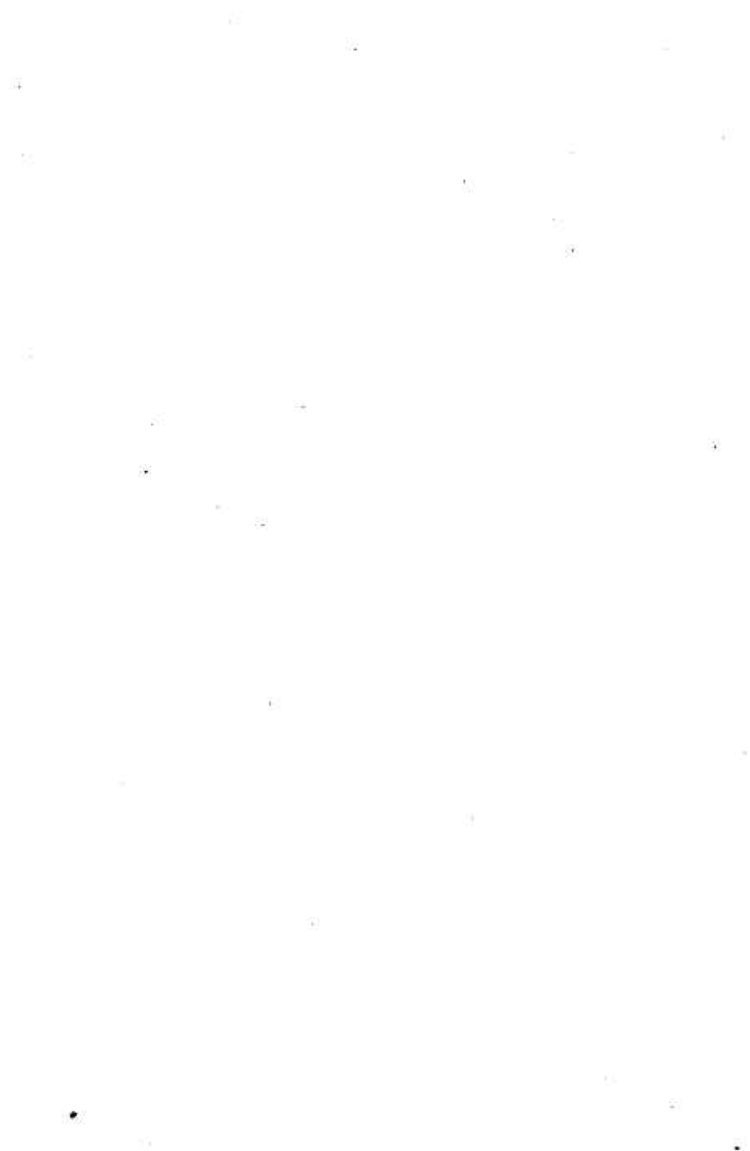
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1887

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DEDICATED TO
WILLIAM GUNION RUTHERFORD
EDITOR OF BABRIUS

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PREFACE.

THE publication in 1883 of Mr. Rutherford's *Babrius* determined the present edition of *Avianus*. The Elegiac version, if not equal to its Greek original, is sufficiently good as a specimen of Latin in the fourth and fifth centuries A. D. to deserve a revived study¹. For me the work had a special attraction. Not only is it contained in good and early MSS, but in many of these MSS it follows or precedes the Elegies of Maximianus, which had engaged my attention as far back as 1878 (when I collated the Eton MS of Maximianus), and on which I have since written two articles printed in the *American Journal of Philology* (vol. v. 1-15, 145-163). As is there observed, the two works, the Fables of Avianus and the Elegies of Maximianus, seem to have been studied together in the Middle Age. To both of them I feel grateful for leading me for a time away from the beaten paths of philology to the comparatively neglected literature of the Decline, to the History of Ammianus Marcellinus, the Epistles of Apollinaris Sidonius, the poems of Ausonius, Claudian, Rutilius Namatianus, as well as of Prudentius and Orientius: in a word to that cycle of writers to whom Prof. E. A. Freeman has recently called (and not, I trust, vainly) our attention. It is indeed impossible to believe that an Age of Research like ours will content itself with the amount of illustration which these authors have received from the editors of the past. No adequate edition of Ammianus exists; Savaron's edition of Sidonius, published in 1599, is still the only one which can be recommended. New commentaries on Symmachus, Ausonius, Claudian, Rutilius, are loudly called for, all the more that the Germans, while exhausting their energies in publishing new texts, are almost indifferent to the equally important task of comment and elucidation.

On Avianus the only existing Commentary is that of Cannegieter, published in 1731. Judged by modern standards, Cannegieter performed his task only tolerably well. His notes are cumbrous and loaded with useless citations, as well as unnecessary or improbable con-

¹ Lachmann's critical editions of *Babrius* and *Avianus* appeared in 1845.