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VIII. THE REIGN
OF ANTONINUS PIUS**

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THE
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HISTORY

PREFACE.

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It is a noteworthy fact that hitherto no attempt has been made to produce an exhaustive chronological sketch of the reign of Antoninus Pius. Merivale¹ seems to have given up all idea either of arranging the events of this reign in chronological sequence or of including any detailed information in his work. Schiller² devotes a few pages to the juxtaposition of details without any attempt at arrangement or pretence to exhaustive treatment; while Lacour-Gayet³ has composed an interminable series of essays on various phases of the life and times of Antoninus Pius, building up his theories on very slender foundations and not attempting to give a chronological sketch of the whole reign.

¹ Merivale. *History of the Roman Empire.*
² Schiller. *Geschichte der römischen Kaiserzeit.*
³ Lacour-Gayet. *Antonin le Pieux et son temps.*

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This essay, which by permission of the examiners for the Thirlwall Prize has been corrected in a few places before being printed, aims at giving a chronological sketch of Antoninus Pius's reign together with a discussion of the relations of the Emperor with various individuals and bodies in the Roman state. His relations with religious bodies I have discussed at considerable length and I fear that the chapter dealing with this point may be out of proportion to the rest of the essay. But it seemed to me impossible to clearly state Pius's position with regard to Christianity without first giving a fairly exhaustive sketch of the circumstances which led up to that position.

I have placed at the commencement of my essay a list of the books to which reference has been made in the following pages, and of the abbreviations which I have used. In neither case is the list quite complete; but I have referred only incidentally to those books which I have not included in the list, while the abbreviations not included will explain themselves readily.

Among the modern writers to whom I am more especially indebted may be mentioned *Eckhel* and *Cohen* for their most valuable works on the coins of the period; *Waddington* for his discussion of exact

dates connected with the life of Aristides; *Willems* and in a less degree *Mudvig* and *Mommsen* for their information on constitutional points; and *Ramsay*, *Hardy* and *Wiltsch* for their writings on the position and extent of Christianity under the Roman Emperors.

My thanks are due to Mr P. Giles of this college, who has most kindly undertaken the labour of correcting the proofs of this essay. I am also indebted to him for the many valuable suggestions with which he has from time to time assisted me.

E. E. BRYANT.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

August 8, 1895.