

**THE SONGS OF ALCAEUS;  
MEMOIR AND TEXT  
WITH LITERAL AND VERSE  
TRANSLATIONS AND NOTES**

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The Songs of Alcaeus; Memoir and Text with Literal and Verse Translations and Notes by  
James S. Easby-Smith

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**JAMES S. EASBY-SMITH**

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**THE SONGS OF ALCAEUS**

THE SONGS OF  
ALCAEUS  
MEMOIR AND TEXT WITH  
LITERAL AND VERSE TRANSLATIONS AND NOTES

BY  
JAMES S. EASBY-SMITH

(M. A., GEORGETOWN)

AUTHOR OF "THE SONGS OF SAPPHO," ETC.



WASHINGTON  
W. H. LOWDERMILK AND COMPANY  
M C M I

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TO THE MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH SEBASTIAN ROGERS  
BORN 18TH MARCH 1870  
DIED 20TH AUGUST 1898

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## PREFACE

IN this work I have attempted what has not yet been done for Alcaeus, and what Mr. Wharton so ably did for Sappho; that is, to give him in the entirety of his remains to English readers, whether they understand Greek or not, and at the same time to give to the student an accurate text in a convenient form. Though much has been written of him in connection with the other Greek lyrists by English, German, and other scholars, the notes and occasional translations are in Latin, German, or other tongue; and practically the only form in which he is at all available to the English student is Professor Farnell's excellent work on the Greek Lyric Poets; though Professor Herbert Weir Smyth, of Bryn Mawr, has in press a work on the Greek Lyrists. Even in Professor Farnell's work the remarks on Alcaeus are necessarily limited, and while the notes are in English, there are no translations; and the work is intended for the

## PREFACE

student alone, being of little value to the general reader. It is true that there have been published more or less extended criticisms of Alcaeus, and occasional translations of some of the fragments, in works upon the Greek Lyric Poets in general, but these have never been collected.

I have given here a life of Alcaeus, the longer fragments with verse translations, the shorter fragments with prose translations, notes upon the fragments, and a bibliography.

In the Life, while narrating everything concerning him that could be gathered from ancient authors and deduced from his writings, I have confined myself to that only which is well authenticated, and have refrained from relating probabilities or possibilities as facts. I have necessarily included some remarks upon his times, upon his contemporaries, upon the Aeolic or Lesbian school of poetry, upon Horace and his debt to Alcaeus, and upon Catullus; and also some critical notes upon his poetry.

In the text I have closely followed Bergk, with a few exceptions mentioned in the notes, where I have followed Hartung, Farnell, or Hoffmann, and have included every fragment which can properly be ascribed to Alcaeus, omitting only single words and broken sentences incapable of restoration or translation,