

HORACE'S LIFE AND CHARACTER

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Horace's Life and Character by R. M. Hovenden

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R. M. HOVENDEN

**HORACE'S LIFE
AND CHARACTER**

SECOND SUPPLEMENT.

H.

S.

I.

Q. 1. 8. 9. 25. 3

1913
S. B. A.

In this second Supplement the Satires and Epistles of Horace are completed, with the exception of the second Satire of the first Book and one or two objectionable passages elsewhere.

As his little work is intended

Ingeniis oculisque legi manibusque teneri. (Epp. 1. 19. l. 34)

the Translator hopes that his critics will not object to, but will rather applaud the omissions referred to above.

The book is not a 'crib' or 'construe' which supersedes the study of grammatical constructions, but may be useful in giving younger students an interest in Horace's general scope and meaning, before they proceed to the drier work of analysing his grammar.

The notes are generally derived from the best authorities the translator has at hand, and which are not always within the reach of those for whose assistance they are selected.

FIRST BOOK OF SATIRES.

VII.

PERSIUS AND RUPILIUS REX.

How hybrid Persius parried and return'd
The spite and rancour of Rupilius Rex
Is common talk in drug and shaving shops.
This Persius, trading at Clazomenæ,
Had contracts and sharp suits at law with Rex. 5
A sturdy man, in venom Rex's match;
Loud, confident, so glib of tongue withal
That Barrus and Sisenna he outstript

1 Hybrid Persius. Because he was a Greek, admitted to Roman citizenship: or, because he was the son by a foreign father of a Roman mother.

8 *Equis præcurreret albis*, *i.e.* far outstrip. The expression is proverbial. So, in Plautus, *Asinaria*, II. 2. 12-13,

Nam si huic occasione tempus sese subterdixerit,
Nunquam ædepol quadrigis albis indipiscet postea.

Lambinus, quoting this passage from memory, as I suppose, has not improved it; and Maclean, by an unusual carelessness in transcription, has marred the cadence of the former line.

With four white steeds.

They could not come to terms:—

For rivals, as in battle so in law, 10
 Are stubborn in proportion to their strength.
 In Hector and Achilles this appear'd,
 Since death alone could terminate their feud,
 Because in either valour was supreme.
 If strife arise between two faineants, 15
 Or strong and weak like Diomede of Greece
 And Lycian Glaucus, let the weak give way
 And make amends.—When Prætor Brutus held
 Rich Asia, banish'd Rex and Persius met,
 Well pair'd as Bithus was with Bacchius, 20
 And into court they came, a sight to see.

16 Ut Diomedi cum Lycio Glauco. How can Glaucus be called Lycian by Homer and Horace, seeing that he was of Corinthian extraction? He was the son of Hippolochus, the son of Bellerophon, and grandson of Sisyphus. Bellerophon married Anticlea, the daughter of Iobates, king of Lycia, and had of her a son, Hippolochus, who was father of Glaucus. Bellerophon succeeded his father-in-law in the kingdom of Lycia, and Glaucus commanded the Lycians in the Trojan war. LAMBINUS.

18 Glaucus yielded to Diomede his golden arms in exchange for Diomede's, which were of brass. *Vet. Schol.*

20 Two celebrated gladiators, who, after having killed many antagonists, finally killed each other.

Persius show'd cause; the whole assembly laugh'd;
 He greatly lauded Brutus and the staff;
 Call'd him the sun of Asia and his friends
 Benignant stars; excepting Rex alone, 25
 That little dog-star, bane of husbandmen;
 And on he thunder'd like a wintry flood
 In steep ravine where seldom comes the axe.
 Next the Prænestine:—hurling back abuse
 Cull'd from the vineyard when the vine-dresser, 30
 Stung by a passing taunt, rails at the man
 Who from afar still—Cuckoo, Cuckoo—sings.
 Then Persius, undismay'd by Latian wit,
 Foul as it was, cried: Brutus, by the Gods
 I pray you, being adept in regicide, 35
 Complete your work and make an end of Rex.

30 *Expressa arbusto = ex pectore tracta*, according to Lambinus, Cruquius and his Old Commentator. I do not see why; although Facciolati endorses their notes. This of Gesner, a little hazy, perhaps, seems nearer the mark: *Nempe arbusto, i.e. putatori (qui hic vindemiator vocatur improprie) exprimit convicia viator quem cuculum appellat: non quasi arbustum pro putatore s. arboratore dicatur; sed quia lamen ex arbusto veniunt.*

31 *Cuculum*. It was accounted a disgrace and reproach for a vine-dresser to be overtaken by that bird while his pruning was unfinished.

PLINY, XXVIII. 16, notante CRUQUIO.

VIII.

PRIAPUS AND THE WITCHES.

I WAS that fig-tree stump, unprofitable,
 On which the carpenter toss'd : Stool or God :
 And down it came, Priapus. Here I squat,
 Terror of birds and robbers ; my right hand
 And the red staff I carry on my thigh 5
 Frighten the thieves, and high above my head
 Whistles a reed to scare the noisome birds,
 Lest in the new-made garden they should lodge.
 Hither, before my time, from abject lairs
 Corpses of slaves by fellow-slaves were borne 10

3 The images of Priapus were of the coarsest materials and workmanship. Lambinus quotes the inscription on one of them, by an anonymous author :—
*Insulsissima quid rides puella? Non me Praxiteles, Scopasve fecit : Nec sum
 Phidiacæ manu politus : Sed lignum rude villicus dolavit : Et dixit mihi, tu
 Priapus esto.*

7 I suppose that this reed was so fashioned that the wind whistled through it : for how could a reed which emitted no sound frighten the birds? B.

GESNER'S *Horace*.

To trenches, shared by coarse Pantolabus
 And spendthrift Nomentanus. Columns mark'd :—
 Frontage a thousand feet, three hundred deep ;
 The heir's rights do not touch the monument.—
 Now, men can dwell on healthy Esquiline 15
 And pace a sunny terrace, where of yore
 White bones cropp'd up, offending every sense.
 I, who can deal with thieves and savage beasts
 Who haunt the place, am to my wits' end brought
 By witches, with their charms and potions brew'd 20
 For human hearts : these I can neither quell,
 Nor hinder, when the fair orb of the moon
 Rises, from gathering bones and noxious herbs.
 Myself have heard Canidia, bare of foot,
 Unkempt, her black skirt kilted, shriek and wail 25
 With aged Sagana. How deadly pale
 They shew'd ! Yet with their nails they scoop'd the earth

11 Compare *S. II. i. l. 21*, where 'fool' is used, in the Shakspearian sense, for 'clown' or 'buffoon.'

14 Horace writes as if there were a stone set up on some part of the boundary of this burial-ground, with the inscription usual on private monuments: *Hoc monumentum heredes non sequitur* : which is obviously only a satire. The words could only apply to a private place of burial. MACLEANE.