

**THE SEVEN KINGS OF ROME, A STORY
ABRIDGED FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF
LIVY, WITH GRAMMATICAL NOTES
AND VOCABULARIES FOR THE USE OF
BEGINNERS**

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PREFACE.

My aim in the following pages has been to supply the beginner of Latin with an easy Construing-book, which may at the same time be made a vehicle for instructing him in the rules of grammar and principles of composition. For this purpose I have selected the First Book of Livy, because I did not know where else to find such simplicity and elegance of style united to so interesting a narrative. Livy's History is rarely set before beginners, both on account of its great bulk, and of the various difficulties which it contains. The first of these objections I have obviated by publishing separately a small portion only: the latter, by excluding from this portion most of the difficult passages. I trust that by so doing I have not exposed it on the other hand to the objection which is usually brought against

abridgments. Abridgments are usually and justly disliked, because they do not give the exact words or sense of the author. But here Livy tells his own pleasant stories in his own pleasant words. What is omitted, is that which no one can wish a beginner to learn, and which may be better learnt elsewhere. Few things are more injurious to the progress of the pupil than coming suddenly on obscure and uninteresting passages. It is much better for him to read a book through, as he may do here, without interruption; and then he should read it over and over again, till he almost knows it by heart.

The character of the Notes may be inferred from what has been said. As the text contains, not the history, but the legends, of early Rome, the Notes do not contain any historical disquisitions. The whole question has been passed over, as one quite foreign to our present purpose, which is to teach Latin, not history. The Notes therefore are simply grammatical. They profess to teach what is commonly taught in grammars. But it is conceived that the pupil will learn the rules and construction of the language much more easily from separate examples, which are pointed out to him, or which he may discover himself, in the course of his own reading,

than from a heap of quotations amassed for him by others.

Reference is made in the Notes to the *Public School Latin Primer* on points connected with the Form of words, and to the author's *Complete Latin Course* on points connected with the Use of words and the Construction of Sentences. This book, which comprises Rules and Examples, Exercises, both Latin and English, on each Rule, and Vocabularies, is designed as a help to boys on first learning Latin, and contains all they need know before beginning the present volume. Occasional reference is also made to the author's *First Latin Steps*, in which the ordinary Latin constructions are more fully illustrated and explained. But though it may be useful to consult the passages in these books to which reference is thus made, it is not essential to do so. The *Seven Kings of Rome* is a work complete in itself. My wish in compiling it has been that Livy himself should be the teacher of Latin, and I do not think that he will be found a dull one. Over his lively stories and graceful diction both pupil and master may well be content to linger.

