

**THE POETICAL ELEMENTS  
IN THE DICTION AND  
SYNTAX OF TACITUS**

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The poetical elements in the diction and syntax of Tacitus by Charles Grenville Cole

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**CHARLES GRENVILLE COLE**

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# THE POETICAL ELEMENTS IN THE DICTION AND SYNTAX OF TACITUS

BY

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## Preface.

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Any work in connection with the writings of Tacitus is hard, for, his style is rather concise and abstract and is filled with sentiment and fire. Then too as Macaulay says: He carries his love of effect far beyond the limits of moderation. He tells a story finely, but he cannot tell a plain story plainly. He stimulates, till stimulants lose their power.

To accomplish a particular line of research in Tacitus' works one must have first the feeling for his style and then approach it as a prospector with his tools, seeking only the objective precious metal among many precious metals. For the arousing of the necessary sentiment I am deeply indebted to Dr. E. G. Sihler of New York University. In the bibliography I make mention of the prospectors' tools, works which indicate many precious metals. My only task then is, as a prospector seeking an objective metal, the poetical element in Tacitus, to make a judicious selection from all these works in connection with the text itself of Tacitus. This is the apology for the attempt to add something to that which has already been written on Tacitus.

Orange, N. J., July 10th, 1908.

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