

CICERO: PRO CLUENTIO

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Cicero: Pro Cluentio by William Ramsay & George G. Ramsay

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PRO CLUENTIO**

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CICERO

PRO CLUENTIO

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

The present Edition is almost an exact reprint of the first. The whole work has been carefully revised, but with the exception of the correction of a few errors, and some trifling alterations in the orthography, no change has been introduced.

G. G. R.

GLASGOW COLLEGE,
May 26, 1869.

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29/11/1892

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

SEVERAL years ago I read the following passage in Niebuhr's well-known 'Letter to a Young Man who wished to devote himself to Philology:—

'For the study of language, I recommend you, above all, Demosthenes and Cicero. Take the speech of the former *for the Crown*, that of the latter *pro Cluentio*, and read them with all the attention you are master of. Then go through them, giving account to yourself of every word, of every phrase. Draw up an argument: try to get a clear view of all the historical circumstances, and to arrange them in order. This will give you endless work; and hence you will learn how little you can, and consequently do yet, know. Then go to your teacher,—not to surprise him with some unexpectedly difficult questions (for in the speech for Cluentius there are difficulties with regard to the facts which, even after the longest familiarity with it, can only be solved by conjectures, such as will not occur to the best scholar at the moment), but that he may have the kindness to consider the passages, and to consult the commentators for you, where your powers and means are at fault. Construct a sketch of the procedure in the accusation against Cluentius. Make a list of the expressions, especially epithets and the nouns they are applied to, and mark the key of the metaphors. Translate passages; and a few weeks after, turn your translation back into the original tongue¹.

¹ This translation is, I believe, from the pen of that most accomplished scholar and most amiable man, the late Archdeacon Hare.

I was induced by these remarks to pay more particular attention than I had previously given to the speech for Cluentius, and soon became convinced that no one of the Orations of Cicero was more deserving of careful study, and that, although not included in the ordinary selections formed for the use of young scholars, it was, perhaps, beyond any other, calculated to awaken their interest and to invite them onwards.

It certainly possesses claims both external and internal of the highest order.

Like that for the Manilian Rogation, it was composed and delivered when Cicero was in the very prime of life and intellectual vigour—before his mind had been harassed, his temper soured, his courage shaken, and his energies impaired, by the anxieties, disappointments, dangers, and misfortunes which beset his declining years. He had, at the time, the strongest motives for exertion. His success in public life had been uninterrupted, but the great prize was not yet won. He had mounted high on the path of political distinction, but the topmost pinnacle yet rose steep before him, and this he could not hope to reach, except by maintaining and increasing that reputation as an orator, to which alone he owed the favour of his countrymen and his previous triumphs.

On examining the oration itself, it will be found full of freshness and vigour, remarkable alike for clearness and precision of statement in a case singularly complicated, for force and acuteness of argument, and for magnificent bursts of eloquence. Besides all this, it possesses an attraction peculiarly its own; for while elsewhere we are presented with pictures of life and manners in Rome and in Rome only, we here obtain a glimpse of the social habits and relations of those who dwelt in the provincial towns of Italy.

These considerations induced me to follow out, for my own amusement and improvement, the recommendation of Niebuhr; the work gradually grew under my hands until it

assumed a form which I did not originally contemplate; and, after many years of experience in the communication of knowledge, I have been induced to hope that my labours, presented in a modified shape, may prove useful to others as well as to myself.

The most important editions of this speech, in so far as the text is concerned, are those of Orelli (Zurich, 1826), which presents what may be termed the Vulgate Recension under its most correct form, and that of Classen (Bonn, 1831), who introduced many changes on the faith of two MSS., described more particularly in the Introduction. The text of the present edition is the result of a careful comparison of the two above named¹. In some cases I have adopted the changes introduced by Classen, and in many others I have preferred the common reading. The notes appended to the edition of Classen are, for the most part, purely critical, explaining and defending his alterations of the Vulgate, and are so remarkable for acuteness and good scholarship, that it is not without great diffidence, and the fear that I am exposing myself to a charge of presumption, that I have ventured to differ from him on several points of considerable importance². It appears to me that,

¹ I have spoken more fully of the different editions of this speech in the Introduction.

² I would refer more particularly to the following passages in the Commentary, most of which relate to proposed changes in the text, but a few to explanations also of sentences in which there is no difference of opinion as to the reading.

1, § 3, 'in hac tanta difficultate.'	8, § 17, 'atque in ipsa.'
1, § 3, 'sine vestro ac sine tallium.'	8, § 18, 'conflatum et perfectum.'
1, § 4, 'negem illam rem.'	8, § 18, 'sed ea vero.'
2, § 6, 'taciti cogitationi.'	8, § 23, 'A. Aurius, vir fortis.'
4, § 10, 'pro incolumi et vivo.'	9, § 28, 'spe optima.'
4, § 10, 'huic autem,' &c.	10, § 29, 'de eo quem oderant.'
5, § 11, 'Sulla.'	10, § 30, 'mori.'
5, § 11, 'nominis causa.'	12, § 34, 'intelligatis longe animo.'
6, § 15, 'nonne timuisse.'	13, § 47, 'Servus non incallidus,' &c.
6, § 16, 'quam ut illa matre.'	
6, § 16, 'ne quam.'	

although the two MSS. which he chiefly followed are unquestionably of great value, he has formed a somewhat exaggerated estimate of their importance, and having resolved to adhere to them wherever it was practicable, he became, as it were, an *ex parte* advocate, his ingenuity enabling him to urge most plausible reasons for change in many cases where the change was the reverse of an improvement. His arguments, when read for the first time, are so dazzling that we are inclined to follow blindly wherever he leads; but on a second perusal, when the brilliancy is somewhat dispelled, doubts arise as to the path we are pursuing, and eventually we arrive at the conclusion that we have not seldom been led astray.

One word with regard to the Commentary itself.

I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to explain everything which might fairly cause embarrassment to a young scholar; but at the same time I have not felt called upon to enter into any lengthened details upon those points of History and Antiquities of which a knowledge may be readily obtained from the Dictionaries and Manuals, which are, or ought to be, in the hands of every one. It is intended for the use of my students, and I have striven to adapt it especially to their wants. I shall be very proud if it should prove serviceable to more advanced scholars; but my principal object has been to consult the interests of those whom I am chiefly bound to serve.

16, § 47, 'qua dignitate.'	45, § 126, 'aerarium reliquissent.'
16, § 47, 'Ne multis.'	40, § 128, 'Quare, ne in bello.'
19, § 51, 'quod timide dicam.'	54, § 149, 'Quis ergo.'
21, § 57, 'patronus adhibetur.'	54, § 149, 'se re ipsa.'
26, § 72, 'ut blandissime.'	54, § 149, 'quae a me desiderari.'
26, § 72, 'nationis magis suae.'	60, § 165, 'C. Vibium Capacem.'
34, § 92, 'aut si in legem.'	60, § 165, 'At heres est.'
36, § 100, 'quae mihi est.'	61, § 170, 'nemo adire.'
36, § 102, 'Quamobrem.'	63, § 176, 'auctoritate advocato-
39, § 109, 'quanta ignorantio.'	rum.'
