

**THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL,
LITERALLY AND
RHYTHMICALLY
TRANSLATED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649024599

The Georgics of Virgil, Literally and Rhythmically Translated by W. Sewell

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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W. SEWELL

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LITERALLY AND
RHYTHMICALLY
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ALUMNIS COLUMBANIS,

TUM

IN SANÁ PIETATIS DISCIPLINÁ

TUM

IN OMNI LITERARUM HUMANITATE

NUTRIENDIS,

G. S.

BADLEY: PRINTED BY J. BISHOP.

P R E F A C E .

THE University of Dublin has been remarkable for the attention which it pays to fluent and elegant translation. And it is much to be wished that this should be more carefully cultivated in our English Universities, in conjunction with critical scholarship. The following translation is an attempt to show to students the possibility of combining something even of a rhythmical character with the *strictest grammatical accuracy* in the translation of classical poets. It pretends to nothing more. But the tendency of our present practice, in which scholars are allowed to render classical verse into English prose, is so mischievous, that a genuine taste for Latin and Greek poetry will scarcely be created until the practice is abandoned. If a poetical phraseology is retained, it becomes bombast. If it be altered, the poetry is lost. Much

might be written upon the objectionable results of this system. But those who understand that the study of the Greek and Latin writers is one of the most valuable instruments placed in our hands by Providence for the cultivation of the human mind, will not think a little labour and time misemployed in promoting its improvement. The translation was commenced for the use of my own classes in Exeter College. It is now finished, and offered as a little contribution to the labours of those who are endeavouring, under the blessing of God, to perfect, in the College of St. Columba, in Ireland, a system of sound and useful learning, as well as religious education, and to render it no unworthy nursery for the University of Dublin.

W. S.

*Exeter College, Oxford,
Jan. 1846.*

A second edition having been called for, the Translation has been entirely rewritten.

*St. Peter's Coll., Radley,
Oct. 26, 1854.*

THE
GEORGICS OF VIRGIL,
TRANSLATED.

THE FIRST GEORGIC.

WHAT makes our harvests blithe, beneath what star
Earth to upturn, Mæcenas, and our vines
To wed with elms 'tis meet; what be the care
Of beeves, what nurture to maintain the flock;
What vast experience dwells in thrifty bees,
Hence I'll essay to chant. O ye the sphere's
Thrice glorious lights, which, as through heaven it glides,
Escort the year, Bacchus and Ceres kind,
If by your bounty Earth Chaonian mast
For the rich ear exchanged, and tempered draughts
Of Achelous with the fresh found grapes:
And ye, the rustics' favouring powers, the Fauns,
(Advance at once your foot both Fauns and Dryad maids,)
Your gifts I sing. And thou, O thou, for whom
Earth, by thy giant trident smitten deep,
Diswomb'd the snorting charger, Neptune thou;
And thou of groves the nurser, unto whom
Cea's rich copses thrice a hundred steers