

# **THE STORY OF CATULLUS**

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The Story of Catullus by Hugh Macnaghten

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**HUGH MACNAGHTEN**

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THE  
STORY OF CATULLUS

BY  
*(Vilart)*  
HUGH MACNAGHTEN

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ASSISTANT MASTER AT ETON COLLEGE



LONDON  
*DUCKWORTH and CO.*  
3 HENRIETTA STREET, W.C.  
1899

TO  
HENRY ELFORD LUXMOORE  
AND  
JOHN FOSTER CRACE  
I OFFER  
WITH AFFECTION AND GRATITUDE  
THESE VERSIONS OF  
CATULLUS





## PREFACE

Who will read this book? A scholar here and there, I dare to hope, who would not willingly pass by anything that concerns Catullus, a barrister, a business-man (who knows?), if, as I believe, there are still some who find, after a long day's work, their best refreshment in the classics.

Perhaps even an Eton boy who has read Catullus at school, and is a little ashamed at having cared so much for any part of his work, or the sister of an Eton boy, if I may speak out all my dreams, who has read in Tennyson of the 'tenderest of Roman poets,' and would learn something which her brother refuses to tell of that Catullus 'whose dead songster never dies.' May it be so! And

if not, it is something only to have dreamed it, and still more to know that the leisure moments of the last five years which have been given to Catullus have been their own exceeding rich reward. But what will my publishers say?

There remains a deep debt of gratitude to discharge. Every modern editor of the classics enters upon a rich inheritance in the labours of his predecessors: it is a pleasure even to acknowledge what one cannot hope to repay. My special thanks are due to the Provost of Eton who first taught me to love Catullus; to Munro, the greatest of English scholars; to Professor Ellis, whose edition of the poet will always remain unrivalled; to Professor Tyrrell for his delightful essay on Catullus among the Latin poets, and for his brilliant sketch of Marcus Caelius Rufus in 'The Correspondence of Cicero'; to Mackail's Latin Literature; to the German editions of Schmidt and Riese; to Professors Merrill