THE CATILINA AND JUGURTHA OF SALLUST: WITH NOTES AND EXCURSUS

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The Catilina and Jugurtha of Sallust: With Notes and Excursus by Thomas Keightley

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THOMAS KEIGHTLEY

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BY

THOMAS KEIGHTLEY.

LONDON:
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1849.

PREFACE.

This edition of an author who may be regarded as the most difficult among Latin prose-writers, will be found to differ from all its predecessors. From Corte to Kritz, the editors seem never to have reflected that Sallust was a historian as well as a writer of peculiar Latin. Hence their notes are almost exclusively occupied with the discussion of various readings and the illustration of phraseology, while history, geography, and constitutional and military antiquities are treated with neglect. These deficiencies it is my object to supply, without neglecting the matters on which they have treated at large.

The text is Orelli's in general, at times that of Kritz. The system of orthography is explained at the end of the first Excursus, which I would recommend to be read carefully before commencing the work. In my opinion, it would be the better course in schools to begin with the Jugurtha.

Every one knows how the Latin classics have been neglected in this country. Since the days of Bentley, none of them but Lucretius had been deemed worthy of the labours of an English scholar. Sallust shared the general fate till the year 1832, when the very neat edition by Mr. Allen appeared. But it is of the kind described above, and, therefore, does not preclude the necessity of that which I now offer to students.

It will be my last offer of the kind. The demand for such works is too limited to induce me to persevere in this path. Classical literature is on the decline, as appears to me, in general. It is already gone in France and Italy, it droops here, and, perhaps, even in Germany it has seen its most palmy days. To this is to be added the practice which, I am told, prevails in many schools, of giving boys the mere text of an author, or, at most, with brief notes, and then explaining it to them by lecture, instead of furnishing them with all the legitimate aids, and ascertaining by examination whether they have used them as they should have done. I am not perhaps qualified to judge, but the latter appears to me to be the better mode.

In taking my leave of schools and the classics, I may be perhaps allowed to indulge in a little self-gratulation at having done more to elucidate Virgil, Horace, Ovid, and Sallust, than any preceding English scholar. My name may possibly be associated with theirs for some years to come. Yet I have been told by some that my Horace was not wanted, by others that nothing remained to be done on Sallust. Judicet lector. No one has said, I believe, that my Virgil and Ovid were superfluous.

As I regard my Horace as my chef-d'œuvre in this department, I have placed at the end of this volume some Additional Illustrations of it, which are, I think, not without value, but which I may never have the opportunity of inserting in the Commentary. In fine, I am content to be judged of, as a scholar and a critic, by my Horace and my Sallust.

1

CONTENTS.

									PAGE
Life of Sallust					٠,	0.5	*		ix
Catilina		*6	٠		*	200	· ·		1
Jugurtha									41
Notes on the Catilina									
Notes on the Jugurtha	·			e Se		£2	•	100	174
Excursus.	56								
I. Language and Style of Sallust	30)		•	٠	·	0.00	O.		240
II. Elections of A. U. 680	000		•	:: ::*	900 900				247
III. Career and Tulliamum									248
IV. Royal House of Numidia .									255
V. Numidian Mapalia	96°	*83	(*)					(A)	256
VI. Kingdom of Numidia									258
VII. Elections for A. U. 643	:	30	<u>.</u>				•	•	261
ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF HORACE							ar (2)	(4) (5)	263

LIFE OF SALLUST.

C. Sallustius Caisfus was born at Amiternum', in the Vestinian portion of the Sabine country, on the Kalends of October, A. U. 666, the year of the consulate of C. Marius VII., L. Ciona II.² His family was respectable, but, as it was in all probability Sabine, those writers who say that it was plebeian, give us a piece of needless information, for none could be Roman patricians but those whose family had been such at least as far back as A. U. 250, when the Sabine Claudii were admitted into their body; all other citizens were, therefore, plebeians, inasmuch as they were admissible to the tribunate of the people, from which the patricians alone were excluded.

Sallust probably came to Rome for his education, as was usual, at an early age. If we may give credit to those writers who were his enemies, he plunged headlong into vice and debauchery, and speedily ran through his property. We have it on better authority, that he was one of the many who shared the favours of the notorious Fausta, the daughter of Sulla the dictator, and wife of T. Annius Milo, and, being taken in the fact by her husband, he underwent a severe scourging and was obliged to pay a sum of money to escape worse consequences. Notwithstanding these excesses, if real, he seems to have cultivated literature assiduously, for he gives us to understand that he had early formed the

¹ It lay in the mountains, not far from the source of the Aternus (Pescare).

See Clinton's Fasti, a. 38. Sallust was, therefore, one year younger than Catullus, and nearly twenty-two years younger than Cicero.

Pseud.-Cic. In Sall. Declam. c. v. Varro ap. Gell. xvii. 18.

⁵ Cat. iv. 2.