

**THE FOURTH BOOK OF THE  
MEDITATIONS OF MARCUS AURELIUS  
ANTONINUS; A REVISED TEXT WITH  
TRANSLATION & COMMENTARY & AN  
APPENDIX ON THE RELATIONS OF THE  
EMPEROR WITH CORNELIUS FRONTE**

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The fourth book of the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus; a revised text with translation & commentary & an appendix on the relations of the emperor with Cornelius Fronte by Hastings Crossley

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**HASTINGS CROSSLEY**

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ΜΑΡΚΟΥ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΝΟΥ

ΑΥΤΟΚΡΑΤΟΡΟΣ

ΤΩΝ ΕΙΣ ΕΑΤΤΟΝ

ΒΙΒΛΙΟΝ Δ

THE FOURTH BOOK  
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MEDITATIONS  
OF  
MARCUS AURELIUS ANTONINUS

*A Revised Text*

*WITH TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY*  
AND AN  
APPENDIX ON THE RELATIONS OF THE EMPEROR WITH  
CORNELIUS FRONTO

BY

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Tous, tant que nous sommes, nous portons au cœur le deuil  
de Marc-Aurèle, comme s'il était mort d'hier.

RENAN.

I MUST begin by craving the indulgence of the few readers who are likely to take up this little volume for its fragmentary character. Seven years ago I conceived the idea of producing such an edition of Marcus Aurelius as should tempt those who have not entirely forgotten the Greek of their youth, and who are yet interested in that most fascinating of all studies, the history of ethics, to read the Thoughts of the Emperor in their original form—a form often, indeed, rugged and technical in style, but not unfrequently felicitous and invariably direct and forcible. With this hope, I succeeded in producing a new translation of the entire book, with an English commentary on some part, when a change and increase of professional work diverted me from the project. Even a slight measure of success in such an undertaking demands the ample leisure sufficient to enable one to saturate one's mind with the literature and thought of the age. Still more is this true of a writer who in a certain sense presumes and sums up all preceding systems of philosophy. Finding, then, that for the present the probability of my being able to complete the commentary was rather receding, and being unwilling that the result of several years' labour should be entirely wasted, I venture to lay the portion I had completed before the public.

I have had before me the editions of Gataker (ed. altera, cura G. Stanhope, Lond., 1697); J. M. Schultz

(Sleswig, 1802, Leipzig, 1820, Paris, 1842, ed. Didot); Coraës (Paris, 1816); and 'R. I.'<sup>1</sup> Oxon., 1704: the translations of George Long (second ed., London, 1880); Alexis Pierron (Paris, 1878); and C. Cless (Stuttgart, 1866). The versions of Jeremy Collier, Meric Casaubon, Thomson, and Schneider have been also occasionally referred to. Besides the standard works on the history of the second century and the Stoic philosophy, I have derived help from Constant Martha's *Moralistes sous l'empire romain*; E. de Suckau's *Etude sur Marc-Aurèle*; Noël des Vergers' *Essai sur Marc-Aurèle d'après les monuments épigraphiques*; and the essay on 'St. Paul and Seneca' in Bishop Lightfoot's *Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians*.<sup>2</sup>

The translation and commentary on the text were carefully revised by my dear friend and colleague, the late Professor W. Nesbitt, to whose sound judgment and ripe scholarship there is scarcely a page which is not indebted. For several suggestions and ready help I owe my best thanks to Mr. Samuel Alexander of Balliol College, Oxford; and Mr. W. M. Lindsay of Balliol College was good enough to assist me in the correction of the press.

<sup>1</sup> These initials, Mr. Bywater tells me, are those of R. Ivas or Ivies.

<sup>2</sup> It is curious that while nothing has been done for M. Aurelius for so many years, two labourers should lately have been unconsciously working in the same field. I learn, at the moment of going to press, that Toulner will shortly publish an edition of the Emperor by Johann Stich, who has apparently been able to secure (what I could not) the inestimable advantage of a fresh collation of MSS. I cannot too greatly regret that I have been unable to profit by his work.