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OF CICERO WITH NOTES
FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS**

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SELECTED LETTERS
OF
CICERO

WITH NOTES FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

BY THE LATE

CONSTANTINE E. PRICHARD, M.A.

Formerly Fellow of Balliol College

AND

EDWARD R. BERNARD, M.A.

Fellow of Magdalen College

SECOND EDITION

Oxford

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P R E F A C E.

THE text adopted in this selection is that of Baiter and Kayser. In their edition of Cicero's works the letters of Cicero to his friends, and to his brother Quintus, occupy the ninth volume (Leipsic, 1866); and those to Atticus and Brutus the tenth volume (1867). There are some passages in these selected letters which Baiter and Kayser, and all critical editors, are obliged to print in a hopelessly corrupt state. But inasmuch as the present edition is intended for the use of schools, it seemed desirable to adopt in most cases such conjectural emendations as might enable the passage to bear translation.

Besides these graver departures from the text of Baiter, some deviations in spelling have been adopted.

The brackets and italics are from Baiter and Kayser, and denote respectively that the words so treated ought probably to be omitted, or inserted.

The letters of Cicero appear to have been widely known down to the latest times of the Western Empire, but to have wholly fallen out of knowledge before the middle of the twelfth century. Their rediscovery was reserved for a man who merited such fortune, one of the foremost of the revivers of literature. In the year 1345 the poet Petrarch found at

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Verona, to his infinite joy and surprise, a manuscript of the eleventh century, containing the letters to Atticus, Brutus, and Quintus. He copied them, and his copy, with marginal readings added by Coluccius Salutatus, is the basis of the existing text of those letters, since the original from which he made it has disappeared. Petrarch's MS. is called 'Codex Medicus,' and is preserved in the Laurentian Library at Florence. Unfortunately Petrarch's copy was carelessly made, and the text of the Letters to Atticus is in an unsatisfactory state, as may be gathered from the fact that Balter's critical observations on the letters to Atticus, Brutus, and Quintus occupy 127 pages as against 59 pages on the letters 'ad Familiares.'

Until 1855 critics thought they could find trustworthy aid in restoring the text from an edition by Bosius (Limoges, 1580), who professed to have had before him a MS. which he had obtained from a common soldier, and some valuable readings furnished him by a certain Crusellius. The former was spoken of as 'Decurtatum Bosii.' But it has now been clearly proved by Haupt and Mommsen that Bosius invented all the various readings which appear in his edition, and that the 'Decurtatum Bosii,' and the 'Lectiones Crusellianae,' never existed. Bosius, otherwise Simeon Dubois, was a magistrate at Limoges, born 1535, and killed by robbers, 1580—a just retribution for his wickedness, according to the critics.

The assistance to be relied upon for supplementing the Medicean MS. is, in the first place, the edition of Cratander (1528), who seems to have had before him a MS. of value,

possibly of a different origin from the Medicean. He has not used it as the basis of his edition, but has placed its various readings in his margin. Secondly, some weight may be attached to the readings preserved by Lambinus from the lost Codex Tornaesianus. Lambinus' edition bears date 1565. So far with regard to the text of the letters to Atticus, Brutus, and Quintus.

We now come to the letters 'ad Familiares,' or 'ad Diversos,' as they were formerly called. Petrarch probably discovered these at Vercelli, some little time after his discovery of the letters to Atticus at Verona. The MS. which he discovered is most happily still in existence in the Medicean library, together with the copy made by Petrarch. There are many other MSS. of these letters in existence; but Orelli in his '*Historia Critica Epistolarum Tullianarum*' apparently succeeded in proving that all of them, including the Vatican MS, were later than and drawn from the Medicean. However there is a MS. in the library of Tours described in 1828 by Hænel as of the twelfth century, and containing Cic. Quæst. Acad. and the Epp. ad Fam., which Orelli in his review relegated to the fourteenth century without having even seen it. A notice of this MS, published by M. Thurot in 1874, clearly proves it to be independent of the Medicean MS, though undoubtedly drawn from the same source. It supplies in several of its readings most interesting confirmations of the emendations of the Medicean already made by Wesenberg and others. One instance among many is referred to in this edition, Ep. 18, 25, note. There are also two uncollated MSS. of these

letters among the Harleian Codd. at the British Museum, described by Dr. Rühl as of the eleventh and twelfth centuries respectively. The first of these two appears likely to be useful for the correction of the Medicean, e.g. in Ep. 46, 22, it exhibits 'diudicetur,' which explains the origin of the Medicean reading 'dividetur.'

As regards conjectures and emendations, Baiter has made judicious but sparing use of those put forward by Ernesti, Wesenberg, Orelli, Klotz; and, in the letters to Atticus, of those of Boot.

With regard to critical editions previous to that of Baiter and Kayser, it seems unnecessary for present purposes to say more than that the edition of Orelli and Baiter (1845) formed a new era, discarding as it did all those MSS. which had claimed to rival the Medicean. The example set by Orelli was followed by Klotz, the editor of the Teubner edition, who brought out the letters to Atticus, 1854, and those 'ad Familiares,' 1858. He exhibits, however, some improvements on Orelli, and is less subservient to the MS.

But the discovery in 1855 of the fraud of Bosius, made again a fresh starting-point for criticism as far as the letters to Atticus are concerned. Since that date we have the edition of the letters to Atticus by Boot (1865), and a selection of letters by Hofmann (1860 and 1865). Both these editors accompany their text with a Commentary.

Of explanatory editions that by Schütz, 1809, deserves especial mention, and has contributed much to the notes of *this edition*. It contains valuable remarks collected

from ancient and modern commentators, such as Manutius, Graevius, and Ernesti. It is the first edition which combines all the letters of Cicero in a chronological order.

Owing to unavoidable delay in the publication of these notes, the editor has been able to consult Mr. Watson's 'Select Letters,' and to obtain from that excellent edition the means of increasing and revising the observations of Mr. Prichard upon several of the letters now published. The short Life of Cicero, prefixed to this edition, is in the main an abstract of the clear and exhaustive introductions, prefixed by Mr. Watson to the several parts of his work.

THE letters in this selection are printed in the order of Schütz's chronological arrangement. The lines of each letter have been numbered in the text to facilitate reference to the notes. Reference in the notes to a passage contained in this selection is made thus, Ep. 2. 1, the first figure referring to the number of the letter in this selection, and the second figure to the line in the text. References to letters not in this selection are preceded by abbreviations describing where the letter is to be found, according to the usual arrangement of Cicero's Letters; thus, Att. 1. 1; Fam. 1. 1; Q. F. 1. 1. In these cases the first figure gives the number of the book, the second the number of the letter. Frequent references have been made to Madvig's Latin Grammar (as *Madv.*), which, with other references, and some of the notes themselves, are addressed rather to the teacher than to the pupil.

In issuing this second Edition the Editor begs indulgence