

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLASSICS.
CATULLI, TIBULLI, PROPERTII
POEMATA SELECTA. SELECTIONS
FROM CATULLUS, TIBULLUS, AND
PROPERTIUS. WITH ENGLISH NOTES**

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With English Notes.



BY A. H. WRATISLAW, M.A.

HEAD MASTER OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BURY ST. EDMUND'S, AND FORMERLY
FELLOW AND TUTOR OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;

AND

F. N. SUTTON, B.A.

SCHOLAR OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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PREFACE.

THE Latin poets Catullus, Tibullus, and Propertius have frequently been included in the same volume, but a collection of selections from them suitable to be read with a class of young persons was thought to be required. This desideratum, it is hoped, will be supplied by the present little work, which will also endeavour to represent the present state of scholarship as regards these authors and the Latin language, both in its text and in its notes. As regards the part taken by the joint editors, it is to be stated that Mr. Sutton undertook the editorship of the selections from Catullus and Tibullus, and Mr. Wratiaslaw that of those from Propertius, the whole passing under the revision of Mr. Wratiaslaw.

In the selections from Catullus the edition of DOERING has furnished a basis for the notes, but not for the text, which is presented in a much more satisfactory state (after LACHMANN) by both ROSSBACH and Mr. ELLIS. Mr. COOKESLEY'S Eton edition of selections is very rich in quotations, but his text is even less satisfactory than Doering's. In Tibullus the exhaustive edition of DISSEN (after LACHMANN) has furnished a most satisfactory basis as regards both the text and its explanation.

No one edition has been specially taken as a basis for the selections from Propertius, but those of JACOB (after

LACHMANN), HERZBERG and Mr. PALEY have been consulted for both the text and notes, and that of KUINOEL for the notes only. Several difficult passages have received new and original explanations, which it is hoped will be considered satisfactory.

The brief Biographies of the three Poets, and the Essay on the Catullian Metres are by Mr. Wratishaw. In the latter an attempt has been made so to explain the metre of the Attis or Atys in a simple manner, and so to exhibit it in a tabular form, that every line of the poem shall be capable of being scanned at once on a definite principle without difficulty.

LIFE OF CATULLUS.

CAIUS (according to Apuleius), or QUINTUS (according to the Elder Pliny), VALERIUS CATULLUS was born at or near Verona, in the consulship of Cinna and Octavius, B.C. 87, as stated by Hieronymus in the Eusebian Chronicle. He was alive in the consulship of Vatinius, B.C. 47, after which time we lose all trace of him. His father was a friend of Julius Caesar, and Catullus himself must have possessed a fair independence, owning a villa at Sirmio, another at or near Tibur, and a yacht, which he dedicated after sailing in it from the Black Sea. Leading a gay life at Rome, he appears to have got into pecuniary difficulties, with which he endeavoured to grapple by going to Bithynia in the *cohors* or suite of the Proprætor Memmius, who, however, appears to have taken the greater portion of what was to be gained for himself, leaving but poor pickings for his subordinates.

Apuleius tells us, that the real name of his lady-love LESBIA was CLODIA, but the Claudian or Clodian gens being a very large one, it is vain to seek to identify her with the sister of Cicero's enemy, Clodius. Catullus lampooned Julius Caesar in the most insulting manner; but on his apologizing Caesar forgave the insult, invited him to his table, and continued to visit his father as before. No Latin writer but Horace (1 Sat. x. 19) speaks slightly of the works of Catullus; and he appears to do so rather from vexation at the studied depreciation of the talent of the day, which seems to

have been fashionable in his time. Nothing but the lack of a lofty ideal of life has prevented Catullus from standing at the head of all the Latin poets. As it is, he must be allowed a very high rank, both for the conception and the execution of almost every thing that he has attempted in lyric, iambic, or heroic metre. His *Atys* is unique, and unsurpassed either in his own language or any other.

LIFE OF TIBULLUS.

ALBIUS TIBULLUS (his prænomen is unknown), a Roman Knight, inherited an estate at Pedum between Tibur and Praeneste, which was much reduced (see Tib. l. i. 19, 20) by confiscation during the civil wars, and in all probability the retention of a portion of it was due to the influence and exertions of his friend and patron M. Valerius Messala. The date of his birth is unknown; but he died young, and not long after Virgil, the date of whose death was B.C. 19. The deaths of the two poets were commemorated in a beautiful epigram by Domitius Marsus, which is generally printed with the works of Tibullus. It runs,—

"Te quoque Virgilii comitem non sequa, Tibulle,
Mors invenem campos misit ad Elysios,
Ne foret, aut elegis molles qui fieret amores,
Aut caneret forti regia bella pede."

The extraordinary aversion to war expressed by Tibullus may have been natural, or may have been assumed as an excuse for not bearing arms on the side of Augustus, whom he never condescended to flatter, although Messala

was one of Augustus's firmest supporters. Still, after the battle of Actium (B.C. 31), he followed Messala into Aquitania, and was present at the great victory of the Atax (Aude), which put an end to the insurrection. In B.C. 30 he set out with Messala for the East, but was taken ill and obliged to remain behind in Coreyra (Tib. i. 8). His first lady-love was DELIA, a word which has been conjectured to represent the Latin *PLANIA* in signification as well as number of syllables and quantity. A doubtful reading in Apuleius (*Apol.* 106) gives the name *Plauca* or *Plautia*. The second book is devoted to a second lady named NEMESIS, and Horace (1 Od. xxxiii.) condoles with him on the cruelty of a certain GLYCERA, who appears more likely to have been identical with Nemesis than an altogether different name.

Only the first two books current under the name of Tibullus are authentic. The third professes to be written by a poet of the name of LYGDAMUS, and is most properly quoted under the title of 'Pseudo-Tibullus.' This poet was born B.C. 43, the year of the siege of Mutina, 'Quum cecidit fato consul uterque pari.' His style resembles that of Propertius rather than that of Tibullus, and his sentiments are gentle and pure. The hexameter poem at the commencement of the fourth book is miserable, and cannot be ascribed to Tibullus, but some of the smaller Elegies are worthy of our poet, whose style they closely resemble.

LIFE OF PROPERTIUS.

SEXTUS AURELIUS PROPERTIUS was a native of Umbria on the borders of Etruria, and the honour of his birth appears to lie between the towns of Hispellum and