

**CICERO'S CATO MAJOR  
AND LÆLIUS;  
OR, DE SENECTUTE  
AND DE AMICITIA**

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Cicero's Cato Major and Lælius; Or, De Senectute and De Amicitia by John T. White

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**JOHN T. WHITE**

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CICERO'S  
CATO MAJOR AND LÆLIUS;

OR,

DE SENECTUTE AND DE AMICITIA.

PRINCIPALLY FROM THE TEXT OF GERNHARD.

WITH ENGLISH NOTES.

BY THE REV. JOHN T. WHITE, A.M.

OF C. C. C. OXFORD;

JUNIOR UPPER MASTER OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.

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## P R E F A C E.

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It has been the object of the Editor in this edition of Cicero's *Cato Major* and *Lælius* to furnish a sound Text, and to supply a body of Notes adapted to the capacities of boys of that age at which these treatises are usually read. At the same time he has endeavoured to carry out a plan corresponding to the one adopted by him in his recent edition of the *Germany* and *Agricola*, of Tacitus — viz. to make the present work introductory to the reading of the other, and especially the philosophical, writings of Cicero. With this view he has introduced into the Notes many critical remarks of a more advanced character, designed for pupils who have made some progress in their studies.

A concise analysis of each treatise is given, as affording the readiest and most effectual means of showing the writer's aim, and of explaining the method in which he treated his subject.

Christ's Hospital,  
April, 1852.

## ANALYSIS OF THE CATO MAJOR.

Dedication of the treatise to Atticus	-	-	Ch. I.
The subject introduced in a conversation between Scipio, Cato, and Lælius	-	-	Ch. II.
The loss of enjoyment and the neglect of friends the result of the disposition, not of old age	-	-	Ch. III.
Several instances of a happy old age	-		Chs. IV. V.

The objections to old age are four:—

1st. Withdrawing men from active life	-	} Ch. V. § 15.
2nd. Enfeebling the body	-	
3rd. Depriving men of nearly all enjoyment	-	
4th. Being the near forerunner of death	-	

The answers to which respectively are the following:—

*(Answers to 1st Objection.)*

- 1°. Examples of aged men who have successfully conducted  
important affairs
  - 2°. The memory and the mind are not impaired by age
- Ch. VI.  
Chs. VII. VIII.

*(Answers to 2nd Objection.)*

- 1°. Examples of several distinguished jurists
  - 2°. Old men are competent to instruct youth
  - 3°. Infirmary is caused by the vices of youth, and not by old  
age
  - 4°. Examples in support of this position
  - 5°. Weakness is the consequence, not merely of old age, but  
also of ill health
- Ch. IX. § 27.  
Ch. IX. § 29.  
Ch. IX. § 29.  
Ch. IX. § 30, Ch. X.  
Ch. XI.

*(Answers to 3rd Objection.)*

- 1°. The thing objected is in truth a great advantage, since  
pleasure is a deadly evil
- Ch. XII.  
Ch. XIII. § 43.

- 2°. Old age has its own peculiar pleasures Ch. XIII. § 44.  
Ch. XIV.  
Especially agricultural pursuits Chs. XV. XVI. XVII.

(Answers to 4th Objection.)

- 1°. A long life should teach one to disregard death Ch. XIX.  
2°. Youth is also liable to death - - - Ch. XIX.  
3°. The old have enjoyed what the young only look forward to - - - - - Ch. XIX.  
4°. The death of the old, being in accordance with nature, is a blessing - - - - - Ch. XIX.  
5°. That end of life is best which comes by the course of nature - - - - - Ch. XX.  
6°. The greatest comfort of old age is a belief in the immortality of the soul - - - Ch. XXI.  
Several testimonies in favour of it - Ch. XXII.  
Profession of Cato's own belief - Ch. XXIII.



## ANALYSIS OF THE LÆLIUS.

Introduction, — attributing the discourse to Lælius, on the occasion of the recent death of Scipio Africanus Chs. I to IV.

Division of the subject into three parts, —

- |                                      |   |               |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. The excellence of true friendship | - |               |
| 2. Its nature and origin             | - |               |
| 3. Rules for its cultivation         | - |               |
|                                      |   | Ch. IV. § 16. |

### I.

Friendship is preferable to all human things; can exist only between the good; is superior to the ties of relationship Ch. V.

Is the best gift of heaven to men; its delights, and universal range - - - - - Ch. VI.

Its beneficial influence and effects - - - - - Ch. VII.

### II.

Friendship arises, not from mutual interest, but from nature - - - - - Ch. VIII.

It is instinctively produced by the sight of virtue, apart from any calculation of interest - - - - - Ch. IX.

### III.

Causes which make it difficult to keep up friendship to the close of life - - - - - Ch. X.

In avoiding these, there are limits beyond which affection should not carry us - - - - - Ch. XI.

#### 1°. *As to public and moral duties,*—

The chief rule is, — 1°, not to request or do anything dishonourable - - - - - Ch. XII.

Then, 2°, to be ready to do, as well as request, any thing honourable, without regarding personal inconvenience

Ch. XIII.

For friendship naturally springs up between the good, without reference to self-interest - - - - - Chs. XIV. XV.

2°. *As to private and relative duties,—*

Three prevalent opinions on the limits of friendship refuted,  
viz.,—

That one should feel towards a friend as to-	} Ch. XVI.
wards oneself - - - - -	
That one's affection should exactly correspond	
to his - - - - -	
That one should value him according to his	
own estimate of himself - - - - -	

The true limit is a community of purposes and desires Ch. XVII.

Hence the care with which the choice of a friend should be  
made - - - - - Ch. XVII. § 62.

What qualities are necessary - - - - - Ch. XVIII.

Old friends to be preferred to new. Rules for friends of dif-  
ferent rank - - - - - Ch. XIX.

Similarity of habits and tastes is necessary - - - - - Ch. XX.

It is sometimes necessary to drop a friendship; but this should  
not lead to enmity - - - - - Ch. XXI.

Friendship between the good alone stable - - - - - Ch. XXII.

The advantage of friendship universally acknowledged  
Ch. XXIII.

Mutual truthful admonition the duty of true friendship;  
flattery, the bane of it - - - - - Chs. XXIV—XXVI.

## CONCLUSION.

Virtue alone produces and preserves friendship: examples in  
proof - - - - - Ch. XXVII.

