

**A CENTURY OF  
TRANSLATIONS FROM  
THE GREEK ANTHOLOGY**

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A Century of Translations from the Greek Anthology by William Gunnyon

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**WILLIAM GUNNYON**

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Greek Anthology.



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FROM

The Greek Anthology.

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BY

WILLIAM GUNNYON,

Author of "A Life of Burns," and "Scottish  
Life and History in Song and Ballad."

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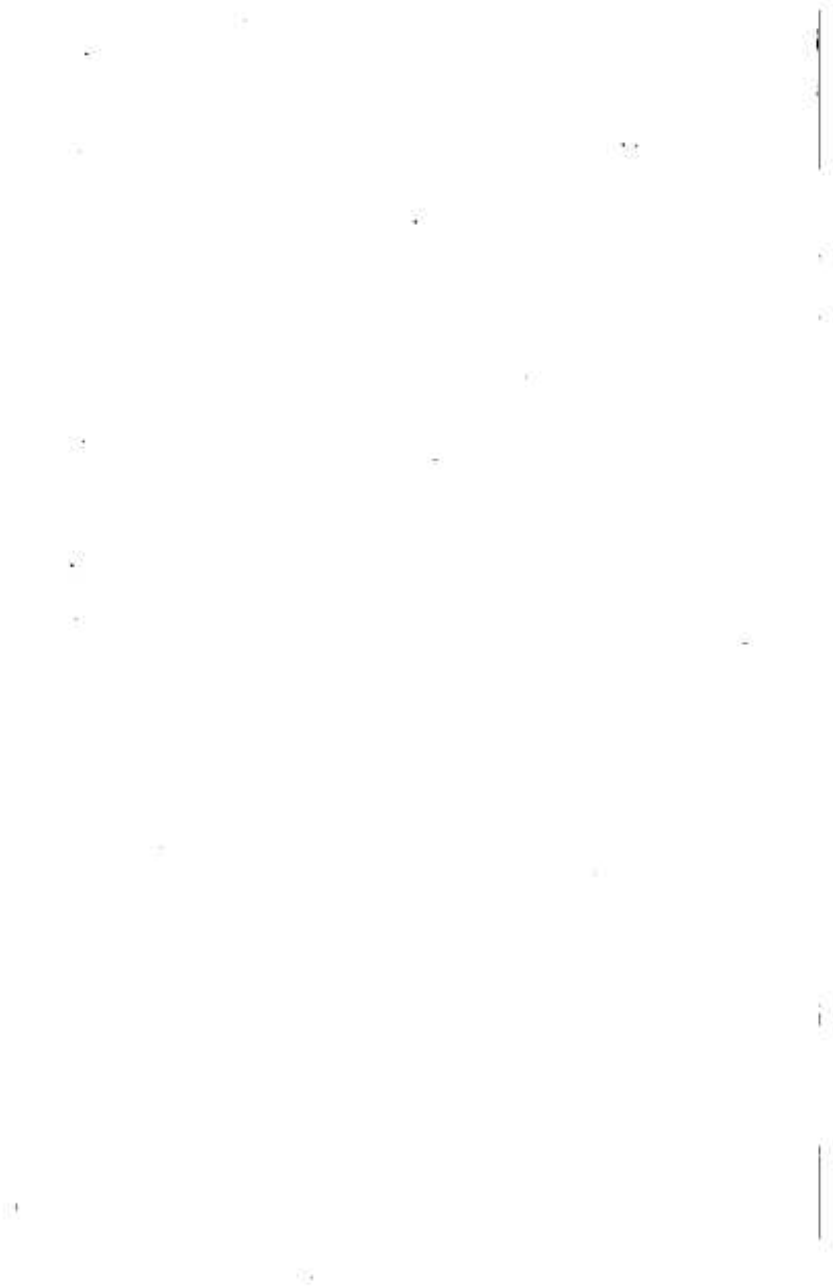
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## Preface.

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THE following Translations, executed at intervals during the last twenty years, appeared from time to time in Kilmarnock or Glasgow journals. They were undertaken solely as a literary solace, and with no view to subsequent collection and republication. But during late years I have been asked so often, and by so many, to republish them that I at last reluctantly consented. However, I had got jaded, and I shrank from the labour of revision. But I did them at first as carefully as I could, and I am not sure that by revision I should have improved them. Still, if I did not think they had some merit, especially that of fidelity, no solicitation, however urgent, would have induced me to republish.

The name of the translators of the Greek

Anthology, to a larger or smaller extent, is Legion, and among these have been some of our countrymen the most eminent for scholarship and poetic genius. This effort of mine, therefore, may appear presumptuous; but I am neither weak enough nor vain enough to enter the lists as a rival to these, nor do I offer my little book as a critical guide. It pleased me in the production, and it seems to have pleased a sufficient number of, it may be, partial friends to justify me in clothing it in this form. So far from its being intended as a critical guide there is neither chronological classification, nor even that by subjects. The versions are set down pretty much in the order in which they were made, and if there is not method there is at least variety.

In several instances there are two versions of the same epigram, which may be considered superfluous. But for twenty-five years I was a classical teacher, and the double versions are given with something of the complacency of a schoolmaster, to "teach the young idea" that more than one version, and each equally faithful, may be made of the same subject by the same person. Besides, some of these are in

blank verse, and such rendering of a short poem, if the only one, however faithful and flowing it may be, is scarcely satisfactory. It indicates a poverty of verbal resource particularly inappropriate in a translator. Hence the second versions in some species of rhymed measure.

I have, I confess, undertaken a hazardous and ambitious task, and one apt to challenge damaging comparisons. But I have no wish to deprecate criticism, whatever its verdict, provided it be given with knowledge and fairness.

GLASGOW, DECEMBER, 1882.

