

**THE GEORGICS OF VERGIL
WITH A RUNNING
ANALYSIS, ENGLISH
NOTES AND INDEX**

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The Georgics of Vergil with a Running Analysis, English Notes and Index by Henry Musgrave Wilkins

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HENRY MUSGRAVE WILKINS

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THE GEORGICS

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GEORGICS OF VERGIL

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RUNNING ANALYSIS, ENGLISH NOTES, AND INDEX

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS EDITION was undertaken with the approval of many eminent scholastic authorities, including the Headmasters¹ of Eton, Shrewsbury, Bury St. Edmunds, Charterhouse, Merchant Taylors', the City of London, King's College, Durham and Bedford Schools, and the Principals of Marlborough, Cheltenham, Haileybury, Liverpool and Malvern Colleges, as a means of making the study of the Georgics more accessible to the Middle Forms, for whom Professor Conington's notes, though indispensable to advanced scholars, are too elaborate, too dubitative, too full of alternative renderings and constructions, and too expensive.

Experience proves that the subjects of the Georgics are more attractive to schoolboys than the Eclogues or even than the *Aeneid*; besides, to say nothing of their exquisite literary finish, they offer the young scholar, in striking contrast with the sketchy,

¹ These gentlemen are of course in no degree responsible for any errors or defects that may disfigure the execution of a task of which they only approved the design.

half-wrought style of the greater part of the epic poem, the finest model of Latin versification in that complex rhythmical system of interwoven harmonies and varied cadences which is at once the basis and the distinctive feature of the Vergilian hexameter. Hitherto, however, they have rarely been studied intelligently except in the highest forms, partly, perhaps, from the want of a suitable edition, partly from the inherent difficulties of the poems—difficulties in some degree flowing from the use of common terms in technical senses, but chiefly from the poet's constant effort to relieve a somewhat dry topic by versatility of phrase¹ and variety of treatment, and, in general, to overlay the didactic with the poetical element, at some occasional sacrifice of clearness in the evolution of thought.

The pupil's path, amid these embarrassments, seemed likely to be smoothed by an expedient success-
 Plan of the fully adopted in several popular schoolbooks,
 edition. that of inserting a Running Analysis, at suitable intervals, in the text: the analysis varying in closeness with the greater or slighter difficulty of the passage, and designed to aid the student by elucidating the drift of the paragraph and the connexion of thought—one of the chief stumbling-blocks of school-boys—and to relieve the sense of perplexity so apt

¹ Thus the simple word *alvearium*, 'beehive,' is diversified by the following poetical variations: *stabula*, G. 4, 14; *tecta*, 38, 47, 118; *cubilia*, 46; *cavea*, 58; *cunabula*, 66; *domus*, 169; *sedes*, 228; *horrea*, 250.