

**TIBULLUS: ADAPTED
FOR THE USE
OF SCHOOLS**

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Tibullus: adapted for the use of schools by John Bulmer & Edward Bulmer

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BY

JOHN BULMER,

(B.D. DURHAM, MUS. BAC. TRIN. COLL. DUBLIN),

AUTHOR OF "A SUMMARY OF PERSIUS," AND OF TRANSLATIONS
PUBLISHED IN "KOTTABOS," SOMETIME FELLOW AND
LECTURER IN DURHAM UNIVERSITY.

AND

EDWARD BULMER, M.A.,

ASSISTANT CLASSICAL MASTER OF ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, YORK,
LATE FELLOW OF DURHAM UNIVERSITY.

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1882.

P R E F A C E .

IN preparing these pages for the use of schools, it has been our endeavour (in the absence of school editions of Tibullus) to make them as widely available as possible. We have throughout so intermingled elementary instruction with notes of a more advanced type, that, while many lower divisions in a school will (it is hoped) find sufficient assistance, our commentary may at the same time prove serviceable to higher forms. In affording help, it has not been our desire merely to save trouble,—to supersede either the teacher's work in class, or the learner's application to Dictionary and Grammar, or the necessity of a boy's thinking for himself ; and therefore, where it seemed likely that the usual sources would readily supply all needful information, we have, for the most part, been silent ; and in regard to less familiar terms and phrases, we have generally considered it sufficient, by means of an explanatory hint, to suggest, rather than to fix, a rendering.

What we have written is founded on the valuable work of Dissen, whose commentary has been freely drawn upon, especially in regard to quotations ; and wherever (in some very few cases) we have not adhered to his text, the divergence has been duly pointed out. From the text of Tibullus those portions, which

may reasonably be objected to as unsuited for a school-book, have been expunged ; while, on the other hand, we have been careful to avoid unnecessary abridgment. The present text (Bk. I.) comprises the following : 1. 1—44, 49—72, 75 to end ; 2. 45—56, 61 to end ; 3. 1—24, 27 to end ; 4. 15—38, 41—52, 61—66 ; 5. 1—6, 9—36, 67 to end ; 6. 43—to end ; 7. the whole ; 8. 9—24 ; 9. 7—18, 23—38 ; 10. the whole.

Our numeration of the lines is continuous, and is merely intended to assist reference to the notes. The introduction has been kindly given to us by the Rev. JAMES G. LONSDALE, M.A., late Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, and Tutor in Durham University, to whom we have also to record our thanks for several valuable hints in the compilation of the Notes.

J. B.

E. B.

INTRODUCTION.

THE date of the birth of Tibullus is uncertain, though in the Third Book, Elegy V. 19, it is positively asserted that he was born in the same year as Ovid, B.C. 53. His uneventful life affords but scanty materials for the biographer. From a father of equestrian rank he inherited a good landed property, acres of corn-land and of pasture, 'enough for his own wants, only too many for the thief and wolf' (*Laudes Messalæ*, 185); but, like Virgil, he suffered from agrarian division; like Virgil, he met with a friend in distress. His patron was Messala Corvinus, a friend of Horace, by whom he is mentioned as a distinguished orator. This Messala had been third in command at the battle of Philippi, but was admitted to the friendship of Augustus, preserving however a bold and independent bearing, never afraid to confess that he had been Cassius' lieutenant. He was an author, but his writings, composed according to Seneca in pure latinity, are all lost. Tibullus accompanied him on his expedition into Gaul, and afterwards followed him into the East, but being taken ill at Corcyra returned home. The poet's estate was at Pedum (probably Zagarola) in Latium, which lay between Tibur (Tivoli) and Praeneste (Palestrina) on the Via Praenestrina, amidst the beautiful scenery of a hilly country. There, as says his friend

Horace, 'he chanted his piteous elegies,' complaining of the cruelty of Glycera, who preferred a younger lover and the gifts of wealth to those of the Muse (Odes I, xxxiii.); or there, in happier mood, he enjoyed his sufficient means, a favourite of Heaven, endued with gifts of body and soul, and with the power of enjoying both; to whose lot fell favour, fame, health; there he sauntered amidst healthy woods, musing on what was worthy of the wise and good, a gentle critic of his friend's satires (I, Epist. iv.) Did Horace write jestingly, as often? The account of such perfect contentment suits only in part the poet's description of his own life. He has described the country and the abundance of his rustic felicity, blessed by the favour of Ceres and the rural Gods of Latium; but a soft melancholy seems to temper his contentment, a melancholy either natural to his tender soul, or entertained in his sensitive heart, because fair Delia cared not to share his obscure happiness, but preferred, as did Nemesis and Glycera, a richer lover. Perhaps he had read the 2nd Epode of his friend Horace, praising the charms of country life, its freedom from alarms and cares, its humble duties, simple fare, pleasant scenes: yet if we judged by his own poems, rather than by Horace's Epistle to him, we should say that 'melancholy marked him for her own.' We may fancy

'How hard by yon wood

'Muttering his wayward fancies he would rove,

'Now drooping, woeful wan, like one forlorn,

'Or crazed with care, or crossed in hopeless love.'

This melancholy seems like the presage of early death, for as Domitius Marsus says :

'Te quoque, Virgillii comitem non aequa, Tibulle,
'Mors juvenem campos misit ad Elysios'

Virgil died B.C. 19. Ovid, who complains that the harsh fates did not allow time for him to become Tibullus' friend, has written a beautiful lamentation on his death in an Elegy (IV. Amor. Eleg. viii.) which contains several familiar lines, and in which Ovid's graceful variety is set forth with more feeling than is usually found in his verses ; it is a comfort to him to think that the death of Tibullus had been still sadder, had it happened in Corcyra ; for that now his mother had closed his eye ; his sister had shared his sorrow ; Delia spake the last sad words of regret ; Nemesis held her dying lover's hand.

His poems have come down to us by means of MSS., none of which ^{are} ancient, in four books, all attributed to Tibullus with equal confidence ; yet modern criticism, which spares nothing, sacred or profane, has raised from internal evidence grave and not unreasonable doubts against the two latter books. The third book, inscribed Lygdamus (either a real or fictitious name) is the most open to suspicion, as different in style from Tibullus, and as giving an improbable date to his birth. The heroic poem, the Panegyric of Messala (a frigid and wearisome production) may have been written by Tibullus when young : a coincidence, apparently undesigned, exists between Eleg. I. i. 33



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