

**ECLECTIC SCHOOL
READINGS:
STORY OF ÆNEAS**

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Eclectic School Readings: Story of Æneas by M. Clarke

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M. CLARKE

**ECLECTIC SCHOOL
READINGS:
STORY OF ÆNEAS**



J. Labart.

VERGIL, READING TO VARIUS, HORACE AND MÆCENAS.

ECLECTIC SCHOOL READINGS

STORY OF ÆNEAS

BY

M. CLARKE

AUTHOR OF "STORY OF TROY," "STORY OF CÆSAR."

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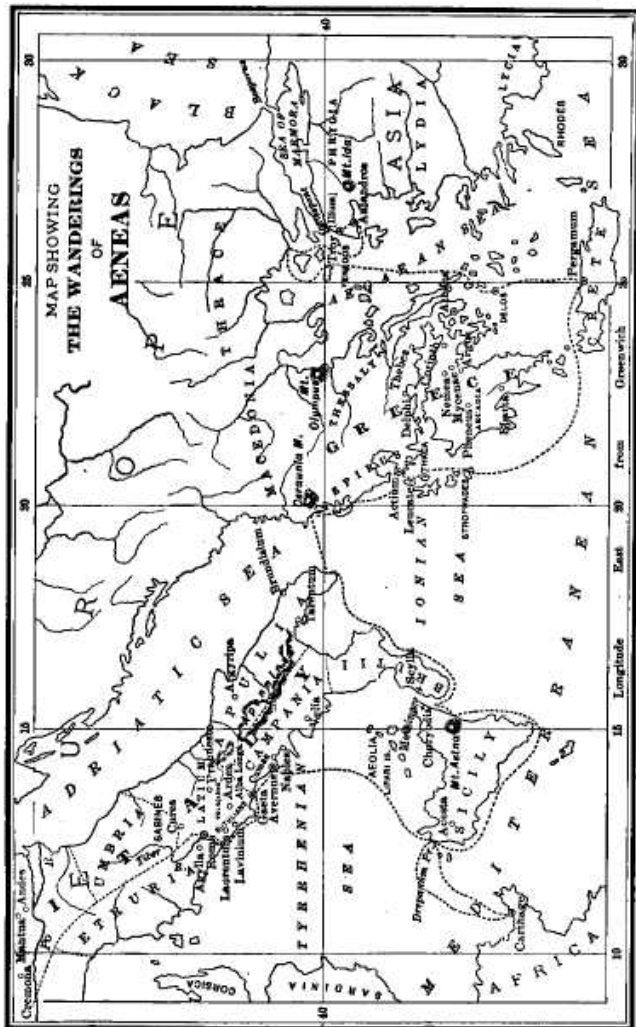
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Story of *Aeneas*.

W. P. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

I. VERGIL, THE PRINCE OF LATIN POETS.

THE story of Æ-ne'as, as related by the Roman poet Ver'gil in his celebrated poem called the Æ-ne'id, which we are to tell about in this book, is one of the most interesting of the myths or legends that have come down to us from ancient authors.

Vergil lived in the time of the Roman Emperor Au-gus'tus (63 B. C. — 14 A. D.), grand-nephew and successor of Ju'li-us Cæ'sar. Augustus and his chief counsellor or minister Mæ-ce'nas, gave great encouragement to learning and learned men, and under their liberal patronage arose a number of eminent writers to whose works has been given the name of classics, as being of the highest rank or *class*. The period is known as the Augustan Age, a phrase also used in reference to periods in the history of other countries, in which literature reached its highest perfection. Thus the reign of Queen Anne (1702 — 1714) is called the Augustan age of English literature, because of the number of literary

men who flourished in England in that period, and the excellence of their works.

Vergil was the greatest of the poets of ancient Rome, and with the exception of Ho'mer, the greatest of the poets of antiquity. From a very early period, almost from the age in which he lived, he was called the Prince of Latin Poets. His full name was Pub'li-us Ver-gil'i-us Ma'ro. He was born about seventy years before Christ, in the village of An'des (now Pi-e'to-le), near the town of Man'tu-a in the north of Italy. His father was the owner of a small estate, which he farmed himself. Though of moderate means, he gave his son a good education. Young Vergil spent his boyhood at school at Cre-mo'na and Milan. He completed his studies at Naples, where he read the Greek and Latin authors, and acquired a knowledge of mathematics, natural philosophy, and medical science. He afterwards returned to Mantua, and resided there for a few years, enjoying the quiet of country life at the family homestead.

About this time the Emperor Augustus was engaged in a war against a powerful party of his own countrymen, led by a famous Roman named Bru'tus. In the year 42 B. C. he defeated Brutus in a great battle, which put an end to the war. He afterwards rewarded many of his troops by dividing