

# **THE EPODES OF HORACE**

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The Epodes of Horace by Arthur S. Way

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**ARTHUR S. WAY**

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OF HORACE**



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THE EPODES OF  
HORACE

Translated into English Verse

BY  
ARTHUR S. WAY, M.A.

AUTHOR OF  
*"The Iliad of Homer in English Verse," "The Odyssey of Homer  
in English Verse," and "The Tragedies of Euripides  
in English Verse."*

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## PREFACE.

 HIS little *parergon*, undertaken to brighten the toil of a few Cheltenham College boys, is published in the thought that it may prove suggestive to some other teachers who want to help their pupils to "enter into the spirit of the author." Haply there are critics who, missing features which old experience has taught them to expect in translations of Horace, and finding some which have not usually profaned so serious a production, will aver that, whatever spirit be there, it is not that of Horace. I would say, in my defence, that this little work is, by reason of the circumstances attending its execution, rather an experiment



in education than an attempt at the unattainable; and that I seem to have found that the introduction of an occasional touch of modern colour, and the elimination of a little of the "learned allusion" element, tend to give boys a somewhat more living interest in their author, and to remind them that people could once read him without a classical dictionary at their elbow and explanatory notes at the end.

The text of the *Pitt Press* edition has been followed,

## INTRODUCTION.

**I**N the year 40 B.C. Horace, then twenty-five years old, was a struggling treasury clerk at Rome. His poetic talents were just bringing him into notice. It was not only that he was for the first time revealing to Romans that their own language was not an instrument of narrow musical compass, that it was capable of combining the delicate metrical effects of Greek lyric verse with a sonorous majesty all its own, but there was a vigour in his style, a power of personal invective, a literary finish and "rapier-touch," which marked him out as a "first-rate fighting man." As such, he was, as scholars incline to think, at first taken up by the old conservative, or republican, party. They had indeed been decisively beaten in the field; but they might not unreasonably build on the chance of a reaction in popular feeling; and the cleverest satirist of the day was a useful ally. But, having

caught him, they could not keep him. Perhaps they thought—party leaders have been known to make the same mistake since then—that the honour of being their ally was enough for a poor man, and that literature can live on the air of praise. It was not difficult for a great leader on the imperial side to detach him, when that leader was not only a generous patron, but one who treated a literary ally, not as a tool, but as a friend. Mæcenas won Horace, not for his cause alone, but for himself, in 38 B.C. Three years later he made the poet independent, and, which is more, contented, by the present of the celebrated "Sabine Farm." In 31 B.C., the battle of Actium satisfied Horace on which side Providence was. In the following year he published the *Epodes*.

On analysing this small collection of seventeen poems, we find that they fall into four groups.

1. *Political*: two (vii and xvi) of the poet's first, or republican, period; and two (i and ix) of the imperial period.

2. *Personal*: iii, xi, xiii, xiv, xv (on himself, his friends, and his loves).

3. *Satirical*: lv (against an upstart); vi, x (against

1. This word is, of course, here used for convenience, by anticipation.