

**TRANSLATIONS
FROM LUCIAN**

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Translations from Lucian by Augusta M. Campbell Davidson

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AUGUSTA M. CAMPBELL DAVIDSON

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BY

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PREFATORY NOTE

THERE can be little doubt that, whatever the cause, Lucian is a writer who has fallen at the present day almost wholly out of general reading. No great number of his dialogues and pamphlets has met in recent times with a translator, and it seems probable that to the majority of English readers he is little more than a name.

It is in the belief that this general neglect is wholly undeserved that I have thought it worth while to add a few more to the pieces translated in this country of late years, with a view to bringing under the notice of the English reader some specimens of Lucian's work in various kinds which may afford some further glimpses of the picture he has left us of the social and intellectual life of his times—a picture wherein the touch of the painter, no less than the subject painted, goes to prove the entire justice with which this writer of eighteen centuries ago has been called 'the first of the moderns.'

Of the seven pieces now translated, different as they are in style and subject-matter, each deals in a fashion of its own with one of the three subjects

of religion, philosophy, and literature; with the character of their professors and their position in the social system of the time, or with the attitude towards these subjects of an age of decadence—of reaction on the one hand and of fantastic innovation on the other; of unsparing scepticism matched with rank superstition; of artificial enthusiasms and fashionable crazes.

The text followed in these translations is that of Jacobitz in the Teubner series (Leipsic, 1896). No alteration has been made beyond a few necessary omissions and modifications.

LONDON, *January* 1902.

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THE SALE OF PHILOSOPHERS

ZEUS. Put the benches in order, you there, and get the place ready for the customers! You, bring in the goods and set them in a row: but brush them up a little first to make them look their best, and attract as many buyers as possible. Do you, Hermes, put up the lots, and bid purchasers welcome to the saleroom. We beg to announce a sale of philosophic characters of every class and variously assorted principles. Customers finding it inconvenient to pay cash down may give security for the amount of their purchase, and settle next year.

HERMES. They are coming in in crowds. We had better begin at once, so as not to keep them waiting.

ZEUS. By all means let us do so.

HERM. Whom do you want brought out first?

ZEUS. That long-haired fellow - the Ionian; he looks rather an imposing personage.

HERM. You there, Pythagoras, come down and let the gentlemen have a look at you. Gentlemen, the article I offer you is one of the best and most high-class character. Who buys? Who wants to soar above mere humanity? Who wants to understand the harmony of the universe, and live again after death?

CUSTOMER. He is rather grand to look at, certainly. But what exactly is his specialty?