

**GERMANICUS, OR
EXTRACTS FROM THE
ANNALS OF TACITUS**

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Germanicus, or Extracts from the Annals of Tacitus by A. H. Beesly

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A. H. BEESLY

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GERMANICUS

OR

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNALS OF TACITUS

WITH ENGLISH NOTES, INTRODUCTION, &c.

FOR THE MIDDLE FORMS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BY

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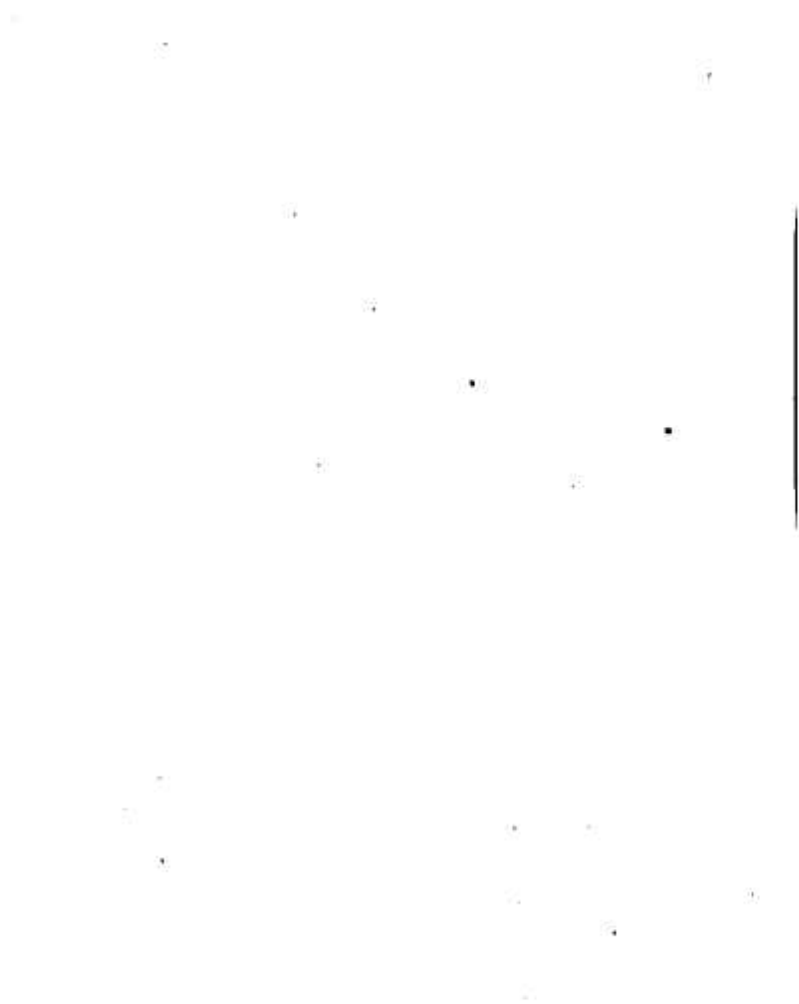
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1876

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PREFACE.

COMPILATIONS of extracts from classical writers have been produced in profusion of late years. I claim for the text, at all events, of this little book something more than the excuse for such works which is often by no means unnecessary.

1. Tacitus is, because too difficult, not read by those who, I hope, may now make their acquaintance with him through these pages. Teacher and pupil may alike be glad to quit, once in a while, the beaten path of Cæsar and Livy for a fresher field.

2. The episode of Germanicus is most easily and naturally detached from the context, and forms a story complete in itself.

3. Some of the most picturesque and spirited passages in Tacitus are contained in the chapters which deal with his hero, and if it is romance he has written, his defects as an historian are for the present purpose a positive gain.

I do not therefore feel that the objections, some-

times not unreasonably urged against books of extracts, apply here.

With regard to the Notes, many are connected with a translation I made several years ago of the first three books of the 'Annals,' two of which were published in 1869. The Translation by Messrs. Church and Brodribb has appeared too recently for me to make any use of it, except that I have availed myself of their kind permission to appropriate an excursus on the campaigns of Germanicus. My chief obligations are to ORELLI and Mr. FROST's edition of the 'Annals' in the 'Bibliotheca Classica.' What else I have borrowed I do not consider a debt.

May 1876.

INTRODUCTION.

THE PRAENOMEN of Cornelius Tacitus, his birth-place, the date of his birth and death, and the name of his father are all uncertain. Probably he was called Publius or Caius, was born about 55 or 53 A.D., and was the son of a Roman knight, also called Cornelius, who was Procurator of Belgica Gallia. The people of Terni claim him as a citizen, but without evidence. He was taught oratory by Marcus Aper and Julius Secundus, and, in allusion to a funeral oration he spoke over Virginus Rufus the younger, Pliny calls him 'laudator eloquentissimus.'

He married, A.D. 77, the daughter of Cn. Julius Agricola, who was then Consul, and was Praetor A.D. 88, having filled the preliminary offices of the Vigintiviratus, Quaestorship, and Tribunate or Aedileship, under Vespasian and Titus. He left home A.D. 90, probably as Proprætor of one of the Imperial provinces, and returned after four years. In 97 A.D. he was Consul and in 99 A.D. prosecuted, on behalf of the inhabitants of Africa, Marius Priscus for corrupt administration