

**THE SHORTER AENEID;
SELECTED
AND ARRANGED
WITH BRIEF NOTES**

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The shorter Aeneid; selected and arranged with brief notes by H. H. Hardy & H. E. Butler

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H. H. HARDY & H. E. BUTLER

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THE SHORTER AENEID

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THE SHORTER AENEID.

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

WITH BRIEF NOTES

BY

H. H. HARDY

ASSISTANT MASTER IN RUGBY SCHOOL: FORMERLY SCHOLAR OF
NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

WITH A PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION

BY

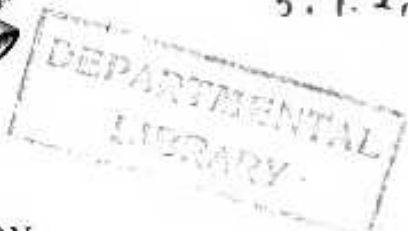
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EDITOR'S NOTE

IF any apology is needed beyond a conviction, shared by not a few Schoolmasters of my acquaintance, that such a book as "The Shorter Aeneid" can be useful, it will be found in the Preface which my friend and former tutor, Prof. H. E. Butler, contributes to this volume. I do not feel that the editor of such a book need spend much time in apologizing for what a strictly conventional and perhaps obsolete view may regard as a sort of sacrilege. Many teachers in Public Schools would like to use Virgil sooner than they do; but the difficulties of the Aeneid deter them. In this edition many difficult passages and lines do not appear, in particular those in which the mythology or textual uncertainty would require lengthy Notes. In most cases the omission is covered by a narrative which nowhere (except in one passage, VI, 722-751) overlaps the Latin text here printed; rather it seeks to supply the necessary mortar that shall hold together the original stones of the structure. In other places, brief omissions or passages whose absence in no way affects the narrative, are indicated by dots. Very short notes, mainly concerned in explaining the extraordinary diversity of

proper names, have been added. It is hoped that such a system may make it possible for many to read a good deal of Virgil who might otherwise read none, and yet to gain the impression (not to be derived from mere "selections") that the Aeneid is a complete poem with one uniform plan and purpose. And it is certainly better to read four-sevenths of the Aeneid than none at all.

For the rest, the value of Literature does not necessarily consist in its difficulties. You may often gain a finer view of the Alps from some summit attained with moderate toil than if you make haste to rise up early and scale with infinite labour the Dent Blanche or the Matterhorn. To scale the nobler heights is, indeed, the better part; but there are glories to be seen and keen delights to be enjoyed by those who cannot aspire to the full adventure.

Throughout, both in the idea and in its execution, I have had the advantage of continual help from Professor Butler, even down to the smallest details of proof-correcting. Discerning readers of the book should ascribe to him what merits it may possess, to me the faults that remain. For these latter Professor Butler must in no sense be held responsible: they will doubtless be found in those places where I have neglected to take his advice.

H. H. H.

RUGBY,
February 1914.

PREFACE

AN abbreviated Aeneid will seem to many an audacity and to some a profanation. However the selection be made, those who already know and love their Virgil will miss many favourite lines and familiar passages, and the perspective of the poem will seem strangely altered. But they have no need of such a book as this. It is intended to meet the needs of a different class of reader, a class which even in these days is not small either in numbers or importance, namely, those for whom Latin may have real value and a genuine message, but for whom it must always remain but a subsidiary element in their education. For there are many with a true appreciation of literature, who must necessarily be debarred by the circumstances of their education from spending more than a small portion of their time on the study of the classics, or from entering into the minuter points of scholarship. Now it so happens that the Aeneid occupies a very peculiar position among the world's masterpieces. Portions of it make an immediate appeal to all lovers of poetry. The second book with its magnificent picture of the fall of Troy; the fourth with the tragedy of Dido's love, desertion,