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Hosius' Lucan

W. E. Heitland

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PARALLEL VERSE EXTRACTS.

Parallel Verse Extracts for Translation into English and Latin, with special prefaces on idioms and metres, by J. E. NIXON, M.A., and E. H. C. SMITH, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.) 5s. 6d.

It will seem specially undesirable to many interested in education that a fresh impulse should be given to the study and composition of Latin verse. This jesuitical practice, cunningly contrived by the enemies of progress and enlightenment with the express object of dwarfing and chaining the human intellect, has been held up to scorn by almost all enthusiasts of the utilitarian school: and the superiority of Latin prose as an instrument for sharpening the faculties and training them in habits of accuracy and observation has become almost axiomatic. The pains bestowed on teaching Latin prose in all good schools has no doubt resulted in turning out a vast quantity of passable work, and yet it may be doubted whether the higher rhythmical effects can be acquired without the aid of verse; and consequently the higher a boy gets in his school, if verse is neglected, the more the prose which passed muster at first, and gained him a good position, falls off in quality and tone. But perhaps the tide is turning again, and the poets are reclaiming their proper place as the natural teachers of the young, and the exclusive study of Caesar for the sake of oblique narration is giving place to the more congenial Ovid and

Virgil. And the triumph of turning out a fairly sonorous and compact Elegiac couplet is surely far more exhilarating than a successful dovetailing of final clauses.

But Mr. Nixon's book is not for beginners. It presumes an elementary training, and aims at finish and precision. The prefaces on Amplification, Condensation, Equivalents, Emphasis and Antithesis, Grammatical and Metrical licences are full of matter, and illustrated by constant references to the select passages from Latin poets which follow. Then follow chapters on various metres, treating the subject scientifically, and with reference to musical notation. Especially instructive is the note at page lxxvi. on the sapphic stanza.

An appendix at the end of the volume contains specimens of the Greek originals of Latin metres, and the early attempts of Ennius, Lucilius and the rest.

The parallel extracts, to which all the rest is subsidiary, are ranged on opposite pages, and selected from a great variety of authors, —perhaps from too great a variety. But passages from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and from the Silver Age are often more modern in thought and feeling, and serve metrically as a foil to the perfection of Virgil. There are very few absolute translations from the Latin; as a rule mere similarity of thought and general scope has led to juxtaposition. A key is being prepared, which will materially add to the interest of the work.

E. D. S.

HOSIUS' LUCAN.

In my review of this work in the last number of the *Classical Review*, I have not stated correctly the editor's account of the relation of the MSS. I should have pointed out that both U and G are manuscripts with a mixed text. This error—quite inexcusable, I admit—was caused by trying to do too many things at once, and I am very

sorry for it. Those who are familiar with the Lucan literature of the last forty years will I am sure be the most willing to make allowance for my blunder. I sent a correction, but too late.

W. E. HEITLAND.

5th February, 1894.