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Tyrrell and Purser's Letters of Cicero *The Correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero, with. a Revision of the Text, a Commentary, and Introductory Essays*, by R. Y. Tyhrell, M.A., Regius Professor of Greek, Trinity College, Dublin, and L. O. Purser, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Vol. III. Dublin: University Press Series. 1890. 12s.

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certainty that they were, and it is very probable that they were the Phoenicians who had been settled in Sicily before the Greeks arrived there. In chap. 68 Dyman-

teis and Aegineios are misprints for Dymânes or Dymanâtae, as Herodotus calls them, and Aegimios.

EVELYN ABBOTT.

TYRRELL AND PURSER'S LETTERS OF CICERO.

The Correspondence of M. Tullius Cicero, with a Revision of the Text, a Commentary, and Introductory Essays, by R. Y. TYRRELL, M.A., Regius Professor of Greek, Trinity College, Dublin, and L. C. PURSER, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Vol. III. Dublin: University Press Series. 1890. 12s.

It is happily unnecessary at the present time to commend this edition to the attention of scholars. In the opinion of all competent judges the great promise of the first volume of this important work, of which I spoke in the Preface to my *Life and Letters of Cicero*, in 1880, has been fully sustained in the two that have succeeded, and it has distinctly taken its place in the front rank of English editions of the classics, as one showing not only great industry and scholarship, but also singular freshness and virility. There is no need now to do more than to inquire what special contribution this third volume makes to the progress of the work.

It will be seen that in accordance with the announcement made in the Preface to the second volume, 1886, Mr. Purser, who had largely assisted Prof. Tyrrell before, especially in the tedious work of the collation of MSS., is now associated with him as joint editor. What exact share each may have taken, one cannot of course tell; but I venture to think that, whatever the cause, the result, as a whole, is, without any loss of vigour, a distinct gain in soundness. The fault of the first volume certainly was too great readiness to admit clever conjectures into the text without adequate discussion or sufficient foundation. In the present volume the mere conjectures actually admitted into the text are comparatively few and are not mostly of a very startling character. By far the most brilliant of these is not due to the editors, who nevertheless may claim some credit for being the first to adopt it in the text, namely Dindorf's ἀκρα Γυρέων *pura* for the 'ἀκρατήρεων *iura*' of the Medicean MS. in *Att.* v. 12, given in all edd. as ἀκρωτηρίων οὖρα, which is supposed

to mean 'signs of fair weather from the mastheads.' 'The reading in the text,' say the editors, 'was admirably restored by L. Dindorf from a fragment of Archilochus (54, Bergk):

ἀμφὶ δ' ἀκρα Γυρέων ὀρθὸν ἴσταιται νέφος,

quoted by Plutarch, *de Superst.* c. 8, and by Theophrastus, *de Sign. Temp.* 3, 8. So the heights on the promontory of Gyrae (the southern point of Tenos, due north of Paros) afforded a recognized, almost proverbial, weather-gauge, and nothing is more natural than that Cicero, who knew the words of Archilochus well, and who was now close to Paros, the birthplace of the poet, should refer to this passage, finding himself in the neighbourhood of the very place. Cicero says, here "I don't mean to stir from Delos till I see *all the peaks of Gyrae* clear." This brilliant emendation perhaps comes as near to carrying positive conviction as any conjecture can do, and we may anticipate that henceforward it will form part of the *textus receptus*.

In *Att.* v. 21 the editors adopt the reading of Gronovius, *caculae*, 'a soldier's servant,' for the MS. reading *canule*, which is generally taken to represent a proper name, Canuleius. In *Att.* vii. 1 they give a very probable explanation of the curious sentence, 'ubi illae sunt densae dexteræ?' by printing it as a verse from an iambic poet, with the first syllable of *illae* short according to the archaic usage. The strange epithet *densae*, for which *tensae* has been commonly conjectured, is then probably a rendering or reminiscence of a Greek original πικναί. In *Att.* vii. 3 they retain, with Lachmann, the archaic *noenu*, for the MS. 'noen' which has been too hastily changed into *non* by editors. It is clear that such an archaism was much more likely in Cicero himself than in any of his copyists. So also they print *quoivus* in a letter of Caelius, *Fam.* viii. 1, for *cuius*, introduced against the MSS. In *Att.* vii. 2 they alter *prudentialius* of the MSS. into *pudentius*, as an essential antithesis to *spurce*.

Many similar conjectures are only suggested in the notes, some of them as good probably as most of those admitted into the text. Such are the insertion of *de* before *DCCC aperuisti* in *Att. v. 1*; *ride modo* for *vide modo* in a letter of Caelius, *Fam. viii. 2*, after Wesenberg; *νομαίαν ἀργίας* *excusationem*, in *Att. v. 11*, for the corrupt *νομαναρία* *excusationem*, i.e. 'the banal excuse of idleness.' Perhaps better than any of these is the explanation suggested of (*Julia lege*) *transita* in *Att. v. 21*, as an inter-linear gloss, *in transitu*, of the original *ἐν παρόδῳ*, 'during my official progress.' On the other hand the editors would do well to recollect occasionally that different conjectures thrown out, as it were, at random only weaken one another, and that when they hesitate between *puta te me* or *πατηρόν* for *putato* (*Att. vii. 7*), and offer for *iam Romae* (*Att. v. 19*), an 'embarrass derichesse' of *quadrimam*, *ταῖα ῥώμη*, *iam σπογγή*, *iam ὄρη*, *iam amore*, and even *moratam*, none of these wild guesses are likely to be very seriously considered.

The letters included in the present volume, 118 in all, are those of the two years 51 and 50 B.C. only, during nearly the whole of which time Cicero was absent on his 'Lord-Lieutenancy' of Cilicia. They are of far less dramatic interest than the preceding set of the Exile, or the succeeding one of the Civil War, but are nevertheless of considerable importance, both as throwing light on the worn-out senatorial system of provincial misgovernment to which the revelation of the character of that most detestable of all Romans, Brutus, startlingly contributes, and also, chiefly owing to the cynically candid letters of Caelius, as helping us to thread our way through the intricate tangle of preliminary feints which preceded the actual outbreak of the War. In place of an excursus on the Provincial Government of Cicero, Prof. Tyrrell reprints an essay contributed by him to the *Quarterly Review* for October, 1888. It was noted at the time as a very able essay, but it perhaps needs a certain amount of re-writing to adapt it to its present position. There is also a life of that remarkably interesting character, Marcus Caelius Rufus, based in large measure upon the charmingly written paper on him in M. Boissier's '*Cicéron et ses amis*,' and a discussion of his peculiar style, abounding at once in archaisms and in popular slang, where the editors acknowledge their obligations to a pamphlet

on the subject by Dr. Ferdinand Becher of Ilfeld. They adopt without hesitation—indeed without the least mention of a disputed opinion—the theory that Catullus' Lesbia was Clodia, and 'have no doubt' that the Rufus of the 77th ode of Catullus, who had been 'trusted fruitlessly and in vain,' was Marcus Caelius, the very man who, according to Quintilian, gave her the terrible nickname of 'Quadrantaria.' A practised translator cannot but sympathise with Prof. Tyrrell in his task of rendering this name, but he must be painfully conscious that 'a two-penny-halfpenny Clytaemnestra' (p. xlv.) is not only rather feeble in itself, but entirely omits the whole point of the name, which he has rightly explained on the page before by a reference to the '*scortum diabolare*' of Plautus.

This is however a very rare if not unique specimen, at any rate of feebleness in translation. Like all scholars who have emancipated themselves from the wooden stage of translation in which the probable meaning is both the Alpha and the Omega, Prof. Tyrrell most carefully emphasizes the curious and often inaccurate Greek phrases which form such a marked feature of the Letters to Atticus, not, as is sometimes carelessly stated, of Cicero's letters altogether; and his success in the great majority of cases is such as to make one wish that none had been left unattempted. Mostly of course they are rendered by colloquial French, as *στρατήγημα*, a 'ruse'; *πρόσνευσον*, a 'penchant'; *ἐν ἐπιτομῇ*, 'tout court'; and so forth; but the Greek of medical terms is rightly distinguished as technical, for which the Latin of chemists gives us probably the nearest correspondence, while certain others Prof. Tyrrell rather audaciously still renders by slang, such as *δυσδιάγνωστον*, 'not a pin to choose'; *πεινητικὴν*, 'doing Banting' (surely this at least is too ephemeral); *haec λαμπρά*, 'this is a score for me.'

All scholars will see with pleasure in the Preface that Prof. Tyrrell and Mr. Purser 'hope to finish the whole work in two more volumes in the course of the next three or four years.' The next volume, which will contain the letters of the Civil War, will probably be the most important and interesting of the whole series, and there is no fear that it will fail at least to rise to the very high level which, when all minor criticisms have been made, this important work has undoubtedly claimed and maintained.

G. E. JEANS.