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# EPOCHS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

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*ROME and CARTHAGE*

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R. BOSWORTH SMITH, M.A.

*EPOCHS OF ANCIENT HISTORY*

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# ROME AND CARTHAGE

*THE PUNIC WARS*

BY

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M A T R I M E Æ

CUJUS NOMEN VIVÆ

HUIC OPUSCULO PRÆTEXI DEBUERAT

QUOD MATERNO AMORE INCEPTUM FOVEBAT

MORTUÆ PERACTUM

AMANTISSIMUS DEDICO

## P R E F A C E.

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THE PAGES which follow are an abbreviation of my larger work on 'Carthage and the Carthaginians.' I have made no attempt to alter the language of the larger work, except where it appeared to me that I could alter it for the better. Indeed, any attempt to write down to the capacities of younger readers seems to me quite unnecessary in dealing with an 'epoch of history' which, in the unique interest and importance of its subject, and in the simple grandeur of its leading characters, appeals with almost equal force to young and old. And if I have been led to dwell at greater length, and with apparently more genuine enthusiasm, on the elements of greatness which are to be found in Carthage, and on the genius of her two greatest sons, than on the qualities of her successful rival, it is not because I would suggest any doubt that Rome was the fitter of the two for empire, or that her victory was on the whole the victory of progress and of civilisation ; but because, owing

to the conditions under which the history of Carthage has come down to us, and the distorted medium through which we must needs view it, it is, in my judgment, the proper business of the historian, so far as in him lies, to restore the balance. Multitudinous voices of the past and of the present, and in a sense even of the future, attest, in language that cannot be mistaken by any one, the greatness of the 'Eternal City'; but the mournful and solitary silence which weighs upon the traveller as he stands upon the deserted site of Carthage, while it attests how thoroughly the Romans carried out their hateful work of obliteration, calls upon him in tones which, to him, at least, are equally unmistakable, to lay stress on what may be fairly said for the city and the civilisation which have never spoken, and can, unfortunately, no longer speak, for themselves

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*Dec. 1, 1880.*

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