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## PLUTARCH'S LIVES.

Yow I.

# PLUTARCH'S. LIVES 

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NOTES AND A LIFE OF PLUTARCH.

## BY

AUBREY STEWART, M.A., Late Pelleo of Thenity collagn combridga;<br>and ter hits<br>GEORGE LONG, M.A,<br>Pormeriy Pallowo of Prinify collops cambriden

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## PREFACE.

No apologies are needed for a new edition of so favourite an author as Plutarch. From the period of the revival of classical literature in Europe down to our own times, his writings have done more than those of any other single author to familiarise us with the greatest men and the greatest events of the ancient world.

The great Duke of Marlborough, it is said, confessed that his only knowledge of English history was derived from Shakespeare's historical plays, and it would not be too much to say that a very large proportion of educated men, in our own as well as in Marlborough's times, have owed much of their knowledge of classical antiquity to the study of Plutarch's Lives. Other writers may be read with profit, with admiration, and with interest; but few, like Plutarch, can gossip pleasantly while instructing solidly; can breathe life into the dry skeleton of history, and show that the life of a Greek or Roman worthy, when rightly dealt with, can prove as entertaining as a modern novel. No one is so well able as Plutarch to dispel the doubt which all schoolboys feel as to whether the names about which they read ever belonged to men who were really alive; his characters are so intensely human and lifelike in their faults and failings as well as in their virtues, that we begin to think of them as of people whom we have ourselves personally known.

His biographies are numerous and short. By this, he avoids one of the greatest faults of modern biographers, that namely of identifying himself with some one particular personage, and endeavouring to prove that all his actions were equally laudable. Light and shade are as necessary to a character as to a picture, but a man who devotes his energies for years to the study of any single person's life, is insensibly led into palliating or explaining away his faults and exaggerating his excellencies until at last he represents him as an impossible monster of virtue. Another advantage which we obtain by his method is that we are not given a complete chronicle of each person'a life, but only of the remarkable events in it, and such incidents as will enable us to judge of his character. This also avoids what is the dreariest part of all modern biographies, those chapters I mean which describe the slow decay of their hero's powers, his last illness, and finally his death. This subject, which so many writers of our own time seem to linger lovingly upon, is dismissed by Plutarch in a few lines, unless any circumstance of note attended the death of the person described.

Without denying that Plutarch is often inaccurate and often diffuse; that his anecdotes are eometimes absurd, and his metaphysical speculations not unfrequently ridiculous, he is nevertheless generally admitted to be one of the most readable authors of antiquity, while all agree that his morality is of the purest and loftiest type.

The first edition of the Greek text of Plutarch's Lives appeared at Florence in the year 1517, and two years afterwards it was republished by Aldus. Before this, however, about the year 1470,8 magnificent Latin version by various hands appeared at Rome. From this, from the Greek text, and also from certain MSS. to which he had access, Amyot in the year 1559 composed his excellent
translation, of which it has been well said: "Quoique en vieux Gaulois, elle a un air de fraicteur qui la fait rejeunir de jour en jour.".

Amyot's spirited French version was no less spiritedly translated by Sir Thomas North. His translation was much read and admired in its day; a modern reviewer even goes so far as to say that it is " still beyond comparison the best version of Parallel Lives whioh the English tongue affords." Be this as it may, the world will ever be deeply indebted to North's translation, for it is to Shakespeare's perusal of that work that we owe 'Coriolanus,' 'Antony and Cleopatra,' and 'Julius Cæsar.'

North's translation was followed by that known as Dryden's. This work, performed by many different hands, is of unequal merit. Some Lives are rendered into a racy and idiomatio, although somewhat archaio English, while others fall far short of the standard of Sir Thomas North's work. Dryden'a version has during the last few years been re-edited by A. I. Clough, Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford.

The translation by which Plutarch is best known at the present day is that of the Langhornes. Their style is certainly dull and commonplace, and is in many instances deserving of the harsh epithets which have been lavished upon it. We must remember, however, before unsparingly condemning their translation, that the taste of the age for which they wrote differed materially from that of our own, and that people who could read the 'Lettera of Theodosius and Constantia' with interest, would certainly prefer Plutarch in the translation of the Langhornes to the simpler phrases of North's or Dryden's version. All events, comic or tragic, important or commonplace, are described with the same inflated monotony which was mistaken by them for the dignity of History.

Fet their work is in many cases far more correct as a translation, and the author's meaning is sometimes much more clearly expressed, than in Dryden's earlier version. Langhorne's Plutarch was re-edited by Archdeacon Wrangham in the year 1819.

In 1844, thirteen Lives were translated by that eminent scholar the late Mr. George Long; and it is by way of complement to these Lives that the present version was undertaken with his consent and his approval.

Those translated by Mr. Long were selected by him as illustrating a period of Roman history in which he was especially interested, and will therefore be found to be more fully annotated than the others. It has seemed to me unnecessary to give information in the notes which can at ${ }^{-}$ the present day be obtained in a more convenient form in Dr. Smith's Classical Dictionary and Dictionary of Antiquities, many of the articles in which are written by Mr. Long bimself. The student of classical literature will naturally prefer the exhaustive essays to be found in these works to any notes appended to Plutarch's tert, while to those who read merely "for the story," the notes prove both troublesome and useless.

In deciding on the spelling of the Greek proper names, I have felt great hesitation. To make a Greek speak of Juno or Minerva seems as absurd as to make a Roman swear by Herakles or Ares. Yet both Greek and Roman divinities are constantly mentioned. The only course that seemed to avoid absolute absurdity appeared to me to be that which I have adopted, namely to speak of the Greek divinities by their Greek, and the Latin ones by their Latin names. In substituting a $k$ for the more nsual $\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{I}$ have followed the example of Grote, who in his History spells all Greek names exactly as they are written, with the exception of those with which we are so familiar in their

Latin form as to render this practically impossible; as for' instance in the case of Cyprus or Corinth, or of a name like Thucydides, where a return to the Greek $k$ would be both pedantio and unmeaning.

The text, which I have followed throughout, is that of C. Sintenis, Leipsio, 1873.

Aubrey Stewart.

## PREFACE TO THE CIVIL WARS OF ROME.*

Among the extant Lives of Platarch there are thirteen Lives of Romans which belong to the most eventful period of Roman history. They are the lives of the brothers Tiberius and Cains Sempronius Gracchus, of Caius Marius, Lucius Cornelius Sulla, Quintus Sertorius, Marcus Licinius Crassus, Cneius Pompeius Magnus, Marcus Porcius Cato the Younger, Marcus Tullius Cicera, Lucius Licinius Lacullus, Cains Julius Cæsar, Marcus Junius Brutus, and Marcus Antonius. From the year of the death of Tiberius Gracchus, B.C. 133, to the death of Marcus Antonins, b.c. 30, a period of about one hundred years, the Roman State was convulsed by revolutions which gresp out of the contest between the People and the Nobility, or rather, out of the contests between the leaders of these two bodies. This period is the subject of Appian's History of the Civil Wars of the Romans, in Five Books. Appian begins with the Tribunate and legislation of Tiberius Gracchus, from which he proceeds to the Dictatorship of Sulla, and then to the quarrels betwean Pompeius and Cæesar, and Cessar's lictatorship and assassination. He then proceeds to the history of the Triumvirate formed after Cwesr's death by

[^0]his great nephew Caius Julius Cæsar Octavianns, Marcus Antonius, and Lepidus, the quarrels of the Triumviri, the downfall of Lepidus, who was reduced to the condition of a private person, and the death of Sextus Pompeius, the last support of the party in whose cause his father, Cneius Pompeius, lost his life. The remainder of this History, which is lost, carried the narration down to the quarrels of Octavianus and Marcus Antonius, which ended in the defeat of Antonius in the battle of Actium, b.c. 31, and his death in Egypt, b.c. 30. The victory. over Antonius placed all the power in the hands of Octavianus, who, in the year b.c. 27, received from the Roman Senate the title of Augustus, or the Sacred, by which name he is commonly known as the first of the long series of Roman Emperors. "He made himself," says Appian (Civil Wars, i. 5), "like Caius Julius Cesar, and atill more than Cæsar, governor of his country and of all the nations under it, without needing either election or the popular votes, or any show of such things. After his government had subsisted for a long time, and been maintained with vigour, fortunate in all his measures, and feared, he left behind him descendants and successors who kept the power that he transmitted to them. In this way, after various civil commotions, the Roman State was restored to tranquillity, and the government became a Monarchy. And how this came about I have explained, and brought together all the events, which are well worth the stady of those who wish to become acquainted with ambition of men unbounded, love of power excessive, endurance unwearied, and forms of suffering infinite." Thus, the historian's object was to trace the establishment of the Imperial power in Rome back to its origin, to show that the contests of the rival heads of parties involved the State in endiess calamities. which resulted in a dissolution of all the bonds that held
society together, and rendered the assumption of supreme: power by one man a healing and a npcessary event.

As already observed, it happens that thirteen of Plutarch's extant Lives are the lives of the most distinguished of the Romans who lived during this eventful period; and though Plutarch's Lives severally are not histories of the times to which they respectively refer, nor collectively form a History of any given time, yet they are valuable as portraits of illustrious men, and help .us to form a better judgment of those who make so onnspicuous a figure in History.

Plutarch was a native of the town of Chæroneia, in Bootia; the times of his birth and death are not exactly known, but we learn from his own works that he was a young student at Delphi, in the thirteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Nero, A.D. 66. He visited both Italy and Rome, and probably resided at Rome for some time. He wrote his Life of Demosthenes, at least after his return to Chæroneia : he says (Life of Demosthenes, c. 2), that he had not time to exercise himself in the Latin Language during his residence at Rome, being much occupied with publio business, and giving lessons in philosophy. Accordingly it was late before he began to read the Latin writers; and we may infer from his own words that he never acquired a very exact knowledge of the language. He observes that it happened in his case, that in his study of the Latin writers he did not so much learn and understand the facts from the words, as acquire the meaning of the words from the facts, of which he had already some knowledge. We may perhaps conclude from this, that Plutarch wrote all his Roman lives in Chmroneia, after he had returned there from Rome. The statement that Plutarch was the preceptor of the Emperor Trajan, and was raised to the consular rank by him, is not supported by sufficient
evidence. Plutarch addressed to Trajan his Book of Apophthegms, or Sąyings of Kings and Commanders; but this is all that is satisfactorily ascertained as to the connection between the Emperor and Mhilosopher. Trajan died 4.D. 117.
"The plan of Plutaroh's Biographies is briefly explained by himself in the introduction to the Lifo of Alexander the Great, where he makes an apology for the brevity with which he is compelled to treat of the numerous events in the Lives of Alezander and Cmesar. ' For,' he says, 'I do not write Histories, but Liven ; nor do the most conspicuous acts of necessity exhibit a man's virtue or his vice, but oftentimes some slight circumstance, a word, or a jest, shows a man's character better than battles with the slaughter of tens of thousands, and the greatest arrays of armies and siegea of cities. Now, as painters produce a likeness by a representation. of the countenance and the expression of the eyen, without troubling themselves about the other parts of the body, so I must be allowed to look rather into the signs of a man's charactar, and thus give a portrait of his life, leaving others to describe great events and battles.' The object then of Plutarch in his Biographies wan a moral end, and the exhibition of the principal events in a man's life was subordinate to this his main design; and though he may not always have adhered to the principle which he laid down, it cannot be denied that his view of what biography should be, is much more exact than that of most persons who have attempted this style of composition. The life of a atatesman or of a general, when written with a view of giving a complete history of all the public events in which he was engaged, is not biography, but history. This extract from Plutarch will also in some measure be an apology for the want of historical order observable in many of his Lives. Though
altugether deficient in that critical eagacity which discerns truth fiom faleohood, and distinguishes the intricacics of confused and conflicting statements, Plutarch has preserved in his Lives a vast number of facts which would otherwise have been unknown to us. He was a great reader, and must have had access to large libraries. It is said that he quotes two hundred and fifty writers, a great part of whoee works are now entiraly lost." (Fenny Cyclopodia, art. "Plutarch," by the writer of this Irefaca.)

The lively portraitures of men draw in Plutarch's Lives have made them farourite reading in all agea Whether Plutarch has succeeded in drewing the portraits true, we cannot ${ }^{\circ}$ always determine, because the materials for such a judgment are sometimes wanting. But when we can compare his Lives with other extant authorities, we must edmit, that though he is by no means free from error as to his facts, he has generally selected thoee events in a man's life which most clearly show his temper, and that on the whole, if wo judge of a man by Plutarch's measure, wo shall form a just estimato of him. He generally wrote without any predilections or any prejudioee. He tells us of a man's good and bad acts, of his grod and bad qualities; he makes no attampt to conceal the one or the other; he both praises and blamee as the occasion may arise; and the reader leaves off with a mixed opinion about Plutarch's Greeks and Romans, though the favourable or the unfavourable side always predominates. The benevalent disposition of Platarch, and his noble and elovated charactar, have stamped themsalves on all that he has writton. A man cannot read these Livee without being the bettor for it: his detestation of all that is mean and disingenuous will be increased; his edmiration of whatever is truthful and generous will be strengthened and exalted.
xVi PREFACE TO THE CIVIL WARS OF ROME.
The translation of these Lives is difficult. Phutarch's text is occasionally, corrupted; and where it is not corrupted, his meaning is sometimes obscure. Many of the sentences are long and ill-constructed; the metaphore often extravagant; and the just connection of the parts is sometimes difficult to discover. Many single worde which are or ought to be pertinent in Plutarch, and which go towards a description of character in general or of some particular act, can hardly be rendered by any English equivalent; and a translator often eearches in vain for something which shall convey to the reader the exact notion of the original. Yet Plutarch's narrative is lively and animated; his anecdotes are appropriately introduced and well told; and if his taste is sometimes not the purest, which in his age we could not expect it to be, he makes amends for this by the fulness and vigour of his expression. He is fond of poetical words, and they are often used with striking effect. His moral reflections, which are numerous, have the merit of not being unmeaning and tiresome, because he is always in earnest and has got something to say, and does not deal in commonplaces. When the reflection is not very profound, it is at least true; and some of his remarks show a deep insight into men's charscter.

I have attempted to give Plutarch's meaning in plain language; to give all his meaning, and neither more nor less. If I have failed in any case, it is because I could do no better. But, though I have not alwaya succeeded in expressing exactly what I conceive to be the meaning of the original, I have not intentionally added to it or detracted from it. It may be that there are passages in which I have mistaken the original ; and those who have made the experiment of rendering from one langaage into another, know that this will sometimes happen even in an easy passage. A difficnlt passage attracts more than

PREFACE TO THE CIVIL WABS OF ROME. xtili
usual of a translator's attention, and if he fails there, it is either because the difficulty cannot be overcomo, or because he cannot overcome it. Mere inadvertence or sleepiness may sometimes canse a translator to blunder, when he would not have blundered if any friend had been by to keep him awake.

The best thing that a man can do to avoid these and other errors is to compare his translation, when he has finished it, with some other. The translation which I have compared with mine is the German translation of Kaltwasser, Magdeburg, 1799, which is generally correct. Kaltwasser in his Preface speaks of the way in which he used the German translations of two of his predecessors, J. Christopher Kind, Leipzig, 1745-1754, and H. v. Schirach, 1776-1780, and some others. He says, "These two translations, with the French translations above mentioned, I have duly used, for it is the duty of a translator to compare himself with his predecessors; but I lay my labour before the eyes of the publio, withont fearing that I shall be accused of copying or of close imitation. First of all, I carefully studied the text of my author and translated him as well as I could : then, and not before, I compared the labour of my predecessors, and where I found a more suitable expression or a happier turn, I made use of it withont hesitation. In this way, every fault, every deviation of the old translators must be apparent; the most striking of them I have remarked on in the notes, but I have more frequently amended such things silently, as a comparison will show the reader." The translator has not compared his version with any English version. The translation of North, which has great merit in point of expression, is a version of Amyot's French version, from which; however, it differs in some passages, where it is decidedly wrong and Amyot's version is right. Indeed, it is surprising to find how correct

## XVIii PREFACE TO THE CIVIL WARS OF EOME.

this old French translation generally is. The translation of 'Plutarch's Lives from the Greek by several hands,' was published at London in 1683-86. It was dedicated by Dryden to James Butler, the first Duke of Ormond, in a fulsome panegyric. It is said that forty-one translators laboured at the work. Dryden did not translate any of the Lives; but he wrote the Life of Plutarch which is prefixed to this translation. The advertisement prefixed to the translation passes under the name and character of the bookseller (Jacob Tonson), but, as Malone observes, it may from internal evidence be safely attributed to Dryden. The bookseller says, "You bave here the first volume of Plutarch's Lives turned from the Greek into English ; and give me leave to aay, the firgt attempt of doing it from the originals." This is aimed at North's versinn, of which Dryden remarks in his Life of Plutarch: "As that translation was only from the French, so it suffered this double disadvantage; first, that it was but a copy of a copy, and that too but lamely taken from the Greek original; secondly, that the English language was then anpolished, and far from the perfection which it has since attained; so that the first version is not only ungrammatical and ungraceful, but in many places almost unintelligible." There is another English version, by the Langhornes, which has often been reprinted; there is an edition of it with notes by Wrangham. I have compared my translation carefully with the German of Kaltwasser, and sometimes with the French of Amyot, and I have thas avoided some errora into which I should have fallen. Thers are errors both in the versions of Amyot and Kaltwasser which I have avoided; but I may have fallen into others.

The translation of Kaltwasser contains some nseful notes. Those which I have added to this translation are intended to explain so much as needs explanation to a
person who is not much acquainted with Roman history and Roman usages; but they will also be useful to others. The notes of Kaltwasser have often reminded me of the passages where some note would be nseful, and have occasionally furnished materials also. But as I have always referred to the original authorities, I do not consider it necessary to make more than this general acknowledgmeut. The notes added to this translation are all my own, and contain my own opinions and observations.

- This translation has, been made from the edition of C. Sintenis, Leiprig, 1839, and I have compared the text of Sintenis with that of G. H. Schaefer, Leipzig, 1826, which has been severely criticized: this edition contains, however, some useful notes. I have very seldom made any remarks on the Greek text, as such kind of remark would not have suited the plan and design of this version, which is not intended for verbal critics.

I shall explain by two brief extracts what is my main design in this version and in the notes, which must be my apology for not affecting a learned commentary, and my excuse to those who shall not find here the kind of remarks that are suitable to a critical edition of an apcient author. I have had another object than to discuss the niceties of words and the forms of phrases, a labour which is well in its place, if it be done well, but is not what needs to be done to such an author as Plutarch to render him useful. A man who was a great reader of Plutarch, a just and solid thinker above the measure of his age, and not surpassed in his way by any writer in our own, Montaigne, observes in his 'Essay of the Education of Children'-"Let him enquire into" the manners, revenues, and alliances of princes, things in themselves very pleasant to learn, and very useful to know. In this conversing with men, I mean, and principally those who only live in the records of history, he
shall by reading those books, converse with those great and heroio souls of former and better agea. "Tis an idlo and vain study, I confess, to those who make it mo, by doing it after a negligent manner, but to those who do it with care and observation, 'tis a atudy of inestimable fruit and value; and the only one, as Plato reports, the Lacedmmonians reserved to themselves. What profit shall he not reap as to the business of men, by reading the Lives of Plutarch? But withal, let my governor remember to what end his instructions are principally directed, and that he do not so much imprint in his pupil's memory the date of the ruin of Carthage, as the mannern of IIannibal and Scipio; not so much where Marcollus died, as why it was unworthy of his duty that he died there. That he do not toach him so much the narrative part, as the business of history. The reading of which, in my opinion, is a thing that of all others we apply ourselvee unto with the most differing and uncertain measures."* North, in his addrese to the Reader, says: "The profit of stories, and the praise of the Author, are sufficiently deolared by Amiot, in his Epistle to the Reader: so that I shall not need to make many words thereof. And indeed if you will supply the defecte of this translation, with your own diligence and good understanding: you shall not need to trust him, you may prove yourselves, that there is no prophane study better than Plutarch. All other learning is privato, fitter for Universities than Cities, fuller of contemplation than experience, more commendable in etudents themeelven than profitable unto others. Whereas atorice are fit for every place, reach to all persons, worve for all times, toach the living, revive the dead, so far excelling all other books, as it is better to 800 learning in Noblemen's lives, than to read it in Philooophers' writings."

Grobor Inxm.

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