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978-1-316-61993-3 - Latin and English Idiom: An Object Lesson from
Livy's Preface

H. Darnley Naylor

Frontmatter

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LIVY'S PREFACE

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TO THE BEST OF TEACHERS
AND TRUEST OF FRIENDS
STUART IVOR ATKINSON

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PREFACE

THIS little book aims at giving the schoolboy and even the undergraduate assistance in acquiring Livian style. If the reader will cover the columns on the right hand side of chap. iii and then compare his version with that of Livy, he can have no ground of complaint, for he will have learnt a great amount of valuable Latin. But I venture to hope that he may find some of my comments useful.

I have referred in chap. i to a certain translation. I yield to no man in respect and admiration for the scholarship of its author, but experience has taught me that "accurate" versions are an unmixed evil. They ruin the English of the beginner, and are of no service to the advanced scholar. This fetich of "accuracy" begins at school with "which things having been done" and is continued, in a less flagrant form, even at our Universities. Two renderings should always be given whether in school or lecture-room: an "accurate" version (where explanation is necessary) and an English one. If this

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PREFACE

were done, the reproach would soon be wiped out that mediocre classical scholars are the worst writers of their own language.

For all that is erroneous or heterodox I am solely responsible; but my thanks are due to Professor T. G. Tucker of Melbourne University for help and criticism, and to Mr P. Giles of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who has read through the proofs and saved me from more than typographical errors.

H. D. N.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY,

30 October, 1908.