

GREEK AND LATIN COMPOSITIONS

BY

RICHARD SHILLETTO.

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## PREFACE.

At the time of the death of the late Rev. Richard Shilleto, in 1876, it was known to us that there existed a large number of pieces of composition in Greek and Latin which were attributed to him, and which were in common use among old pupils and others engaged in tuition; and, though it was not considered advisable to attempt a collection and publication of those in our own possession at that time, the idea of doing this in the future was always in our thoughts. Some few years ago, however, it was strongly represented to us that it was the opinion of a well-known public school master—an opinion which was entitled to serious consideration—that a really authentic collection of Mr Shilleto's compositions would be of distinct benefit to the cause of education; whilst we ourselves had always felt that there was no guarantee for the genuineness of those pieces which were floating about in various schools and colleges, but which were yet credited with being his actual work. We therefore determined to take the matter in hand ourselves, and to make a collection of all those which were in our possession, of the authenticity of which there could be no reasonable doubt. Most of these, indeed almost all of them, were in Mr Shilleto's own handwriting; and we satisfied ourselves, in regard to the few exceptions, that they also were really genuine. We had determined from the first that we would not apply to former pupils, who would no doubt have been pleased to assist us, but that we would content ourselves with such pieces of composition as we found amongst the papers which he left behind him. It is only right, however, for

us to state that nothing was written with any idea of publication ; and that, therefore, as these pieces had been composed by him merely as models for the benefit of his pupils during a period extending over more than forty years, we felt that, in justice to his memory, we could publish nothing until it had been critically examined by some competent scholar. In preparing this volume for publication it should be added that no changes have been made beyond a few necessary verbal alterations ; and the several pieces appear practically as Mr Shilleto left them.

It had been our intention, on the completion of our task, to approach the Syndics of the University Press at Cambridge—where almost the whole of Mr Shilleto's life was spent from 1828 to 1876—with a view to the publication of the work. But in this we were anticipated by the Syndics themselves, who intimated to us their willingness to publish a suitable selection from those compositions which we had in our possession—as the total amount of pieces would form a volume too bulky for publication. This offer was gladly accepted ; and the duty of examination and selection was most kindly undertaken by the Rev. C. E. Graves, Fellow and Tutor of St John's College, a former pupil of Mr Shilleto, and a friend of the family from his undergraduate days.

Mr Graves, with whom we have been in constant correspondence, is not only responsible for this selection, but he has also been good enough to see the work through the press ; and, whilst our thanks are first due to the Syndics of the University Press, we wish also to express our hearty and grateful acknowledgements to Mr Graves, as well as to all who may have associated themselves with him out of an affectionate regard for our father's memory and admiration for his scholarship.

E. R. SHILLETO.

W. F. R. SHILLETO.

*September, 1901.*