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CICERO THE STATESMAN

BY

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CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1966

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521131438

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First published 1966
This digitally printed version 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 66-17061

ISBN 978-0-521-06501-6 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-13143-8 Paperback

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PREFACE

IT is hoped that this study of Cicero's career as a statesman may be of interest and, possibly, instruction both to scholars and students, and to that wider reading public which is familiar with Cicero and Rome, but has not—at any rate for some years—made it a subject of particular study.

In handling a subject such as this one is at once confronted with a difficulty; for so much work has been done by scholars both on Cicero and the last century of the Republic that a decision must be made at the outset, how far, if at all, should the narrative be equipped with footnotes. My decision was to omit them, since they would have burdened the pages immensely without contributing greatly to the narrative. References to the ancient sources for all the historical events are to be found both in *Magistrates of the Roman Republic* by T. R. Broughton and in *The Roman Republic* by T. Rice Holmes, and there seemed no need to repeat them all here; and since I was nowhere taking issue with any particular scholar's interpretation of events, it seemed unnecessary to refer to all the works of scholarship which took the same view as myself or to draw attention to those whose interpretation differed; for my object is not to put forward a new and controversial viewpoint, but to write a narrative and interpretative account of Cicero's political career, which, while it may in places differ in emphasis and interpretation—as, indeed, it does—is not attempting to controvert any particular generally accepted thesis or interpretation.

A similar difficulty confronts one in drawing up a bibliography; to attempt to include all the books and articles which are directly concerned with, or throw light on, this period of Roman history would produce a bibliography as long as the book without adding to its understanding; I decided therefore to restrict it to books, and to list only those books which are fundamental for the period

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and the subject, and those which have a particular contribution to make to some aspect of our understanding of it. References to the many important and valuable articles are to be found somewhere among the references in the books listed in the bibliography; it is hoped that in this way anyone who wishes to pursue any particular aspect will be guided to the full literature on the subject.

I am happy to express my gratitude to G. Bell and Sons Ltd. for permission to use Shuckburgh's translation of Cicero's letters, published in the Bohn Series; all the quotations from Cicero's letters are taken from this excellent translation; and also to Harvard University Press, for permission to use B. Perrin's translation of Plutarch's Lives, published in the Loeb Series, from which the quotations from Plutarch's Lives are taken.

I must also express my indebtedness to my friend, Dr A. H. McDonald of Clare College, with whom I frequently discussed the topics as they emerged in the writing; he also read the first draft of the completed manuscript, and made many valuable suggestions for improvements; but he must not be held in any way responsible for the views expressed; that is my responsibility alone.

Finally, I must thank the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press and all those responsible, for their unfailing courtesy, advice and help throughout the process of converting the manuscript into the published work; any errors or mistakes which still remain are my fault and mine alone.

R.E.S.

Manchester
September 1966

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