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978-1-107-62103-9 - A Short History of the Roman Republic

W. E. Heitland

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BY
W. E. HEITLAND, M.A.

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PREFACE

IN preparing a short history of the Roman Republic intended for junior students, I have not been contented with a mere abridgement of my larger book on the same subject. Though following in the main the same plan and often using the same words in dealing with the same matters, I have rewritten the whole as a new book. The necessary compression compels omission of many a detail which I would gladly have retained, and references to authorities must be wholly abandoned. In the text I have striven to avoid mentioning unimportant persons by name wherever I could do so without obscuring the sense. It has been my endeavour constantly to bear in mind that the story of republican Rome is only a part (a very significant part) of the general World-history of states ancient and modern. Defective though our tradition often is, the leading facts of the narrative are well-established, and the story they tell is one that no political student can afford to neglect.

In writing for junior students I do not attempt to write down to a supposed childish level of apprehension. Baby-talk is rightly resented by young readers who are no longer children, even in England. I have therefore tried to say what I have to say in the plainest language, only avoiding extreme technicalities. As in my larger book, such words as *Assembly* (a general term including the several kinds of Assemblies), *Allies* (the Italian *socii*), *Centuries* and *Tribes* (the Roman groups so named), are printed with capital initial letters to indicate that, where thus printed, they are

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used in the special sense here given in brackets. And I do not employ the term *Oligarchy* at all in speaking of Roman politics, as it is liable to convey a false impression.

The division of the matter into chapters differs somewhat from that of the larger book, and a certain amount of new matter has been introduced into the earlier chapters. Of maps, some are repeated from the larger book, and a few are added. The pictures of coins are a new feature.

I take this opportunity of thanking the scholars who have reviewed the larger book. All the reviewers who shew a knowledge of the difficulties of the subject have given me much encouragement. They know how hard it is to deal judiciously with so various a collection of evidence as that which makes up our record. But I must in particular acknowledge the private generosity of Mr J. Wells of Wadham College, Oxford, who has kindly sent me a number of notes on points of detail, for which I am most grateful.

A few notes are placed at the foot of the page; in most cases they are cross-references added in order to avoid repetitions. But it is in the Index that this object has principally been kept in view. The existence of Mr P. E. Matheson's *Skeleton Outline* seems to make the addition of a full Chronological Table unnecessary.

The coins figured in the plates are photographed from casts of the originals in the British Museum, and in selecting and describing them I have used Dr B. V. Head's *Guide to the Coins of the Ancients* (1881). In one case I have preferred to choose a coin from the general B.M. catalogue.

W. E. H.

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