

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07576-3 - *An Enquiry into the Ancient Routes between Italy and Gaul: With an Examination of the Theory of Hannibal's Passage of the Alps* by the Little St Bernard

Robert Ellis
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An Enquiry into the Ancient Routes between Italy and Gaul

The controversy over the route taken by Hannibal, the Carthaginian army and his famous elephants in their crossing of the Alps to attack Rome in 218 BCE began within fifty years of the event and has continued for many centuries. A particular scholarly dispute emerged in the 1850s between Robert Ellis (1819/20–85) and William John Law (1786–1869), and was fought in the pages of the *Journal of Classical and Sacred Philology* and in books. Ellis, a classical scholar, had surveyed the Alpine passes in 1852 and again in 1853, when he published his *Treatise on Hannibal's Passage of the Alps* (also reissued in this series), claiming that the Little Mount Cenis route was the one used. Law responded immediately in the *Journal*, and later published his own theory, to which Ellis riposted in 1867 with this work. Modern scholarship doubts, however, that either man was right.

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AN ENQUIRY
INTO THE
ANCIENT ROUTES BETWEEN ITALY AND
GAUL;

WITH AN EXAMINATION OF THE THEORY

OF

HANNIBAL'S PASSAGE OF THE ALPS

BY THE LITTLE ST. BERNARD.

BY

ROBERT ELLIS, B.D.,

FELLOW OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

*Διὸ καὶ παρὰ βραχὺ μὲν ἦ καὶ ἀγνοεῖν ἢ καὶ ψευδοδοξεῖν, δεδῶσθαι
συγγνώμη· τὸ δ' ὑπεραίρον ἀθετεῖσθαι, κατὰ γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν δόξαν.*

POLYBIUS, xvi. 12.

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THE Map of the Cottian and Maritime Alps is to be placed at the beginning of the book, and the Plan of the Mont Cenis at the end.

The modern distances in the book are derived from the Map called *La France en kilomètres*, and from the *Itinerario degli Stati Sardi*. Strabo is cited, after the usual manner, according to the paging of Casaubon.

A degree is divided (neglecting fractions) into 45 Piedmontese miles, 60 Italian miles, 69 English miles, 75 (ancient) Roman miles, and 111 kilomètres. A Roman mile of 8 stadia is consequently very nearly equal to $\frac{3}{8}$ of a Piedmontese mile, $\frac{4}{8}$ of an Italian mile, $\frac{11}{12}$ of an English mile, and $\frac{3}{2}$ kilomètres.

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