

SALLUST, FLORUS,

AND

VELLEIUS PATERCULUS,

LITERALLY TRANSLATED,
WITH COPIOUS NOTES AND A GENERAL INDEX.

BY THE

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P R E F A C E.

IN this volume are presented English Translations of the three Roman Historians, Sallust, Florus, and Velleius Paterculus.

“SALLUST,” an eminent scholar once remarked to me, “it is more easy to *dilute* than to *transmute*.” It is hoped that in the following pages the reader will find Sallust’s Latin transmuted into English without any unnecessary dilution.

Some minor liberties have been taken with his expressions, in order to avoid stiffness, and to represent the author fairly in an English dress; but none inconsistent with a faithful adherence to his sense.

On all difficult or disputed passages the commentators have been carefully consulted. References have been given in the notes, wherever they appeared necessary, as well to the older critics, of whom Cortius is the chief, as to the more recent, among whom the principal are Gerlach, Kritz, and Dietsch.

All the Fragments of Sallust that can be of any interest to the English reader, have been translated; and that nothing might be wanting to render the work complete, versions of the spurious Epistles to Cæsar, which present a good imitation of Sallust’s style, and of the Declamations which pass under the names of Sallust and Cicero, have been added.

The text at first intended to be followed was that of Cortius; but the readings given by later critics appeared often so much better, that they were adopted in preference; indeed, the present version approaches nearer to the text of Kritz than to that of any other editor.

FLORUS, whose work has come down to us entire, is rendered with similar care and fidelity. The text chiefly followed is that of Duker.

What remains of VELLEIUS PATERCULUS, with whom time has dealt hardly, had been so well translated, in many places, by Baker, that much of his phraseology has been adopted in the present version. The text followed is that of Krause, whose corrections and comments, had they appeared earlier, might have saved Baker from the commission of some extraordinary blunders.

J. S. W.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF SALLUST

SALLUST was born at Amiternum, a town in the Sabine territory, on the first of October¹, in the year six hundred and sixty-six² from the foundation of Rome, eighty-seven years before Christ, and in the seventh consulship of Marius.

The name of his father was Caius Sallustius³; that of his mother is unknown. His family was thought by Crinitus, and some others, to have been patrician, but by Gerlach, and most of the later critics, is pronounced to have been plebeian, because he held the office of tribune of the people, because he makes observations unfavourable to the nobility in his writings, and because his grandson, according to Tacitus⁴, was only of equestrian rank.

The ingenuity of criticism has been exercised in determining whether his name should be written with a double or single *l*. Jerome Wolfius⁵, and Gerlach, are in favour of the single letter, depending chiefly on inscriptions, and on the presumption that the name is derived from *salus* or *sal*. But inscriptions vary; the etymology of the word is uncertain; and to derive it from *sal* would authorise either mode of spelling. All the Latin authors, both in prose and poetry, have the name with the double letter, and it seems better, as Vossius⁶ remarks, to adhere to their practice. Among the Greeks, Dion and Eusebius have the single letter; in some other writers it is found doubled.

Another question raised respecting his name, is whether he should be called *Sallustius Crispus*, or *Crispus Sallustius*. The latter mode is adopted by Le Clerc, Cortius, Havercamp, and some other critics; but De Brosses⁷ argues conclusively in favour of the former method; as Sallustius, from its termination, is evidently the name of the family or *gens*; and Crispus, which denotes *quelque habitude du corps*, only a surname to distinguish one of its branches. *Crispus Sallustius* is found, indeed, in manuscripts; and, according to Cortius, in the best; but on what reasonable grounds can it be justified? It was

¹ Euseb. Chron.

² Clinton, Fast. Rom.

³ De Brosses, Vie de Sall., § 2; Glandorp. Onomast.

⁴ Ann., iii., 30.

⁵ Apud Voss.

⁶ Vit. Sall.

⁷ Vie de Sall., § 1.

perhaps adopted by some copyist from the ode of Horace¹ addressed to Sallust's nephew, and inconsiderately continued by his successors.

He was removed early in life to Rome, that he might be educated under Atteius Prætextatus, a celebrated grammarian of that age, who styled himself Philologus, and who was afterwards tutor to Asinius Pollio². Atteius treated Sallust with very great distinction³.

He may be supposed to have soon grown conscious of his powers⁴; and appears at an early period of his life to have devoted himself to study, with an intention to distinguish himself in history⁵.

His devotion to literature, however, was not so great as to detain him from indulgence in pleasure; for he became, if we allow any credit to the old declaimer, infamous, *ætatis tirocinio*, for debauchery and extravagance. He took possession of his father's house in his father's lifetime, and sold it; an act by which he brought his father to the grave; and he was twice, for some misconduct, arraigned before the magistrates, and escaped on both occasions only through the perjury of his judges⁶.

When we cite this rhetorician, we must not forget that we cite an anonymous reviler, yet we must suppose with Gerlach, and with Meisner, the German translator of Sallust, that we quote a writer who grounded his invectives on reports and opinions current at the time in which he lived.

Sallust next thought of aspiring to political distinction⁷; but "the usual method of attaining notice," says De Brosses⁸, "which was to secure friends and clients by pleading the causes of individuals at the bar, he seems not to have adopted;" since, as is known, no orations spoken by him are in existence, and, as is thought, no mention is made of such orations in any other author.

Mention, however, is made of orations of Sallust, at whatever time delivered, in the well-known passage of Seneca the rhetorician⁹. When Seneca inquired of Cassius Severus, why he, who was so eminent in pleading important causes, displayed so little talent in pronouncing fictitious declamations, the orator replied, *Quod in me miraris, pene omnibus evenit, &c. Orationes Sallustii in honorem historiarum leguntur.* "What you think extraordinary in me, is common to all men of ability. The greatest geniuses, to whom I am conscious of my great inferiority, have generally excelled only in one species of composition. The felicity of Virgil in poetry deserted him in prose; the eloquence of Cicero's orations is not to be found in his verses; and the speeches of Sallust are read only as a foil to his histories." The speeches which are here

¹ Od., ii., 2, 3.

² Suet. de Ill. Gramm., c. 10.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Pseudo-Sall. Ep. to Cæs., i., 10.

⁵ Cat., c. 4.

⁶ Pseudo-Cic. in Sall., c. 5.

⁷ Cat., c. 3.

⁸ Vie de Sall., c. 8.

⁹ Præf. in Controv., l. iii., p. 231, ed. Par. 1607.

meant, are not, as has been generally imagined, those inserted in the histories, but others, which Sallust *had spoken*. This view of the passage was first taken by Antonius Augustinus, and communicated by him to Schottus, who mentioned it in his annotations on Seneca¹.

But by whatever means he secured support, he had at length sufficient interest to obtain a quæstorship²; the tenure of which gave him admission into the senate. It would appear that he was about thirty-one years of age when he attained this honour³.

It must have been about this period that his adventure with Fausta, the daughter of Sylla and wife of Milo, occurred, of which a short account is given by Aulus Gellius⁴ in an extract from Varro. The English reader may take it in the version of Beloe: "Marcus Varro, a man of great authority and weight in his writings and life, in his publication entitled 'Pius,' or 'De Pace,' records that Caius Sallust, the author of that grave and serious composition, (*seria illius et severæ orationis*;) in which he has exercised the severity of the censorial office, in taking cognisance of crimes, being taken by Annaeus Milo in adultery, was well scourged, and, after paying a sum of money, dismissed." The same story is told, on the authority of Asconius Pedianus the biographer of Sallust, by Acro and Porphyrio, the scholiasts on Horace, who, they think, had it in his mind when he wrote the words, *Ille flagellis ad mortem cæsus*⁵. Servius, also, in his note on *Quique ob adulterium cæsi*, in the sixth book of the *Æneid*⁶, tells a like tale, adding that Sallust entered the house in the habit of a slave, and was caught in that disguise by Milo.

Such being the case, it is not wonderful that when Sallust entered on his tribuneship of the people, to which he was elected in the year of the city seven hundred, he seized an opportunity which occurred of being revenged on Milo, who had shortly before killed Clodius. He joined with his colleagues, Pompeius Rufus and Plancus, in inflaming the populace, and charging Milo with premeditated hostility⁷. They intimidated Cicero, Milo's advocate, insinuating that he had planned the assassination⁸; and the matter ended in Milo's banishment⁹. During the progress of the trial, however, it is said that Sallust abated his hostility to Milo and Cicero, and even became friendly with them¹⁰. How this reconciliation was effected, does not appear; but it seems certain that Cicero, when he attacked Plancus, Sallust's colleague, for exciting the populace to turbulence, left Sallust himself unmolested¹¹.

¹ P. 234, ed. Par. 1607.

² Pseudo-Cic., in Sall., c. 5.

³ Adam's Rom. Antiquities, p. 4.

⁴ xvii., 18.

⁵ Sat., i., 2, 41.

⁶ Ver. 612.

⁷ Ascon. Pedian. in Cic. Orat. pro Milo., c. 17; Cic. Mil., c. 5.

⁸ Ascon. Pedian. in Cic. Mil., c. 18.

⁹ Dion. Cap., lib. xl.

¹⁰ Ascon. Ped., *ubi supra*.

¹¹ Ascon. Ped. in Cic. Mil., c. 33.

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