MACAULAY'S LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME: THE ARMADA, IVRY, AND THE BATTLE OF NASEBY

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Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome: The Armada, Ivry, and The Battle of Naseby by Thomas Babington Macaulay & Moses Grant Daniell

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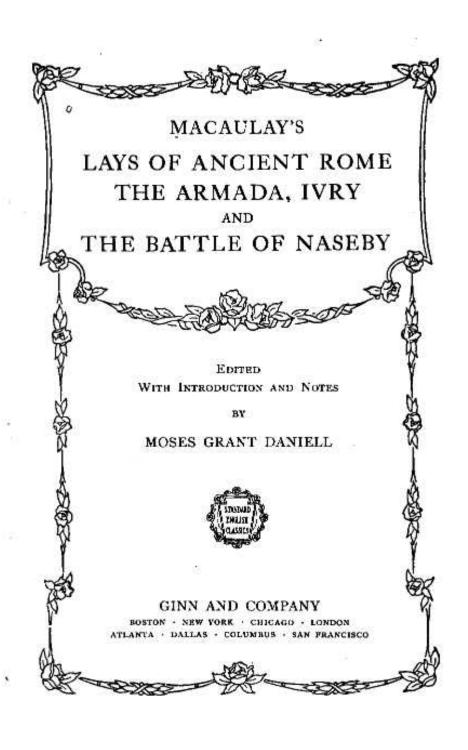
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PREFACE

In preparing notes for this edition of the Lays, the editor has had in mind chiefly the needs of the non-classical student, to whom the text presents much that he is not at all familiar with. What any reader needs, in order to derive the greatest satisfaction from the reading, is a clear appreciation of the circumstances and situations as they might appear to a Roman for whom the Lays are assumed to have been written. go further than this, and make the Lays a basis for the extended study of Roman history, geography, mythology, and antiquities, would, in the editor's opinion, be a mistake. The author deemed his own introductions to the several Lays to be sufficient: but these take for granted a certain amount of knowledge that young readers cannot fairly be assumed to possess; and even the customary explanatory notes, unless inordinately extended, leave something to be desired. One needs to read at some length the accounts that historians have given of Rome in the early days, in order to surround himself with the right atmosphere, so to speak, in which to read the Lays with the keenest appreciation. Any good history of Rome that has a good index may be used for the purpose here indicated.

The editor has not often yielded to the ever-present temptation to give the meanings of words that can be found in a dictionary. Some such words need additional explanation or illustration, but in general the student should learn to depend upon his own research. A map of Etruria and Latium and parts adjacent and a map of early Rome have been provided, with the idea that it is well for the reader to associate a "local habitation" with the names that he encounters, and that maps are better than notes for this purpose. Places not to be found in the maps are referred to in the notes.

The texts of the early editions and of several later editions, English and American, have been carefully collated. It was with much hesitation that the editor ventured to make essential changes in the original punctuation, which has been followed in most of the subsequent editions that he has examined. He decided to make them, however, in the conviction that a system of punctuation more in accordance with present usage in this country would make the reading easier. A similar explanation may be made of a few changes in spelling.

A pronouncing vocabulary of proper names (according to the English method) will, it is hoped, be found useful to many readers.

The editor gratefully acknowledges his obligations to Mr. William Tappan for valuable criticisms and suggestions.

M. G. D.

January, 1899

[The inclusion in this volume of three other ballads by Macaulay has necessitated additions to the notes and to the pronouncing list.]

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