

**MARCUS AURELIUS
ANTONINUS
TO HIMSELF**

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Marcus Aurelius Antoninus to himself by Gerald H. Rendall

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GERALD H. RENDALL

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Golden Treasury Series

MARCUS AURELIUS ANTONINUS

TO HIMSELF

Then Hermes, looking at Marcus, said—‘And to you, Verus, what seemed the noblest end of life?’ Quietly and gravely he replied, ‘The imitation of God.’

JULIAN, *Caesars*.

‘Life is more like wrestling than dancing.’

M. ANTONINUS, vii. 61.



RELIEF FROM THE TRIVMPHAL ARCH OF
M. AVR. ANTONINVS. IMP.

MARCUS
AURELIUS ANTONINUS
To Himself

IN ENGLISH

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PREFACE

IN 1898 I published an English rendering of the Twelve Books of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus *To Himself*, prefacing it with an Introductory Study of Stoicism, and of the inner life and thoughts of the Emperor himself. In the present volume, intended for the reader rather than the student, I have revised and in some measure simplified the translation, and in the Introduction have set down only what seemed essential for intelligent understanding of the Thoughts. For fuller treatment and explanation I may refer to the larger volume. Since its publication it has been a surprise and delight to me to realise the number and variety of those who find support and companionship in these soliloquies of the great Emperor. 'Being dead he yet

speaketh,' and takes rank among the spiritual forefathers of men of different creed, and age, and clime. By far the most learned and copious edition of his works is by the hand of Thomas Gataker, who, in extreme old age, in his quiet rectory at Rotherhithe, considered this his best preparation for approaching death; and in the same spirit Cardinal Barberini dedicates his translation of the work 'To his soul, to make it redder than his purple at the sight of the virtues of this Gentile.' The present translation was a labour of love, that occupied many vacations. Casaubon, Jeremy Collier, Graves, Long have their merits as translators, and better than any are the Foulis Press editions by James Moor and Francis Hutcheson; but in scholarship and style they leave much to be desired, and I have spared no pains to make this version faithful, exact, and readable.

CHARTERHOUSE, 1901.