

**NEW STUDIES OF A GREAT
INHERITANCE: BEING LECTURES
ON THE MODERN WORTH OF
SOME ANCIENT WRITERS**

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New studies of a great inheritance: being lectures on the modern worth of some ancient writers
by R. S. Conway

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BEING LECTURES ON THE MODERN
WORTH OF SOME ANCIENT WRITERS

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DISCIPULUS ET AMICUS

PREFACE

THE lectures contained in this volume, though they range over several subjects, are connected by a purpose which was present in them all. They were designed to represent, as far as the conditions of a popular lecture allowed, some of the elements in the work of the great ancient writers, especially those of Rome, which make their study of permanent value; and in particular to indicate as clearly as possible how much in the ethical framework of modern society may be traced directly to their teaching.

Among the authors here studied the poet Vergil¹ has the chief place. Through and from his poetry the main current of Graeco-Roman influence has passed to the mediaeval and modern world. Yet for this very reason the lectures devoted to Vergil are by no means concerned with him alone. Indeed, one of their objects has been to correct the natural, but unfortunate, habit of reading what he wrote as if it had no relation to the times in which it was written and to the work of his predecessors.

The lectures here printed are arranged in the chronological sequence of the topics with which they are severally most concerned, with the exception of the last, which was written in the stormy light of the

¹ The Italian form *Virgilio* gave *Virgil* in English, but most scholars now prefer to follow the Latin form of the name, which both inscriptions and the best manuscripts show to have been *Vergilius*.

European war, and seemed to express in some way the practical results of all the rest. It happens also that this order corresponds very nearly with that in which they were written.

Little attempt has been made to change their spoken form. To do this would in fact have been incongruous with their character. In the second I have allowed an introductory paragraph to remain for reasons which every one will understand who knew Professor S. H. Butcher.

On the other hand, it will be obvious that the foot-notes are intended mainly for classical students; and in particular to supply them with the sources of any statements made on matters of controversy.

It is a pleasure to thank many distinguished scholars from whose criticism at different times I have drawn great help; especially Dr. Warde Fowler, Professor J. P. Postgate, Professor W. B. Anderson, and Dr. J. W. Mackail. Other more special debts will be acknowledged in their place. I have also to thank the proprietors of the *Contemporary Review*, the Editor of the *Quarterly Review*, the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, and Mr. H. Guppy, M.A., the Editor of the John Rylands Library Bulletin, for their kind permission to reproduce lectures which in one form or another they have previously published.

R. S. CONWAY.

MANCHESTER, October, 1920.