

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES.
SELECTED LETTERS OF PLINY
WITH NOTES FOR THE USE OF
SCHOOLS. PART I. – TEXT, PART
II. – NOTES**

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Clarendon Press Series. Selected Letters of Pliny with Notes for the Use of Schools. Part I. – Text, Part II. – Notes by Constantine E. Prichard & Edward R. Bernard

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SELECTED LETTERS

OF

PLINY

WITH NOTES FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

BY THE LATE

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NEW EDITION

PART I — TEXT

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

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PREFACE.

THE text of this selection of Pliny's letters is that of Keil (Leipsic, 1870). Keil has prefixed to this (his second edition) an admirable account of the materials extant for a critical edition of the works of the author, and an estimate of their comparative authority. He distinguishes three families of extant MSS. The first is represented by the Medicean and Vatican MSS. Of these the Vatican, though perhaps the more ancient, contains only the first four books. The Medicean, containing all the letters except those to and from Trajan, must therefore hold the first place in importance.

The second family is best represented by the Florentine MS., and contains only one hundred letters.

The third family is of a much later date, and consists of a great number of MSS. of the fifteenth century, which are also all imperfect, as they omit the eighth book, put the ninth in its place, and disarrange the order of the letters in the fifth and the ninth books. Keil considers the Codex Dresdensis the most valuable of this class of MSS.

The letters to and from Trajan (formerly called the tenth book), stand on a different footing. We have no MS. authority *for their text*, and depend entirely on printed

editions of the early part of the sixteenth century. About the beginning of that century a very ancient MS. was found in France containing the whole of the works of the younger Pliny, and among them, the letters to and from Trajan, hitherto unknown. Aldus in his complete edition (1508) speaks of his access to this MS. It is no longer extant. If it were, Keil thinks it would probably take precedence of the Medicean (mentioned above) in respect of the nine books of letters, as well as being the sole authority for the tenth. Keil's text of the letters to and from Trajan is therefore founded on the editions of Avantius (ed. pr.) and Aldus.

Nine books of Pliny's letters are mentioned by Sidonius Apollinaris as known to him in the fifth century. After that date they seemed to have shared the general oblivion which befel classical literature, and there is no notice of them till the thirteenth century, when Vincent of Beauvais found a MS. of the 'second family,' and made extracts from it.

The letters were first printed by Valdarferus at Venice in 1471.

All explanatory editions of Pliny's letters are much indebted to that of Catanaeus (Milan, 1506). His notes form the foundation on which subsequent commentaries have been built up. The edition of Cortius and Longolius (Amsterdam, 1734) gives copious illustrations from other authors, and some variety of notes by other critics, but contains little that is original and distinct in the way of *explanation of difficulties*. Cortius' critical observations on

the text, which occupy much space, have been antiquated by modern investigation. The edition derives value from Masson's learned *Life of Pliny*, which he allowed to be reprinted with it, and from the very copious indices which are appended to the book.

Gierig's edition (Leipsic, 1800) with Latin notes is a thoroughly good book. A great part of the notes to this selection were prepared without consulting Gierig, but on comparison they will often be found to coincide.

The letters in this selection are not arranged chronologically, but printed in the order in which they stand in the ordinary arrangement. The lines of each letter have been numbered in the text to facilitate reference to the notes. Reference in the notes to a passage contained in this selection is made thus, Ep. 2. 1, the first figure referring to the number of the letter in this selection, and the second figure to the line in the text. References to letters not in this selection are preceded by the abbreviation Bk., thus, Bk. 3. 9. In these cases, the first figure gives the number of the Book according to the usual arrangement of the letters, and the second figure the number of the letter. Book 10 is referred to by the abbreviation Trai., thus Trai. 20. Frequent references have been made to Madvig's Latin Grammar (as Madv.), which, with other references, and some of the notes themselves, are addressed rather to the teacher than to the pupil.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THIS edition differs from the second by the addition of a Life of Pliny, a table of the Letters included in the selection, and an index of the names which occur in them. The Text and Notes are reprinted without change from the second edition. The additions are the work of Mr. L. Huxley.