

gently swelled his chest two weeks before, had ever seemed.

This was his first lesson in civics. Though it taught him the meaning of *fellow citizenship* only slightly in his head, he had at any rate got from it the sensation in his heart.

L. F. P.

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## BOOKS

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### THE CLASSICS.

**The Classics—Greek and Latin.** The Best Translations of the Masterpieces of Greek and Roman Literature, with Introductions by the Leading Classical Scholars of Great Britain and America. Marion Mills Miller, Litt. D. (Princeton), Editor-in-Chief. Fifteen volumes with index, illustrated. Sold by subscription. Vincent Parke & Co., 32 Union Square, New York City.

The word "classics" has been much abused by publishers who have presented literature of every period and kind under the name. Properly speaking, however, the true classics are the writings of Greece and Rome, which form the foundations of all modern literary culture. It is most interesting to trace in the volumes before us the sources of almost every important theory that has played a part in the civilization of the world. Even the philosophy of the Single Tax, the view that the expenses of society should be paid by the idlers who possess privileges in valuable land, and not by the workers whose labor creates these public values, is found clearly set forth by Dio Chrysostom, a democratic counsellor of the Emperor Vespasian, in his charming romance, "The Hunter of Euboea," here for the first time translated into English.\*

While the better known classic authors, Homer, Plato, Virgil, Cicero, Horace, and others, are fully presented in the work, it is the inclusion of the works of unfamiliar authors, such as Dio, that is the unique and valuable feature of this collection. A few of these should be mentioned: Plotinus and the Emperor Julian, who were the classic "Theosophists," or esoteric interpreters of the religion of the time; Longinus, the sane and catholic literary critic, who, though a pagan, recognized the sublimity of the Hebrew Scriptures, and whose estimates of the great authors of classic times remain unchallenged today; Polybius, the historian, who wrote from the standpoint of a military expert; Hippocrates, the founder of medicine, to whose hygienic methods the medical science of our own day has barely attained; Strabo, the geographer, who declared the rotundity of the earth, and said that all material substances were attracted to its center; Lucian, the skeptic, who, like

\*This romance will shortly appear in *The Public*, reprinted from "The Classics" by the courteous permission of the publishers.

Voltaire and Paine, attacked the superstitions and abuses of his day; "Longus," the unknown author of "Daphnis and Chloe," the model of "Paul and Virginia"; Heliodorus, the Christian bishop, who was expelled from the church for his romance, "The Aethiopica"; Seneca, the Stoic moralist, who wrote in the high strain of a Christian divine; Quintilian, the greatest pedagogue who ever lived; Tertullian, whose graphic picture of the early Christians is a call over the centuries for a return of the church to its earlier ideals of brotherly love; Ulpian, the Roman juriconsult, whose "Digest of Roman Law" tells us the exact status of Roman society, such as the view of slavery, divorce, etc.; Petronius and Apuleius, the Roman novelists, who make the temper of the time a vivid reality to us; and last and most important of all, Suetonius, the "Paul Pry of History," whose lively gossip about the personalities of the Roman Cæsars, from the great Julius to the infamous Nero, has forced its acceptance as fact despite the assertions of many serious historians to the contrary.

The translations have been selected with evident thought and taste. Some are rare and valuable landmarks of English literary history, e. g., the translations, by North of Plutarch, by Adlington of Apuleius, by Holland of Suetonius, which formed a part of Shakespeare's library and of which he made so splendid a use. Probably as a concession to the popular indifference to verse in large quantities the editors have preferred prose to verse in the rendition of many of the poetic originals, such as Homer and Virgil. To those of us who enjoy the nobility of measured cadence this will not seem a praiseworthy concession. We will still prefer to make occasional pilgrimage to the inspirational fount of Chapman's Homer—those of us who are not able to drink at the original source. Certainly this concession to popular taste cannot have been the personal preference of the accomplished editor-in-chief, whose own translations of Sappho and Theocritus display unusual mastery of metrical forms, while at the same time they give a charming impress of fidelity to the spirit of the originals.

All the translations are accompanied by critical interpretations, and by appreciations of the authors, rendering the work a comprehensive history of classical literature. The index gives it the utility of a dictionary of classical authors and antiquities. The library affords, in short, a fairly complete classical education in everything but linguistics, which is the only moribund element in classic studies. Language dies, but literature, by the transmission of the vital spark through translation lives forever.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

✦ ✦ ✦

This farm that now goes by Umbrenus' name,  
And by mine went till recently, no one may claim  
As exclusively his. —Horace, "Satires."