

STUDIES IN ROMAN HISTORY

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TO
MY PUPILS
PAST AND PRESENT

Preface

WHEN I found that the time had come for a second edition of CHRISTIANITY AND THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT, I at first intended merely to republish that little book in its original form. Wisely or unwisely, however, I have determined to incorporate in the same volume a few other essays, on more or less special subjects in Roman History, which, whatever their own intrinsic value, had cost me considerable labour in past years.

To republish old work perhaps may be taken as a sign that either the ability, or the interest, to produce anything new has ceased to exist. In my case, I think I may fairly say that it is the ability, and not the interest, which has changed.

Fruitful or original work in Roman History is not possible, when inscriptions can no longer be decyphered nor classical texts studied and compared. All that I can do now, on the subject which formerly occupied most of my time, is to appreciate (by means of other eyes) such notable contributions towards the scientific study of Roman History as those which Mr. Strachan-Davidson, Dr. Greenidge, and Mr. Henderson, have made and are making—contributions which promise to render less indispensable in the future a knowledge of German works and the German language, at least for Oxford students of the subject.

The following studies are presented almost exactly in their original form. I have contrived to remove a few obvious mistakes and inconsistencies ; and I have added a few pages to *The Movements of the Legions* from a paper on The German Army and Frontier, written before conditions became unfavourable and now probably never to be published. No doubt I should have wished

to do much more to render these essays both useful and worthy of attention : but I trust it will be understood that circumstances preclude even anything like a systematic revision.

I have to express my thanks to the editors and publishers of the ENGLISH HISTORICAL REVIEW, for permission to reprint *The Movements of the Legions* and *The Provincial Concilia*, and to Messrs. Macmillan for allowing me to incorporate a portion of my *Introduction to Plutarch's Lives of Galba and Otho* ; together with three shorter papers from THE JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGY.

Finally I wish to express my great obligations to my friend Mr. Rolfe, without whose assistance this volume could never have been prepared. He has not only carefully gone through all the essays, preparing them for press, but has undertaken the entire work of correcting the proofs—a task of no small difficulty considering the intricate nature of the notes. I am convinced that, through his care, the remediable and accidental errors have been reduced to a minimum.

E. G. HARDY.

OXFORD, *December*, 1905.