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DIOGENES LAERTIUS

I



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LIVES OF EMINENT PHILOSOPHERS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

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IN TWO VOLUMES

I



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TO
W. WYSE
AND
J. D. DUFF

PREFACE

A NEW translation of this author, though long overdue, may yet appear premature at the present moment when new editions of the text are promised. However, a most valuable portion of the work, the *Epistles* of Epicurus, has appeared in a new recension; and the text of the biographies is hardly likely to undergo radical reconstruction. There is substantial agreement that the mss. are late; that the scribe of the best, the Borbonicus, did not know Greek; that the mistakes which all share most likely came from their common archetype. To reconstruct the text of an author from such sources would have been in any case difficult; the difficulty is increased by the misfortune that the *Editio Princeps* was printed, not from the Borbonicus or Parisiensis, but from a worthless interpolated later ms.

The efforts of early editors to remove the grossest blunders lasted more than a century and resulted in the edition of Marcus Meibomius, which has the commentary of Aegidius Menagius. After the publication of this edition our author fell into neglect until the nineteenth century brought fuller study of better mss., initiated by Cobet and carried on especially by Usener for Book X. If anyone hold that the present is too early a time for a translator who has not first revised the text of the author, I

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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