

Crutwell thus defends Vergil in regard to the main charge: *Vergil defended.*
 "The Aeneid was meant to be, above all things, a national poem, carrying on the lines of thought, the style of speech, which national progress had chosen; and it was not meant to eclipse, so much as to do honor to, early literature. Thus those bards who, like Ennius and Naevius, had done good service to Rome by singing, however rudely, her history, find their *imagines* ranged in the gallery of the Aeneid. Thus they meet with the flamens and pontiffs, who drew up the ritual formularies; with the antiquarians and pious scholars, who had sought to find a meaning in the immemorial names, whether of place or custom or person; with the magistrates, novelists and philosophers, who had striven to ennoble and enlighten Roman virtue, with the Greek singers and sages, for they, too, had helped to rear the towering fabric of Roman greatness. All these meet together in the Aeneid, as in solemn conclave, to review their joint work, to acknowledge its final completion, and to predict its impending downfall. This is beyond question the explanation of the wholesale appropriation of others' thoughts and language, which would otherwise be sheer plagiarism."

The object that Vergil had in writing the Aeneid is variously *Object of Aeneid.* stated by writers. *Spence, Holdsworth* and *Warton* say that the poem was written with a political object to reconcile the Romans to the new order of things. This view is also held by *Pope*, who says that the poem had as much a political object as *Dryden's Absalom and Achitophel*; that its primary object was to praise Augustus, and the secondary one was to flatter the Romans by dwelling on the splendor of their origin. "Augustus is evidently typified under the character of Aeneas, both are cautious and wise in counsel; both are free from the perturbations of passion; they were cold, unfeeling, and uninteresting; their wisdom and policy were worldly-minded and calculating. Augustus was conscious that he was acting a part, as his last words show; and the contrast between the sentiment and conduct of Aeneas, whenever the warm impulses of affection might be supposed to have sway, likewise created an impression of insincerity. The characteristic virtue which adorns the hero of the Aeneid as the epithet *pius*, so constantly applied to him shows, was filial piety, and there was no virtue which Augustus more