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LIFE OF HORACE.

QUINTUS HORATIUS FLACCUS, the celebrated Roman poet, was born at Venusia or Venusium, B. C. 65. His father, a freedman and client of the Gens Horatia, though poor, gave his son an excellent education, and sent him to Athens to complete his studies at the age of twenty years. He there joined the army of Brutus, became a military tribune, and fought in the last battle for Roman freedom at Philippi, though his courage failed him, and he owed his safety to a timely flight. To this he alludes in the following lines of the 7th Ode of the 2d Book:—

Tecum Philippos et celerem fugam
Sensi, relictâ non bene parmâ ,
Quum fracta virtus, et minaces
Turpe solum tetigere mento.

Sed me per hostes Mercurius celer
Denso paventem sustulit aere :
Te rursus in bellum resorbens
Unda fretis tulit aestuosus.

The same circumstance is again alluded to in the Epistles. B. 2. Ep. 2 45.

Dura sed emovere loco me tempora grato,
Civilisque rudem belli tulit aestus in arma,
Caesaris Augusti non responsura lacertis.
Unde simul primum me dimisere Philippi,
Decisis humilem pennis, inopemque paterni,
Et laris et fundi.

On his return to Rome he applied himself to poetry. His talents claimed the attention of Virgil and Varius, who recommended him to Maecenas, and from this period the life of Horace flowed on in a smooth and tranquil course. The description of his introduction to his great friend and patron is thus given in the 6th Satire of the 1st Book:—