

Paris MSS. (P): the editions those of Cologne (C) and Rome (R). The Roman character in this collation is to be understood as giving the reading of E., where nothing appears to the contrary. Besides this, he has, for the most part, acted on the principle of not altering the readings of the MSS. upon conjecture, unless when guided to it by plain indications of the context, or other equally cogent reason. In some cases, I regret to say that I think he has departed from this principle. Where I have seen reason to disagree with him I have noted it, the more especially as in some cases some reading contained in MSS. affords a fair and sufficient sense. In addition to this, he appears to have been guided by principles, the results of very careful and accurate investigation, in estimating the value of the MSS. whose readings he generally prefers. The result is, I think, a text more in harmony with the views and objects of the original author, and more consistent in itself than any which preceded it. In adopting this text, however, I have rejected the archaisms which Madvig employed, and of the expediency of which he himself was in doubt, and have corrected the punctuation throughout, so as better to group the ideas, and bring out the sense of the author.

In the notes I have given by far the larger portion of the various readings furnished in the notes of Madvig, and derived from the labours of previous editors; all, in fact, which in my estimation would affect the meaning, or show on what authority the present text rests. Besides this, I have endeavoured to supply the most ample aid which could be required by all those classes of students who would be likely to read an edition of this description. The Analysis, with the English renderings in the notes, will, I trust, supply all the real advantages of a translation; and the illustrations from other portions of Cicero's writings, and from other authors, will assist the more advanced student better to embrace the meaning of the writer, in this the best and deepest of his moral works, and one which will well repay any one who will really master it, by the light which it will throw upon the foundation principles of moral inquiry in all ages.