

PREFACE

No one will be inclined to doubt that to import freshness into an edition of Virgil's *Georgics* would be a Herculean task: *hic labor hoc opus est*. My aim in this little book has been to print the kind of matter that I have found it necessary on more than one occasion to put before a fifth, or even a sixth form in a public school. That matter has been collected at different times from different sources; and the notes in my interleaved Oxford text are no doubt a strange *farrago* of the comments of Conington, Sidgwick, Mackail, Page, and others. At this date it would be difficult in many cases to remember the source of many such notes, and out of such difficulty I shall best escape by making a general acknowledgment of indebtedness to my distinguished predecessors in this field.

On one point I may claim a certain degree of independence. The metrical phenomena of the Virgilian hexameter have for some years been engaging my particular attention, and if in some cases my ideas have jumped in remarkable coincidence with those of Mr. Page, I must claim that similarity of conclusion is probably due to similar paths of study.