

LIFE OF CICERO.

I.

Marcus Tullius Cicero,¹ the greatest name *Birth.*
in Roman literature, was born near Arpinum, a town
of Latium, January 3rd, B.C. 106. His father, a
man of large views and liberal culture, belonged to
the *equites*, and possessed an hereditary estate in the
neighbourhood of the town. To give his sons, Mar-
cus and Quintus, that education which could not be
obtained at a provincial school, he removed to Rome, *Removes to*
where the young Ciceros were placed under the best *Rome,*
teachers of the day. From Aelius they learned *B.C. 92.*
philosophy; from Archias, the mechanism of verse, *Early*
though not the inspiration of poetry. A translation *teachers.*
of the *Phaenomena* and *Prognostics* of Aratus, and a *Early works.*
mythological poem on the fable of *Pontius Glaucus*
were the first fruits of Cicero's genius. On assuming *Assumes the*
the *toga virilis*, B.C. 89, Cicero attached himself to *toga virilis*
the jurist Scaevola, who was then in the zenith of his *B.C. 89.*
fame. In the following year he served a brief cam- *Serves his*
paign in the Social War under Cn. Pompeius Strabo, *first cam-*
the father of Pompey the Great. Philosophical *paign,*
B.C. 88.
studies had, however, more attractions for him than
arms. Under Philo, the Academic, and Diodotus, *Studies*
the Stoic, he laid the foundation of that Eclecticism *philosophy.*
which is so observable in his philosophical works.
At the age of 25 he pleaded his first cause, and in *Pleads his*
the following year he defended Sextus Roscius of *first cause*
Ameria, who had been accused of parricide by Chry- *pro Quinct*
sogonus, one of Sylla's favourites. In this cause he