

THE  
CLASSICAL MUSEUM,



A JOURNAL OF PHILOLOGY, AND OF  
ANCIENT HISTORY AND  
LITERATURE.

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VOLUME THE THIRD.

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LONDON :  
TAYLOR AND WALTON, UPPER GOWER STREET.

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M.DCCC.XLVI.

O! son of old Saturn!  
 'Tis thou that hast given,  
 Great Ruler of Ocean,  
 This boon—we had striven  
 In vain, hadst not thou, with thy steed-taming rein,  
 Driven thy coursers o'er our natal plain—  
 See, the light bounding sea-dipt oar  
 Skims the smooth marble of the deep,  
 Plashing amidst its waters hoar,  
 Whilst round its track, by gulf and bay,  
 The hundred-footed Nereids play,  
 And joyous time to their unearthly music keep.

J. ECCLESTON.

*Sutton Coldfield.*

REMARKS ON A PASSAGE IN NIEBUHR'S LECTURES.

IN the second volume of Niebuhr's *Lectures on Roman History* (by Dr. L. Schmitz p. 98), the following words are given as delivered in his Lecture: "The nearest relative of Cæsar was Antony, whose mother, Julia, was a sister of the deceased." The most obvious explanation that offers itself of the mistake here committed, is, that the youthful student who reported the lecture has misunderstood what was said. Yet the marks of faithfulness in the volume are too strong to allow us to adopt such a hypothesis without urgent cause. Another mode of accounting for the phenomenon may not be without interest.

In the *Scholia Bobiensia*, edited by Angelo Mai, upon the oration of Cicero in Vatinius (ch. 12, annot. 2), the commentator writes: "Quippe Antonius, qui postea triumvir fuit, matre Juliæ censebatur, C. Cæsaris sorore."

Mai has added to this his own remark: "En cur Antonius ob occisum Cæsarem tantas tragædias fecerit."

As it cannot be doubted that Mai intended to say that the new scholiast has revealed to us what was before unknown, it is not too much to suppose that Niebuhr, like Mai, was carried away by the authority of this unknown writer, and forgot the far more decisive testimony of Cicero himself (*in Catil.* iv. ch. 6, § 13), which justifies the common statement that Julia, the mother of Antony, was sister to *Lucius*, not to *Caius* Cæsar. Had it been otherwise, Antony would surely have been preferred by Caius Cæsar to young Octavius.

F. W. N.