

SOCIAL LIFE AT ROME



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SOCIAL LIFE AT ROME

IN THE AGE OF CICERO

BY

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'THE ROMAN FESTIVALS OF THE PERIOD OF THE REPUBLIC,' ETC.

'Ad illa mihi pro se quisque acriter intendat animum,
quae vita, quae mores fuerint.'—LIVY, *Praefatio*.

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PREFATORY NOTE

THIS book was originally intended to be a companion to Professor Tucker's *Life in Ancient Athens*, published in Messrs. Macmillan's series of Handbooks of Archaeology and Art; but the plan was abandoned for reasons on which I need not dwell, and before the book was quite finished I was called to other and more specialised work. As it stands, it is merely an attempt to supply an educational want. At our schools and universities we read the great writers of the last age of the Republic, and learn something of its political and constitutional history; but there is no book in our language which supplies a picture of life and manners, of education, morals, and religion in that intensely interesting period. The society of the Augustan age, which in many ways was very different, is known much better; and of late my friend Professor Dill's fascinating volumes have familiarised us with the social life of two several periods of the Roman Empire. But the age of Cicero is in some ways at least as important as any period of the Empire; it is a critical moment in the history of Graeco-Roman civilisation. And in the Ciceronian