

("Letters of the Heroines") are letters in verse, purporting to have been written to absent lovers or husbands by women famous in olden legend. The *Tristia* (or "Wailings," literally "*Sorrows*") and *Pontic Epistles* are addressed to his friends in Rome (and to Augustus himself), and lament the miseries of his exile (during the last nine years of his life) at *Tomi*, a town on the Euxine or Black Sea, to which place he was banished, for an unknown cause, by the emperor. If Ovid had been as careful in revising his work, and as pure and correct in taste as he is flowing, facile, and charming in expression, he would have ranked as a really great poet. *Phædrus* is believed to have been a freedman of Augustus, and has left, in iambic verse, Latin adaptations of the Greek *Æsop's Fables*, expressed with clearness and conciseness.

12. The historian *Livy* (in Latin, *Titus Liv'ius*), well known also to our schools, was born at *Pata'vium* (now *Padua*), and lived from B.C. 59 to A.D. 17. He wrote a history of Rome from the foundation of the city to B.C. 9, in 142 books, of which 35 have come down to our time. The "lost books of Livy" is an expression which testifies to the regret of the moderns for perished treasures leaving one of the greatest gaps in the literature of the world. The existing books are i.-x., giving the history from Rome's foundation to B.C. 294; xxi.-xxx., giving the history from B.C. 219 to 201, and including, happily, the Second Punic War; xxxi.-xlv., containing the history from B.C. 201 to 167, and including Roman wars in Cisalpine Gaul, Macedonia, Greece, and Asia Minor. As a critical historian, in the modern sense of one who tests authorities and aims at the transmission of indubitable fact, so far as he can ascertain it, Livy is nowhere: as a writer of historical narrative he stands amongst the foremost masters of style in the world—becoming, as occasion requires, simple, rich, picturesque, and vivid, and remaining always calm, clear, and strong.

13. We notice here a few of the other writers under the empire, all of whom may be considered "classical," some of them being among the greatest authors produced by ancient Rome. *Velleius Paterculus* (lived about B.C. 20 to A.D. 30) wrote (in a clear, concise, and vigorous style, much like that of Sallust) a compendium of universal history, chiefly as connected with Rome. *Seneca*, the philosopher (*Lucius Annæus Seneca*), was born about B.C. 5 at *Corduba* (*Cordova*), in Spain, and lived till A.D. 65. He was first tutor, and afterwards one of the chief ministers, of the emperor Nero, but being accused of conspiring against the tyrant he was sentenced to death, and was forced to commit suicide. The writings of Seneca (a Stoic philosopher) are chiefly moral treatises containing much good, sound thought, clearly and vigorously expressed. He has also left ten tragedies, mostly on Greek mythological subjects; these have no dramatic propriety, but are not bad for reading or declamation.

14. *Pliny the Elder* (*Caius Plinius Secundus*) lived from A.D. 23 to 79, and has left a voluminous work called *Historia Naturalis* ("*Natural History*"), which, besides treating of natural history proper, deals also with geography, astronomy, human inventions and institutions, the fine arts, &c., furnishing a wonderful but ill-digested and uncritical proof of his industry and learning. This enthusiastic scholar died by suffocation from poisonous gases emitted in the first recorded eruption of Mount Vesuvius (A.D. 79, as above), having too closely