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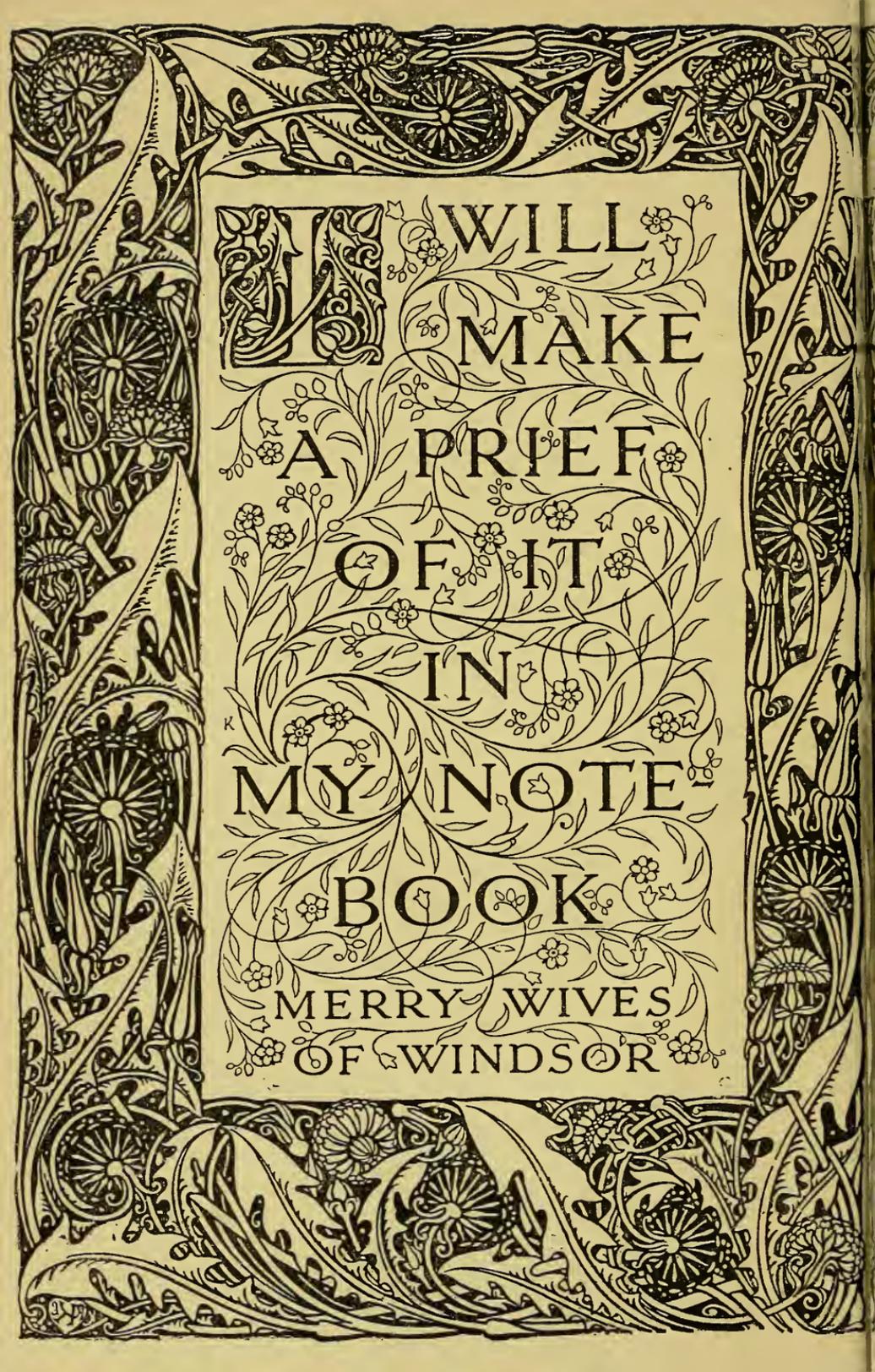
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BOOK
MERRY WIVES
OF WINDSOR

ATLAS OF ANCIENT & CLASSICAL GEOGRAPHY

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INTRODUCTION

DR. BUTLER'S atlas, which for a time filled the place in the series taken by this volume, has only been laid aside in response to a demand for better maps, clearer in detail. The new maps are designed to lighten the search for the place-names and the landmarks they contain by a freer spacing and lettering of the towns, fortresses, harbours, rivers and so forth, likely to be needed by readers of the classical writers and the histories of Greece and Rome. The pages too have been so arranged as to save the unfolding and refolding of each chart as it is used, while the range of subjects has been notably extended in order to show the development of the old science of geography, and to illustrate the wars and changes of frontier and rise and fall of states and empires. We begin with the voyage of the Argonauts, and the world of Homer, representing a Europe on whose outer western rim these islands lay in Cimmerian darkness, with no western hemisphere of the future Americas beyond them. The eastern survey of Herodotus, and the Eratosthenes' map which ranges from Ultima Thule in the far north to Arabia Deserta and the Indian limits, carry the record to the point where the live contact between geography and ancient history occurs. It is seen in the voyage of Nearchus who sailed as far south-east as the mouth of the Indus in 325 B.C.; and Strabo and Ptolemy bring us to the partition of the old world at the beginning of the Christian era. It was in the library of Alexandria that Eratosthenes wrote the work which began the real mapping out of the globe with the lines of latitude and longitude.

Turning to the more special maps we realise in that

of Greece, as Professor Bury has shown us, how vitally its physical features affected its history and its place among the nations. We see how its ridged headland broken by a great sea rift, and how the heights of Olympus, Ossa and Pelion, and those of Eubœa and the island chain beyond; and how again Epirus and the Peloponnesus gave the land its mountain barriers. But finally it was the sea decided the fate of the people; they were fairly driven to seek their outlet and their defence in its waters; and the decisive factor was the Ægean, which became in a sense the fluid axis of Greek conquest, commerce and colonial life. In the same way, it is the map that makes us aware of the effect of position in the case of an old rival to Rome like Carthage. The line-maps of the cities include Syracuse, Thebes, Babylon, Jerusalem, Tyre; nor is Pompeii, nor Troy, omitted; and among the battle-fields are Marathon and Salamis, Issus and Thermopylæ.

From the pages of Grote and of Gibbon, from Herodotus, Livy, and Cæsar, from Tacitus and from the *Cyropædia*, we draw the historic detail that converts the map into a living document. Gibbon's account of the modifying of Italy under the Roman rule is a case in point. Before the Roman came, he wrote, "the country which is now called Lombardy was not considered as a part of Italy. It had been occupied by a powerful colony of Gauls, who, settling themselves along the banks of the Po, from Piedmont to Romagna, carried their arms and diffused their name from the Alps to the Apennine. The Ligurians dwelt on the rocky coast, which now forms the republic of Genoa. Venice was yet unborn; but the territories of that state, which lie to the east of the Adige, were inhabited by the Venetians. The middle part of the peninsula, that now composes the duchy of Tuscany and the ecclesiastical state, was the ancient seat of the Etruscans and Umbrians; to the former of whom Italy was indebted for the first rudiments of a civilised life. The Tiber rolled at the foot of the

seven hills of Rome, and the country of the Sabines, the Latins, and the Volsci, from that river to the frontiers of Naples, was the theatre of her infant victories. On that celebrated ground the first consuls deserved triumphs, their successors adorned villas, and *their* posterity have erected convents. Capua and Campania possessed the immediate territory of Naples; the rest of the kingdom was inhabited by many warlike nations, the Marsi, the Samnites, the Apulians, and the Lucanians; and the sea-coasts had been covered by the flourishing colonies of the Greeks. We may remark, that when Augustus divided Italy into eleven regions, the little province of Istria was annexed to that seat of Roman sovereignty."

We need but add that in the preparation of this Classical Atlas and aid to ancient history, the expert services of Dr. Bartholomew have been of the greatest assistance, as in the modern atlases in Everyman's Library.

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