

**THE ANCIENT GREEK
HISTORIANS
(HARVARD LECTURES)**

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The Ancient Greek Historians (Harvard Lectures) by J. B. Bury

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THE ANCIENT GREEK HISTORIANS

(HARVARD LECTURES)

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ΓΑΡΔΙΝΕΡ ΜΑΡΤΙΝΩΙ ΔΑΙΝ
ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝΙ ΦΙΛΕΛΛΗΝ

PREFACE

THIS volume consists of the Lane Lectures which I had the honour of delivering at Harvard University in spring 1908, under the auspices of the Classical Department. They are printed very nearly as they were originally written, though some of my kind hearers, if they should glance through, may detect a good many passages which were omitted in the Lecture Hall. The book amounts to a historical survey of Greek historiography, down to the first century B.C., and such as it is, I dedicate it to Mr. Gardiner M. Lane, who founded the lectureship some years ago in the interests of humanistic study.

The lecture on Herodotus would have gained much if Mr. Macan's admirable work on the last three Books had appeared in time for me to use it. It was satisfactory to find that he had established the priority of those Books with a convincing array of arguments. I have inconsistently included his edition of VII.-IX. in the Bibliography; for the purpose of the list is to make a general acknowledgment of obligations which in lectures of this kind could not conveniently be acknowledged in

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detail. There are not very many questions connected with the Greek historians which I have not at one time or another talked over with my friend Mr. Mahaffy, and I feel sure that I owe him much which neither of us could now verify.

September 5, 1908.

LECTURE I

THE RISE OF GREEK HISTORY IN IONIA

IN these lectures I propose to trace the genesis and the development of the historical literature of the Greeks. I will attempt to bring into a connected view the principles, the governing ideas, and the methods of the Greek historians, and to relate them to the general movements of Greek thought and Greek history. I need hardly apologize for devoting much of our time to Herodotus and Thucydides, who, however familiar to us from childhood, have the secret of engaging an interest that is never exhausted and never grows stale. As a Hellenist, I shall be happy if I succeed in illustrating the fact that, as in poetry and letters generally, as in art, as in philosophy, and in mathematics, so too in history, our debt to the Greeks transcends calculation. They were not the first to chronicle human events, but they were the first to apply criticism. And that means, they originated history.