

EPICUREANISM

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Epicureanism by William Wallace

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WILLIAM WALLACE

EPICUREANISM

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CHIEF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHIES. 1900

EPICUREANISM.

BY

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EPICUREANISM.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN the Roman emperor, Marcus Aurelius, towards the close of the second century of our era, resolved to give Imperial sanction to the higher teaching of the Roman world by the state endowment of a philosophical professoriate, he found four schools or sects dividing the public favour and drawing in their several directions the best thought of the time. These schools were the school of Plato, known as the Academic; the school of Aristotle, known as the Peripatetic; the school of Zeno, known as the Stoic; and the school of Epicurus, known as the Epicurean. It was not without a cause that the fourth school continued to be known by the name of its founder, which it did not exchange like the others for an epithet drawn from some favourite locality. To the very close of its career the Epicurean sect clung reverently and lovingly to the person of the master, to whom, with one accord, his followers attributed their escape from the thralldom of superstition and of unworthy fears and desires. The number of