

**GLEANINGS FROM THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF THE ANCIENTS**

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Gleanings from the Natural History of the Ancients by Morgan George Watkins

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MORGAN GEORGE WATKINS

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◉ GLEANINGS
FROM THE
NATURAL HISTORY OF
THE ANCIENTS.

Μουσείο BY *Μουσείο*
REV. M. G. WATKINS, M.A.

Ἄλλ' οὐ μίτρος σοι, ἦν δ' ἰγὺ, ἄλειψαι γε ἀπόλογον ἱρῶ.
Platonis Republica, x. 614.



LONDON: ELLIOT STOCK,
62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1885.

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INTRODUCTION.

THESSE chapters, on a few of the curiosities connected with the natural history of the ancients, are in some respects a faithful reflection of that knowledge. They are fragmentary, and greatly indebted to the labours of previous workers. But they have not been put together without much trouble and not a little honest, diligent research; my object being to collect some of the more interesting facts bearing upon ten or a dozen different subjects, rather than to write a complete natural history of the ancients. I have generally traced these curious beliefs through their mediæval modifications; partly that the reader might be led to contrast them with the exacter knowledge of the present day, partly in order to shew their growth from, in some cases, pre-historic and geological times.

No one is more aware of the incompleteness of these Essays, yet I venture to hope that some may