

**THEOPHRASTUS OF
ERESUS ON WINDS AND
ON WEATHER SIGNS**

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Theophrastus of Eresus on Winds and on Weather Signs by G. Wood & G. J. Symons

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G. WOOD & G. J. SYMONS

**THEOPHRASTUS OF
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ON WEATHER SIGNS**

THEOPHRASTUS

OF ERESUS

ON

WINDS

AND ON

WEATHER SIGNS.

TRANSLATED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

AND AN APPENDIX

ON THE DIRECTION, NUMBER AND NOMENCLATURE OF THE WINDS
IN CLASSICAL AND LATER TIMES,

BY

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PREFACE.

It is, perhaps, desirable to say a few words respecting the circumstances which have led to the preparation of this book. For nearly thirty years I have been a persistent searcher for old works upon Meteorology, partly like other hunters, from the universal desire to capture something; but I hope more with two other objects, (1) to form a centre where much of the meteorological literature of past ages could be consulted, and, as far as my own small efforts could go, to insure its permanent preservation; (2) to learn from it all that I could as to the growth of our knowledge of meteorology.

I have always had before me, but I fear only as a vision never to be realised, the translation and publication of, at any rate, the most important of these works. Aristotle's Meteorology has been translated into English (but copies are very scarce), and there is the excellent French translation of Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and it is a large work. I thought, therefore, that it would be more prudent to begin with the smaller works of Aristotle's favourite pupil Theophrastus, which existed only in Greek and Latin; and in the *Meteorological Magazine* for July, 1892, I asked whether any one would volunteer to prepare the translation, promising that in that event I would undertake the cost of publication. I was favoured with no fewer than four offers, and accepted the first. Of how Mr. Wood has carried out his "congenial labour" it would be presumptuous for me to say one word, but it cannot be wrong to express my hearty thanks for his help, also for that proffered by others which it was not necessary to accept.

"The Cobham Journals," which Miss E. A. Ormerod kindly published, "Cowe's Meteorological Journal," and "Merle's MS., 1337-1344" have been earlier efforts in a somewhat similar