

**EXTRACTS FROM OVID'S  
METAMORPHOSES,  
WITH COPIOUS NOTES**

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Extracts from Ovid's Metamorphoses, with Copious Notes by I. M'burney

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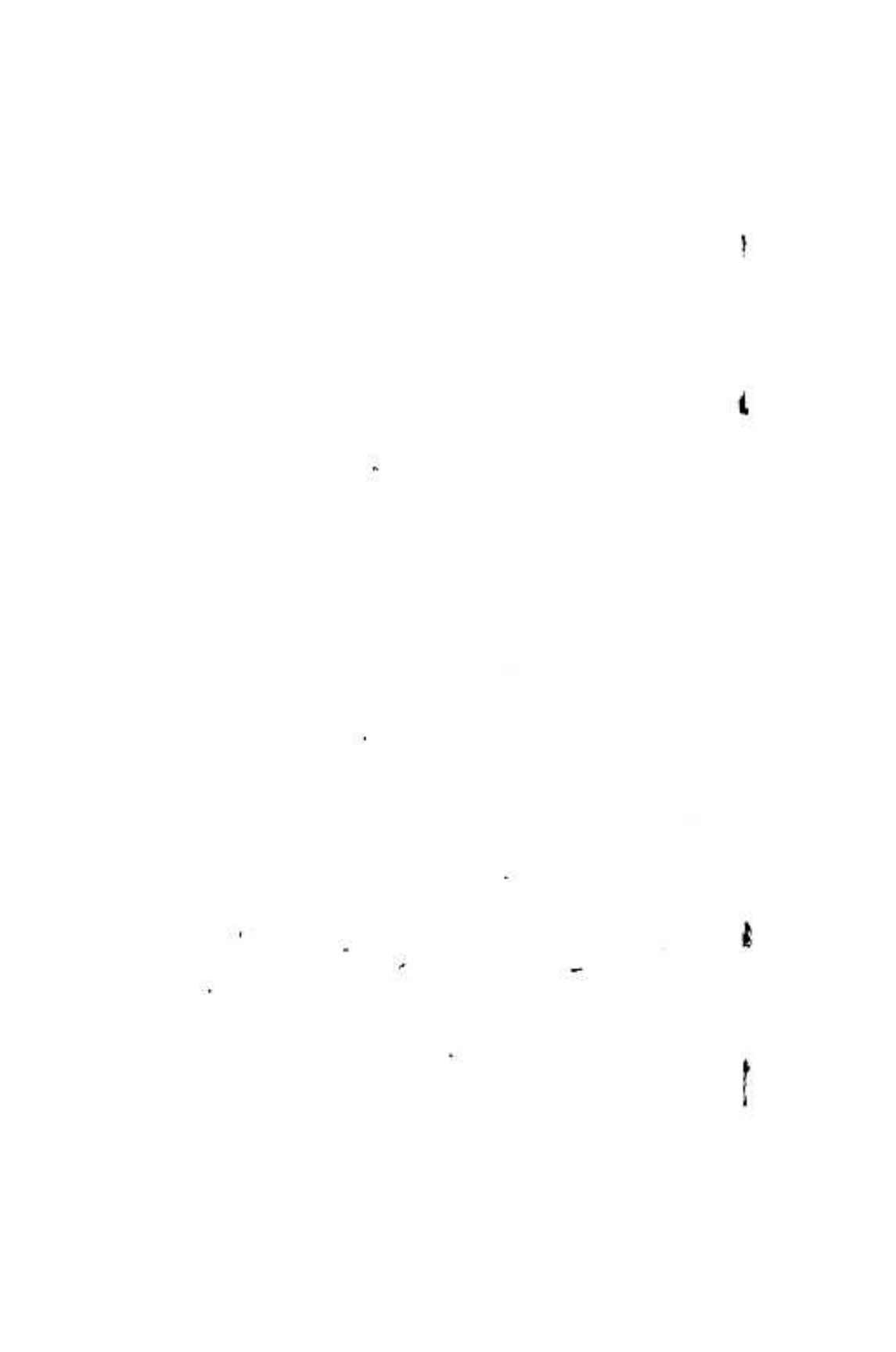


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ONE OF THE CLASSICAL MASTERS OF THE GLASGOW ACADEMY.

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## PREFACE

IN making the following Selections from the "Metamorphoses" of Ovid, the editor has had the double object in view—of omitting objectionable passages, and giving as much of the work as can be easily read in the usual curriculum of our schools. The Extracts given in the present little volume bear upon the most prominent incidents and themes of mythological story. Where exceptions to this rule occur, it is hoped that the omissions will be compensated by occasional reference to the general tenor of the omitted Fables, in Notes to passages contained in this work.

As Ovid is among the first of the Latin poets, with whose writings the scholar becomes familiar, it is unnecessary to apologise for the simplicity and copiousness of the Notes. Perhaps not more than enough has been done to facilitate the tyro's study, and enough is left to stimulate his industry and exercise classical talent. While the idioms and more difficult passages are carefully explained, considerable attention has been bestowed upon the mythology and geography.

From the available sources of information, which are now so ample and numerous, whatever appeared to the editor useful and necessary has been taken, without any attempt at originality in the style or manner of compilation: his great object was practical utility. But it would be uncandid not to acknowledge that he has got most valuable suggestions from Notes on the following books: —“Ferguson's *Metamorphoses*,” “Ramsay's *Extracts from Tibullus and Ovid*,” “Isjée's *Excerpts*,” “*The Delphini Edition*,” and several others bearing upon the subject immediately or indirectly.



## EXTRACTS FROM THE METAMORPHOSES.

### BOOK I.

#### THE ARGUMENT.

*In nova fert animus mutatas dicere formas  
Corpora. Di, ceptis, nam vos mutastis et illas,  
Adspirate meis, primæque ab origine mundi  
Ad mea perpetuum deducite tempora carmen.*

#### FAB. I.—CHAOS AND THE CREATION.

*ANTE* mare et terras, et, quod tegit omnia, cœlum, 5  
Unus erat toto naturæ vultus in orbe,  
Quem dixere Chaos, rudis indigestaque moles;  
Nec quicquam, nisi pondus iners; congestaque eodem  
Non bene junctarum discordia semina rerum.  
Nullus adhuc mundo præbebat lumina Titan; 10  
Nec nova crescendo reparabat cornua Phœbe;  
Nec circumfuso pendebat in aëre, Tellus,  
Ponderibus librata suis; nec brachia longo  
Margine terrarum porrexerat Amphitrite.  
Quæque fuit tellus, illic et pontus et aër; 15  
Sic erat instabilis tellus, innabilis unda,  
Lucis egens aër; nulli sua forma manebat;  
Obstabatque aliis aliud: quis corpore in uno  
Frigida pugnabant calidis, humentia siccis,  
Mollia cum duris, sine pondere habentia pondus. 20  
Hanc Deus et melior litem Natura diremit:

Nam cœlo terras, et terris absceidit undas,  
 Et liquidum spisso secrevit ab aère cœlum.  
 Quæ postquam evoluit cœcoque exemit acervo,  
 Dissociata locis concordî pace ligavit. 25  
 Ignea convexi vis et sine pondere cœli  
 Emicuit, summâque locum sibi legit in arce.  
 Proximus est aër illi levitate locoque ;  
 Densior his tellus, elementaque grandia traxit,  
 Et pressa est gravitate sui : circumfluit humor 30  
 Ultima possedit, solidumque coërcuit orbem.

FAB. II.—THE CREATION OF MAN.

Sic ubi dispositam, quisquis fuit ille Deorum,  
 Congeriem secuit, sectamque in membra redegit ;  
 Principio terram, ne non æqualis ab omni  
 Parte foret, magni speciem glomeravit in orbis,  
 Tum freta diffundi, rapidisque tumescere ventis 5  
 Jussit, et ambitæ circumdare litora terræ.  
 Addidit et fontes, immensaque stagna lacusque,  
 Fluminaque obliquis cinxit declivia ripis :  
 Quæ diversa locis partim, sorbentur ab ipsâ,  
 In mare perveniunt partim, campoque recepta 10  
 Liberioris aquæ pro ripis litora pulsant.  
 Jussit et extendi campos, subsidere valles,  
 Fronde tegi silvas, lapidosos surgere montes.  
 Utque dux dextrâ cœlum totidemque sinistrâ  
 Parte secant Zonæ, quinta est ardentior illis ; 15  
 Sic onus inclusum numero distinxit eodem  
 Cura Dei, totidemque plagæ tellure premuntur.  
 Quarum quæ media est, non est habitabilis æstu ;  
 Nix tegit alta duas ; totidem inter utramque locavit,  
 Temperiemque dedit mixtâ cum frigore flammâ. 20  
 Imminet his aër, qui, quanto est pondere terræ

Pondus aquæ levius, tanto est onerosior igni.  
 Illic et nebulas, illic consistere nubes  
 Jussit, et humanas motura tonitrus mentes,  
 Et cum fulminibus facientes frigora ventos. 25  
 His quæque non passim mundi fabricator habendum  
 Aëra permisit: vix nunc obsistitur illis,  
 Quum sua quisque regant diverso flamina tractu,  
 Quin laniant mundum; tanta est discordia fratrum.  
 Eurus ad Auroram Nabataeque regna recessit 30  
 Persidaque, et radiis juga subdita matutinis.  
 Vesper et occiduo quæ litora Sole tepescunt,  
 Proximasunt Zephyro; Scythiam Septemquetricionam  
 Horrifera invasit Boreas; contraria tellus  
 Nubibus assiduis pluvioque madescit ab Austro. 35  
 Hæc super imposuit liquidum et gravitate carentem  
 Æthera, nec quicquam terrenæ facies habentem.  
 Vix ea limitibus disseperat omnia certis,  
 Quum, quæ pressa diu massâ latnère sub illâ,  
 Sidera cœperunt toto effervescere cœlo. 40  
 Neu regio foret ulla suis animantibus orba,  
 Astra tenent cœleste solum, formæque Deorum;  
 Cesserunt nitidis habitandæ piscibus undæ;  
 Terra feras cepit, volucres agitabilis aër.  
 Sanctius his animal mentisque capacius altæ 45  
 Deerat adhuc, et quod dominari in cetera posset.  
 Natus homo est, sive hunc divino semine fecit  
 Ille opifex rerum, mundi melioris origo;  
 Sive recens tellus, seductaque nuper ab alto  
 Æthere, cognati retinebat semina cœli. 50  
 Quam satus Iapeto, mixtam fluvialibus undis,  
 Finxit in effigiem moderantum cuncta Deorum.  
 Pronaque quum spectent animalia cetera terram,  
 Os homini sublime dedit, cœlumque tueri  
 Jussit, et erectos ad sidera tollere vultus. 55