

**A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF GREEK  
PHILOSOPHY**

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A Brief History of Greek Philosophy by B. C. Burt

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OF  
GREEK PHILOSOPHY.

BY

B. C. BURT, M.A.,

FORMERLY FELLOW, AND FELLOW BY COURTESY, IN THE  
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.

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TO  
H. G. B.  
AND  
E. S. MCK.

## PREFACE.

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THE following work had its beginning in a series of essays written for one of the ethico-religious periodicals of the country. To these — at the suggestion of friends whose counsel seemed to be as valuable as that of any could possibly be and could not well be disregarded — others were added to make a brief account of Greek speculation from its beginning to its end. This account has been prepared in the belief that the problems of philosophy are in a large measure always the same, and that the Greek solutions of the cardinal problems, by reason of their simplicity and freshness (for they are solutions that were found when the world's thought was comparatively in its youth, and are, in larger measure than those unacquainted with the history of thought begin to suspect, the only *original* solutions of those problems), and by reason of their remoteness from the prejudices of the present, have a certain value not possessed by any others, particularly for the beginner in philosophical thinking. Most of the works treating of the subject of which this volume treats are learned and extensive, overwhelming the general reader, and even



the student, almost, with a sense of the superabundant wealth of the ancient thought in particular and the world's thought in general. It is hoped that the present work will render accessible in convenient form and quantities some of the noblest portions of the intellectual wealth of Greece. An attempt is here made not merely to expound and elucidate, but also to present in their historical connection, and give a just estimate of the validity of, the leading standpoints and categories of Greek thinking. Much reading and not a little original study have been given to the task.

The writer takes the liberty to express here his sense of obligation to G. S. Morris, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Michigan, and formerly Lecturer on Philosophy in the Johns Hopkins University, and to G. S. Hall, late Professor of Psychology in the Johns Hopkins University, and now President of Clark University, for suggestions and encouragement received from them. A word of thanks is due also to John Dewey, now Assistant Professor of Philosophy in Michigan University, and Professor Elect of Philosophy in the University of Minnesota; and to a college-classmate who has become a life-companion.

ANN ARBOR, June, 1888.

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