

**OUTLINES OF EUROPEAN
LITERATURE, FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES: A CLASS
BOOK FOR SCHOOLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649665853

Outlines of European Literature, from the Earliest Times: A Class Book for Schools by F. Thorpe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

F. THORPE

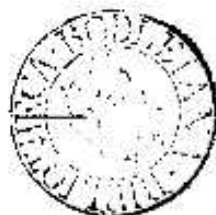
**OUTLINES OF EUROPEAN
LITERATURE, FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES: A CLASS
BOOK FOR SCHOOLS**

OUTLINES
OF
EUROPEAN LITERATURE,

From the earliest Times :

▲
CLASS BOOK FOR SCHOOLS,

BY
F. THORPE.



CAMBRIDGE :
S. RIDGE & SON, HIGH-STREET.

LONDON :
GROOMBRIDGE & SONS, PATERNOSTER-BOW.
1856.

260. g. 238

PREFACE.

The following pages were not compiled with a view to publication, but merely as an assistance in private tuition. They are now placed before the public, in consequence of the repeatedly expressed opinion of competent judges, that they are calculated to supply a want, which has hitherto existed in school books.

The object of the present little work is, to throw before the pupil a broad sketch, which shall open the mind to the study of literature *as a whole*; and thus pave the way for an intelligent appreciation of the labours of those authors of ancient and modern times, who have exercised more than ordinary influence over the manner of thinking and writing of their own and succeeding generations.

In the compilation of this volume, great assistance has been derived from Schlegel's admirable *Lectures on Literature*, a book containing much valuable and highly interesting matter.

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| LITERATURE OF ANTIQUITY. | |
| Greece | 3 |
| Rome | 8 |
| INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY. | |
| Philosophy against which it had to contend | 13 |
| Plato and Aristotle | 13 |
| Indian Literature and Opinions | 16 |
| The Christian Fathers | 19 |
| LITERATURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES. | |
| The Bible | 24 |
| Philosophy | 25 |
| The Crusades | 26 |
| Formation of the dialects of Modern Europe | 30 |
| Gothic, German, French, English, Spanish | |
| Literature | 32 |
| Scandinavian and Slavonic Literature | 34 |
| Italian Literature | 37 |

MODERN LITERATURE.**PAGE.**

| | |
|--|----|
| Revolutions in European Literature and Science | 43 |
| The Reformation | 45 |
| Literature of the Catholic Countries Portugal, Italy, Spain | 47 |
| Philosophy of the 17th and 18th Centuries in England, France, and Germany . . . | 56 |
| Literature of England | 72 |
| Literature of France | 83 |
| Literature of Germany | 93 |

LITERATURE OF ANTIQUITY.

GREECE.

The Greeks are the only people who can be said to have, in almost every respect, created their own literature. The Romans and the modern Europeans set out with the possession of a complete body of literature, derived from nations more ancient than themselves: the Romans receiving this legacy from the Greeks; and the modern Europeans being the common heirs of both these peoples, as well as of the learning and refinement of the Orientals,—possessions which, till within the last two centuries, they can scarcely be said to have appropriated to their own use, or to have rendered more valuable by the additions of their own ingenuity.

The whole happy period of the political history of Greece, as well as all the glories of her literature, occupied no greater space than the 300 years which intervened between *Solon*, 594, and *Alexander*, 323. Demosthenes, who was born only one year later than Alexander the Great, was the last great writer whose works were addressed to the Greeks as a