

himself a god. The King was ill, and his physician ordered him a pudding. "All the hopes of our god," said Anaxarchus, "lie in this pudding." Another saying is tacked to the name of Plato by the same anecdotist, Ælian, concerning the people of Agrigentum. He observed that they had costly houses and gave costly banquets, and thereupon remarked that they built as if they were to live for ever, and dined as if they would be dead for ever. According to another version of the same saying we find that one interpretation of the last part of it supposes the Agrigentines to dine as if they were to die next day. A truly didactic saying is attributed by Ælian to the Spartan Magistrates. "When certain persons from Clazomenæ had come to Sparta and smeared with soot the seats on which the Spartan magistrates sat discharging public duties; on discovering what had been done and by whom, they expressed no indignation, but merely ordered a public proclamation to be made. 'Let it be lawful for the people of Clazomenæ to make blackguards of themselves.'". A very large number of apothegms, proverbs, or sayings of more or less wit, occur up and down the collected works of Plutarch, although Schneidewin does not hesitate to attribute these to some impostor usurping his name. At any rate, they are handily classified, and form a bulky addition to Mr. Paley's translated specimens. Here is a brief and bright saying which this writer attaches to King Archelaus, when a talkative barber, trimming his beard, asked him "How shall I cut it?" "In silence," replied the King. The anecdote recalls one of Charles II.'s bragging barbers, who boasted to him he could cut His Majesty's throat when he would—a boast for which he was only dismissed, though for a like rash vaunt according to Peter Cunningham, the barber of Dionysius was crucified. To return to Plutarch, he tells the following stories, both good in their way, of Philip of Macedon. In passing sentence on two rogues, he ordered one to leave Macedonia with all speed, and the other to try to catch him. No less astute was his query as to a strong position he wished to occupy, which was reported by the scouts to be almost impregnable. "Is there not," he asked, "even a pathway to it wide enough for an ass laden with gold?" Philip, too, according to Plutarch, is entitled to the fatherhood of an adage which retains its ancient fame. When some Olynthians denounced Philip's courtiers to him as traitors, they were, he said, "rude and illiterate, calling a spade a spade." Another