

IX

(*From CRITIAS OF ATHENS* ¹)

IONIAN Teos populous and fair
To Hellas gave renowned Anacreon
Who wove sweet wreaths of song in beauty's
praise,
And sang so well wine's care-dispelling joys.
He was a star of revels; of the Nine
The darling; and the dear delight of maids.

¹ Critias was the son of Callæscherus and grandson of Critias, son of Dropidas. He was a pupil of Socrates, and of Gorgias of Leontini. In 406 B.C., after the murder of the generals who had been victorious at Arginusæ, he fomented a revolt against the lords in Thessaly, in conjunction with one Prometheus, supposed by some to have been the same as Jason of Pheræ. On his return to Athens he became leader of the oligarchical party, and was chosen one of the Ephori. Afterwards he was chief of the thirty tyrants set over Athens by the Spartans. He was slain in 403 B.C. at the battle of Munychia, while fighting against Thrasybulus and the Liberators. He was a man of conspicuous talents, but cruel, tyrannical, rapacious, and unscrupulous. After his banishment from Athens by a sentence of the people he became an enemy of popular rights. He was eloquent, well-bred, and distinguished as a poet and orator. He wrote tragedies, and elegiac poems, some fragments of which are extant.