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high as it was under the Pharaohs of the Fourth Dynasty. The application of the canons of the 'higher criticism' to the earlier history of Egypt has signally failed.

Nor is it better when we turn to the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, and the islands and coasts which were afterwards Greek. Here, we were told, there was nothing but the darkness of an illiterate barbarism before the beginnings of the classical age. The traditions which had survived of an earlier period were resolved into myths and fabrications, and we were bidden to believe that the pre-Hellenic history of the *Ægean* could never be recovered, for none had existed. A knowledge of writing, we were assured, was unknown in the age in which the Homeric poems first took shape, and art sprang ready-made, like Athena from the head of Zeus, in the stormy epoch of the Persian wars. Backed by his favourite appeal to the want of evidence, and fortified with his doctrine of development and his assumption of the late introduction of writing, the 'critic' was confident that his negative conclusions could never be gainsaid, and that what had passed for the earlier history of Greek lands had