

# LANDMARKS OF HISTORY.

---

BY WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.A., LL.B.

---

“HOW came I thus; how here?” mused Father Adam in the garden of Eden; and ever since that time man has continued to ask himself this question. Many have been the attempts to draw aside the veil that separates the Known from the Unknown, and to reveal the secrets of that bourne whence no traveller e'er returns. But the mystery of life is as mysterious now as it was when Eden bloomed in primeval beauty. “How came I thus; how here?” is still a question unanswered; but, although we cannot stand within the inner veil and explore the depths of the wisdom and knowledge of God, or penetrate the secret of being, we can gaze in admiration and rapture upon the objects of His handiwork, and, it may be, become acquainted with his character by studying His dealings with man, who is the noblest of all His works.

If it be true that “history repeats itself,” and that “we can read the future in the light of the past,” then, indeed, must the study of history be profitable. The poet sings:

“Thus fought the Greeks of old,  
Thus will they fight again;  
Shall not the self-same mould  
Bring forth the self-same men?”

But, alas! alas! we all know that the Greeks of to-day are