

**PLATO**

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Plato by Clifton W. Collins

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**CLIFTON W. COLLINS**

# **PLATO**



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BY

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H.M. INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

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In Memoriam  
of  
J. J. ...

1875

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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THE Dialogues of Plato have been grouped together in this little volume as their subject or argument seemed to suit the requirements of the Chapter in which they will be found, without regard to chronological order. Nor has the vexed question of the "Platonic Canon," or what are or are not the genuine works of Plato, been entered upon in these pages. All the Dialogues attributed to him in Stallbaum's edition are accepted here, and discussed with more or less brevity, as their interest for the general reader seemed to require.

The writer desires to express his deep sense of his obligations to Professor Jowett for permission to use his valuable translation of Plato, from which most of the quotations found in the text (including the extracts marked "J.") have been made. Those

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marked "D." are taken from the translation of the "Republic" by Messrs Davies and Vaughan.

The other authorities most frequently consulted are Grote's 'Plato and the other Companions of Socrates,' Whewell's 'Platonic Dialogues,' Zeller's 'Socrates and the Socratic Schools,' and the *Historics of Philosophy* by Maurice, Ritter, and Ueberweg.

The writer also wishes to record his sense of the kindness of H. W. Chandler (Waynflete Professor of Moral Philosophy at Oxford), who was good enough to read through the proofs of the first four chapters of this volume.



## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
CHAP. I. LIFE OF PLATO, . . . . .	1
"  II. PHILOSOPHERS AND SOPHISTS, . . . . .	19
DIALOGUES : PARMENIDES—SOPHISTES—PROTAGORAS—GORGIAS—HIPPIAS—EUTHYDEMUS.	
"  III. SOCRATES AND HIS FRIENDS, . . . . .	49
SYMPOSIUM — PLEDGUS — APOLOGY — CRITO — PLEDG.	
"  IV. DIALOGUES OF SEARCH, . . . . .	80
LACHES—CHARMIDES—LYSES—MENO—EUTHY- PIRO—CRATYLUS—THE ETETUS.	
"  V. PLATO'S IDEAL STATES, . . . . .	109
"  VI. THE MYTHS OF PLATO, . . . . .	146
"  VII. RELIGION, MORALITY, AND ART, . . . . .	169
"  VIII. LATER PLATONISM, . . . . .	185



# P L A T O.

## CHAPTER I.

### LIFE OF PLATO.

"Eagle! why soarest thou above that tomb,—  
To what sublime and star-y-paven home  
Fleatest thou?  
I am the image of great Plato's spirit,  
Ascending heaven; Athens doth inherit  
His corpse below."

—(*Epitaph translated from the Greek by Shelley.*)

PLATO was born at Ægina in B.C. 430—the same year that Pericles died—of a noble family which traced its descent from Codrus, the last hero-king of Attica. Little is told us of his early years beyond some stories of the divinity which hedged him in his childhood, and a dream of Socrates,\* in which he saw a cygnet

\* Athenæus tells us of another dream, by no means so complimentary to Plato, in which his spirit appeared to Socrates in the form of a crow, which planted its claws firmly in the bald head of the philosopher, and flapped its wings. The interpretation of this dream, according to Socrates (or Athenæus), was, that Plato would tell many lies about him.