THE OLYMPIAN AND PYTHIAN ODES OF PINDAR

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The Olympian and Pythian odes of Pindar by Pindar & Abraham Moore

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PINDAR & ABRAHAM MOORE

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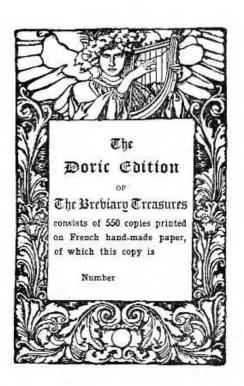
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BREVIARY TREASURES The Olympic and Pythian Odes of * Pindar + + Translated into English Verse by Abraham Moore 🍁 PRIVATELY PRINTED BY NATHAN HASKELL DOLE BOSTON

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INTRODUCTION

PINDAR, the most illustrious of the lyric poets of Greece, was born at Kynoskephale, near Thebes, in Bœotia, about 520 B. c. The pretty legend of the prophetic bees settling on his infant lips and leaving their honey there, hints at his early inclination for music and poetry. His mother, Myrto or Myrtis, herself a lyric poet, first taught him to combine simplicity and elegance in his verse. Later the beautiful Corinna became his instructor. He was taught to play the lyre by Lasos of Hermione, famous as a musician and dithyrambic poet. When very young he went to the court of Alexander, son of Amyntas, King of Macedon, and there overcame Myrtis in a musical contest, but was five times defeated by Corinna.

That was a golden day for poets. Not only the people but also the kings and tyrants appreciated their art, and Pindar soon won a reputation that spread over the whole civilized world.

King Hiero of Syracuse was his munificent patron when he celebrated Athens as the chief support of Greece, and Thebes out of resentment heavily fined him. The Athenians presented him with a sum double the amount of the fine and erected a brazen statue in his honour, representing him with a diadem and a lyre and a scroll folded on his knees.

The date of his death is not certainly known. He was either fifty-six or eighty-six when he passed away, sitting in a public assembly.

Quintilian said of him: "Of the nine Greek lyric poets, Pindar is the chief, in spirit, in magnificence, in moral sentiments, and in metaphor; most happy

both in the abundance of his matter and of his diction; and, as it were, with a