



The Age of Pericles, Vol. 1: A History of the Politics and Arts of Greece From the Persian to the Peloponnesian War (Classic Reprint)

William Watkiss Lloyd

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Excerpt from The Age of Pericles, Vol. 1: A History of the Politics and Arts of Greece From the Persian to the Peloponnesian War

The story of the period that intervened between the Persian and the Peloponnesian wars had been so far neglected when Thucydides commenced his history of the latter, as to elicit an observation that the records of its incidents and the determination of their sequence were alike incomplete. He supplied in consequence a connecting summary, the section known to the ancients as the Pentecontaeteris or Pentecontaetia, from the number of years embraced, such as appeared sufficient for his own purpose; compared however with our present rational requirements, it is, as might be expected, jejune and unsatisfactory. The history of the arts, which is for us one of the main interests of the period, escapes his notice entirely; and yet at this particular time a work of art was apt to have the significance of a political incident, as its purport and vicissitudes had no unfrequent bearing on political feeling. The life of the people during this happier and more tranquil period, was as much engrossed by poetry and the arts as by politics; of the two interests, at present so distinct, each is found among Oreeks reacting on the other, and it is often difficult to determine which is predominant.

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