



"HANGING GARDENS" OF BABYLON.

THE
FAMOUS PARKS AND GARDENS
OF
THE WORLD

DESCRIBED AND ILLUSTRATED.

"When Epicurus to the world had taught
That pleasure was the chiefest good
(And was perhaps in the right, if rightly understood),
His life he to his doctrines brought,
And in a garden's shade that sovereign pleasure sought;
Whoever a *true* Epicure would be,
May there find cheape and virtuous luxury."

COWLEY.

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P R E F A C E.



THE present volume is not intended for the scientific reader, nor does it lay claim to any special originality of design. It is simply a popular description of Remarkable Parks and Gardens, public and private, ancient and modern, interspersed with illustrative anecdotes and notes on the history of Gardening. Much of it is based on "Les Jardins" of Arthur Mangin; but material which seemed useful or entertaining has been freely borrowed from all available authorities. It is hoped, therefore, that the reader will meet with no pages absolutely dull or uninteresting; and it is even expected that he will meet with many details of which he was before ignorant, that will prove a source of pleasant recreation.

Beginning with the Gardens of Antiquity, those of Rome and Greece and the Eastern World, we pass on to the Medieval Gardens, the Gardens of the Renaissance, the Modern Gardens of Europe and Great Britain, and those which are now most celebrated abroad and at home. We mark the introduction of the so-called classical style, of the grotesque and architectural styles, and finally of that school of Landscape Gardening which is generally known as the English. The most famous Public Parks and Botanical Gardens are individually described; and our labours conclude with remarks on the Trees and Plants best adapted for Gardens on a large scale, on the animals most easily trained or acclimatized, and on Conservatories and their uses.

We trust, therefore, that our compendium, popular as it professes to be, will be found tolerably exhaustive; and we commend it to the indulgent consideration of all who take a pleasure in the humanizing and pleasurable Art of Gardening.