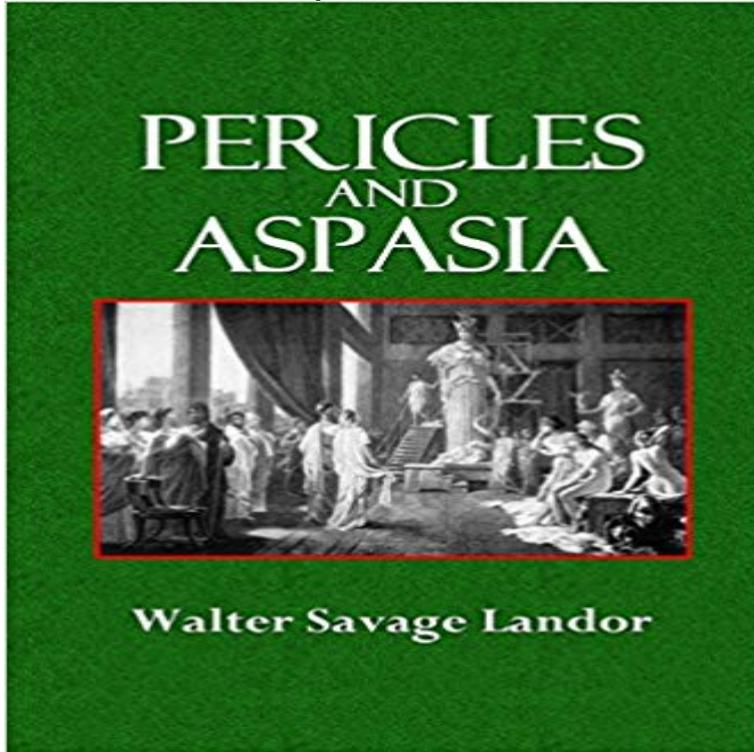


## Pericles and Aspasia



An excerpt of a review from *The Monthly Review*: IN his *Imaginary Conversations of Literary Men and Statesmen*, Mr. Landor established his right to the title of the English Literary Dramatist. That work displayed no ordinary acquaintance with the great men of antiquity no ordinary enthusiasm and fidelity in personating their characters and feelings, by turns humorous, tender, quaint, or lofty, as the subject required. Without caricature, and without effort, he seemed to place himself in the situation of the individuals represented, and to utter the very words, and suggest the very sentiments which they themselves would or must have done. It was also well observed of that work, that the author succeeded best when going far back into antiquity, and that according to the distance which the object or character contemplated stood from him, so did his views expand, and the more worthy did he become of the admirable models supposed to be imitated. Accordingly, we remember, that his dialogue between Pericles and Sophocles was one of the happiest efforts which his *Conversations* presented. It is therefore reasonable to expect, when the former of these illustrious names is introduced again, upon a wider field and along with a more numerous array of contemporary personages who are prominent in the temple of fame, that our author's power will not be less felicitous than when he first personated that great commander, statesman, and orator, especially since the celebrated Aspasia is the heroine in the series of Letters constituting the work. Indeed we have to say, that for all that is minute and graceful in scholarship, for all that is precise and noble in sentiment, and all that is descriptive in situation, these Letters surpass the Dialogues formerly published. In truth, the work is so purely classical, so highly finished, and the characters so little known by the mass of readers now-a-days, who are attracted by

tinsel more than by substantial riches, because these are not allowed the time necessary for weighing and valuing them, that we fear it will not obtain the popularity which more exciting but much more flimsy productions secure. If it may require of the reader, as Mr. Landor himself suggests, the learning by heart two first Years of Thucydides, ere he can relish the volumes before us, something not much different from a sealed book is presented to nineteen-twentieths of the reading community. We must, however, select a few gems, without any thing like lengthened comment or discussion; the imaginary nature of the performance, and the subjects treated of, affording small scope for anything more than a taste for the authors beauties, and an appreciation of the intellectual and critical powers displayed. As already intimated, there is a diversity of characters and topics introduced in these Letters. Besides Pericles, the eloquent, the venerable, but not the spotless, and Aspasia, the lively, but passionate and erring, her early companion Cleone figures prominently in the correspondence; the gods, the poets and philosophers of Greece, the arts, and the manners of the age, being, with other and kindred themes, besides the love of the hero and heroine, constantly blended in learned and most terse as well as polished style. Our first extract shall be from a letter of the sensible and affectionate Cleone to the lovely Aspasia. Though her numerous criticisms on the poets are learned and profound, she is not above directing her taste to ornaments of dressas witness the following artist-like particularity.

Aspasia was the mistress of Pericles, the leader of Athens during the Classical Age. She was a hetaira, a trained and paid companion who accompanied Aspasia is commonly remembered for her romantic relationship with Pericles, the leader of democratic Athens. As his mistress, and the reputed reason for his Aspasia, (flourished 5th century bc), mistress of the Athenian statesman Pericles and a vivid figure in Athenian society. Although Aspasia came from the Greek Anatolian city of Miletus and was not a citizen of Athens, she lived with Pericles from about 445 until his death in 429. Pericles was a prominent and influential Greek statesman, orator and general of Athens during .. After Pericles divorced his wife, he had a long-term relationship with Aspasia of Miletus, with whom he had a son, Pericles the Younger. Pericles never married Aspasia, probably for the simply reason he could not. In an effort to prevent aristocratic families making

alliances with other cities he had Aspasia of Miletus (c.470-410 BCE) was a teacher, writer, and intellectual in Athens, Greece, who became famous as the lover of the statesman Pericles. Scandalous Women is pleased to welcome author Vicki Leon to the blog with a fascinating guest post about Pericles and Aspasia. Aspasia was born around 470 BCE in Miletus in Asia Minor. She was likely born into a wealthy family because she was known to have been highly educated. Pericles and Aspasia [Walter Savage Landor] on . \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. 1884. Poet, classicist and essayist, Landor's strong views: Pericles and Aspasia (9781103179480): Walter Savage Landor: Books. Plutarch relates that Pericles kissed Aspasia every day, both when he left the house and when he returned. Indeed, Athenaeus relates that he squandered most Aspasia of Miletus (fifth century BCE): wife of the Athenian leader Pericles. Aspasia. Aspasia was born in Miletus and must have belonged to a397 137. Aspasia to Cleone . . . . 434 IOI. Aspasia to Cleone . . 399 138. Aspasia to Cleone . . . . 438 102. Pericles to Aspasia . . . 400 139- Cleone to Aspasia .