

reference to the knowledge and opinions of the moderns.

In attempting to give an account of Aristotle's views, it is prudent to state that it has been collected from numerous and various notices distributed very irregularly throughout the body of his work; so that it is scarcely possible to be confident of having given the correct reference in every instance. It is prudent to make this statement, lest any of my readers should be led, in consequence of an incorrect reference, to doubt the fidelity of the representation here given, from the difficulty of meeting with the original passage. This difficulty is perhaps greater in the case of Aristotle, at least with respect to the work in question, than in the case of most other authors, in consequence of what may be called his Pindaric style of digression; which is occasionally so abrupt as to be at first view ludicrous. Thus, in comparing the kidney of the turtle with that of the ox, he suddenly illustrates his subject by observing that the viscera of the bonassus also (an animal not very like a turtle) resemble those of the ox. (*Ἐχει δὲ καὶ ὁ βόνασος τὰ ἐντὸς ἅπαντα ὅμοια βοῖ.* p. 45.) And, again, in the midst of a whole page descriptive of snakes, when speaking of their cloven tongue, he abruptly says that the seal (an animal not more like a snake, than the bonassus the turtle) also has a cloven tongue.