



**GEORGE
GROTE**

***PLATO'S DOCTRINE
RESPECTING
THE ROTATION
OF THE EARTH AND
ARISTOTLE'S
COMMENT UPON
THAT DOCTRINE***

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Plato's Doctrine Respecting the Rotation of the Earth and Aristotle's Comment Upon That Doctrine

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PREFACE.

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The following paper was originally intended as an explanatory note on the Platonic Timæus, in the work which I am now preparing on Plato and Aristotle. Interpreting, differently from others, the much debated passage in which Plato describes the cosmical function of the Earth, I found it indispensable to give my reasons for this new view. But I soon discovered that those reasons could not be comprised within the limits of a note. Accordingly I here publish them in a separate Dissertation. The manner in which the Earth's rotation was conceived, illustrates the scientific character of the Platonic and Aristotelian age, as contrasted with the subsequent development and improvement of astronomy.

PLATO — ON THE EARTH'S ROTATION.

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In Plato, Timæus, p. 40 B, we read the following words —
Γῆν δὲ τροφὸν μὲν ἡμετέραν, εἰλλομένην δὲ περὶ τὸν διὰ παντὸς πόλον τεταμένον φύλακα καὶ δημιουργὸν νυκτός τε καὶ ἡμέρας ἐμηχανήσατο, πρώτην καὶ πρεσβυτάτην θεῶν, ὅσοι ἐντὸς οὐράνου γεγόνασι. I give the text as it stands in Stallbaum's edition.