

field have inadvertently committed the same error. \* Turnebus, however, did not mean to deceive his successors, as he expressly admits in his Greek dedication to the celebrated Michel de l'Hôpital, afterwards Chancellor of France, that he had derived no assistance from manuscripts, with the exception of a single copy 219 of the three first plays, the property of the President de Ranconet. † Whoever will undertake the task of attentively comparing the text and appendix of Turnebus, with the readings of the third copy in Mr Blomfield's list, as published by Vauvilliers, will soon be convinced, that that copy is the identical *codex Ranconeti* which was used by Turnebus. It must be observed, that among his ἄλλως εὐρεθέντα, he has inserted some of the Aldine readings, which he has rejected from the text, and some of his own conjectures, which he has not thought proper to admit into it. ††

After all, however, as we stated on a former occasion, the accumulation of manuscripts does not contribute, in so great a degree as might be supposed, to the amendment of our author's text. All the manuscripts of Aeschylus which have yet been examined, are transcribed, mediately or immediately, from the same copy, which appears to have survived alone the general wreck of antient literature. The concurrence, therefore, of fifty or five hundred manuscripts of Aeschylus in the same lection, implies no

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\* See Mr Butler's note on v. 570, and Mr Blomfield's on v. 755, of their respective editions.

† Ranconet, who was a President of the Parliament of Paris, and one of the most accomplished scholars of that learned age, incurred the formidable resentment of the Cardinal of Lorraine, by opposing some violent measures which the Cardinal recommended for the extirpation of heresy. The president de Ranconet was afterwards reduced to the necessity of exercising the occupation of corrector of the press: and at last died of a broken heart, in prison. The Cardinal of Lorraine is said to have held fourteen of the richest bishoprics in France at once.

†† As the *Notices des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque du Roi* do not frequently occur in the libraries of private scholars, we subjoin a few readings, which, to the best of our knowledge, are not found in any manuscript, except the *Codex Regius*, 2789, which we conjecture to have belonged to the President de Ranconet. These readings, the greater part of which is erroneous, are all inserted in the Appendix of Turnebus, with the exception of those marked with an asterisk, which he has adopted in his text. V. 376. λωφήσω. 568. εἰδωλον γὰρ Ἄργον. 590. φθέγματος v. l. [προσφθέγματος T. servato scilicet προς - e vulgatis libris.] 616. ὦ μοι πέπανμαι. 622. ὄρκεσα [ἄρκεσα T. ex emendatione.] 810. ὄρέων. 811. \* εὐποτος. 899. \* πόντων abest. 910. Κρόνον πᾶσι ἤδη. 951. Ζεὺς τοι τοιούτοις. 975. κακοῦσιν ἐκδίκως. 1013. \* εἰάν καὶ τοῖς.