

that a mere verbal and metrical conformity may in many cases be the way not to realize, but to violate it? How can we be said to give a true copy of a Greek expression when we substitute for it one made up of English words indeed, but conveying no meaning at all, or perhaps a harsh meaning to English ears? or how can we flatter ourselves that a composition which an English reader would regard as oddly-fashioned prose, with no harmony, is a facsimile of an *Æschylean Chorus*? We may admire their ingenuity, as we should admire a Chinese imitation of European workmanship, but we cannot approve of them as versions, unless we suppose translation to be an exception to the general rule of truth-speaking, which requires not that a statement should be verbally correct, but that it should convey a true impression. If purely classical forms of expression and purely classical metres can be naturalized among the English, well and good; but that must be done by original compositions; and till then a translation made on such a theory will not be likely to fulfil one of the principal objects of a book, that of attracting readers. At the same time, of course any approximation which can be made to the form of the original, consistently with the usages of our own tongue, should be sedulously laboured after: and even where a precise equivalent cannot be found, it will be well to seek something as near to it as possible. *Æschylus* should speak in English phrases and English metres: but he must also speak as *Æschylus*. Acting on this rule, I have, in the first Chorus, not only rendered the Greek anapæsts by English anapæsts, as being an indigenous metre, but have put vv. 185 &c. into a measure taken from a poem of Miss Barrett's (*The Cry of the Children*), which though not reducible to the same quantities as the original, bears some resemblance to it as it is ordinarily read. In other places I have attempted no such apparent conformity: for instance, in the first lines of the first strophe, I am as persuaded that the Greek dactylic measure is best represented by an English