

belonging not to English note-writing, but to the present state of philology: a writer in Latin would feel it to a much greater degree, and could only escape it by strictly confining himself to the opinions, as strictly as to the language, of older critics.

In Germany nothing much has been done for the *Agamemnon* since Klausen's edition, which is now well known to English scholars. In 1837 Haupt published the text with a large body of notes, which display considerable learning, but have scarcely any pretensions to critical merit. There is hardly any error in the existing MSS. and early editions, even though it may have been corrected so long ago as the time of Canter<sup>h</sup>, which he does not think capable of being defended, therein far surpassing Klausen (who is himself not slow at attempting to explain the inexplicable), while his own suggestions generally shew a great want of that felicity which is the especial praise of a critic. I have however found his edition useful, particularly as he has reprinted the *Scholia*, which it is a satisfaction to have consulted, though on this play their help is nearly worthless. Very recently an edition of the *Orestea* has appeared by Franz, with a translation on the opposite pages, executed by order of the king of Prussia, expressly for the purpose of stage representation. The few notes appended to the text are in German, very brief, and entirely critical. I have not examined them thoroughly, but what I have seen does not give me a very high opinion of them. He adopts several very questionable corrections of H. L. Ahrens, and altogether may be said to have corrupted the text far more than he has improved it<sup>i</sup>. I have been informed also that

<sup>h</sup> It would be hard to overrate the services which Canter has rendered to *Æschylus*. The state in which he left the text of the plays can only be appreciated by those who from a careful examination of

the MSS. readings know in what condition he found it.

<sup>i</sup> Hermann has reviewed the work in the *Wiener Jahrbücher*, besides writing a short tract with reference to it, "*De rescenica in Æschyli Orestea.*"