

εἰσόμειθα (v. 494). Now nothing is more certain than that all these speeches are spoken, as all modern editors print them, by members of the Chorus, and that at v. 494 Clytaemnestra is not even on the stage, and further that no one could have read the play with any consecutive attention from the beginning to this point without discovering these facts. But the Greek editor was looking for glosses, and having once ascertained the correctness of his copy (a work on which he can be proved to have spent very great pains), would not interrupt the true labour of scholarship for a question so trivial as the name of a particular speaker.

Consequently, so far as relates to the literary form and purpose of the drama, the makers of our MSS. bequeathed to their modern successors no more than the vague indication of a problem. In the Introduction our first concern will be with this problem, its nature and the material for a solution.

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
27 September, 1889.