

It is the personified Ἄρα who is apostrophised. She has overcome and carried off one by one the φίλτατα of Clytaemnestra, 'and now' says C. 'you record as present, the only hope that was left.' The text παροῦσαν ἐγγράφει requires not emendation but explanation. The metaphor is from one calling a muster-roll or checking an inventory. One who should appear, a thing which should be forthcoming, is either παρών or ἀπών. The recorder therefore ἐγγράφεται παρόντα or ἀπόντα. So the Ἄρα, taking the inventory of τὰ φίλα of Clytaemnestra, which are to be registered as slain, records each as she gathers it in. Finally she secures the last hope of the house and παροῦσαν αὐτὴν ἐγγράφεται.

Every new editor is expected to stand and deliver his principles in the matter of conjectural emendation, and perhaps in somewhat more definite manner than that adopted by Professor Gildersleeve (*quem honoris causa nomino*), who (Pref. Pindar) contents himself with saying that he uses his 'best judgment.'

In the present work there have been assumed as axioms: (i) that, as possession is nine points of the law, and in the matter of MS. reading ninety and nine points, the reading in the text must hold its place until such cause to the contrary can be shewn as will satisfy a rigidly impartial tribunal. The *onus probandi* lies entirely with the impugner of the text. Unfortunately the impartial tribunal can, for the purpose of an editor, only be erected in his own mind, which is liable to err both in knowledge and judgment. Yet, if he is assured of his own conscientiousness, he is justified in giving his verdict so far as his own edition goes, and leaving possible lapses of knowledge and judgment to be corrected by the collective wisdom of his readers:—(ii) that the conditions of dispossession are these. It must either be proved that the reading is an impossibility, or else that in point of grammar or usage it is so abnormal, or in point of relevance so manifestly inappropriate, as to produce a thorough conviction that the MS. is in error. This naturally involves exhaustive examination of the possible significations of the passage as a whole and of the suspected words in particular:—(iii) that the reading substituted on conjecture must approve its claims by satisfying the conditions of palaeography—as a most natural source of the incorrect reading: of sense—as being best suited