

INTRODUCTION.

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I. ANALYSIS OF THE PLAY.

Scene—Number of Chorus—Outline of the action—Ethos.

THE scene, which remains unchanged, lies in the meadow-lands about Lerna (*v.* 47), near the coast south of Argos and the river Erasinus (*v.* 988). In the middle of the stage is represented an artificial mound or natural knoll dedicated to the Gods of athletic games (*v.* 163), of whom Zeus, Apollo, Poseidon and Hermes are directly named (*vv.* 183—195). On the mound stand many (*v.* 196) large (*v.* 444) wooden images (*v.* 442) of these ἀγώνιοι θεοί. The mound itself, which with its images occupies a large space, slopes forward into the orchestra, and at its foot the θυμέλη represents a κανοβωμία (*v.* 196) of the deities of the place. The rest of the orchestra is a level expanse and serves as the ἄλσος of the same gods (*v.* 487).

The chorus of fifty Danaids in oriental attire (*v.* 209), with finely-worked robes (*v.* 409), forehead-bands (*v.* 408), and veils (*v.* 105), enter the orchestra from the passage on the right. They bear in their hands branches of olive wreathed with wool (*v.* 165), and as they advance the Coryphaeus recites the anapaestic παράοδος (*vv.* 1—40). How far their handmaids followed them at this point is very doubtful. Certainly they do not now take their stand with them (see *v.* 945), and if they are