

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THIS edition of the *Agamemnon* is the second instalment of that edition of Aeschylus which I hope to complete in course of time. The present volume has occupied me for many years, having been commenced long before my edition of the *Septem*, and frequently re-written, as I gained more knowledge of the poet.

No one competent to undertake such a work can flatter himself much upon the little that he can possibly have achieved in comparison with the desirable ideal. It is not likely that, as long as there is any spirit of progress, there will ever be a final edition of Aeschylus. Certainly we are far enough from such a consummation at present. But with all the defects which I see, and the many which doubtless I do not see, I trust that this book is not unworthy of the place in which it has been written and of the great living scholars by whose teaching and encouragement it has been inspired.

Where my version merely follows tradition, the commentary is for the most part silent or brief; and in this sense only I may say that the bulk of it is the product of my own work. But indeed I have the less hesitation in saying so, as I fear that the bulk of it is not a merit.

The English editions of Paley, Kennedy, and Mr A. Sidgwick have been by me throughout; Enger's I have consulted often. Dr Wecklein's interesting and useful edition of the *Orestea* with notes (1889) appeared when this was in the press. This will, I hope, explain anything that may seem obscure in the