

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<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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The present edition is in the main a reproduction of the first, corrected, I hope, and improved in many particulars by the criticisms of others and my own studies.

The translation, which in the former edition was printed separately at the end of the volume, is now placed opposite to the text. This arrangement will be adopted in the *Eumenides* (which is ready for the press) and in any other volumes of the series which I may be able to complete.

The commentary has been made briefer, and for this purpose questions of small importance have been sometimes suppressed, where my opinion, so far as I have one, has not changed.

Appendix III., dealing with certain ancient evidence, which I think important, respecting the *dramatis personae* and distribution of the play, is reproduced (with permission) from an article in the *Classical Review*.

<sup>1</sup> See however note there, 1903.