

name is omitted, I sometimes reap credit that is due to him; (2) I do not feel that we are always clearly represented; and (3) I am often prompted to repeat (*mutatis mutandis*) the words of Professor Conington, in the Preface to his edition of the Choëphoroe, published in the year 1857. Professor Conington there says, 'To prevent misconception, I may mention, that my notes on the first half of the play were communicated to Mr. Paley while he was preparing his last edition. Unfortunately they were in a very imperfect state, a considerable portion of them only existing in a first draft; and this has led him to notice as mine, various opinions which I have long since discarded.'

I trust, therefore, that Professor Paley will not think me discourteous or ungrateful, if I refer to his edition only where I have felt bound either to acknowledge an obligation, or to give a reason for dissent.

In one respect Professor Paley has thought fit to deviate from the 'conservative method,' which he has for the most part consistently followed. On grounds which appear to me far from convincing, he has sometimes assumed the interpolation, not of words merely, but of whole lines, and even of several consecutive lines, where this had not been previously suspected. Thus in the Philoctetes he brackets l. 1431; in the Electra, ll. 201, 690-5, 1379 foll.; in the Ajax, ll. 855, 966-71, 994, 5; in addition to at least an equal number of places, which Dindorf and others had previously condemned. Such excision may often be a tempting way of avoiding difficulties and removing inequalities. But the difficulties can be otherwise accounted for; and inequalities in dramatic writing are not always blemishes, or if they are clearly such, may be referred to hasty composition. The dialogue between Teucer and the generals in the Ajax has by many been thought unworthy of the earlier scenes; and in my own judgment, the lines uttered by the deified Heracles ἀπὸ τῆς μηχανῆς, are incomparably less impressive than the first speech of Philoctetes. But (1) we have been pre-