

I have been extremely sparing in the adoption of conjectures into the text of the plays; but in editing the Fragments I have been less severe. Before this course is accused of inconsistency, let it be considered (1) that quotations are specially liable to error, (2) that the text of Athenaeus, and of other writers in whom many of the Fragments are found, is acknowledged to be very far from certain, and (3) that the evidences of corruption are frequent and indisputable.

I have here to repeat, with somewhat more of emphasis than in the first edition of Vol. I., that the signs C², C⁴, C⁶, etc., which are necessarily retained from my first collation of L, have merely an approximate value. That C², and C^{2*}, the *διορθωτής* and the Scholiast of L, are one and the same, was Dübner's opinion, and is probably correct. This hand, whether in cursive or quasi-uncial characters, may be distinguished from that of the scribe of the Sophocles by a still greater delicacy of touch. If so much is correct, it follows that the marginal Scholia, throughout the volume, were written after the several parts of which it is composed were brought together into one; for C² appears on the margin both of the Aeschylus and the Apollonius, e. g.—

Aesch. Suppl. 518 (the whole line in marg., by C²).

Aesch. Suppl. 575 (*κράινων* in marg. C²).

Apollon. Rhod. 1. 848, *τόν ῥα καλεσσαμένη διεπέφραδεν ὑσιπύλεια*, add in marg. C².

It would be well if some competent inquirer could ascertain whether the corrections noted as by C⁶, C⁷, which may be roughly described as hands of the fifteenth century, were made before or after the removal of the MS. from the East into Italy¹. (See Vol. I. Preface, p. xli.)

I may here remedy an omission by mentioning that the bracketed numbers [81 a, etc.], on the margin of this edition, denote the pagination of L.

¹ Perhaps with Niccolo Niccoli's own hand.