

thought, are numerous, but, before venturing to adopt any new reading, I have always exercised the greatest caution, so much so that the passages in which I may now repent of having altered the text are insignificantly few<sup>1</sup>. I have throughout endeavoured to illustrate the author chiefly by himself, and with this object in view I have attentively read his remains through over and over again, in order to familiarise myself thoroughly with his peculiarities of thought and style. As an apology for the length of my notes I may observe that Sophocles is a confessedly obscure and difficult author and requires more explanation perhaps than any other ancient writer. The reader however will find in them, I trust, much useful matter, which is not to be found in any other single edition.

Further supplemental observations, in the shape of *Ad-denda*, will be from time to time appended to the separate editions of the Plays, and some critical annotations on the Fragments will appear in a work containing *Adversaria* on the Greek dramatic poets and other writers.

The entire work with its many imperfections, of which I am only too conscious, I commend to the kind consideration of the candid reader, in the hope that for the sake of what he finds in it interesting and useful he will condone the errors and shortcomings, many of which, almost unavoidable in a work of this kind, on a revision for a second edition would no doubt have been removed.

Harringworth, Uppingham April 23. 1875.

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<sup>1</sup> My corrections of Œd. R. 420. and El. 21., notwithstanding Mr. Paley's strictures, I still hold to be indubitable.