

I propose to give an outline of Sophoclean bibliography, with some attempt to estimate the distinctive excellences of the principal works. The subject is a large one, as a single fact may serve to show. In 1874 Dr Hermann Genthe, the reviser of Ellendt's lexicon, published an index to writings illustrative of Sophocles which had appeared, chiefly in Germany, since 1836. The index, a book of 134 pages, does not include editions, whether of single plays, or of all; yet the author can enumerate 801 books, dissertations, or critical articles, all published between 1836 and 1874, and representing upwards of 430 writers. Even in 1874 it would have been possible to make numerous additions to this catalogue from English sources, which Dr Genthe had left nearly untouched: now, in 1883, the increment from all sources would be very considerable. Here, I must be content to mention those editions which, out of a larger number, have in this play been my more constant companions. They are those of Hermann, Wunder, Dindorf, Schneidewin (as revised by Nauck), Blaydes, Campbell, Kennedy. Other editions, commentaries, and writings of various kinds will be found cited on particular points in the critical notes, the commentary, or the appendix.

It is a particular pleasure to me here—and all the greater, because on a few points I have ventured to differ from its interpretations—to commend to all students of this play the edition of Professor Kennedy, in which, as it is unnecessary for me to say, they will trace the hand of the master.

Nor can I mention the most recent English edition of Sophocles without saying how far it is alike from my anticipation and from my desire that the present edition should divert a single reader from the work, in so many senses admirable, of Professor Campbell. The high place which he has justly won among the English scholars who have deserved well of Sophocles is one from which no successor could remove