

and let some other summon hither the folk of Cadmus, warned that I mean to leave nought untried; for our health (with the god's help) shall be made certain—or our ruin.

PR. My children, let us rise; we came at first to seek what this man promises of himself. And may Phoebus, who sent these oracles, come to us therewith, our saviour and deliverer from the pest.

## CHORUS.

O sweetly-speaking message of Zeus, in what spirit<sup>1st</sup> hast thou come from golden Pytho unto glorious<sup>strophe.</sup>

*1st antistrophe* (159—166). May Athene, Artemis and Apollo succour us!

*2nd strophe* (167—178). The fruits of the earth and the womb perish.

*2nd antistrophe* (179—189). The unburied dead taint the air: wives and mothers are wailing at the altars.

*3rd strophe* (190—202). May Ares, the god of death, be driven hence: may thy lightnings, O Zeus, destroy him.

*3rd antistrophe* (203—215). May the Lycean Apollo, and Artemis, and Dionysus fight for us against the evil god.

151 φάτι, of a god's utterance or oracle (1440), a poet. equivalent for φήμη: cp. 310 ἀπ' οἰωνῶν φάτιν. Διὸς, because Zeus speaks by the mouth of his son; Aesch. *Eum.* 19 Διὸς προφήτης δ' ἐστὶ Λοξίας πατρός. ἀδυνεπές, merely a general propitiatory epithet: the Chorus have not yet heard whether the response is comforting or not. It is presently told to them by Oed. (242). Cp. *El.* 480 ἀδυνπνόων...ὄνειράτων, dreams breathing comfort (from the gods). τίς ποτε...ἔβας; What art thou that hast come? *i.e.* in what spirit hast thou come? bringing us health or despair? 152 Πυθῶνος, from Pytho (Delphi): for the gen., see on 142 βάθρων | ἴστασθε. τὰς πολυχρύσου, 'rich in gold,' with allusion to the costly ἀναθήματα dedicated at Delphi, and esp. to the treasury of the temple, in which gold and silver could be deposited, as in a bank, until required for use. *Iliad* 9. 404 οὐδ' ὄσα λάϊνος οὐδὸς ἀφήτορος ἐντὸς ἔεργει | Φοῖβον Ἀπόλλωνος, Πυθοῖ ἐνὶ πετρηέσση. Thuc. 1. 121 ναυτικόν τε ἀπὸ τῆς ὑπαρχούσης τε οὐσίας ἐξαρτυσόμεθα, καὶ ἀπὸ τῶν ἐν Δελφοῖς καὶ Ὀλυμπία χρημάτων. Athen. 233 F τῷ μὲν οὖν ἐν Δελφοῖς Ἀπόλλωνι τὸν πρότερον ἐν τῇ Λακεδαίμονι χρυσὸν καὶ ἄργυρον [πρότερον = before the time of Lysander] ἱστοροῦσιν ἀνατεθῆναι. Eur. *Andr.* 1093 θεοῦ | χρυσοῦ γέμοντα γύαλα (recesses), θησαυροὺς βροτῶν. *Ion* 54 Δελφοί σφ'