

MANUSCRIPTS, EDITIONS, ETC.

§ 1. THE *Electra* was one of the most popular plays in Byzantine MSS. as in older times, and ranks second only to the *Ajax* in respect to number of mss. This popularity bears upon another fact which is illustrated by the scholia (see below, § 3),—viz., the frequency of variants indicating a text, or texts, inferior to that represented by the better codices. On the other hand, though the great mass of the later mss. are of no independent value, and teem with errors due to carelessness or to feeble conjecture, yet it happens now and again that some one among them preserves or confirms a true reading, offers a noteworthy variant, or presents some other point of interest. A few examples may be given:—Verse 187. Vindobonensis: ε written over the ο of τοκέων.—305. Δ: μοι for μου.—445. Vat. a: κάρα (vulg. κάρα).—485. Ienensis and Vat. 45: χαλκόπλακτος (vulg. χαλκόπληκτος).—495. Aug. c adds θάρσος after ἔχει (with Γ and Pal.).—534. Aug. b: τίνων (vulg. τίνος).—581. D: τιθῆς.—941. Ambros. G. 56 sup.: ἐς τόδ' for ἔσθ' ὁ γ'.—950. Monacensis: λελείμεθα.—1251. Aug. c: παρρησία (vulg. παρουσία).—1275. Ienensis: πολύπονον (vulg. πολύστονον).—1403. Ienensis has ἡμᾶς superscript (while the word has disappeared from the other mss.).—1458. Ienensis: πύλαις (vulg. πύλας).

Among the aids to the textual criticism of the *Electra* which have appeared within the last quarter of a century, none is more valuable than the Jahn-Michaelis edition. Subsequently to the publication of his *Electra* in 1861, Otto Jahn saw more and more reason to doubt whether the Laurentian ms. (L) was the source of all the others now extant, and took steps to procure further materials for a judgment on the question. At his request Dr H. Hinck made a complete collation of two Florentine mss.; viz., Laur. xxxi. 10, commonly denoted as Lb, by Michaelis as 1, by Campbell as L²; and Laur. 2725 (formerly Abbat. 152), commonly denoted as Γ, by Michaelis as G. Hinck