

## MANUSCRIPTS, EDITIONS, ETC.

§ 1. THE *Ajax* exists in a slightly larger number of MSS. than any MSS. other play of Sophocles, though the *Electra* comes near it in that respect; the *Oedipus Tyrannus* ranks third, at a considerable interval after the first two, but far above the rest. Those three plays were evidently the most widely read in the Byzantine age, or perhaps from an earlier date; and the first two were probably especial favourites for use in schools. The *Ajax* paid the same penalty for this kind of popularity which has already been observed in the case of the *Electra*. Many readers seem to have tried their hands, often in a very wanton manner, on the correction of the text. The general quality of these conjectures can be judged from the variants recorded in the scholia, which are no doubt merely gleanings from a larger crop. These are a few examples:—115 ἐννέπεις for ἐννοεῖς. 273 βλέποντας for φρονούντας. 564 φρουρὰν for θήραν. 880 ἔδρας for ἄγρας. 1233 διωρίσω for διωμόσω. 1309 συνεμπόρους for συγκειμένους. Some alterations of this sort have found their way into the text of one or more of the MSS. Thus in v. 130 βάρει (instead of βάθει), noted as a variant in Mosq. b, stands in the text of A, Aug. a, Ienensis, and a few others. In v. 198 Γ has βακχαζόντων (for καγχαζόντων). In 582 T and others have θροεῖν (for θρηνεῖν). In 1036 ὁμοῦ (for ἀεί) is the reading of Pal., Ien., Mosq. a and b. In 1059 ἀθλίω (for αἰσχίστω) is the reading of Γ, Δ, and ἐχθίστω of T. But, considering the freedom with which conjecture appears to have been used on the *Ajax*, its text has suffered less, on the whole, than might have been expected. There is only one respect in which it may be said to have fared somewhat worse than the other plays, and that is in the matter of interpolation (see below, § 4).

§ 2. Several passages in the *Ajax* throw light on the relation of L The Laur-entian MS. to the other MSS. In v. 330 L shares with all the rest the false reading, φίλων γὰρ οἱ τοιοῖδε νικῶνται φίλοι, where the true reading (λόγοις instead