

PREFACE.

The publication of the present play, which was advertised to appear last year, has been unavoidably delayed owing to illness and other causes. Like the preceding ones, it has been in preparation for a long course of years; considerable pains have been bestowed upon it in order to purify the text as far as possible, and illustrate the sense of the author; and every publication that seemed at all likely to throw light upon the work has been carefully consulted, with a view to render this edition in every way complete.

From the recent edition of this play by Mr. Jebb I have derived not a few useful and judicious hints in the elucidation of certain passages; the same may be said of the second edition of this play by Gustav Wolff of Leipzig, a copy of which I received from the learned editor after the former half of this work had gone to press.*

I must apologise to the reader for the unusual length of the Addenda, owing to the large amount of notes and

* I would take this opportunity of noticing and commending the *Lexicon Sophocleum* recently edited by Professor Dindorf (royal 8vo. Teubner, Lips. 1870, pp. 534), another noble monument of the profound learning and inexhaustible patience of this admirable and unrivalled scholar. It is written in good flowing Latin, has the advantage of having its numerical references in accordance with Dindorf's own generally received edition of Sophocles, and is in every respect a decided improvement upon the *Lexicon* of the painstaking but not over judicious Ellendt, of which a second edition, under the care of Genthe, is now nearly completed. A second edition of this play by Jahn is also just announced.