

**AXEL AND VALBORG: A TRAGEDY
IN FIVE ACTS: AND OTHER POEMS.
TRANSLATED FROM THE DANISH OF
ADAM OEHLenschLÄGER. WITH A
MEMOIR OF THE TRANSLATOR**

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Axel and Valborg: A Tragedy in Five Acts: And Other Poems. Translated from the Danish of Adam Oehlenschläger. With a Memoir of the Translator by Pierce Butler & Adam Oehlenschläger

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PIERCE BUTLER & ADAM OEHLENSCHLÄGER

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A Tragedy in Five Acts

AND OTHER POEMS

TRANSLATED FROM THE DANISH OF ADAM OEHLENSCHLÄGER

BY

PIERCE BUTLER, M.A.

LATE RECTOR OF ULCOMBE, KENT

Edited by PROFESSOR PALMER, M.A., St John's Coll., Cambridge

With a Memoir of the Translator

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.



THE present translations are chosen from amongst several made by the late Rev. Pierce Butler, and left by him in an unfinished state. Mr Eirikr Magnússon, of the University Library, Cambridge, has kindly revised the text, but the shorter poems are printed almost as the translator left them. The indulgence of the reader is craved for many literary faults in the latter, which would have been corrected had the manuscripts passed under the translator's final revision, but which might hardly be dealt with by another hand without injury to the spirit of the work.

These translations were made after a visit to Norway in 1856, which was the accomplishment of the desire of many years, and was succeeded by several others. This country had a peculiar interest for Pierce Butler as the cradle of his ancestors the "De Walkers," of whom one had more than a

thousand years before accompanied Rollo in his victorious expedition against Normandy. From Normandy another of the De Walters came to England with William the Conqueror, and here established the family, whence descend the present Marquis of Ormonde and Earl of Carrick. In 1177 the Chief-Butlership of Ireland was conferred on the representative of the family (whence the name), and the Butlers of Ireland have continued to hold this office for many generations.

The subject of our memoir was the fourth son of Lieut.-General the Hon. H. E. Butler. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1848, and soon afterwards took holy orders. In 1853 he accompanied his brother, Captain H. T. Butler, of the 55th Regiment, to Sinai. The latter had received leave of absence from Government for the purpose of exploring a part of the peninsula of Sinai, with the view of extending our knowledge of Biblical Geography; and at that time Pierce Butler conceived the idea of a future and more important expedition and survey. On the outbreak of the war in Russia, Captain Butler was recalled from Sinai, and fell at Inkermann; and another brother, James

Armar, the "hero of Silistria," died also of wounds received during that memorable siege—struck down in the height of a career so distinguished, that the sorrow felt at his death by his father and his friends was shared, as Lord Hardinge expressed it, "by the country, the army, and the sovereign."

Pierce Butler then determined to go out to Turkey, for the special purpose of volunteering his ministrations to the sick and wounded soldiers of our army. Such Christian service seemed the most fitting tribute he could pay to the memory of his lamented brothers. He accordingly proceeded to Constantinople in December 1854, and shortly afterwards accepted the offer of an appointment as one of the chaplains to our army in the Crimea. In discharging this duty, his gentle, genial manners and amiable disposition won the hearts of officers and men; and those now living who were with the Second Division in the camp before Sevastopol will ever retain a grateful recollection of his ministrations.

In 1861 he married, and settled at the family living of Ulcombe in Kent.

In 1867, encouraged by the assistance which Government had previously afforded towards the

survey of Jerusalem, he resolved to make every effort to obtain, from amongst his own relations and friends, and other persons likely to take an interest in Biblical and geographical research, sufficient funds for a topographical survey of at least the most interesting parts of the peninsula of Sinai. In a few weeks he had received such promises of support from gentlemen interested in the subject that he felt justified in laying his plan before the Secretary of State for War. Sir John Pakington readily lent his aid, and at once authorised Sir Henry James to undertake the superintendence of the Sinai survey, as he had formerly that of the survey of Jerusalem, and to equip and send out a small party of officers and men of the Royal Engineers. Lord Stanley, as the head of the Foreign Office, also afforded the scheme every facility in his power, and Mr Butler, confident then of ultimate success, prepared to pay a short visit at once to Egypt, with the view of making arrangements for the arrival and progress of the surveying party, which it was proposed to despatch soon afterwards from this country, and which he himself hoped to accompany in their work. He had even taken his passage for Alexandria, and was actively preparing for departure,

when severe illness overtook him ; and on the 8th of February, 1868—on the very day, and almost at the very hour, on which he was to have started for Egypt—he died at his home in Kent, before he had quite completed his forty-second year.