

**THE FIRST SIX BOOKS OF THE ILIAD OF
HOMER, LITERALLY TR. INTO ENGLISH
PROSE, WITH
COPIOUS EXPLANATORY NOTES AND A
PRELIMINARY DISSERTATION ON HIS
LIFE AND WRITINGS**

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The First Six Books of the Iliad of Homer, Literally Tr. Into English Prose, with Copious Explanatory Notes and a Preliminary Dissertation on His Life and Writings by Various

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VARIOUS

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BY

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY.

*Is ego sum, qui Homero tantum tribuo, quantum hominem verecundum et
literarum amantem, ei, qui tot aetatum praescriptione princeps ingeniorum,
bonarum omnium artium et doctrinarum Seminarium, humana denique sapi-
entiae apex audiatur, tribuere fas est.*

M. CASAUBON.

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P R E F A C E.

IN offering the following work to the Public, we feel it our humble conviction that no apology will be required by those that are in any degree concerned,—either in imparting to others, or in acquiring for themselves, a knowledge of the ancient and venerable language of Greece,—whilst a tedious prolixity of prefatory observations would be altogether needless and superfluous. Suffice it to say, that our sole and exclusive object has been *utility*, and our aim in the translation has been to give as correct and literal a version as the idiomatic constructions of the Greek and English languages can bear. The necessary consequence of this design was the total exclusion of the beauties and ornaments of Homer's style; but in sacrificing *the elegance*, we hope that *the simplicity* of his poetical diction has been in some measure preserved,—nay, we would almost venture to affirm that *the sublimity* of the Iliad is not entirely lost in the following pages.

With regard to our Preliminary Dissertation,—we cannot but be apprehensive lest our admiration of Homer and of the Sages of antiquity in general, may appear to have prejudiced us too much in their favour, and to have inclined us to attribute excellencies to them which they never possessed. The tide of our admiration was indeed strong and vehement,—but we have not advanced a single conjecture that is not founded upon sufficient data, nor drawn a single conclusion that is not borne out by the concurrent testimonies of ancient history. A full discussion of the scientific and the Theological knowledge of early ages would require far deeper and more extensive researches than the narrow bounds of a preliminary essay would allow.

As for the merit of the whole work,—we have only to say that we have attentively done our part; the rest is confided to the scrutiny of impartial criticism. Our object was not to write for *fame*, but merely to benefit the less forward sons of Alma Mater, and to hold out our feeble aid for the encouragement of the young, but aspiring members of the vast republic of literature. If our labours shall prove in any degree successful, we shall rest perfectly satisfied, and covet no

other applause than the simple attestation of a self-approving conscience,—that our design originated from motives of doing good, and that the result has entailed at least no injuries upon Society.

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
October 20, 1823.

ERRATA.

- Disa. p. xi. 1. 7, *their* for *this*.
B. I. v. 222, dele *the*.
Note, v. 202, *maneo* for *maneo*.
Note, v. 606, *bellare* for *bellare*.
B. II. v. 706, *leaders* for *a leader*.
B. III. v. 150, wanted *were*.
Note, v. 124, *both is* for *both are*.
B. V. v. 463, wanted *the*.
v. 473, *would* for *wouldst*.
Note, v. 215, *Thamyris* for *Thamyris*.
Note, v. 487, $\acute{\alpha}\chi\iota\sigma\iota$ for $\acute{\alpha}\psi\iota\sigma\iota$.
B. VI. v. 54, wanted *a*.
Note, v. 275, *compound* for *compounded*.

A
PRELIMINARY DISSERTATION.

SECTION I.
CONTAINING A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE AND WRITINGS OF HOMER.

WHEN a reflecting and philosophic mind takes a general survey of the wide and diversified scenery of literature,—when it contemplates every branch of intellectual investigation, and beholds with wonder and delight the flourishing aspect of science in the present times,—a more interesting topic of consideration can scarcely engage its attention, than to trace in all their varieties of forms—in all their ramifications and expansions, the beauteous orders of mental vegetation that bloom around, and to follow their progress with a retrospective view along the verdant annals of history, till the prospect dies at last, beyond the towering hills of fabulous obscurity, and imagination alone wings her adventurous flight into the enchanting scenes of fiction. In this bright panorama of splendid visions, surely no part bespangles with greater beauties—no region smiles with more delightful attractions than the flowery vale of Poesy;—this is the emblem of the paradise of bliss, the peculiar province of fancy,—where the virgins of har-