SELECT ORATIONS OF LYSIAS

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Select Orations of Lysias by Lysias & James Morris Whiton

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LYSIAS & JAMES MORRIS WHITON

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OF

LYSIAS.

EDITED BY

JAMES MORRIS WHITON, PH. D.,

SECOND EDITION.

BOSTON, U.S.A.:
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1892.

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PREFACE.

THAT the writings of Lysias have hitherto been so little used by American students must be due rather to the lack of American editions,—though of German editions there is no lack. Certainly it is not attributable to any inferiority, either in merit of style or in interest of subject, in those specimens of his numerous orations which have come down to us. Such was his ancient fame, that nearly twice as many orations as he actually composed were ascribed to him. The large number of two hundred and thirty orations was accepted by the ancient critics as genuinely his, of which there are now extant only thirty-four, not all either complete or indisputably genuine, and a still larger number of fragments.

As a representative of the purest Attic style, Lysias has no superior. Among the ancients he was regarded as a model of that quality called loxyotrys, or tenuitas,—for which see Biographical Introduction. He was also highly esteemed for a certain gracefulness of expression, which was regarded as a characteristic peculiarly his. At the same time, he showed no lack of energy, as Cicero observes: "In Lysia sæpe sunt etiam lacerti sic ut fieri nihil possit valentius." (Brutus, 16, 64.) In general, his style may be further characterized as clear, sufficient and precise; always natural and appropriate;

at once simple and dignified; not devoid of rhetorical ornament, and yet carefully subordinating it to the orator's practical purpose. The tradition that only two of all the orations which he composed for others were unsuccessful, whether exaggerated or not, marks the height of the fame which he attained among the orators of Athens, and harmonizes with the exalted praise which Cicero himself bestows: "Tum fuit Lysias, ipse quidem in causis forensibus non versatus, sed egregie subtilis scriptor atque elegans, quem jam probe audeas oratorem perfectum dicere." (Brutus, 9, 35.)

The orations comprised in this edition were all composed within the ten years subsequent to the expulsion of the Thirty Tyrants from Athens, B. c. 403. While they all bear the marks of their times, the oration against Eratosthenes, in particular, abounds in references to that painfully interesting portion of the history of Athens, which exhibits her imperial democracy, exhausted, despoiled, and bleeding, in its humiliating decline and pitiable overthrow. A special interest attaches to this oration, also, from its being the only one of all the extant number which Lysias delivered himself,—the others having been composed for his clients to deliver from memory in pleading their own cases before various tribunals.

For a sketch of Lysias's life and professional work, see the Biographical Introduction.

The text of this edition is substantially that of Dr. R. Rauchenstein's sixth edition, Berlin, 1872. Where any variation occurs, suitable reference is made in the Notes. A table of various readings has been added. In the preparation of the Notes free use has been made of the notes of Rauchenstein, and, to some extent, of the notes of Frohberger, in his first and third volumes, Leipsic, 1866 and 1871. For a large part of the annotations, however, the present editor is alone

responsible. Geographical, historical, and archæological points have been treated, it is hoped, comprehensively enough to meet the necessities of those students who are not supplied with the more costly works for reference, and yet not so minutely as to make such further reference undesirable. For the benefit of those who, in an earlier part of their course, have used Goodwin's Greek Reader, occasional references are made to that book, as containing extracts from Xenophon's Hellenica covering the same part of Athenian history as the Oration against Eratosthenes. Grammatical references have been made to Goodwin's Greek Grammar, third edition (G.), Hadley's (larger) Greek Grammar (H.), and to Goodwin's Greek Moods and Tenses, sixth edition, revised (G.), the last named of which is by no means to be supposed unnecessary to the possessor of either or both of the other two. As to other references, some citations have been made from Buttmann's University Grammar, Harper's Ed., also from Grote's History of Greece, Harper's Ed., 12 vols., and from Curtius's History of Greece, Scribner's Ed., 5 vols.

The editor's grateful acknowledgments are due to his friends, Dr. Lewis R. Packard, Professor of Greek at Yale, and Mr. John Williams White, Tutor in Greek at Harvard, for their valuable suggestions in the undertaking and execution of the work.

LYNN, September, 1875.

NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

The essay made by the first edition of these Selections, to add Lysias to the list of Greek authors adapted to the use of American college students, has been approved by the absorption of an unusually large imprint in a comparatively brief time. A new imprint being called for, a few corrections have been made for this edition. I desire to acknowledge the kindness of friends in contributing to these corrections, especially of Professors Goodwin and White of Harvard, Fernald of Williams, and Packard of Yale.

NEWARK, N.J., June, 1881.

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