A SYSTEM OF GREEK PROSODY AND METRE, FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES; TOGETHER WITH THE CHORAL SCANNING OF THE PROMETHEUS VINCTUS OF AESCHYLUS, AND THE AJAX AND OEDIPUS TYRANNUS OF SOPHOCLES; TO WHICH ARE APPENDED REMARKS ON INDO-GERMANIC ANALOGIES Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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CHARLES ANTHON

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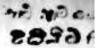
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ATURE AND COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY.

PREFACE.

An accurate acquaintance with the Prosody and Metres of the Greek Language is so necessary an accompaniment of true scholarship, that any attempt to advocate its claims to the notice of the student would be entirely superfluous. It must be admitted, however, that, while all among us are very ready to acknowledge the importance of this branch of learning, only a small number, comparatively, have been induced to make it a subject of careful study; and the result is, that, in matters appertaining to Greek Prosody and Metre, many of those who ought to be better acquainted with these topics display oftentimes a very lamentable want of accuracy. What renders this the more provoking is, that they who come among us from transatlantic seminaries of learning, where metrical studies are much more carefully pursued, frequently undertake to sit in judgment upon our violations of the laws of prosody and metre, when they themselves are at best but very poor representatives of the metrical knowledge which exists in their own countries.

One great obstacle to the successful cultivation of

prosodiacal studies among us has undoubtedly been the want of a proper treatise on the subject, which, without encumbering the student, in the commencement of his career, with any unusual burden, might, nevertheless, lay before him such a view of matters connected with the prosody and metres of the Greek tongue as would enable him to pursue his investigations in this department with satisfaction and advantage. The present treatise has been prepared with this view. Its object is to give all the necessary information appertaining to Greek prosody in a simple garb, and one which may invite rather than repel. The more intricate questions connected with the subject, and on which the ingenuity of European scholars loves to exercise itself, are here purposely omitted, and nothing is offered but what may prove immediately and permanently useful.

The Choral Scanning is intended to initiate the young scholar into a department of metrical study, which, to the inexperienced, bears a very formidable name; but is in reality, with the exception of a few knotty points that occasionally present themselves, a very pleasing branch of investigation, and a very inviting field for the ingenuity of the student. Choral Scanning has hitherto been regarded by many among us as a mere piece of chance-work, with no certain rules to guide or inform us when we are correct. It is hoped that the aids afforded in the present treatise on this part of the subject will tend to show that there is even here much of certainty, and much that may lead to satisfactory results.

The introduction of remarks on Indo-Germanic Analogies into a work on Greek Prosody may require some explanation. The observations in question were intended to accompany a Greek Grammar recently published, but were withheld from the fear of making that work too voluminous and expensive. They are given here, at the end of the Prosody, partly because no other avenue may present itself for years by which they can be brought forward, and partly out of compliment to the distinguished philologist whose name graces the dedication of this volume, and who has done more for comparative philology than any American scholar. Had he undertaken to write on this subject, the remarks appended to the present work would never have appeared.

The Sanscrit Question, as it has been termed, has never obtained a fair hearing among us. On the part of its opponents all is mere idle assertion, and the specious, but most erroneous and unscholarlike, theory of Dugald Stewart appears to them to have laid the controversy completely at rest. Many of our half-learned youth, too, have caught the infection; and believing, of course, that what is delivered on this subject with oracular gravity, sometimes even from a professor's chair, must be the result of careful investigation, and in every point of view deserving of being followed, almost regard the term Sanscrit as a species of by-word and mockery. It is hoped that the observations appended to the present volume will make the matter in controversy more clearly understood, until some abler pen shall present