

**CLASSICAL SERIES.
EURIPIDES'
ALCESTIS**

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Classical Series. Euripides' Alcestis by Euripides & Mortimer Lamson Earle

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EURIPIDES' ALCESTIS

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PREFACE

IN preparing this edition of the *Alcestis* I have sought to compass two ends : first, to present, as nearly as may be, the Poet's own words ; secondly, to explain those words with fulness and clearness.

In establishing the Text I have relied upon the great critical edition of Euripides by Kirchhoff and upon the special edition of the *Alcestis* by Prinz.¹ Nauck's valuable discussions and emendations in his *Euripideische Studien* (frequently cited in the Critical Notes) have also proved of the utmost service. The conjectures of other scholars on special passages have also (so far as they are known to me) been carefully weighed and accepted or rejected in the light of my best judgment. The Critical Notes contain such

¹ H (which I have collated since the Preface was written) contains nothing of value save the reading of v. 1037.

readings of MSS. as I have deemed to be most valuable and instructive. To present an exhaustive *apparatus criticus* at second hand did not seem to fall within the scope of my work.¹

In the Explanatory Notes I have aimed to exhibit all the Euripidean passages that appeared to throw light upon the *Alcestis*. Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Aristophanes are also freely quoted and cited, as well as such other Greek authors within the range of my reading as furnished appropriate illustrations. The learned edition of Monk, as edited by Hermann with his own and Wüstemann's notes (Leipsic, 1824), has proved of great service in this regard, though I have depended for parallels primarily on my own MS. notes.

In the citation and quotation of the Tragedians

¹ I regret to observe that I have innocently attributed to myself Wakefield's emendation of ἀλλως in v. 333. In v. 59 Dindorf also has edited γηραιοί (*Poet. Scen.*, ed. 5). It may be added here that I would accept χθονὸς κάρω in v. 45 (edited by Dindorf; Kirchhoff is wrong, I think, in saying "inverterunt Byzantini—propter accentum"). It would have been better, too, had I followed the majority of authorities in editing τίς μ' ἐξάγει in v. 1080. In v. 781 ἀκου' ἐμοῦ would be an improvement (cf. v. 787). In v. 1093 Prinz's αἰδῶ μὲν αἰνῶ (suggested in his doctor's dissertation, 1867, but not noticed in his edition) seems better than the traditional text (cf. *Troad.* 718).

the Teubner texts (Weil's Aeschylus, Mekler's Dindorf's Sophocles, Nauck's Euripides) are followed (except in certain minutiae of orthography), unless otherwise specified. In Aristophanes I have followed Meineke's text (Tauchnitz); in Thucydides, Stahl's (Tauchnitz). References to other authors are based on the Teubner texts, unless otherwise stated.

In matters of spelling Meisterhans's *Grammatik der Attischen Inschriften* (second edition) has been, of course, my chief authority. Unfortunately, the inscriptions do not give us all the information we need.

My indebtedness to dissertations, to articles in philological journals, and to works of reference, I have endeavoured to indicate as explicitly as possible. To the long line of editors of Euripides I can make, for the most part, but a general acknowledgment; but wherever I have found myself quoting closely the words of another, I have aimed to state the fact.

In matters of syntax I have frequently quoted the masterly articles of Professor Gildersleeve in the *American Journal of Philology*. References are also given to the revised edition of Professor Goodwin's *Moods and Tenses*.

To those that have in any way assisted me in the making of this little book my heartiest thanks are due. My former teachers, Professors Merriam and Perry of Columbia College, and my friend William O. Wiley, Esq., have given me most kindly advice and encouragement. My friend Professor Sidney G. Ashmore of Union College has read most of the book in MS. or in proof, and has given me the great benefit of his refined and scholarly taste and temperate judgment. Miss Caroline G. Brombacher, a student of Barnard College, has rendered invaluable assistance in the correction of the proof-sheets, in the verifying of references, and in the preparation of the Greek index. The Messrs. Clark's excellent Reader has performed his task with his wonted fidelity and skill.

MORTIMER LAMSON EARLE.

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