

**STUDIES IN GREEK
THOUGHT:
ESSAYS SELECTED
FROM THE PAPERS**

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Studies in Greek Thought: Essays Selected from the Papers by Lewis R. Packard

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LEWIS R. PACKARD

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ESSAYS

SELECTED FROM THE PAPERS

OF THE LATE

LEWIS R. PACKARD

HILLHOUSE PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN YALE COLLEGE

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PREFACE.

PROFESSOR LEWIS R. PACKARD died on the 26th of October, 1884, in the forty-ninth year of his age, having just completed his twenty-fifth year of service as instructor in Yale College. He was born Aug. 22d, 1836, graduated in 1856, was appointed tutor in 1859, Assistant Professor of Greek in 1863, Hillhouse Professor of Greek in 1867, and became Senior Professor of Greek after the death of Professor Hadley in 1872. He was President of the American Philological Association in 1881, and Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1883-1884.

Mr. Packard prepared for the press but two of the Essays in this volume. Doubtless he would have improved the literary finish of the others if he could have revised them, although he was not accustomed to commit his thoughts in full to paper until they were well matured in his mind. The reader will surely not be disturbed by the lack of a rhetorical peroration for the second Essay.

The Essays on Plato are part of a course of lectures prepared for College classes, of which these two only were fully written out, the rest having been given from careful notes with only now and then a finished and elaborated section.

The Summaries of the *Oedipus at Kolonos* and *Antigone* of Sophokles were written at Athens during Mr. Packard's last winter of feverish weakness and suffering (1883-1884), on small slips of paper which he carried in the pocket of his wrapper. One of his few drives during this last visit to Greece was to the hill of Kolonos, and he toiled up the little slope to gaze with charmed eyes upon the beautiful landscape of which he speaks in the Summary.

The jottings which are appended to these Summaries were probably the germs, as they lay in his mind, of such discussions as are found in the Essay on the *Oedipus Rex*.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
I. Religion and Morality of the Greeks	1
II. Plato's Arguments in the <i>Phaedo</i> for the Immor- tality of the Soul	41
III. On Plato's System of Education in the <i>Republic</i> .	65
IV. The <i>Oedipus Rex</i> of Sophokles	77
V. The <i>Oedipus at Kolonos</i> of Sophokles	121
VI. The <i>Antigone</i> of Sophokles	143
VII. The Beginning of a Written Literature among the Greeks	157

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

I.

MORALITY AND RELIGION OF THE GREEKS.¹

I WISH to present to you some thoughts, in the way of suggestion rather than as conclusions, on the morality and religion of the Greeks. It is a topic that has been often touched upon, and in some of its parts treated at great length. I am not so bold as to expect to clear away, at a blow, the difficulties of such a subject, or to advance wholly new views upon it. But it is one upon which new light is continually being thrown, in one part or another, and I may hope that the thoughts which have interested me may interest others also.

It is natural to try to begin at the beginning and see whether we can ascertain what was the basis of the moral ideas of the Greeks. Can we find any pre-existing institution, any simpler or more fundamental series of conceptions, upon which their theories of human duty and their practical rules were founded?

¹ President's address at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association, at Cleveland, July 12, 1881. It was privately printed, and dedicated "to Theodore D. Woolsey, D.D., LL.D., lately president of Yale College, on the fiftieth anniversary of his entering upon the office of Professor of Greek, with most sincere respect and affection, from an old pupil."