

IPHIGÉNIE

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Iphigénie by Jean Racine & Benjamin Duryea Woodward

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RACINE

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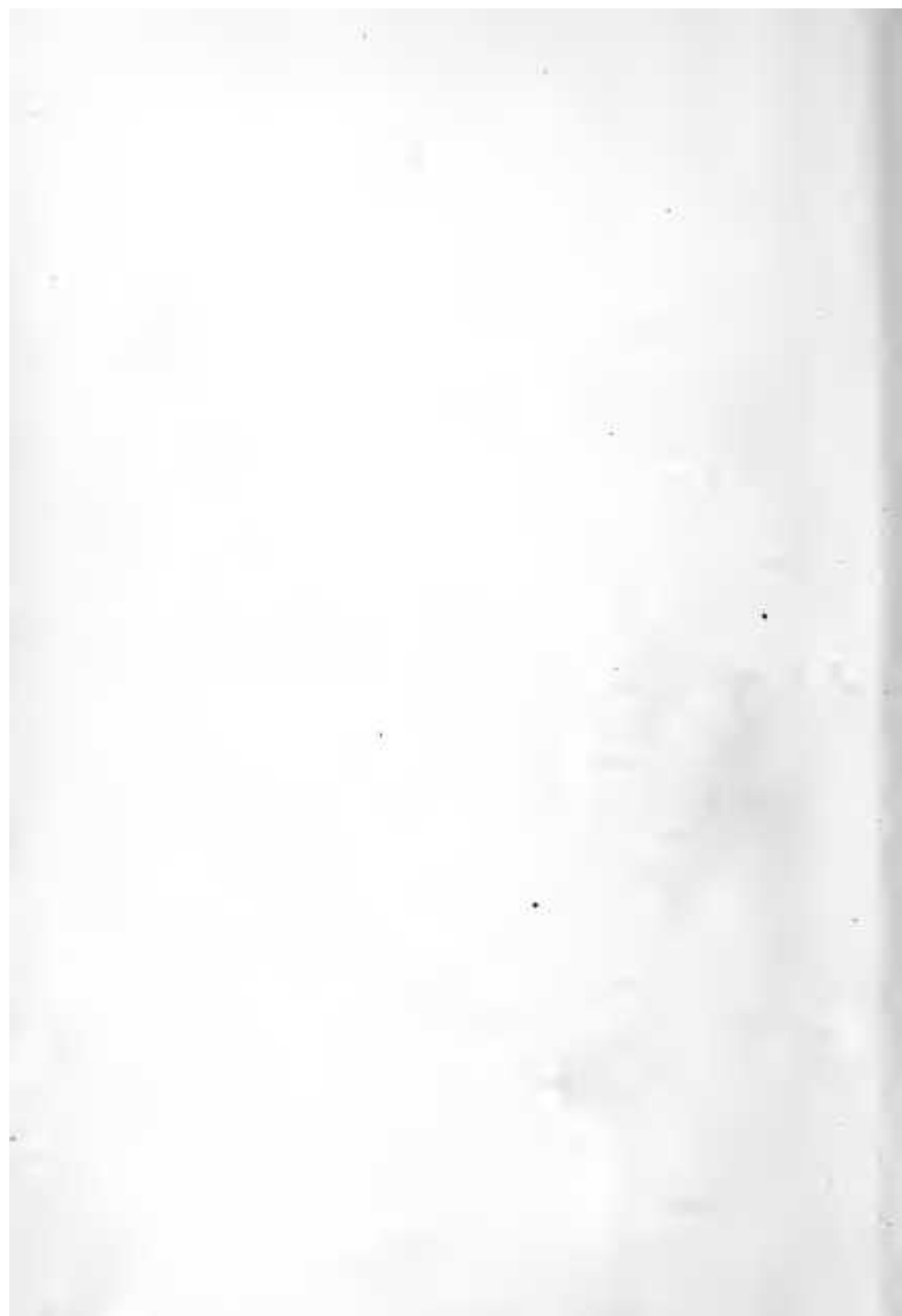
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INTRODUCTION

IN presenting this volume for use in the higher institutions of learning in America, an attempt has been made to offer the best of everything that is to be said in connection with one of Racine's leading tragedies. A comprehensive bibliography sets forth the names of those who have discoursed on the classic French *Iphigénie* in the history of literary and dramatic criticism, while a separate list enumerates the modern annotated editions of this tragedy intended for use by students in France, Germany, and England.

The text itself has been stamped already *ne varietur* in the excellent edition made by Paul Mesnard for the series of *Les Grands Écrivains de la France*, and yet it has been considered advisable to deviate therefrom in certain particulars. In detail the punctuation of v. 369 has been altered. In accordance with modern usage, the endings of the imperfect indicative and of the conditional, *-ais, -ait, -aient*, are substituted throughout for the older *-ois, -oit, -oient*. Likewise *ai* is written for *oi* in *faible, faiblesse*, and in verbs in *-âtre*.—Other changes are vv. 15 and 1159, *désirs* for *desirs*; vv. 323

and 406, *voyiez* for *voyez* ; vv. 380 and 826, *rejallir* for *rejallir* ; and in the Preface, p. 47, l. 89, *eues* for *eu*. The older orthography has been preserved only as the rules of the rhyme require. This is the case in vv. 608, 1243, 1515, and 1599, where such forms as *je voi*, *je reçoi*, *j'entrevoi*, are now superseded by *je vois*, *je reçois*, *j'entrevois*.

This volume presents on the whole the results of a careful and impartial consideration of much of the special work on the subject of Racine's *Iphigénie*. All material available has been used and its best substance expressed with a view to rendering this edition acceptable for American University work.

The editor desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to his colleagues in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures of Columbia University, Professors Cohn and Todd, for their thoughtful suggestions while preparing the MS., and to Dr. Page for his kind assistance in reading the proof.

BIOGRAPHY

THE celebrated French tragic poet, Jean Baptiste Racine, was born at La Ferté-Milon, December 21, 1639, and died at Paris, April 26, 1699. He lost his parents at a very early age, and was brought up by his grand-parents. His studies, begun when he was ten years old at the College of Beauvais, were continued at Port Royal, and finished at the Collège d'Harcourt (1658-59). On graduating, he went to live with a cousin of his, who was in the retinue of the Duc de Luynes. Racine was well received in society, and made many valuable acquaintances, especially among men of literary bent. His early training in the Greek and Latin classics, particularly the former, had been very thorough, and his tastes all ran in the direction of intellectual pursuits. Racine attracted attention by his own writings for the first time in 1660, when he composed an ode in honor of the marriage of Louis XIV., entitled *Les Nymphes de la Seine*. A couple of short comedies, *Amasie* (1660), and *Les Amours d'Ovide* (1661), are among his early attempts as a playwright, but have most unfortunately been lost. His friendly relations with such men as La Fontaine, Boileau, and