

**THE TRACHINIAE OF
SOPHOCLES. WITH
SHORT ENGLISH NOTES
FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS**

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The Trachiniae of Sophocles. With short English notes for the use of Schools by Sophocles

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THE

TRACHINIÆ

OF

S O P H O C L E S.

WITH SHORT ENGLISH NOTES

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

- ΔΗΙΑΝΕΙΡΑ. (Wife of Hercules.)
ΘΕΡΑΠΗΔΑ. (Maid-servant to Dejanira.)
ΥΛΑΟΣ. (Son of Hercules.)
ΧΟΡΟΣ. (Chorus of Trachinian Girls.)
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. (Messenger.)
ΔΙΚΑΟΣ. (Bearer of the Robe.)
ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΣ.
ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ.

MUTÆ PERSONÆ.

- ΙΟΔΗ. (New Love of Hercules.)
Group of Captives.

PLOT.

DEJANIRA, during Hercules' absence,—first, anxious for his safety, then jealous of his love,—sends him, as a love-charm, a poisonous garment, unconscious of its nature.

Finding, too late, her error, she commits suicide. Hercules dies in agony.

Hyllus, by reproaching her, as intentionally offending, drives her to her death. He afterwards knows that she erred unconsciously, and endeavours to excuse her to his father before his death.

ANALYSIS.

SOLILOQUY of Dejanira,—describing the anxieties which preceded her marriage, and now her anxieties about Hercules.

66. Enter Attendant, who suggests that Dejanira send
170 Hyllus to enquire after his father.

Hyllus converses with Dejanira on the matter,—hears
er her account of the prediction of Hercules' fate,—and goes
off in search of Hercules.

195. Chorus invokes the sun to shew where Hercules is,
198 —and encourages hope as to his fate.

210. Dejanira descants more on the cause of her
215 anxiety.

230. Enter Messenger, announcing Hercules' well-
being, and approach homewards.

235. Joy-song of the Chorus at the news.

255. Enter Lichas, who informs Dejanira of Hercules'
260 new love.

The truth of this is brought out by a cross-questioning
of the Messenger.

Upon this Dejanira prepares the robe as a love-charm, to recover the affection of Hercules, which she sends (630) by Lichas.

635. Chorus prays a blessing on Hercules' return,—success to the charm.

663. Dejanira's fears as to the robe are awakened, which she communicates, with the cause of her misgiving, to the Chorus (673).

703. The Chorus endeavours to stay her fears.

735. Hyllus enters, bearing news of the poisonous effect of the robe, and describes Hercules' agony.

871. The Nurse enters, and announces Dejanira's suicide.

947. Dirge-song of the Chorus.

970. Entrance of Hercules, borne on a litter.

983. The spasms of poison rouse him.

1045. Hercules laments his fate,—and most bitterly of all, the nature of his death. He invokes death to rid him from agony.

1115. Hyllus gradually explains to him that Dejanira was an unwitting agent, and the Centaur the real cause.

1156. Hercules recognises the fulfilment of prophecies

of his death,—since he really is perishing through the instrumentality of one no longer living.

1221. He commends Iole to Hyllus, and charges Hyllus to put him on the pyre (1259).

1673. Hyllus gives the command to the attendants, and justifies the deed.