# ODES FROM THE GREEK DRAMATISTS: TRANSLATED INTO LYRIC METRES BY ENGLISH POETS AND SCHOLARS

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Odes from the Greek Dramatists: Translated into Lyric Metres by English Poets and Scholars by Alfred W. Pollard

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### **ALFRED W. POLLARD**

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ODES FROM THE GREEK DRAMATISTS.

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TRANSLATED INTO LYRIC METRES BY ENGLISH POETS AND SCHOLARS EDITED BY ALFRED W. POLLARD



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#### PREFACE.

To the average school-boy the Chorus of a Greek Tragedy is an object of mingled hatred and derision-of derision, because at any call for action the attitude of the Chorus is generally characterized by helpless indecision-of hatred, because it was its wont to sing particularly hard Greek. Of the two feelings the hatred arising from the increased labour of "preparation" is probably the stronger, and in some cases it survives so long, that I have heard one of the most successful headmasters of modern times spitefully describe the great ode at the beginning of the Agamemnon, as "that chorus of Red Indians." Yet, all difficulties of text or interpretation notwithstanding, it may well be that the choral odes from which the Greek drama took its rise may prove in the end one of its most enduring claims to our admiration. The loss of the greater and, as we may conjecture, the better, part of the works of Pindar has raised these choral odes from the Greek dramatists to a position of greatly increased interest and importance, and there is a whole realm of Greek thought and of Greek religion to which they are our only guide. To print a collection of these odes apart from their contexts may at first sight seem a literary offence, but I would plead that the contexts are likely to be well known to most of my readers, and that in case this little