

**COMMEMORATION  
,  
AND OTHER VERSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649295524

Commemoration, and Other Verses by Thomas Dwight Goodell

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**THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL**

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The publication of this volume is made possible  
by gifts from members of the  
Class of 1877  
in affectionate memory of their classmate  
THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL  
Lampson Professor of the Greek Language and Literature  
in Yale College.

X



*Thomas Dwight Goodell.*

COMMEMORATION  
AND OTHER VERSES

BY

THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL  
LATE PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN  
YALE UNIVERSITY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
WILLIAM LYON PHELPS



NEW HAVEN  
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
LONDON • HUMPHREY MILFORD • OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
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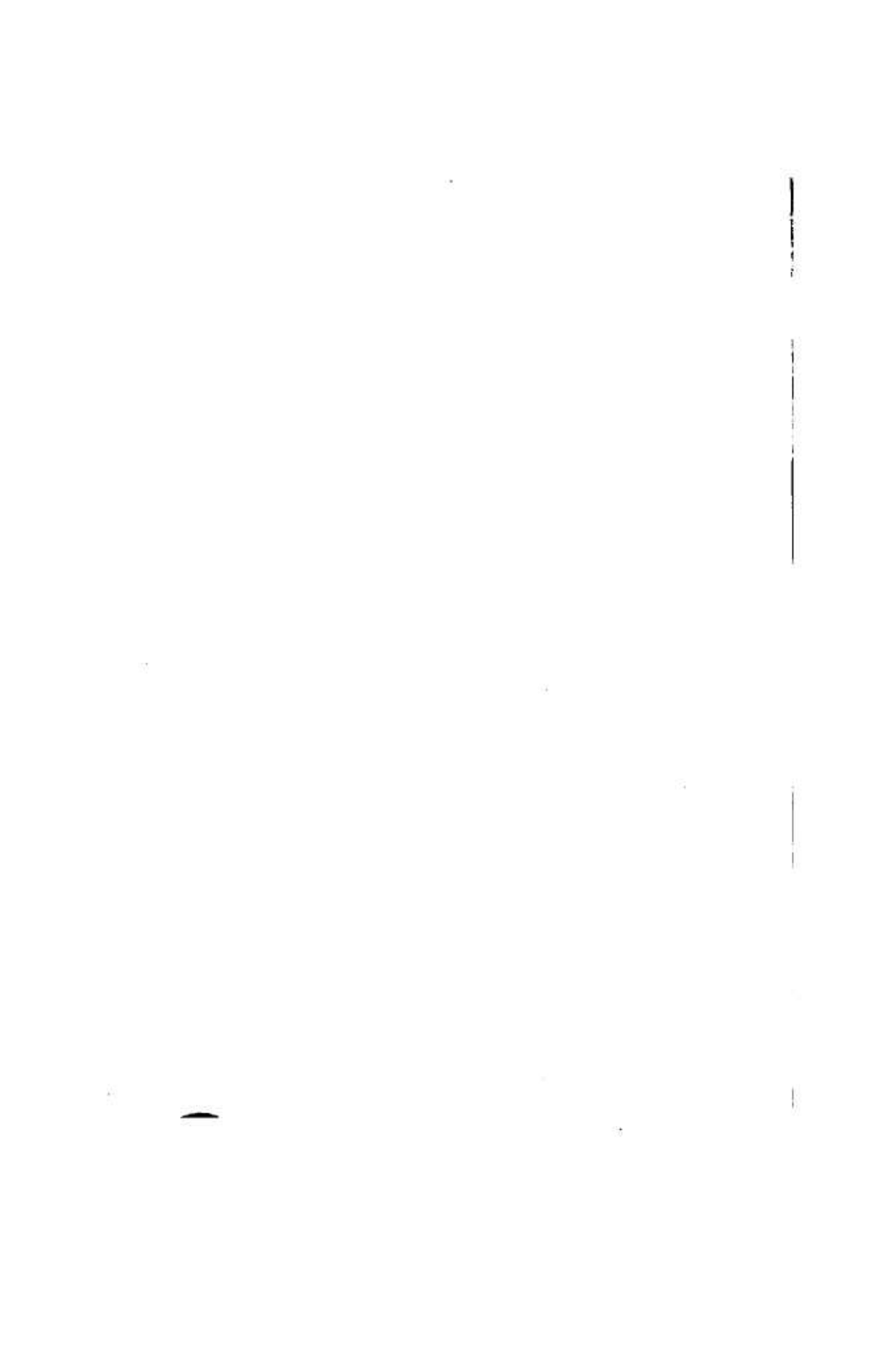
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## INTRODUCTION

I KNEW THOMAS DWIGHT GOODELL intimately for forty-two years. When I entered the Hartford Public High School in the spring of 1878, he was my instructor in Latin and in Roman History; no teacher in the school had higher standards, demanded more of his pupils, or gave to our rudimentary minds a better conception of scholarship. In my Senior year in the school I studied Homer under his direction; and I well remember the day when he called attention to the unspeakably affecting passage where Helen meditates on the absence of her brothers from the Achaean host, not knowing that they were sleeping across the sea in their own dear native land.

Years later I had the honor of becoming a colleague, on the Yale Faculty, of my former teacher; and while we did not always agree in college politics, our friendship was never overclouded, and during the last few lustra I felt sure that our affection was closer and stronger than ever.

Professor Goodell was not only a classical scholar of remarkable attainments; he had a command of an admirable English prose style. I used to urge him to write for publication more frequently; but there was a certain unwillingness on his part to do this, compounded, I think, of shyness and a really extraordinary fastidiousness in taste. I am happy to

know that, before his death, his book on Athenian Tragedy was already in print and had received his final revision. It is a book embodying a lifetime of research and meditation.

The reserve that was chronically characteristic of Mr. Goodell accounts for the fact that he usually kept his poetical compositions within his own four walls. His noble and splendid Greek Ode, worthy of the language in which it is written, was one of the memorable features of the two hundredth anniversary of Yale in 1901. Set to music by his friend and colleague, Professor Horatio Parker, it made a permanent impression; Professor Parker had a subject made to his hand, and I do not think he ever wrote a finer piece of music than this, while the dignity and beauty of the Greek verse gave Professor Goodell an international reputation among classical scholars. His success in Greek composition inspired him to many further efforts, until he attained facility as well as felicity in this difficult art. He always admired the skill of British scholars in Greek and Latin writing, and lamented the fact that such an accomplishment was so rare in America.

Most of the English verse in this volume was composed after the flowering of the Greek Ode; but as a matter of fact, he had written in English meters all his life. His inspiration from adolescence to death was the woman he loved, who became his wife in 1878. When he was sixteen years old, he wrote a love-poem to her; just before he entered Yale in 1873, he set down the following words in his diary: "I look upon H—— as I might upon an angel. I stand before her, but my heart—my soul bows down and worships." This diary