THE TROJAN WAR

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The Trojan War by C. Witt

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C. WITT

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THE TROJAN WAR

BY

PROFESSOR C. WITT

HEAD MASTER OF THE ALTSTADT GYMNASIUM, KÖNIGSBERG AUTHOR OF 'THE MYTHS OF HELLAS'

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

RY

FRANCES YOUNGHUSBAND

WITH A PREFACE
BY THE
REV. W. GUNION RUTHERFORD, M.A.
HEAD MASTER OF WESTMINSTER SCHOOL



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PREFACE.

LIKE the 'Myths of Hellas,' the following chapters are a translation of a little book by a German schoolmaster, Professor C. WITT. They narrate the story of the Iliad in simple language, chiefly for the benefit of young readers. The 'Myths of Hellas' has won itself a deservedly popular place among English children's books, and I venture to anticipate, if possible, a still greater popularity for the present volume.

That the story of the Trojan War, in whatever form, has all the elements which engage the interest of even young children, there is no need to prove. Experience has shown that it is so in fact. And the causes of this fact are equally patent in the movement and incident, the suspenses, the strata-

gem, and the mingling of the human, the heroic, and the divine which pervade the story.

From the point of view of education this little volume is to be welcomed. As a reading book it cannot fail to charm, and the task which opens pages like these to the eyes of childhood will soon cease to be regarded as a task. Moreover it will be a pure gain that school-boys in the later years of their school-life should approach the Iliad with that familiarity with its matter which such a volume as the present, followed perhaps by Pope's Homer, or Chapman's, or such other as chance may offer, will without fail have given. It will not be so much that the schoolboy 'shall be brought past the bitterness of his learning,' as that the bitterness will have ceased to exist for him.

From the point of view of culture also something, however slight, may be hoped from works like this. Some hint of 'the true nature of beauty and grace' may in some cases be won; and without expecting a new Keats to be inspired by these pages, we may at least count on some kindred, if fainter, emotion. Books like this are certainly more likely than some over which the youthful imagination at present ranges to be that 'land of health' amid whose 'fair sights and sounds' Plato tells us that it is desirable for the Commonwealth that our youth should dwell.

Of the translation itself I forbear to speak. Its quality and its merits are already before the public, and the time for words of introduction is past.

W. G. R.

March 31, 1884.



CONTENTS.

CHAPT							ACH
1.	PARIS AND HELEN					7	1
11.		۰		93(48	٠	()	8
ш.	GREEKS AND TROJANS						16
ıv.	AGAMEMNON AND ACHILLES			88	٠	*3	20
v.	FIGHT BETWEEN PARIS AND MENELA	ÜS	×			$\widehat{\psi}_i$	25
VI.	DIOMEDES	130		20	*	*	31
VII.	HECTOR AND AJAX		•	30		•	36
VIII,	THE REPULSE OF THE GREEKS .			•	٠	٠	41
IX.	THE SPYING BY NIGHT ,		9			ŤS	44
200	PATROCLUS				÷	40	51
XI.	ACHILLES AND HECTOR		ं			Æ	59
XII.	PRIAM IN THE CAMP OF THE GREEK	s .)(i	×	٠	68
XIII,	DEATH OF ACHILLES AND OF AJAX .			E.		7	73
xıv.	NEOPTOLEMUS AND PHILOCTETES			. i.	(*)	*	77
XV.	DEATH OF PARIS		i i	Ē		ě.	81
xvı.	THE TAKING OF TROY	٠		51	•	•	85
	INDEX					40	95