

**OEDIPUS THE  
WRECK: OR "TO  
TRACE THE KNAVE"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649519705

Oedipus the Wreck: Or "To Trace the Knave" by Owen Seaman

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Cover @ 2017

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**OWEN SEAMAN**

**OEDIPUS THE  
WRECK: OR "TO  
TRACE THE KNAVE"**





*Even at Home; Large and Late; to meet the Travelling Troop of Begging Bhagavadats (p. 7).*

QEDIPUS THE WRECK

OR

"To Trace the Knave"

BY

OWEN SEAMAN

CLARE COLLEGE  
AUTHOR OF "WITH DOUBLE PIPF," AND JOINT AUTHOR  
OF "PAULPOSTPRANDIALS"

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY

LANCE SPEED (Clare Coll.) and J. D. BATTEN (Trin. Coll.)



*The Leit-motiv.*

Cambridge

E. JOHNSON, 30, TRINITY STREET

LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO.

1888

**Dedicated**

**BY ONE O. S.**

**TO ALL OTHER OLD SALOPIANS**

**AND ESPECIALLY**

**(THOUGH WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION)**

**TO**

**ARTHUR HERMAN GILKES**

**GENEROUS CRITIC OF OUR EARLY ESSAYS**

**IN THE MOTHER TONGUE**





OEDIPUS THE WRECK

OR

"To Trace the Knave"



*He won't be  
happy  
when he  
gets it!*

11

*AUTHOR'S PROEM.*

*DEAR PEOPLE,*

*I am not without hope that I have succeeded in throwing some fresh light, reflected from a later civilisation, upon the career of a legendary Figure almost unique in its proportions. If I have erred on the side of partiality for that Figure, some licence must be accorded to the enthusiasm of Hero-worship. And what a Hero! The hero as King, as Prophet, as Poet we know familiarly enough. But the hero as Knave? The thought is sublime!*

*Most of these pages are devoted to a consideration of his early successes; the play of "Oedipus the Wreck," as rendered at Cambridge University in November 1887 A.D., furnishes the elucidation of his "Decline-and-Fall-Off"; while the book opens with an attempted reproduction of the Original Play-Bill of Sophocles, including actual Advertisements, date about 430 B.C.*

*The Preface is somewhere near the end of the book, p. 76.*

*Yours,*

O. S.

*P.S.—I ought perhaps to take the present opportunity of warning any sensitive scholar against the very painful anachronisms which may seem to disfigure this work, when regarded as a contribution, however trivial, to the trophies of Classical research.*