

**AESCHYLUS.
TRANSLATED INTO
ENGLISH PROSE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649038718

Aeschylus. Translated into English Prose by F. A. Paley

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F. A. PALEY

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TRANSLATED INTO
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*L. B. Russell
res illi Paul.
887*

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TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH PROSE

BY

F. A. PALEY, M.A.

EDITOR OF THE GREEK TEXT.

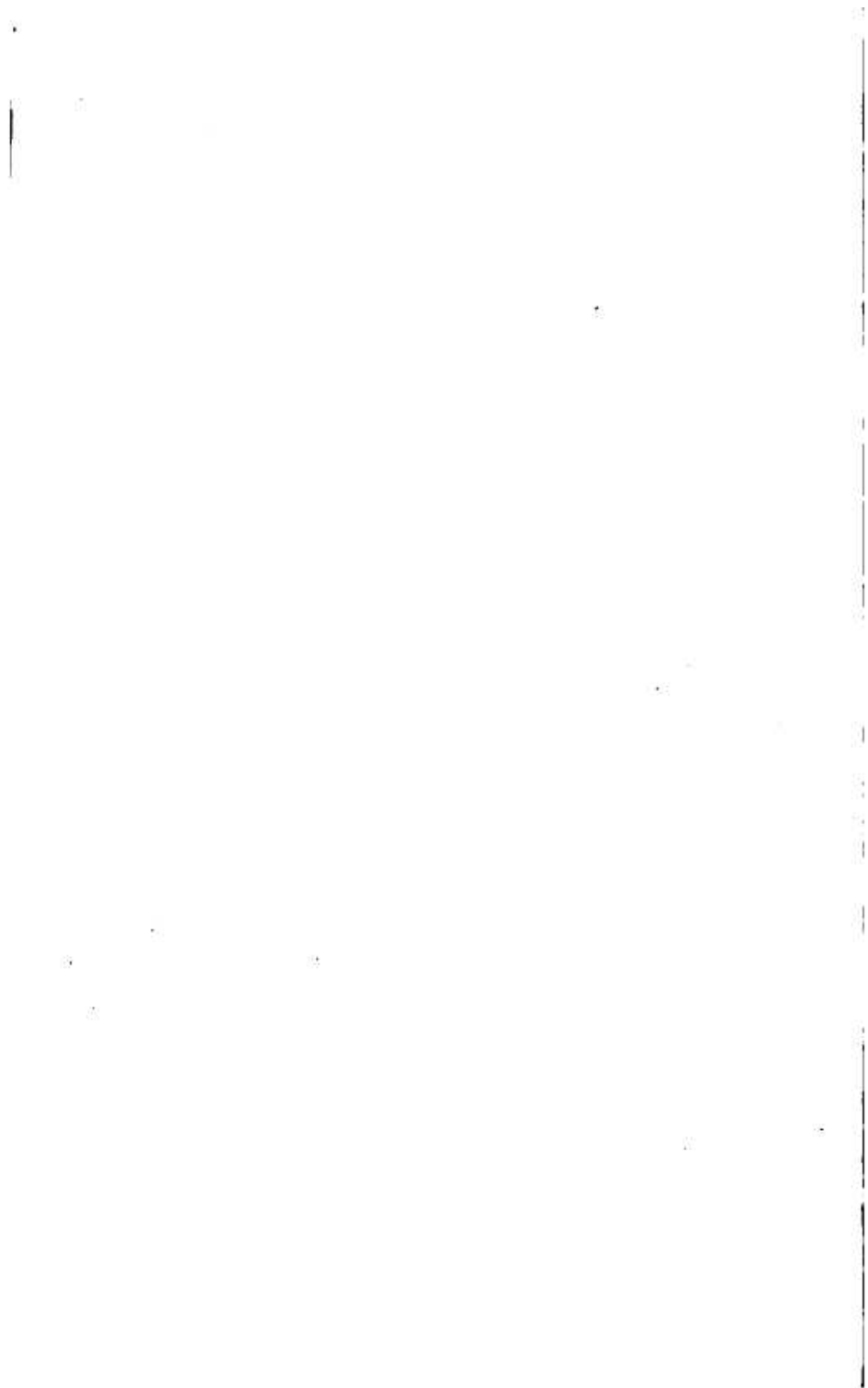
SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND CORRECTED.

CAMBRIDGE:
DEIGHTON, BELL, AND CO.

LONDON: BELL AND DALDY.

1871

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TO THE READER.

THIS Translation of Aeschylus,—an entirely new one,—is designed as an Appendix to my edition of that Poet in the *Bibliotheca Classica*.¹

In some respects, an author's meaning and the connexion of his ideas are more satisfactorily conveyed by a translation, giving the context entire, than by notes, rendering only occasional words and phrases. I am not without hope that this book will be found acceptable to those students who are willing to use, not to abuse it; for to turn the verses, and especially the choral verses, of a poet so figurative and obscure as Aeschylus into anything like readable prose, really is a very difficult task.

In carrying out this design, I have knowingly laid myself open to the charge of departing pretty frequently from that

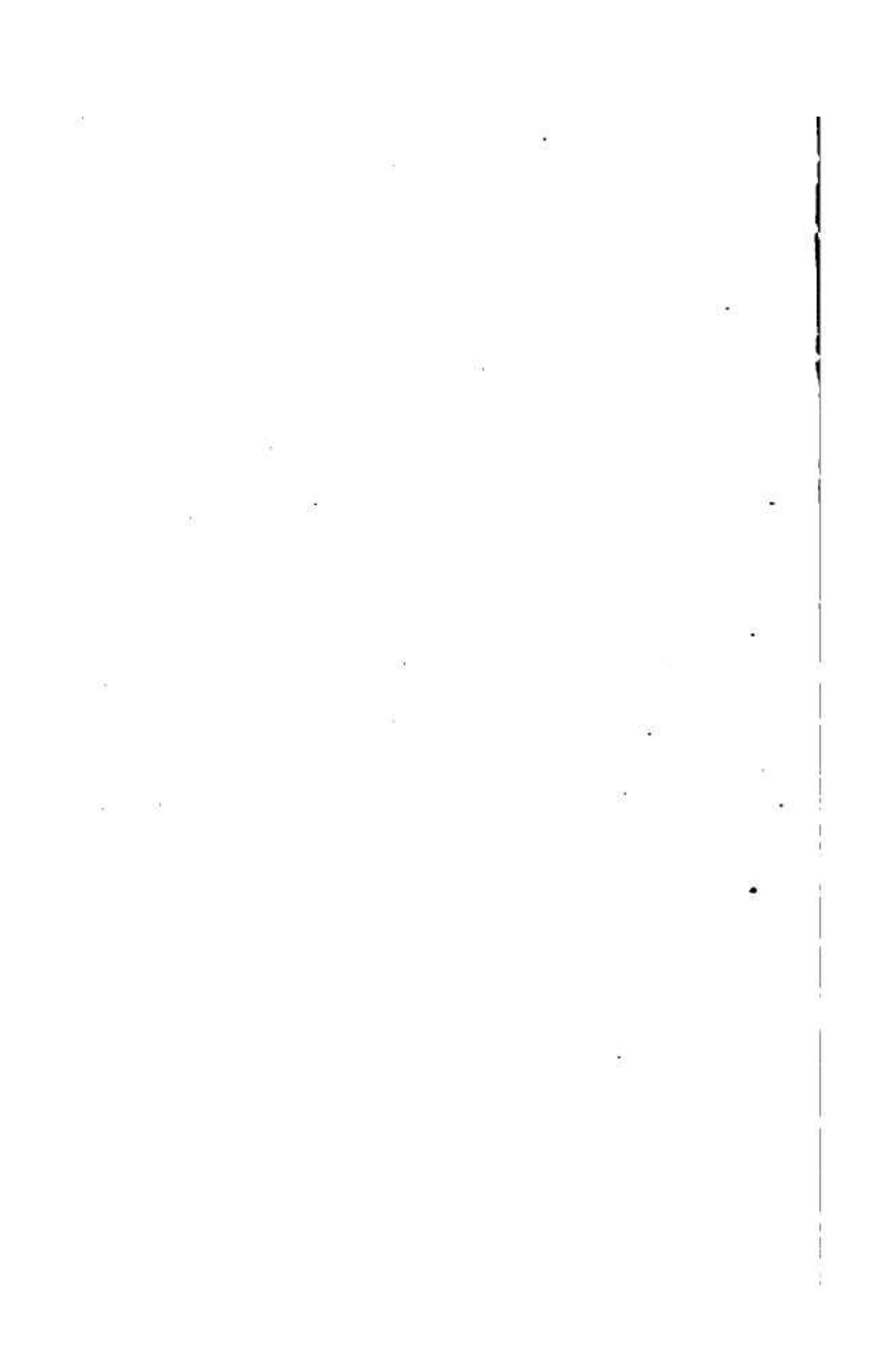
¹ I have made very many alterations in this (the second) edition, but nearly all in the way of simplifying and abridging the language, where that could be done without detriment to the sense. I may here cite, not inaptly, the words of Professor Max Müller, ("Chips from a German Workshop," i. p. 137,) "If Scholars who are engaged in these researches are bent on representing their last translation as final, and as admitting of no further improvement, the public has a right to remind them that 'finality' is as dangerous a thing in scholarship as in politics."

exact verbal rendering which is generally known as a 'literal translation,' and attending at least as much to the author's meaning as to his mere words. I am no advocate, as my numerous pupils, past and present, will attest, of lax construing or mere paraphrasing; but I contend that, if anything that deserves to be called readable English is to be produced, and if anything like justice is to be done to an author who is not supposed to write nonsense, such a licence, moderately used, must be conceded to a translator who is fully conscious of the fact (not to say the law) that the idioms of an ancient inflected and compounded language are widely different from those of a modern one of auxiliary and complementary word-forms.

The best translation is but a kind of compromise: as a proof of which may be mentioned the fact, that on an average fifty words of the Greek require about a hundred of the English to convey their full meaning. In cases where I have been compelled to paraphrase either quaintly-worded or involved sentences, I have generally given the *exact* sense in a foot-note; and I have also added, in the briefest form, occasional comments in explanation of the author's meaning.

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SUPPLICES.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

CHORUS, THE DAUGHTERS OF DANAUS. DANAUS.	PELASSUS. HERALD.
--	----------------------

Chorus. May Zeus the patron-god of Suppliants regard with favour this our voyage from¹ the finely-silted mouths of the Nile. For we left the divine land closely bordering on Syria, and are flying, not because we were sentenced by a vote of the citizens to exile from our own people for any deed of blood, but by an effort on our own parts to escape wedlock, and loathing as unholy a marriage with the sons of Aegyptus. And Danaus our father, the author of our counsels and the leader of our company, arranging for us this plan, determined on the best of evils,² that we should flee with all speed through the waves of the sea, and put-to at the land of Argos, whence our race, sprung from the divine touching of the brize-driven heifer, and from the life-giving breath of Zeus, has been brought into being.

What land then could we come to more kindly disposed to us than this, with these suppliant badges in our hands, the wool-tufted boughs? O city, O land and clear water, and ye, gods supreme, and powers of wrathful vengeance possessing the tombs³; thou too, Zeus, who art wont to be

¹ Literally "our naval expedition that started from," &c.

² The least bad of two alternatives. Martial has *optimus malorum*, xii. 36.

³ i. e. the local heroes, *ἑχέπιοι* *δαίμονες*, whose power for evil was much dreaded.