ON THE REALISATION OF THE POSSIBLE, AND THE SPIRIT OF ARISTOTLE

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On the realisation of the possible, and the spirit of Aristotle by F. W. Bain

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Trieste

ON THE
REALISATION OF THE POSSIBLE.

Eleusis servat quod ostendat revisentibus. Initiatos nos credimus? in vestibulo haeremus.

SENECA.

ON THE
REALISATION OF THE POSSIBLE,
AND THE
SPIRIT OF ARISTOTLE.

BY

F. W. BAIN, M.A.,

Quondam *Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford.*

τὸ δὲ δυνάμει εἰς ἐντελέχειαν βαδίζει.

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TO

THE WARDEN AND FELLOWS

OF

ALL SOULS' COLLEGE, OXFORD,

THIS SOLUTION OF AN OLD PROBLEM

IS DEDICATED

WITH RESPECT AND ESTEEM.

"ΜΗΤΙΝ ἄειδε, θεά· σοφίαν τίς ἄριστ' ἐτέλεσσεν;"—
ἠχὼ τ' αὐτίκ' ἐπῶν ᾔσθετ' ἀποπταμένων,
αἶψα τ' ἀμειβομένη παλίνορσος ἀνεῖπεν ἐπίκλην
ἐκ Διὸς ἱεμένην, οἶμαι, ἐπωνυμίαν.
ἡμᾶς γὰρ χαλεπῶς χρόνος ἐμπείρους ἐδίδαξεν,
ῥεῖα δ' ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ αὐτὸς ἅπαντ' ἔμαθεν.
πρῶτος ἐπιστήμης ἰδέαν ἐποίησε τελείαν
ὕλης δυσπειθοῦς τάχυ θέλημα δάμων,
δημοτικήν τ' ἀνόμων στάσιν ὀρθώσας διαλέκτων,
ἀρχὴν τ' αὐτοκράτωρ ἐνθρονίσας τε νόμον
χρυσοῦν πᾶσι νόμισμα, λόγοις κατέκοψεν ἀκριβεῖς·
(νῦν δὲ σοφιζόμενοι χρώμεθ' ὁμωνυμίαις.)
Πρωταγόρας τε καλῶς ἄνθρωπον πάντα μετρεῖσθαι
ᾤετο· τοῦτο γὰρ ἦν αὐτὸ τὸ μέτρον ἀνήρ,
πάντων ὁριζόμενος γένεσιν ΝΟΟΣ, αὐτὸς ἄριστος
Η ΠΡΩΤΗ ΔΥΝΑΤΩΝ ΕΝΤΕΛΕΧΕΙΑ ΛΟΓΩΝ.
ὦ Σφίγξ ἀνθρωλέτειρ', αἴνιγμά σου ἴσθι τελευτὴν
εὗχον· ἰδοὺ τὸν ἄγαν εὐτυχον Οἰδίποδα!
ἀρχῆθεν δ' ἦν ἀντὶ Λόγου Μῦθος βασιλεύων·
νῦν τε Λόγος φαῦθος, Δόγμα τ' ὀνειρόγενες
πνευματικοῖς φυσᾷ ληρήμασιν, ἔργα τ' ἀράχνης
νηπυτίας μυίας δαιδαλέως ἀπατᾷ.
χωρισμὸν ψυχῆς ἀπὸ σώματος ἠλίθιον γάρ,
ἀκρόσοφον δ' ἄτομον δεσμὸν ἔγωγε καλῶ·
σεμνὰ τ' Ἀληθείας γε Πλάτων ἐπέδειξε πρόσωπα
αὐτὸ δ' Ἀριστοτέλης ἤγαγεν "Ον τοδέ τι.
μεχρὶ δὲ τοῦδε πάλαι μετεωρισθεῖσα Νόησις
καιομένη πτέρυγας ῥᾷστον ἔπιπτε κάτω.
ὦ τοῖς ἠμαθόεσσαν ὁδοιπλανέουσιν ἐρημὴν
ὑψήλη κίων τηλεφανοῦς σοφίας!