

**HARVARD STUDIES IN  
CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY,  
VOLUME VIII**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760579944

Harvard Studies in Classical Philology, Volume VIII by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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HARVARD STUDIES

IN

CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY

*EDITED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE CLASSICAL  
INSTRUCTORS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY*

VOLUME VIII

BOSTON, U.S.A.

PUBLISHED BY GINN & COMPANY

LONDON: EDWARD ARNOLD  
37 BEDFORD ST., STRAND

LEIPSIK: OTTO HARRASSOWITZ  
QUERSTRASSE 14

1897

## PREFATORY NOTE.

THESE Studies are published by authority of Harvard University, and are contributed chiefly by its instructors and graduates, although contributions from other sources are not excluded. The publication is supported by a fund of \$6000, generously subscribed by the class of 1856.

CLEMENT L. SMITH,  
JOHN WILLIAMS WHITE, } EDITORIAL  
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100533

The Athenæum Press

**Died**

At Cambridge, on June 30th, 1897,

**GEORGE MARTIN LANE,**

in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

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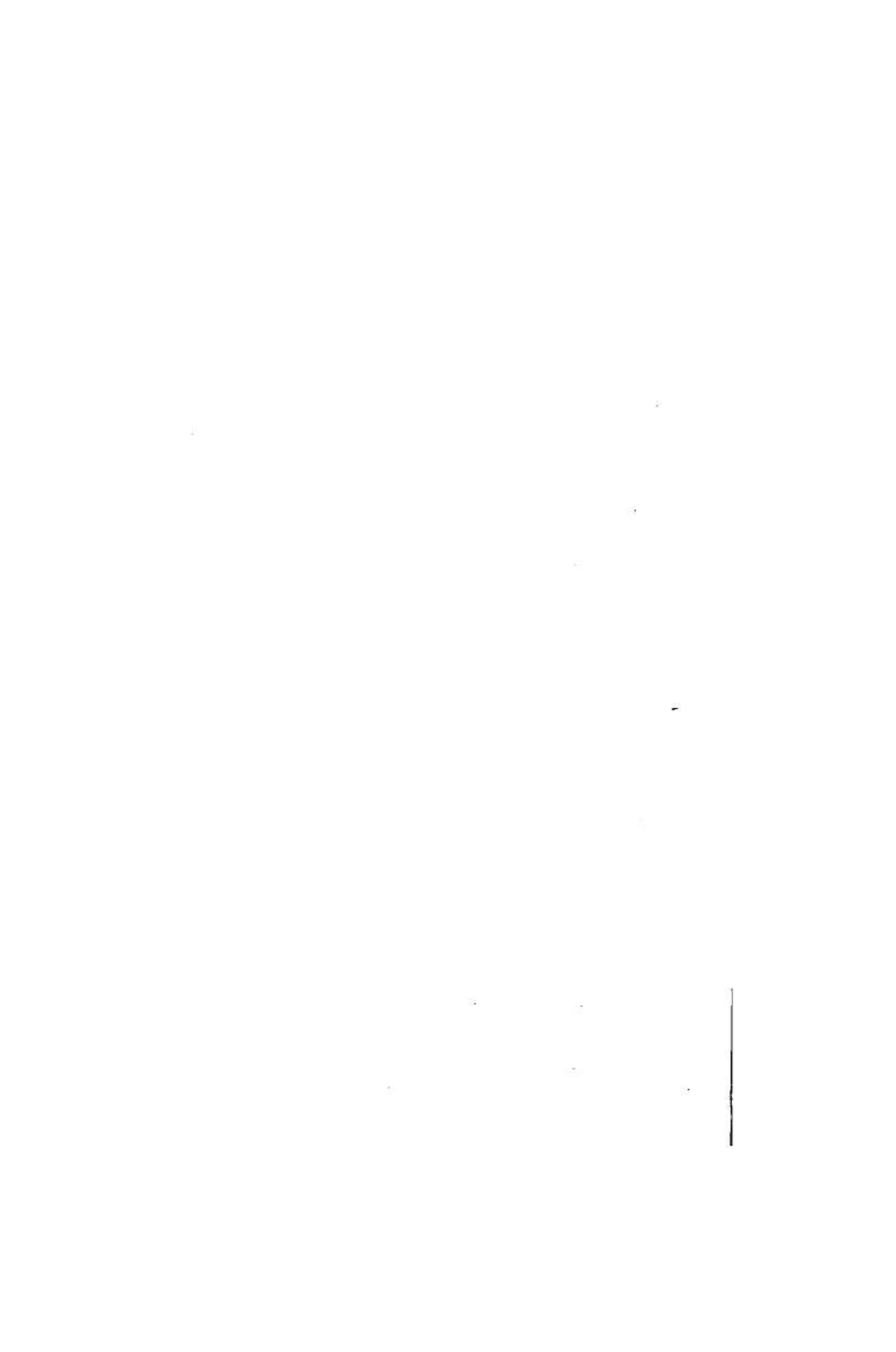
At Portsmouth, on August 4th, 1897,

**FREDERIC DE FOREST ALLEN,**

in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

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Biographical notices of Professors Lane and Allen  
will be inserted in the Ninth Volume  
of the "Studies."





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## THE TRIAL OF THE ALCMEONIDAE AND THE CLEISTHENEAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS.

BY GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD.

### I. INTRODUCTION.

TILL recently it has been universally supposed, so far as I know, that the trial of the Alcmeonidae on a charge of impiety committed in the suppression of the Cylonian insurrection took place before the archonship of Solon (594/3 B.C.).<sup>1</sup> Beloch,<sup>2</sup> however, following a line of thought suggested by Friedrich Cauer,<sup>3</sup> concludes that the Alcmeonidae were not tried till after the adoption of the Cleisthenean constitutional reforms about a century later, and that the story of their trial and banishment told by Plutarch and Aristotle is but a duplicate of the account which Herodotus gives of their expulsion by Cleomenes. Beloch bases his view (1) on the coincidence of circumstances in the two accounts, (2) on the fact that Plutarch mentions the *δημοτικόν* of the accuser, Myron, — which, as Beloch asserts, proves clearly that the accusation was brought after the institution of the Cleisthenean tribes and demes, — and finally (3) on the authority of Herodotus and Thucydides. These points will be discussed in this paper. But the question as to the date of the trial thus raised is involved in another question, viz., What were the order and nature of the events which belong to the two or three

<sup>1</sup> This was the view of Plutarch, *Solon* 12, and apparently of Aristotle, *Athenian Constitution* 1. There was nothing in the account of the Cylonian affair and banishment of the Alcmeonidae given by Thucydides (i. 126), which seemed to throw doubt on Plutarch's view; and Herodotus' story (v. 70-72) of the expulsion of Cleisthenes and his supporters by the Spartan Cleomenes (cf. also Thuc. *loc. cit.*) was in no way identified with Myron's prosecution of the Alcmeonidae and the resulting exile of their family.

<sup>2</sup> *Griechische Geschichte*, i. (1893), p. 339, n. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Parteien und Politiker in Megara und Athen* (1890), p. 64 f.