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NEW BOOKS

PUBLISHED BY

W. SIMPKIN AND R. MARSHALL,

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A MANUAL OF CLASSICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY ;
comprising a copious detail of the various Editions, Translations into the English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, and, occasionally, other languages ; Commentaries, and Works, critical and illustrative, of the Greek and Latin Classics. By JOSEPH WILLIAM MOSS, B. A. of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, &c. &c. In 2 vols. 8vo. comprising nearly 1300 pages, closely printed, 30s. bds.

The Author has inserted numerous Extracts, Colophons, and Anecdotes, which, while they augment the utility of the Work, and assist the Collector in the recognition of doubtful, and in the collation of early Editions, serve to enliven the tedium which the endless and unavoidable sameness of Bibliographical detail excites, even in a Bibliomaniac. The distinguishing characteristics of the various Aldine, Elzevir, and other editions, which have been counterfeited, have been carefully and fully noted. The sums produced at the sales of celebrated collections have been particularly specified ; nor have the present prices been omitted ; which, though liable to fluctuation, will enable the Collector to form a general notion of the value of the editions so priced. This Work will render the acquisition of any other on the subject of Classical Bibliography, (as far as relates to the various Authors comprised in it,) unnecessary : it combines the advantages of the 'Bibliotheca Spenceriana,' and 'Introduction' of Dibdin, the 'Catalogues Raisonnés' of De Bure, and the 'Manuel' of Brunet, &c. &c. ; and when it is known that upwards of 3,000 volumes of Bibliographical and Critical Works, Reviews, &c. (exclusive of the innumerable Editions, Translations, Commentaries, &c. described in these volumes) have been consulted ; notices have been extracted from, and references made to, them ; the public will be able to estimate the *no trivial* labour bestowed upon this Work.

"That with all the industry Mr. Moss has displayed—and we know no Bibliographer who has surpassed him, either in industry or discrimination, there may be some omissions was to be expected ; but that there is an immense body of useful information, not to be met with in any other work, will be readily admitted by every person who carefully examines these volumes."
Literary Chronicle, No. 328.

"This is, in every respect, an extremely able and intelligent compilation ; valuable on account of the prodigious amount of biblical information that is condensed within its pages ; and always of practical utility to the student, by reason of the precision and clearness of its arrangement ; and we really consider that the preparation of such a manual reflects the highest honour upon his reading and his industry."
News of Literature. No. 63.

Mr. Moss's Reply to the Remarks in the Literary Gazette.

I FEEL it a duty incumbent upon me, as an Author whose fame is yet in embryo, to reply to the severe and incorrect Review which has been given of my Manual of Classical Bibliography in the Literary Gazette, which I shall preface by an account of my Countrymen who have been most eminent by their Bibliographical publications, at the head of whom stands Maittaire,

who was a Scholar of very considerable talent, as his very accurate and valuable little Editions of the Classics will testify, in which he has shewn greater diligence as a Compiler than acuteness as a Critic; to him both as a Scholar and a discerning Bibliographer I concede every praise; but what foundation the Reviewer has discovered in his *Annales Typographici* or other Works for supposing him to be an Antiquary, I am quite at a loss to conjecture.—That Dr. Harwood was inferior to Maittaire as a Scholar, is a point I feel perfectly clear of; for though he (Maittaire) did not boast of the number of times he had perused a particular edition, yet his reading was far more extensive and various than that of the Dr., and when I meet with such inconsistent, such unqualified, and such indiscriminate characters of Books, Editors, and Editions, I feel frequent inclination to call the soundness of the Doctor's judgment in question, nor can I bring myself to believe that he ever read through the various Editions, so frequently as he has asserted that he has done; but, right or wrong, I have inserted *the whole of his opinions* in my Manual, and leave them to the faith of my readers either to receive or reject them.—Of Dr. Dibdin, to whom I “am tied and bound by the chain” of friendship, I find it a much more difficult, as well as delicate, task to express my sentiments:—he is inferior to Maittaire and to Harwood, both as an Antiquary, and as a Scholar; we are, however, much indebted to him for reviving, in this country, the study of Bibliography, and for, perhaps, stimulating our Book Collectors to those strenuous exertions which they have manifested in the pursuit of rare and curious works.—I feel greatly obliged to him for selecting from the vile the more valuable and useful Editions; but in opposition to the assertions of the Reviewer I declare that, except for the sake of pointing out and of correcting his errors, or of contrasting his opinion with that of other Critics, (which I have not done in more than three instances), I have not I believe borrowed even *a single epithet*. With respect to what the Reviewer is so facetiously pleased to express in such general terms of my own “ideas of the critical value of an Edition,” I shall only observe in the words of Dr. Butler, in a Letter addressed to Bishop Bloomfield, “I do verily believe this Reviewer is preparing *a similar work* for the press himself, and that he has thought it advisable (a vile thought!) to make an attempt at securing a favourable reception for his own Work by running down and undervaluing mine.” I shall not find fault with the Reviewer for criticising my article on *Æschylus*, but that he made no allowance for my previous notice, that “the account of the five first Authors would be found to be less complete than it would otherwise have been” had I not been limited to the particular plan pursued by me in these Authors: but if the Reviewer will manifest the same candour towards me in giving me credit for the various information which my pages contain, as he has shewn a lynx-eyed and wilfully wrong interpretation of what has hitherto come under his inspection, I trust that he will find more matter worthy of commendation than condemnation.—The first article upon which the ingenuity of the Reviewer is exercised, is the *Editio Princeps* of *Æschylus*, and the first sentence upon which he passes sentence of condemnation, is as follows; “In great request among the curious and lovers of Greek Editions;” now this forms part only of a sentence, which is a literal translation of the words of De Bure: it stands thus in my Manual, “A beautiful Edition, copies of which are in great request among the curious, and lovers of Greek Editions.” De Bure, No. 2533. The French thus; “Belle édition, dont les exemplaires sont recherchés par les Curieux et les Amateurs des éditions Grecques:” upon which the Reviewer is pleased to annotate, “We had some difficulty *in coming to* an understanding of this expression, as referring to the present volume, but we suppose it means, Editions (ancient or Italian) of Greek Authors. After being informed that this work is the ‘*editio princeps*,’ we are further (at an interval of eight lines) made acquainted, that it is the ‘*first edition*.’ It would be endless, however, to point out similar inaccuracies of expression.”——“No notice is taken

of the entire omission of the Chœphoræ in this edition" (by Turnebus,) "though the greater part of it had appeared four years *before that of Aldus*, and the whole this same year in the edition of Robortellus." Had the Reviewer been so well aware of the notoriety of the omission of this Play by Turnebus, as he would insinuate, he might readily perceive the reason why I forbore to mention the fact; but this is one of his most unfortunate observations, and must prove fatal to his credit as a Reviewer, for this Edition is a *reimpression* of the Aldine text, which Turnebus frequently amended with the assistance of a *MS.* of Æmarius Ranconetus, which comprised the three first Plays only, and he has added a table of various lections,—*it does*, however, *contain* this Play of the Chœphoræ:—so much for the accuracy of this Gentleman's research.—What is meant by "the greater part of it," (the Chœphoræ) "had appeared four years before that of Aldus," I cannot comprehend; but that the whole of it was given by Robortellus, in his Edition, is incorrect, for I verily believe that this Editor has not given *one verse more* of this Play than is to be found in that of Aldus, but he has distinguished these two Plays, (the Chœphoræ and the Agamemnon,) and assigned to each its proper title: he has, moreover, done his Author some essential services, which I shall forbear to speak of here.

With respect to the *MSS.* with the assistance of which Victorius gave us for the *first* time, the Agamemnon complete, (speaking comparatively,) it must be well known to every *Scholar* that the Vatican furnished this great man with those *MSS.* from which he obtained this valuable edition.—I have stated some curious facts respecting Victorius, (not perhaps generally known) under the heads of Plato and Sophocles. That the edition of Schütz is the best and most complete we have *yet*, I must still maintain, and in this opinion I am supported by the concurrent testimony of Harles, of the Reviewer in the *Bibl. Crit. Amst.*, of Porson, Schoell, and others.

In my account of Porson's Edition of Æschylus, a too credulous reliance upon Brunet has led me into an error, in citing one edition twice, *viz.* under the date of its typographical execution and of its publication.

To Dr. Butler I will readily concede every thing the Reviewer would desire; and while I extol the labor and patience of this Editor, who has amassed so valuable a body of various lections, &c. which is, however, far from being so complete as it might have been, I must be allowed to censure the ill taste which has been manifested in the disposition of his materials, *the few original emendations* which have been made, and the little information which has been added to the general stock; from which, and other causes, this edition must ever be less popular, and, to the student, of less utility than that of Schütz, whom I shall consider much more capable of editing so difficult, so obscure, and so corrupt an Author as Æschylus, than Dr. Butler; and, while his various and numerous publications bear ample testimony to the diversity and extent of his reading, I must still hold him up as the Editor of the best and most useful Edition of this Poet.

In the Second Review, dated September 3, the Reviewer wilfully stumbles, "the Editions (of Anacreon) by Barnes, are stated in a very confused manner:" the article as it stands in my Manual is as follows: "The Cambridge Editions, says Dr. Harwood, are more correct than the London one of 1734."—"This work is held in considerable estimation, of which there have been many editions since this (*viz.* of 1705) of which we are speaking, which is, undoubtedly, the most beautiful." De Bure, No. 2528. "This," observes the Reviewer, "is about as clumsy a sentence as we ever met with, and throws *less than no light at all* on the subject:"—this is truly very sorry stuff!

With the Edition of Aristophanes, by Invernizius, I have not yet had an opportunity of becoming acquainted, and I candidly acknowledge my ignorance. I did not, therefore, attempt to give a character of it, but had recourse to the works of such Bibliographers as had preceded me; first of

4 *New Books Published by W. Simkin & R. Marshall,*

whom is Schoell, whose review (as stated by me) was written when the two first volumes *only* had appeared; and lastly I have given the Review of the late Mr. Kett, which relates to the five first volumes, which were *all* at that time published.—Dr. Dibdin has not, as the Reviewer states, given any opinion at all respecting Invernizius' Edition, but has inserted that given in the Bibliographical Dictionary of Clarke in his introduction, and an extract from some work which he has forgotten to cite.

With respect to the edition of Ausonius published under the superintendance of Tornæsius I shall present the Reader with some little information, which, I trust, will prove interesting and alleviate in some measure the dryness of a Reply to a Reviewer whose want of caudour is equalled only by his want of that sagacity, which is the life and soul of one who holds an office of so important a nature. I shall take the liberty of pointing out his ignorance that Lugduni is the Latin for Lyons and not for Leyden, and that Tornæsius is the Latin for Tournes, which having done, I shall not give myself the trouble of pointing out various inaccuracies of lesser moment, but shall atone for my omission of this book, which is more interesting as a curiosity than valuable on account of any internal merits, by giving some account of it: Jean de Tournes has in ~~this edition~~ profited by the labours of Etienne Charpin and Guillaume de la Barge of the Cathedral at Lyons, and has given, besides the Ephemerides, Parentalia, Commemoratio Professorum Burdigalensium, Heroum Epitaphia, and some Epigrams, Epistolæ ad patrem de filio, ad Hesperium, patris ad filium, ad Heronem secunda, tertia, et quarta, ad Paulum de Ostreis, and the Eclogaria, with the exception of the verses on the Signa Cœlestia; to print which this Jean de Tournes obtained a Royal privilege, dated December 15, 1557, in which he has permission to print or cause to be printed the edited or inedited Works of this Poet: this privilege has led the Reviewer into another error, by inducing him to suppose that De Tournes published an edition in 1557, and which he conceives "to be rarer than the one we have just described, as we find no mention made of it by any writer."

I beg leave to correct a mis-statement of the Reviewer relative to *my* praise of Dr. Grainger's version of Tibullus: for, in truth, I have not expressed any opinion concerning it, but have given a brief extract from the Monthly Review, which I have not forgotten to cite; nor do I believe that I have in a single instance concealed my authorities, or arrogated to myself that praise which rightly belonged to another.

In the Review of my account of the Oxford re-impression of Olivet's Edition of Cicero, I meet with another mis-representation;—the Reviewer observes, "the form and typography of the work, which Mr. Moss calls 'splendid but not ostentatious:'" but these words, unfortunately for this Reviewer, are the first expressions to be found in the extract from the Critical Review, extracted by me, and before alluded to by this Gentleman, who whilst he attributes to me expressions which my own sense of honesty and truth would have restrained me from giving publicity to, defrauds me of my due by not giving me credit for what he has translated from my Manual into his own idiom.—After having detailed the sources which Olivet made use of in the compilation of his Edition, and the opinions of Ernesti and Gibbon respecting its merits, I observe—"The Oxford Edition is a very splendid one, and has this advantage over the preceding, (of Olivet) that it contains a collation of some MSS. by Hearne and Ernesti's Clavis." vol. 1, p. 298.

Dudley,

JOS. W. MOSS.

September 19, 1825.

P. S. The Editor of the Literary Gazette would do well to pay a little more attention to dates, names of places, persons, &c. than he has hitherto done; for I have observed numerous errors in this, (the third) as well as in the two preceding Reviews of my Manual of Classical Bibliography.

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Monthly Critical Gazette, June, 1825.

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