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SOCIAL LIFE IN GREECE.

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SOCIAL LIFE IN GREECE

FROM

THE
SERVANTS OF INDIA
SOCIETY,
POONA.

HOMER TO MENANDER

BY THE

REV. J. P. MAHAFFY, M.A.

*Author of 'Prolegomena to Ancient History,'
'Kant's Critical Philosophy for English Readers,'
'Rambles and Studies in Greece,' &c.*

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WILSONO KING

FIGNUS

AMICITLÆ.

PREFACE

TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THE publication of this new edition enables me to add and to modify a few points in reply to criticisms which I have hitherto allowed to pass in silence, and in illustration of the principles here advocated in opposition to received traditions. The majority of the published critiques have been merely favourable, but in addition to those which were critical, some corrections were suggested by learned correspondents which have been of great use in preparing this edition.

Two of these critics have put me under special obligations. M. Georges Perrot's paper in the *Revue politique et littéraire*, though in some places guilty of misapprehension, was by far the most instructive criticism I have received, and his hints have been carefully utilised, chiefly by slight alterations of a word here and there, which nevertheless affect the meaning of a few passages very materially. Mr. Hermann Hager, of Manchester, has sent me several minute and learned notes, chiefly on legal points, and supplied me with additional evidence in cases of doubt. All his suggestions have been embodied in the passages to which they refer.

A few pages have been added to the eleventh chapter on the *Hellenedom* which was preached at Athens by the sophists of the school of Isocrates, because it has been confounded with the later *Hellenism* of Alexander and his followers. In fact, an isolated passage of Isocrates was employed to over-

throw the whole tenor of his teaching, and his words were cited in contradiction to the spirit of his doctrine. I trust this misapprehension has been sufficiently explained, and will no longer infect books upon the subject.

After the sheets of this edition were struck off, I have found, in M. Dumont's researches on Greek pottery, ample evidence to prove that *δοτρακον* meant not a shell but a potsherd, when mentioned as of ordinary use in the streets of Athens. It appears that the Athenians commonly scratched writing on this material, and M. Dumont has published a formal receipt still existing on one in the Vavarkion at Athens. The reader will therefore correct what I have said on this subject at p. 389.

The earlier editions of the present book were however incomplete in another important respect, in a proper consideration of the social effects of Greek art. I have endeavoured to supply the want not only by an additional chapter here, but by a collateral work, my *Rambles and Studies in Greece*, in which the occasional digressions on Sculpture and Architecture, and the special closing chapter on Music and Painting, afford some materials I have since gathered for general readers to form an estimate on this subject. There are also many material details of *Old Greek Life* brought out in the Primer published under that title in Mr. J. R. Green's Historical Series. The student who will take the trouble to read these three books in connection will obtain what I believe the true (and at all events a consistent) view of the merits and faults of the most celebrated nation in history. To repeat the words of an earlier preface: 'I have throughout endeavoured to take homely and common-sense views, and have thus arrived at many results opposed to what I consider sentimentalism, and pedantry. These results are in all cases supported by direct references

to the Greek texts themselves, on which I have relied in preference to modern authority.'

The great discoveries of Dr. Schliemann at Mycenæ are not yet ripe for discussion, and it is hardly wise to say one word about them till we obtain fuller information. But so far as I can yet see, the remarks printed years ago on pp. 16, 17 of the present volume are strangely confirmed by the splendour of the tombs, and by the non-Hellenic character of their ornamentation. In spite of the free use of the name of Agamemnon in the newspapers, I believe that these splendid remains are the prehistoric tombs of the foreign immigrants, who came, according to consistent tradition, from the East, and brought with them the wealth and culture of an older civilisation. We know that when this intercourse had ceased, in early historical times, gold was so great a rarity that it could not have been expended in any quantity on tombs, and I perceive the same economy of gold in the funerals of Patroclus and Hector, as described in the Iliad, though the gathering of the bones into a golden receptacle, in both cases, seems an echo of the prehistoric customs described by Dr. Schliemann. But these are only conjectures, and must be verified by personal researches.

I should have referred at the close of the thirteenth chapter to the excellent selections from Demosthenes' private orations by Messrs. Paley and Sandys, in which the latter has collected many interesting facts concerning the life of the banker Pasion.

I have added an Index, chiefly of names, for the convenience of those who desire to recur to special citations or arguments throughout the volume.

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