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Demosthenes on the Crown

Edited by William Watson Goodwin

Frontmatter

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DEMOSTHENES
ON THE CROWN

EDITED BY

WILLIAM WATSON GOODWIN

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TO

HENRY JACKSON

IN TOKEN OF

A FRIENDSHIP OF MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS

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PREFACE.

THIS volume is chiefly an abridgment of the large edition of Demosthenes on the Crown which was prepared by me for the Syndics of the University Press and published in 1901. The critical notes are omitted, and such remarks on the text as seemed necessary are introduced in the explanatory notes. The notes, the Historic Sketch, and especially the Essays, have been abridged, while some more elementary matter has been added in the notes. I have attempted to give what I deem most essential to an understanding of this masterpiece of oratory. No mere commentary can make a speech like this intelligible to those who have not an accurate knowledge of the events which are discussed, and of their relation to other events. No adequate treatment of historical points is possible in scattered notes, and references to a general history (even to Grote or Curtius) are not sufficient. The student of Demosthenes needs a connected narrative of the events which especially concern him, with references to the authorities, without being distracted by other details in which he has no immediate interest. To meet this want, I have given an "Historical Sketch" of the period from the accession of Philip to the battle of Chaeroneia, in which I have enlarged disproportionately on the events and questions discussed in the orations of Demosthenes and Aeschines on the Crown, and have alluded slightly (or perhaps not at all) to many important matters which are not essential to the study of these speeches. This would be unpardonable in a history: but this sketch assumes a general knowledge of the history of the period which it covers, and makes no pretence to being such a history in itself. With this view, I have given what may seem undue prominence to the

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negotiations which led to the Peace of Philocrates; for a minute knowledge of these is absolutely necessary to a correct understanding of the brief but cogent argument of Demosthenes in Cor. §§ 17—52, and to a fair judgment of the whole political course of both Demosthenes and Aeschines at this decisive crisis in the history of Athens. Much new light has been thrown upon the period which I have treated from inscriptions recently discovered by the French explorers at Delphi and from the *Corpus Inscriptionum Atticarum*. In preparing this sketch I have made constant use of Grote and of Schaefer's *Demosthenes und Seine Zeit*.

In revising the text I have in most cases followed the authority of the Codex Σ , especially when it is supported by its companion L¹. See Essay vii. In preparing the commentary I have been constantly aided by the long line of editors, whose names are too familiar to need mention. I must, however, express my great obligation to Westermann and Blass, especially for references to parallel passages and for other illustrations. I have found it impossible to give credit for every remark and reference which may be borrowed from these or other recent editors: many of these are found in the notes of Dissen and the older editors, and many have long been in my own collection of notes. Nothing is harder to trace than old references, and most of those relating to Demosthenes on the Crown may now be assumed to be common property.

I take great pleasure in expressing (not for the first time) my deep indebtedness to Dr Henry Jackson of Trinity College, Cambridge, who did me the inestimable service of reading and revising the proofs of the large edition. There are few pages in that volume which have not had the benefit of his criticism.

For the picture of the Scythian bowman in page 280 I am indebted to the kindness of my former pupil, Miss Florence A. Gragg, who photographed the figure in the Museum at Athens.

I have avoided many discussions of grammatical points in the notes by references to my *Syntax of the Greek Moods and*

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Tenses (M. T.), and I have occasionally referred to my *Greek Grammar* (G.). The references to Grote ix.—xii. are made to the first edition; those to earlier volumes to the second edition.

I have made no attempt to be neutral on the question of the patriotism and the statesmanship of Demosthenes in his policy of uncompromising resistance to Philip. It seems to me that the time for such neutrality is past. I cannot conceive how any one who knows and respects the traditions of Athens, and all that she represents in the long contest of free institutions against tyranny, can read the final attack of Aeschines and the reply of Demosthenes without feeling that Demosthenes always stands forth as a true patriot and statesman, who has the best interests of his country at heart and upholds her noblest traditions, while Aeschines appears first as a trimmer and later as an intentional (if not a corrupt) ally of Philip in his contest with Athens. That the policy of resistance to Philip's aggressions failed at last is no discredit to the patriotism or the statesmanship of Demosthenes. Can any one, even at this day, read the pathetic and eloquent appeal of Demosthenes to posterity in Cor. §§ 199—208, and not feel that Athens would have been unworthy of her glorious past if she had submitted to Philip without a struggle for liberty, even if Chaeronea and all its consequences had been seen by her in advance? Her course was plain: that of Demosthenes was even plainer.

W. W. GOODWIN.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
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