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THE STYLE OF SOPHOCLES

BY

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PREFACE

The scope and purpose of this book are sufficiently explained in the Introduction. Revising the proofs has brought home to the writer its imperfections, but some of these are inevitable, for no attempt to analyse a great poet's style and development can be other than tentative and incomplete. The present attempt to do so in the case of Sophocles will be justified, if it helps the lovers of that supreme master of style to understand him a little better than before.

This work owes much to the help and encouragement of friends, to whom I record my thanks. My debt is greatest to Professor D. S. Robertson, who read the book in manuscript and made many useful suggestions, and to Professor T. B. L. Webster, who followed my progress throughout and besides other forms of help furnished me with references to the relevant foreign publications.

Further I wish to record my thanks to the Syndics of the University Press for accepting such a work as this in days unfavourable to learning and peculiarly inimical to Classical Studies. My thanks are due even more to the Staff and Readers of the Press for the exemplary care and skill which they have devoted to an unusually difficult task. But for that care the blemishes of the work would have been far more numerous.

F. R. E.

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