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Edited by Julius Charles Hare and Connop Thirlwall
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From the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, Latin and Greek were compulsory subjects in almost all European universities, and most early modern scholars published their research and conducted international correspondence in Latin. Latin had continued in use in Western Europe long after the fall of the Roman empire as the lingua franca of the educated classes and of law, diplomacy, religion and university teaching. The flight of Greek scholars to the West after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 gave impetus to the study of ancient Greek literature and the Greek New Testament. Eventually, just as nineteenth-century reforms of university curricula were beginning to erode this ascendancy, developments in textual criticism and linguistic analysis, and new ways of studying ancient societies, especially archaeology, led to renewed enthusiasm for the Classics. This collection offers works of criticism, interpretation and synthesis by the outstanding scholars of the nineteenth century.

The Philological Museum

This short-lived classical journal (1831–3), edited by Julius Charles Hare (1795–1855) and Connop Newell Thirlwall (1797–1875), both fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, disseminated the new comparative philology. Developed primarily in Germany – both editors were fluent German speakers – this approach critiqued biblical and classical texts and was associated with a liberal Christianity which brought the editors into conflict with the university's religious conservatism. Hare left Cambridge in 1832 to take up the family living in Herstmonceaux, Sussex, while Thirlwall was dismissed in 1834 for supporting the admission of dissenters. Both editors nevertheless continued with ecclesiastical careers, Thirlwall becoming bishop of St David's and Hare archdeacon of Lewes. This 1832 volume, containing the journal's first three issues, illuminates the tensions between classical scholarship and Anglicanism as well as the development of specialised journals in an age of general literary reviews.

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Frontmatter

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VOLUME 1

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

	PAGE
ON the Names of the Days of the Week.....	1
ON the Number of Dramas ascribed to Sophocles.....	74
ON the early Ionic Philosophers.....	86
ON certain Constructions of the Subjunctive Mood.....	96
Ancæus.....	106
Notice of Payne Knight's Nummi Veteres.....	122
Notice of Aristotle's <i>Œconomics</i> , by Goettling.....	126
ON the Messapians.....	142
Poemata Latina.....	144
ON the Jus Latii, and the Jus Italicum, from the German of Savigny.....	150
ON the Sicelians in the <i>Odyssey</i> , from the German of Niebuhr.....	174
<i>Iliadis Codex Aegyptiacus</i>	177
MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.	
ON a Passage of Thucydides, III. 91.....	188
Savigny and the <i>Edinburgh Review</i>	196
Hermann's <i>Opuscula</i>	203
Dobree's <i>Adversaria</i>	204
Professor Scholefield's <i>Æschylus</i>	209
ON the Age of the Coast-describer, Scylax of Caryanda, from the German of Niebuhr.....	245
ON the Fables of Babrius.....	280
Kruse's <i>Hellas</i>	305
ON English Adjectives.....	359
Philip of Theangela.....	373
Translation of Part of the First Book of the <i>Æneid</i>	382
ON the Accession of Darius Son of Hystaspes.....	387
ON some Passages in the Civil and Literary Chronology of Greece.....	394

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05414-0 - The Philological Museum: Volume 1

Edited by Julius Charles Hare and Connop Thirlwall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

iv

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
On the Root of <i>Εἰλέω</i> , and some of its Derivatives in the Greek, Latin, and Teutonic Languages.....	405
The Journal of Education, and Vote by Ballot in the Athenian State	420
Imaginary Conversation. Solon and Pisistratus.....	427
On the Historical References, and the Allusions in Horace, from the German of Buttmann.....	439
On Xenophon's Hellenica, from the German of Niebuhr....	485
Xenophon, Niebuhr, and Delbrueck.....	498
On certain Passages in the Fourth and Fifth Books of the Architecture of Vitruvius.....	536
On a Passage in Xenophon's Hellenica, i. 6.....	555
The Comic Poet Antiphanes.....	558
On the Names of the Antehellenic Inhabitants of Greece..	609
De Pausaniae Stilo Augusti Boeckhii Prolusio Academica...	628
On certain Fragments quoted by Herodian the Grammarian.	632
On English Orthography.....	640
On English Diminutives.....	679
MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.	
Etymology of <i>Γύλιππος</i>	687
Conjecture on a Passage of Æschylus.....	687
Correction of a Passage of Euripides.....	688
Sir William Joneses Division of the Day.....	689

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05414-0 - The Philological Museum: Volume 1

Edited by Julius Charles Hare and Connop Thirlwall

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

A CONSIDERABLE period has now elapsed during which, among the multitude of journals published in England, there has been none wholly, or even mainly, devoted to classical literature. The *Museum Criticum* came to a close some years ago, owing to the removal of the distinguished persons, by whom it had been set on foot and mainly supported, to higher stations and more important cares: and its cessation was followed before long by that of the *Classical Journal*. Our principal reviews too have for some time altogether abandoned the discussion of philological questions, which in their earlier numbers were occasionally handled with much learning and ingenuity; and when they leave the topics of the day to touch upon subjects connected with Greece or Rome, they are wont to regard them in a literary rather than in a philological point of view: in which course no doubt they are perfectly right; for it is only by such a mode of treatment that they can hope to interest the great body of their readers. Nor have philological pursuits been carried on much more vigorously in the other departments of our literature. With the exception of one great work on ancient chronology, of which, as its author is one of our fellow-labourers, we may not speak more distinctly, the mite which England has contributed during the five years from 1825 to 1830 toward the increase of our knowledge concerning classical antiquity, is in truth little more than a mite. A number of books indeed have come out designed to facilitate

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

the study of Greek; several grammars, several lexicons, most of them translated or abridged from the German: some of the most important German works on ancient history and the constitutions of the ancient states have been laid before the English reader. But this is pretty nearly all that has been done. Yet surely it is not well that this should be all: it is not well that we should import all our knowledge from abroad, and let our own intellects lie waste. Grammars and dictionaries effect very little, if they produce nothing more than grammars and dictionaries: and if Niebuhr and Müller and Bœckh do not excite some of their readers to think and look about them, they might as well have been allowed to remain in the obscurity of their native language.

But we will not deem despondingly of the prospects of classical literature in England. True, it has much to contend against: the cares and anxieties of political life,—the imperious calls of business,—the pursuit of mammon, from which, when once engaged therein, it is almost impossible to fly, and in which we are borne along every moment more rapidly and more irresistibly,—the ever encroaching intrusions of frivolous society,—the palsyng fascination of a frivolous literature,—the vanity that debases us into the slaves of these and so many other tyrants,—all these and a number of other causes are in full action to withdraw us from the calm and quiet groves where we might repose under the shade of antiquity. Yet strong as these agents are, it is not quite impossible to withstand them. Our ancestors have taken such good care to lay deep and stable foundations for sound learning, and to make classical studies the main element in our system of education, that they still retain their place in the first rank at our schools and universities; and not a few persons leave those universities every year, richly furnished with the knowledge and qualifications requisite to prepare

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05414-0 - The Philological Museum: Volume 1

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.

iii

them for becoming accomplisht scholars. A large portion of these no doubt soon change their course, and pass away on the other side: they enter into some house of greater business, and lay out their talents in some more profitable fund. But we cherish a hope that there are many who through life retain an affection for the studies of their boyhood; many who will not be unwilling to lend their aid in forwarding the knowledge and the love of ancient literature; still more who will take some degree of interest in whatever tends to throw light on that literature, and to make us better acquainted and more familiar with the ancient Greeks and Romans. Indeed the present year has produced some satisfactory proofs that the spirit of philological criticism, if it has been dormant, is reawakening amongst us, in Mr Keightley's *Mythology*, and the *History of Rome* publisht by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

It is with a view to foster that spirit, and to supply it with the means of expressing itself, that the *Philological Museum* has been undertaken. Many valuable observations have been lost, from the want of any mode of communicating them to the world: many persons have been deterred by the same reason from following out thoughts such as in the course of our studies are perpetually suggesting themselves; or, what amounts to the same thing, they have wanted sufficient inducement to do so. The editors of the *Philological Museum* hope that no small number of such persons will avail themselves of it, and will be excited by it to prosecute and work out their speculations in the various regions of philology. Contributions from such as are willing to assist them they will thankfully receive: the only qualities they think themselves bound to require, are temperance in the style, and soundness in the matter.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

With regard to the range of subjects that they purpose, if their undertaking prospers, to embrace, it is not easy to lay down any precise line of demarcation. No inquiry that comes under the head of philology, no topic connected with it, will be altogether excluded. Their main attention will however be directed toward the two colossal edifices that stand forth amid the ruins of the ancient world: their main object will be, so far as in them lies, and as the kind help of their friends will enable them, to illustrate the language, the literature, the philosophy, the history, the manners, the institutions, the mythology, and the religion of Greece and Rome. Biblical criticism will now and then be introduced; and so will dissertations on Oriental literature, when they are not, as such things mostly are, either too heavy or too light. Occasionally too they hope to give biographical accounts of eminent scholars, and of some of those remarkable persons, who, about the time of the revival of letters, made use of the Latin language as the vehicle for conveying their thoughts, and who lived as much in a by-gone and imaginary world, as in the every-day world about them. Nor will the philology of modern languages be regarded as forbidden ground. In a word, every subject that concerns antiquity, and can be treated philologically, comes within the compass of the plan which has been laid down for the Philological Museum.

The editors hope to publish three numbers, forming a volume, in the course of a year, and are desirous, if possible, to bring them out on the first of November, of February, and of May.

J. C. H.