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Pylos—The Attack on Koryphasion.—A Note

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PYLOS—THE ATTACK ON KORYPHASION.—A NOTE.

IN a recent controversy on Pylos and Sphacteria in the *Classical Review*, one of the questions raised was as to the identity of the wall which the Peloponnesians proposed to attack with engines (Thuc. iv. 13). I maintained that it was a wall filling up a gap at the north end of the eastern cliff of Koryphasion (Palaeokastro). It was urged against me that it was a wall at the extreme south end of this cliff, coming down to the actual edge of the Sikia Channel. I have pointed out various objections to this view, but there is one which occurred to me the other day, while reading Thucydides' narrative, which I did not urge in my article, but which is, as it seems to me, a very important one.

Thucydides says (iv. 23) that, *after* the Athenians had got command of Navarino Bay, and after, too, they had on the terms of the armistice got hold of the Peloponnesian fleet, the Peloponnesians continued to make attacks upon the wall. It seems practically certain that this wall is the same as that which they proposed to attack with

engines. But I venture to maintain that had this wall mentioned been on the shore of the Sikia Channel at the south end of the eastern cliff, attack on it by land would have been impossible with the Athenian fleet in command of that channel. The ships could have sailed close in shore and have attacked the assailants in flank in such a way as to render their position untenable and the attempt hopeless, for it must be remembered that it could not in any case have been more than the extreme end of the cliff on the very edge of the channel itself which would be assailable. How effectively ships could be used against a land force where circumstances permitted of their employment can be seen from the account which Pausanias gives (x. 19, 4) of the way in which the Athenian galleys were used at Thermopylae in defending the pass against the attack of Brennus and his Gauls.

I should not have written this note, were not the point in dispute of considerable importance in the Pylos story.

G. B. GRUNDY.

A CORRECTION IN *AGAMEMNON* 735.

- 727 χρονισθεῖς δ' ἀπέδειξεν
 ἦθος τὸ πρόσθε τοκήων
 χάριν τροφᾶς γὰρ ἀμείβων
 730 μηλοφόνουσιν ἐν ἄταις (?)
 δαῖτ' ἀκέλευστος ἔτευξεν—
 αἵματι δ' οἶκος ἐφύρθη—
 ἄμαχον ἄλγος οἰκέταις,
 μέγα σίνος πολυκτόνον
 735 ἐκ θεοῦ δ' ἱερεὺς τις ἄτας δόμοις †προσε-
 τράφη†.

Heath's conjecture *προσεθρέφθη*, which most modern editors have permitted to appear in their texts without impugning its claim, cannot be seriously defended. It defies the rules of scientific emendation, and has not the merit of yielding a satisfactory sense (since *προς-* is pointless). It is quite inconceivable that any scribe should have deliberately changed the metrical *προσεθρέφθη* into the unmetrical *προσετράφη*; and it would be equally hard to explain how the same change could have been produced by accidental error. Alive to the impossibility

of Heath's reading, Mr. Verrall, in his edition of the *Agamemnon*, proposes and adopts *προσετράφη*, which he interprets 'was directed to.' The obvious objection to this lies in the circumstance that *προστρέπω* is always found in the special sense of *supplication*; and I should have some difficulty in believing that Aeschylus would have used *προσ-τρέπω* with the literal meaning 'turn to,' unless he wished to make some point by playing on the meaning 'supplicate.' *προσετράφη*, if it were in the MSS., would be so unnatural as to invite the emendator's art; as an emendation, it is still harder to acquiesce in.

We have not to go so far to seek for the uniquely appropriate word. The sense required is 'was inflicted upon the house,' and the Greek for 'inflict on' is *προστρίβειν*. The restored line is:

ἐκ θεοῦ δ' ἱερεὺς τις ἄτας δόμοις *προσετρίφθη*.

The reading of M *προσετράφη* is a corruption