University of Sydney.

The

Agamemnon

of

Aeschylus

Performed by students of the University

Monday, June 14th, at 8 p.m.,

and

Tuesday, June 15th, at 8 p.m., 1886,

In the Great Hall of the University.

Sydney:

Gibbs, Shallard, & Co., Printers to the University,

Hosking Place, 84a Pitt Street.

1886
DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Watchman - Mr. G. F. Barbour
Clytaemnestra - Mr. H. A. Russell
Herald - Mr. E. J. Loxton
Agamemnon - Mr. R. R. Garran
Cassandra - Mr. G. H. Leibius
Agisthus - Mr. L. E. F. Neill

CHORUS OF ARGIVE ELDERS:

First Elder - Mr. W. A. Walker
Second Elder - Mr. N. V. Fletcher
Third Elder - Mr. G. H. Abbott
Fourth Elder - Mr. A. Bode
Fifth Elder - Mr. C. J. Watt
Sixth Elder - Mr. F. Higgins
Seventh Elder - Mr. O. M. Bohrsman
Eighth Elder - Mr. S. S. Shirlow
Ninth Elder - Mr. G. C. King
Tenth Elder - Mr. E. C. Robison
Eleventh Elder - Mr. S. A. Thompson
Twelfth Elder - Mr. R. A. Thompson

The First Solo is by the Fourth Elder
The Second Solo " Fifth Elder
The Third Solo " First Elder
The Fourth Solo " First Elder
The Fifth Solo " Sixth Elder
The Sixth Solo " Seventh Elder
The Seventh Solo " Fourth Elder
The Eighth Solo " First Elder.

MUTÆ PERSONÆ.

ATTENDANTS OF AGAMEMNON:

Mr. H. A. Wood
Mr. A. Henry
Mr. A. Sendall
Mr. W. P. L. Thompson

ATTENDANTS OF CLYTAEMNESTRA:

Mr. A. G. Saddingdon
Mr. J. Hester.

Composer of Music and Chorodidascalus:

Mr. Hector Maclean.

Leaders of the Orchestra:

Herr Kretchmann and Mr. G. Rivers Allpress

Stage Architect and Dramatic Superintendent:

Mr. B. N. Jones.

The Committee take this opportunity of rendering their best thanks to Mr. Hector Maclean, who has composed the Music, and superintended its production; and also to the Members of the Supplementary Chorus, to Herr Kretchmann, and the Orchestra.
ARGUMENT.

THE scene is laid at Argos, in front of the palace of Agamemnon. The play opens with a recital by the watchman of the toils of his long watching for the beacon-signal appointed to announce the fall of Troy. In the midst of his speech he sees the welcome light, and hastens to tell the news to Clytaemnestra.

The Chorus of Argive Elders now enter, singing of the expedition against Troy; and as the Queen crosses the stage to offer sacrifice, they ask, in surprise, the meaning of the signs of joy which they see around them. In the ode which follows, they tell of the sacrifice of Iphigenia, and express their hopes and fears concerning the issue of the war.

Clytaemnestra enters, and announces to the Chorus the fall of Troy, describing the beacon-fires which brought the news, and picturing the scene in the captured city. She adds a hint that vengeance may await the conquerors.

In the ode which follows, the Chorus sing of the justice of Zeus, who has thus avenged the wrong done by Paris. They describe the sorrow caused by the flight of Helen lament the fate of the many Greeks who have fallen before Troy, and express fear lest the dear-bought success of Agamemnon may be followed by disaster. But they still doubt the truth of the news that Troy has fallen.

Their doubts are set at rest by the arrival of a Herald from the army, who announces the approach of Agamemnon.

Clytaemnestra sends a message of welcome to her husband, with many professions of her loyalty and affection.

The Herald, in answer to the questions of the Chorus, describes the sufferings of the Greek army during the siege, and the storm in which Menelaus was lost during the return of the fleet.

The Chorus sing of the ruin wrought by Helen, and describe the mischief bred of presumption in prosperity.

Agamemnon now appears in his chariot, bringing with him the captive prophetess Cassandra.

The Chorus receive the king with an assurance of their sincere loyalty, and a warning to be on his guard against flatterers and traitors.

Agamemnon salutes the gods, and declares that justice has been done on Troy.

Clytaemnestra welcomes her husband, protesting her love for him and her grief during his absence, and bids him enter the palace walking on the purple robes spread for his reception.

Agamemnon at first refuses to accept an honour due only to the gods, whose jealousy he fears to rouse by acts of gratitude; but at length, overborne by the persistence of the Queen, he complies with her request.

The Chorus sing a short ode expressing their forebodings of coming disaster.

Clytaemnestra returns from the palace, and harshly bids Cassandra go in and take her place among the household slaves. Cassandra pays no heed to her words, and the Queen leaves her in anger.

Cassandra is seized by a prophetic frenzy, and sees, in successive visions, first the old crime of Atreus, and then Agamemnon's approaching death and her own. The Chorus express their sympathy, but fail to understand her when she speaks of the murder of Agamemnon. She tells of the vengeance that will come by the hand of Orestes, and goes in fearlessly to meet her fate.

The Chorus sing of the danger of too great prosperity, such as has befallen Agamemnon.

Suddenly the King's death-cry is heard within. The Chorus, in their confusion, are doubting what to do, when Clytaemnestra appears, standing over the dead bodies of Agamemnon and Cassandra. She boldly avows the deed, attributes it to the working of the curse that haunts the house of Atreus, and declares Agamemnon's death to be a just retribution for the sacrifice of Iphigenia. The Chorus express their horror, and threaten her with punishment.

Aegisthus enters. He relates the terrible story of the crime of Atreus, and exults in the vengeance that has overtaken Agamemnon. The Chorus, indignant, refuse to accept Aegisthus as their ruler, threaten him with retribution by the hands of Orestes, and are preparing to resist him by force, when Clytaemnestra comes forward to prevent further bloodshed, and leads him into the palace.
COMMITTEE.

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