

APPENDIX C

WILLIAM WARDLAW WADDELL

THOSE who have studied the *Parmenides* with the attention it deserves do not hesitate to pronounce it, alike on the critical and the exegetical side, as a work entitling the editor to a place among our most distinguished Greek scholars. When such scholars as Geddes, Gunion Rutherford, Mahaffy, R. D. Hicks, J. Adam, E. C. Wickham (Dean of Lincoln), and Ingram Bywater all vie with one another in doing honour to William Waddell's scholarship as evidenced by this book, it may be taken for granted that his fame is secure among Platonic scholars.

Mr. George F. Warner, M.A., Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts, British Museum, bears interesting testimony to the palaeographical value of the *Parmenides*. He writes: 'Being especially interested in the *Arethas* MSS. [those which belonged about 1,000 years ago to Archbishop Arethas, of which the Clarke Plato is one], I have no hesitation in bearing testimony to the great value of the palaeographical portion of the book. It is characterised, in fact, by an insight and thoroughness which have left no point of interest unnoticed.'

William Waddell's unassuming modesty characterised him throughout his life. After leaving Oxford, he applied in 1874 for an Inspectorship of Schools. This was granted to him, and he held it to the end of his life.

Shortly before Christmas, 1889, he published his *Verses and Imitations in Greek and Latin* (the title page bears the date of 1890), and it gave much satisfaction, both by its scholarship and humour, to his many friends. Among those who wrote to him about it were Dr. W. Gunion Rutherford, who valued it very highly; and the late William Paton Ker, Fellow of All Souls, and Professor of Poetry at Oxford, who said: 'Your book is a proof of what I have long believed—that one is bound to come back to the Greek and Latin, whatever one's divagations may have been into new fields.'

William Waddell had some interesting correspondence with Gladstone. In 1869 Mr. Gladstone published his *Juventus*

Mundi. On page 58 he states: 'In contemporary language of the poet [Homer], *Agrios* had come to mean savage and cruel, and is so applied to Poluphemos (*Od.* ix. 215, 494). . . . The word is never used to describe the passion, or the cruelty, of Achilles.' William Waddell while at Balliol College, Oxford, must have read this book; and on November 21, 1871, evidently drew Mr. Gladstone's attention to the fact that in two passages of the *Iliad* (ix. 629 and xxii. 312) Homer applies the epithet to Achilles. Mr. Gladstone, in a letter dated 10 Downing Street, Whitehall, November 24, 1871, writes:—

'I have to thank you for your note of 21st. The passage in the work called *Juventus Mundi*, to which you are so good as to call my attention, is certainly inaccurate as it stands. I think it might properly be altered thus:—

"The word is not used by the poet to describe the character of Achilles, though it is applied to his violent emotion; as it is also employed to describe the anger not only of Hephaistos in *Od.* viii. 304, but of Athene in *Il.* iv. 23 and viii. 460."

'Within the sentence so altered, I think the passages, *Il.* ix. 629 and xxii. 312, obviously fall. The ἄγριος ἄνηρ is used by Skamandros of his enemy in xxi. 314; as we find the Trojans calling Diomed ἄγριος αἰχμητῆς (*sic*) [αἰχμητῆς]. It is directly applied to Poluphemos in *Od.* ii. 19, and in *Il.* iii. 23 we have ἄγριον αἶγα for a wild goat. These usages, I think, support my general proposition, which is that the epithet signifies properly what is untamed, uncultured, and violent in consequence, so as to connect it with sense of *agrestis* in my citation, and with the meaning of Ἄργειος for which I have argued.

'I fear I cannot now pursue the matter further; but I must apologise for having expressed myself upon it without the care and accuracy which your note displays.

'With every good wish for your present and future studies.
I remain, etc.,

W. E. GLADSTONE.'

In 1896 William Waddell sent a copy of his *Parmenides* to Mr. Gladstone, who wrote to him from Hawarden, July 4, '96: 'I thank you much for deeming me worthy to possess a copy of your edition of the *Parmenides*, so worthy in its form of the great philosopher, while I am sensible how little worthy I am of the terms in which you have inscribed it to me. I remain, dear sir, your very faithful (signed) W. E. Gladstone.'

One is struck with the fine old-fashioned courtesy of the great man in both letters, the one so promptly acknowledging the

correction of the young scholar, the other so modestly estimating himself.

Among other letters to him are an interesting and characteristic one from Ruskin, and a very kind one from Jowett, the Master of Balliol.

During the writing of his great edition of the *Parmenides* William Waddell wrote to Jowett expressing disappointment in the result of his studies, and evidently hinted at giving them up for more practical work. 'The Master' wrote (April 3, 1890) telling him how highly some judges thought of what they had seen of the book, and begged him not to give it up. While admitting the importance of practical work, he wrote: 'but scholarship lends a grace to it, and may give weight to the person who is engaged in it.' Jowett's advice and encouragement were not lost on him, and he published his great work in 1894. In 1897 St. Andrews University, and in 1899 Glasgow University, offered him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, but both he respectfully declined. The reception which his *Parmenides* received among scholars undoubtedly encouraged him, and gave him sufficient confidence to offer himself as a candidate for the Chair of Greek in Glasgow when Professor Gilbert Murray resigned in 1899. He received splendid testimonials, and his old college friends rallied round him, showing how fully they appreciated his scholarship and how deeply rooted he was in their affections as a man.

Glasgow chose at this time Professor J. S. Phillimore, who, after holding the Greek Chair for several years, was appointed to the Humanity Chair, which he has held with distinction.

Among letters from old college friends at this time were very kind ones from Mr. Asquith, Professor A. C. Bradley, Sir Herbert Warren, President of Magdalen, Sir H. Craik, Arthur L. Smith, late Master of Balliol, and Sir Thomas Raleigh, D.C.L. (Oxon.), Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford. The last was a friend who much enjoyed a joke with him! Raleigh looked forward to him when a 'lordly Professor, with six months holiday in the year,' coming out to Simla and teaching them 'to exist beautifully. As it is we exist hurriedly.' . . . He says: 'I often long unspeakably to turn into All Souls' Common Room, and the thought of the approaching Balliol dinner is almost too much for me. I wish you a temperate enjoyment of that feast, and a safe return to the Euston Hotel. Remember me to any who remember me,' etc. Waddell had some amusing hexameters on Raleigh written on the back of a letter of Professor Lushington's, bubbling with his quiet humour.

When the Greek Chair went past him Waddell settled down to his regular duties, devoting his leisure specially to art, which in all its forms had been a life-long study and delight. This was well known to all his friends, who, while chiefly impressed with his masterly knowledge of Greek, always acknowledged that he was a man of large and liberal culture.

His numerous and carefully arranged notes show how thoroughly he gave himself to his aesthetic studies. Unknown even to his nearest relatives, he was working hard up to the time of his death on a work which he intended to designate *A First Historic Grammar of Art*.

On February 28 [1903] he writes to his brother Hately: 'Yet a third missive, which may catch you before you vanish. You asked me some time ago as to something Jessie had told you about my writing a book. My answer was correct at the date. But since then I have "castigated" twice over and amplified until the thing has taken a definite shape, and I am consulting about its publication in London. I don't know the nature of your work, but here (privately) is a synopsis of mine.

'I would like it published on sort of India paper, and with photo illustrations if possible. But all that is "on the knees of the Gods." In much haste, your affectionate brother, W. W. W.'

This work was intended to embrace the periods of I. Pre-Christian Art; II. Christian Art; III. After Thoughts and Applications.

But suddenly, on March 22, 1903, less than a month after writing the above letter, William Waddell died at Stirling. Hately Waddell, writing to his wife from Stirling, says: 'It is very sad and pathetic to think of poor William gone, from all his books and curiosities, and all his orderly, silent methodical plans. The death of an active busy person is somehow not so touching as that of one to whom the house and its contents were his whole world. . . . He was evidently very much respected by everybody, and loved by the children. Jessie found three little urchins weeping at the gate here. I felt quite ashamed of myself when I heard the ministers and teachers and inspectors speaking so very sincerely about his worthiness, his simplicity and conscientiousness. With all his strictness, he seems quite to have gained everybody's confidence.'

It can easily be imagined what an influence the tutoring of such a brother would have on his younger brother.

Like his father and brother Hately, William Waddell had a strong sense of humour, which came out specially in letters, descriptions of travel, and in jocular lines on college companions. It comes out in unexpected places, such as the Introduction to the *Parmenides* where, describing the evolution

of his enormous task, he says: 'Metaphysics, palaeography, aesthetics, such was the writer's downward course!'

He had a very fine taste in literature, and had accumulated a library containing many very rare and valuable books, the selection of which revealed a highly trained bibliographical knowledge.

A collection was made in the schools for the purpose of placing a wreath on his grave; but the response was so liberal that even after providing three handsome floral tributes, there remained a considerable balance in hand. On being approached, his relatives, touched by the great kindness of the children, gave permission for a more lasting tribute to be placed on the grave, where it took the form of a beautiful stone of grey granite, on which was the inscription:—'W. W. Waddell, H.M.I.S. A Tribute from the Children of Stirling, 22nd March, 1903.'

He was buried in the Glasgow Necropolis. A stone slab, simple, artistic and dignified, most appropriate to him, was erected to his memory in the East Parish Church, Stirling, by the teachers of the Stirling district.