ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS AT ATHENS. APRIL 6–12TH, 1905.

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Having been requested by the University of Durham to act as their delegate at this, the first meeting of the International Archaeological Congress, I propose to give a short account of its proceedings.

On the Sunday before the Congress assembled, the full congregation in the English church, the sound of languages other than Greek at the street corners, the full hotels, and the multitude of wayfarers armed with Murray's or Baedeker's guides, showed that the bright, dazzling, dusty city, was fast filling with members of the Ἀρχαιολογικὸν Συνέδριον. Visits to the museum and to the Acropolis pleasantly filled up for most of us the early part of the week; and some were sufficiently daring to undertake an expedition to Delphi, trusting, notwithstanding the proverbial uncertainty of Greek steamers, to get back in time for the opening of the Congress.

During these early days also, those who desired to attend the Congress were expected to present themselves at the Office (temporarily housed in the rooms of the Archaeological Society), to sign their names, and to pay the entrance fee (of 20 francs), receiving in return a badge, consisting of a small medal with the head of an archaic Athene on one side, and an owl on the other. This was called our Σύμβολον. We also received a card signed by the Minister of Public Instruction embellished by a view of the Acropolis and an engraving of the Olympian Hermes. This card had of course to be produced at all public ceremonies at which places were reserved for members of the Congress; but in addition to this it entitled the holder to a reduction of 50 per cent. on all railway fares in Greece and on the passage money charged by some of the Greek steamers. The concession is a generous one, and I availed myself of it

in part of my journey, but I doubt the wisdom of making it. Any pecuniary inducement of this kind tends in some degree to attract to the place of meeting, visitors who are not keenly interested in the scientific objects of the Congress, and so to bring down the intellectual level of the audiences, while increasing their size. This was very conspicuously the case with the *Gran Congresso Storico* at Rome in 1903. The Athenian Congress suffered much less from this cause, but I think it did suffer, and the great confluence of visitors so raised the prices at the hotels of Athens (which are now as high chargers as any in Europe), that probably we lost in our hotel bills all and more than all that we saved in our railway fares.

There were receptions of the visitors, both official and non-official, on the evening of Thursday, but the formal opening of the Congress did not take place till Friday afternoon (7th April) at 2.30 p.m. at the Acropolis. For an hour before that time all the cars and private carriages in Athens had been passing between the Theatre of Dionysius and the Odeum of Herodes Atticus, and winding their way up the long white road which, with many a needed zig-zag, leads up to the base of the Propylaea. There of necessity all passengers, even royalty itself, must alight; and having presented our cards of membership to the sentinels at the gate, we climbed up the steep steps or slippery slabs of rock which lead to the sacred plateau on which stands the Erechtheum and the Parthenon. At the west end of the great temple of the Virgin-Goddess the ceremony was to take place and there, long before the hour appointed, a considerable crowd had gathered, for the most part of course dressed in the ordinary conventional dress of Western Europe; but there were one or two brilliant exceptions—especially one middle-aged gentleman of portly presence, a senator, I believe, and representative of Patras, who appeared in a glorious garb—coat heavy with gold lace, fustanella, and shoes with big rosettes, and with many deadly weapons stuck into his belt. We were told that this identical dress was two or three centuries old, and had come down to its present eminently respectable owner from generations of "Palikar" (brigand) ancestors.

With great punctuality the royal party were seen approaching the Parthenon from the Erechtheum. First came the King, whose picture as a bright sailor lad one remembers so well from the early sixties, now a still erect and handsome man, but with face somewhat wrinkled with the cares of forty-two years of reigning, and eyes a little tired and blinking with so many years of gazing on the white streets of his capital. His wife, Queen Olga, looked pale and sad, partly no doubt on account of recent family bereavements, and partly for the heavy losses of her countrymen and friends in the terrible Japanese War.

The Crown Prince (the *Diadochos*, or Successor as he is always called) is a tall, well-built soldierly man, like his father, but with a simpler, less diplomatic expression of countenance. He was the President of the Congress (to the preparations for which he had given much time and thought) and to him of course fell the chief share in the day's proceedings. By his side walked his wife, sister of the Emperor William, and bearing a striking resemblance to the much loved and highly cultured lady her mother, whom we remember best, not as "the Empress Frederick," but as the Princess Royal of England. Prince Nicholas and one or two other members of the family followed. The Prime Minister, Delyannis, whom his admirers call "the Grand Old Man" of Greece, an elderly gentleman in plain civilian dress, appeared on the scene shortly before the royal party, and was greeted with cordial applause.[1]

When all were seated at the west end of the Parthenon, the *Diadochos* in a loud clear voice read his address in Greek, welcoming the Congress to Athens. Then followed speeches from the heads of the Archaeological Schools of France and Germany, the speaker for the latter nation being Herr Doerpfeld, who in resonant tones rehearsed the services which German savants had rendered to the cause of Greek Archaeology. I must confess that stationed as I was at the back of a crowd of some 400 or 500 persons, I saw and heard but little of what was going on, but I was just able to catch some

[1] Since the article was written Europe has been shocked by the murder of this able and patriotic minister.

part of the concluding speech delivered by Mr. Bosanquet on behalf of the English School. In these circumstances I am reduced to the necessity of quoting the description of the speeches given by an Athenian newspaper the Ἄστυ, which contains a half jocular criticism and comparison that I should not have ventured to make on my own account. The article was headed Ἡ Μετριοφροσύνη, Modesty, and was as follows :

"If there is an objection which an impartial listener would be disposed to make to the speeches delivered yesterday in the Acropolis, it would certainly not be that the speakers suffered from an excess of modesty. One after another the representatives of the various nationalities magnified the services rendered by their compatriots to the cause of Greek Archaeology, and tried to show that each nation in turn had been the chief worker in that field. The only exception was to be found in the speech of the Director of the English School, who instead of praising his countrymen, reminded his hearers of the noble deeds of those Greek patriots without whose efforts at the time of the War of Independence no such meeting as the present could have been held on the rock of the Acropolis.

"When we heard that speech we felt that the shy, white-winged goddess Modesty had not quite departed from the earth."

The speeches ended, the royal party made their way slowly between the marble blocks which cover the surface of the Acropolis; the spectators followed and soon all were scrambling down the steep steps of the Propylaea to where the carriages were waiting by the rugged Areopagus.

That evening when night fell, rockets mounting into the sky announced that the illumination of the Acropolis was about to begin. From the flat roof of our hotel we had a good view of the performance. Red and green lights played alternately upon the temple-crowned rock, and once a glare of red light in the Parthenon, mingled apparently with clouds of smoke, suggested the thought that another Xerxes or Alaric was wreaking his vengeance on the temple of the Virgin. On the whole there was something rather stagey and vulgar about the performance, and one was not sorry when it ended and the venerable ruins were left to their sleep of centuries.

The next morning we met in the large hall of the University of Athens, and there witnessed a sort of replica of the proceedings. This function, however, was academic, whereas its predecessor had been of a national

character. The *Diadochos* presided and made a short and sensible speech in French, while his father, mother, and younger brother witnessed the proceedings from a raised platform at the side of the hall. Then divers speakers delivered addresses in various languages. Conspicuous among them was Lambros, the venerable President of the University, and historian of Greece, who gave an address of welcome to the foreign delegates. He was followed by M. Collignon, President of the *Académie des inscriptions et Belles-lettres*, who replied in the name of the Academies, and by Professor Percy Gardner, who spoke for all the Universities, the seniority of the University of Oxford having with great courtesy been recognised by her sisters from Germany. In slow and measured tones well adapted to the needs of a foreign audience, this speaker dwelt on the debt all civilisation owes to Greece, and incidentally protested against the proposal to eliminate the knowledge of her language from a modern academical education. Various delegates then handed in addresses from bodies which they represented; these were for the most part "taken as read," and with their presentation the ceremony was at an end.

Ceremonial functions over, the learned assembly at last got to work. It was divided into seven sections, for most of which quarters had been provided near to the University, the great hall of which was the central cell of the whole organism. Those who have ever visited Athens will not need to be reminded of the position of this building, which with its orthodox pillars and pediments of dazzling white marble, faces the broad and handsome Ὁδος Πανεπιστημίου (Street of Universal Knowledge) in the north-eastern quarter of the city. In the large hall of this building (often darkened to allow of the illustration of lectures by lantern slides) was assembled the most important and popular of all the sections, that which dealt with *Classical Archaeology*.

The papers read in this section were, as might have been expected, chiefly concerned with the plastic art of Greece, Rome being for the time almost forgotten. M. Collignon, the well-known authority on Greek vases, discoursed on a Lecythos at the Louvre, which by the

paintings on its sides, carrying on the subject represented on the front, showed a curious but unsuccessful attempt towards perspective. Professor Waldstein manfully stood up for the statement of Pausanias—much doubted by modern art critics—according to which the sculptures on the eastern pediment of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia were executed by Paeonios and the western by Alcamenes. Dr. Philios, "Ephor of Antiquities" at Athens, discoursed on the statue of an athlete using the strigil, which goes by the name of the Apoxyomenos, and most ingeniously, by means of a cast, representing various possible positions of the missing limbs of the statue, argued as to the original intention of the sculptor with reference to the athlete's attitude. A paper by Dr. Schrader, of the German Institute of Athens, was, I believe, considered one of the most important contributions to the proceedings of this section, but I was not fortunate enough to hear it. Mr. Louis Dyer, of Oxford, discoursed on the so-called "Treasuries" at Olympia, showing cause for the belief that they were not places of deposit for money or jewels, but more like the sacristy of a Christian church, places in which the vessels and other things needed for participation in religious and festal rites by the States which founded them, were preserved.

On the last day, Professor Baldwin Brown of Edinburgh, gave a lecture illustrated by slides, on the female drapery of the Greeks as exemplified in their statues. This lecture, if reproduced, as I trust it will be, before a British audience, will doubtless awaken interest and lead to differences of opinion among his lady hearers. The second section on *Prehistoric and Oriental Archaeology* was held at the Syllogos of Parnassus, a lecture hall which is ordinarily devoted to the praiseworthy purpose of a night school for the poor lads of Athens, especially the "Lustre-boys" or shoe-blacks. It is large and commodious, and probably the fact that it is specially adapted for the exhibition of lantern pictures was one reason for its being temporarily borrowed by the archaeologists. The extraordinary interest aroused by some of the papers read before this section makes me almost inclined to retract what I have said as to the

predominant popularity of Section 1. The minds of all students of Greek Archaeology are naturally now turned with especial eagerness towards the new vistas into the prehistoric past opened by the discoveries of Schliemann and the excavators who have followed in his track, especially those who have been exploring the buried palaces of Crete. Historical students had just become reconciled—joyfully reconciled—to the fact that they must recognise the existence of a great "Mycenean" civilisation in continental Greece and the islands of the Archipelago, centuries before the date usually assigned to Homer: and now the discoveries of Mr. Arthur Evans and his compeers, in the island of Crete, seem likely to force us to the conclusion that there was another, yet earlier civilisation, which for convenience we may call after the name of the great Cretan king and lawgiver Minos; and that by studying the remains of this *Minoan* civilisation we may get back at least a thousand years before that very Siege of Troy which used to seem to us the beginning of all things in Greek History.

It was a striking proof of the interest aroused by these recent discoveries that a large, tightly-packed and miscellaneous audience—by no means consisting entirely of archaeological experts—was assembled in the darkened Hall of Parnassus to hear Mr. Arthur Evans deliver his lecture "On the classification of the successive epochs of Minoan Civilisation." Setting an example which other readers of papers might have followed with advantage, Mr. Evans had prepared a *précis* of his address in French which was distributed among his hearers. Of course this is not the place for attempting even a *précis* of that *précis*, but I may briefly state that Mr. Evans considers that we may distinguish three periods of Cretan prehistoric civilisation which he would call Early, Middle, and Late Minoan, and that even the latest of these periods (in which he places the building of the palace that he is now excavating at Knossos) may be assigned to about the thirteenth century before Christ, and is roughly contemporary with what we call the "Mycenean" age. The three great periods thus named may be subdivided into smaller periods, distinguished from one another chiefly by the character of their

pottery and other archaic works of art discovered in different strata of the excavations: and—what is most important if Mr. Evans should be thoroughly able to establish his theory—many of these periods seem to be capable of being synchronised with certain Egyptian dynasties which will enable us, at least with approximate accuracy, to assign to them fixed dates. Then below all these remains of "Minoan" civilisation, which may perhaps have begun some 2,500 years before Christ, Mr. Evans finds immensely thick deposits, the handiwork of successive generations of neolithic men, which seem to carry back the first evidences of human inhabitants in Crete to millenniums which it is impossible to calculate. The Greek newspapers, in reporting this lecture were raised to an unwonted pitch of enthusiasm and spoke of the discoverer by the appropriate title of Ὁ Πολύς Ἔβανς, the Manifold Evans. Such were the fascinating speculations developed in our hearing in the hot and darkened room of Syllogos Parnassos.

I am not going to attempt to describe the proceedings at any of the other sections, hardly any of which I was myself able to attend.

Section 3. Excavations and Museums. The Preservation of Monuments held its sittings in the hall of the Archaeological Society, about five minutes' walk from the University.

Section 4. Epigraphy and Numismatics, was located in the hall of the French School.

Section 5. Geography and Topography, in that of the German Institute.

Section 6. Byzantine Archaeology, in the hall of the Academy (closely adjoining the University).

Section 7. In some respects the most important of all the sections, and one which might well claim a Congress meeting all to itself, was on the Teaching of Archaeology, and was held in the hall of the National Library.

Now, in reviewing the whole proceedings of the Congress, what is the impression left on the mind of one who was certainly an interested, if necessarily only a superficial observer?

In the first place one feels that great praise is due to the organisers and promoters of the meeting, among whom the names of Cavvadias (General Director of Museums at Athens), Lambros (Rector of the Athenian University), Doerpfeld (Principal of the German Institute), and Holleau (Director of the French School at Athens), deserve special mention. The arrangements had been carefully thought out beforehand; there were but few cases of papers announced and not delivered, or delivered at other times than those specified; the rooms were well adapted for the delivery of the addresses assigned to them, and all the arrangements for the comfort and convenience of visitors were generously and wisely made. And here one must especially emphasise the genial and business-like behaviour of the Crown Prince, whose Presidency of the Congress was by no means merely formal, and the hearty interest which the King and the various members of the royal family showed in its proceedings.

What little one has to say by way of criticism or complaint is not peculiar to this Congress, but will probably be found to be applicable to the conduct of all Congresses in which men of various nationalities take part. I think it must be admitted that we have not yet surmounted the difficulties arising from "the Confusion of Tongues." It is one thing to be able to read with ease a paper written in a foreign language, on a subject with which one has already some acquaintance, and quite another thing to be able to take in, by the ear, information contained in the same language on an unfamiliar subject by a learned man, who is perhaps but little accustomed to public speaking, and who, conscious generally of having somewhat overstepped the time limit allotted to him, keeps his eyes fixed upon the paper before him, and rushes through his discourse like a motor-car, instead of giving a hand to his uninstructed hearers and gently leading them through the mazes of his learning. To sit and listen under these conditions to a series of essays, of each of which one has only just succeeded in gathering the import when the writer is already drawing to a conclusion, is (as Carlyle says of Coleridge's long monologues):—"Exhilarating to no creature":—and the natural result

in this case was that as a rule the audience was in a continual state of flux, the Germans listening to a German like Doerpfeld or Furtwaengler and passing out of the hall when he had finished, and the English doing the like with Evans or Gardner.

To a certain extent, as I have said, this is inevitable. Probably nothing but practice, at least some months of practice, would enable an Englishman who has learned French or German well from books, to take in easily by the ear a long discourse on a scientific subject. But much might be done to lessen the difficulty. Whenever one had an abstract of the lecture in one's hand and knew the chief points on which the speaker was going to dilate, one could follow even the addresses in one's own language with more interest and profit: and with those delivered in a foreign tongue, such an abstract made all the difference between comprehension and bewilderment. It was announced in the rules that "French should be the official language of the Congress." If it were an imperative rule that every speaker, before reading his paper should forward a pretty full *précis* of it to the secretaries, indicating the chief points which he desired to establish, and if such a *précis* in French were in the hands of every member of his audience before he began to speak, I feel sure that he would be rewarded by the sympathy of a much more attentive and far less bored audience than he has to face under present conditions, and that the Congress would be far more serviceable than it can be under its present administration. Even then, however, it seems to me that the organisers of such a Congress would do wisely to avoid filling their programmes quite so full as they do at present. Four papers, which was the usual fare provided for the audience at each sitting of the Congress, were rather too much to be easily assimilated in the time.

There was a slight feeling of hurry and of pressure, and partly in consequence of this, there was very little discussion, even when the writer of the paper had advanced some propositions which were very susceptible of argument, and when there were experts among the audience well fitted to raise an interesting discussion upon them. In my opinion, two, or at most three papers,

perhaps in some cases commented upon and explained in another language for the benefit of those who were not familiar with the language in which they were written, and followed by an animated discussion, would have better sustained the interest of the meetings than those which were actually delivered, and would have done more to awaken a genuine interest in archaeological science, a result at which an international congress ought surely to aim.

As I am in a critical vein, I must add that I do not think the Athenian newspapers greatly distinguished themselves by their reports of the proceedings of the Congress. All the ceremonial part, the royal procession up to the Acropolis, the speech of the *Diadochos*, the banquets and the routes were of course fully reported. But the work of the authors of papers met with but slight recognition. Even those which were written in Greek had generally less than a dozen lines allotted to them in the best of the Athenian papers, and those written in English, French or German had often only a line mentioning their title as it appeared upon the programme, if even that. Want of space could not be pleaded as an excuse for this unworthy treatment of the subject. In the newspaper to which I have already referred, the "Asty," and which did, I believe, give the fullest accounts of the Congress proceedings, one or two columns daily were devoted to a sketch of the career of the Empress Josephine: an interesting subject doubtless, and good padding for a journal short of news, but one which might surely have waited even for a few days till the Congress had run its course. One could not help thinking how differently any of the best newspapers in London, Paris or Berlin would have dealt with the situation. One thing which made the Greek newspapers less attractive to us foreigners was the habit, amusing but annoying, which the Greeks have adopted of changing the spelling of foreign names in the vain hope of securing their right pronunciation. Thus, as the Greeks always pronounce B as V, they represent our B by the absurd combination ΜΠ. J is Δ Ζ and H is Χ. This transliteration makes the study of the ordinary news of the day a difficult and tantalising process. It is, for instance,

some time before one recognises the name of the Russian General Kaulbars under the disguise of Καουλμπαρς. But with the names of the savants who took part in the Congress, the dark divinities of the Athenian Printing Offices had even a freer—if inky—hand, and wild work they made of some of them. Professor Mahaffy indeed was very fairly represented by Μάχαφυ, but Mr. Cecil Smith, of the British Museum, lost his second name altogether and appeared in the papers as Κ. Θίθιλ. Professor Percy Gardner's two names were run together into one and emerged from the printing office as Περσιγκαρν, surely "a new chapter" in Greek onomatology. Professor Harry of Cincinnati appeared as χαρν, Professor Dyer of Oxford as Δαγερ, and Professor Baldwin Brown of Edinburgh as Χαλβιν Μπρουν. Sir Richard Jebb's name becomes in modern Greek Δζεμπμπ (Dzempmp), a truly appalling combination, especially when one adds to it the third MP to which he is entitled as a representative of the University of Cambridge. In one case at least the change was so great as to make the name altogether unrecognisable. What possible justification could a printer have for rendering the name of Professor Jorgensen, of Copenhagen, Ζέμερνσεμ. The fact is that if you will allow writers and printers to transliterate names according to their ideas of their pronunciation, there is no limit to the absurdities that may follow. The only safe rule is to copy as exactly as possible the national spelling of the name and to learn the pronunciation as well as you can. Where the receiving language has not got the required letter in its alphabet, as in the case of V or W with the Greeks, it may perhaps be allowed to manufacture an equivalent (writing Victoria Βικτωρια and William Οὐιλλιαμ) but it would be far better even in such a case to recognise the deficiency and to reproduce the name as spelt in the letters of Western Europe.

At one of the later sittings of the Congress the important question of the date and place of the next meeting was decided in favour of Cairo for 1909. There is a certain obvious fitness in the choice. The well-known words of Napoleon may be addressed to archaeologists much more suitably than to soldiers:—"From

yonder pyramids thirty"—say rather fifty—"centuries are looking down upon you." One may, however, be permitted to doubt whether it is altogether desirable to hold the Congress in a place where one aspect of Archaeology will be so certain to dominate the whole proceedings. It cannot be denied that Greek sculpture and Greek architecture occupied the foremost place in the thoughts and speech of all of us at Athens. In the same way Egyptology will apparently be the one great theme of discussion at Cairo. Might it not be better, as a rule, to hold the meetings of the Congress in some place like Paris, London, Geneva or even Washington, where one special phase of Archaeology would have less absolute dominion, and where fruit might be gathered off various branches of the tree of antiquity? One might also allude to the fact that to hold forth on Archaeology at Athens or Cairo is like "preaching to the converted": everyone who visits either of these places is by the necessity of the case already more or less of an archaeological student. What one wants to do is to get hold of the busy money-making men of one of the great cities of the Present, to make them understand the spell which is cast over us by the study of the Past, and to persuade them to give that noble science its true place in the education of our people and to have its modest, its very modest, claims for help recognised by all Chancellors of the Exchequer.

Having, however, just hinted these doubts as to the expediency of holding the Archaeological Congress in a place of such absorbing archaeological interest as Athens, let me close by expressing the delight which all the members must have felt at finding themselves in such a place, and greeted with such a welcome. To wake up in the morning, gazing on Hymettos and Pentelicos, to visit the Acropolis in the evening when the fierce heat of the sun was abating, and look forth upon Aegina and Salamis—these were our daily possibilities. And then the garden parties so admirably arranged in the grounds of the various archaeological schools—what opportunities they gave for making or renewing acquaintances, in some cases for getting speech of illustrious men with whom we had corresponded for years without ever looking on their

faces! Much, as I have already hinted, was added to the success of the meeting by the heartiness with which the royal family of Greece threw themselves into the reception by Athens of her guests. Especially was this manifested when the King and Queen came in state to assist at the opening of the new Library at the British School. This library, a large and handsome room, has been raised as a memorial to the late Mr. Penrose, first Director of the School. It was good to hear the terms of cordial appreciation in which men of other nationalities than our own, spoke of the character and the work of this honoured Englishman.

The event, however, upon which all Congressists will look back with most vivid remembrance, was the performance of the "Antigone" by members of the "Society for the representation of Ancient Dramas," on Monday afternoon. The play was performed at one end of the vast marble Hippodrome, which has been erected at enormous expense, on the site of the old Stadium, not far from the Temple of Jupiter Olympius. This great, white, horse-shoe shaped cavity in the hill to the south of Athens is now one of the most conspicuous features in the Athenian landscape, and when one walks up the long *spina* towards the broad curving apse at the end, one is half-dazzled by the white splendour of those acres of marble seating. When the Stadium is opened next year for the celebration of athletic contests and chariot races, it will hold it is said 50,000 spectators: even now the end partitioned off for the dramatic performance held, I believe, 10,000. The best places, save those occupied by the royal family, were reserved for the Congressists, who, with badge on breast, and ticket in hand, climbed the marble terraces to their seats. It needs not to be said that no roof or even awning was there to cover us. Had there been rain, no shelter from it would have been possible; but the clear sky of Attica was not unfaithful to its old character. Not a cloud spotted the blue: and the only inconvenience that one sustained was from the beams of the Sun-god, even then, in early April, too fierce to be quite enjoyable. Soon, however, all sense of discomfort from the heat was swallowed up in the genuine and absorbing interest of the drama. Punctually at

2 p.m. the members of the royal family (those of them who had not been summoned to Corfu to meet the much travelling Kaiser Wilhelm) entered the royal box and the performance began. The two sisters, Antigone and Ismene talked together, bewailing the calamities that had befallen their house. Antigone expressed her indignation at Creon's decree, forbidding all Thebans to give burial to the dead body of her brother Polynices. Ismene, the tender and shrinking maiden, was for bowing in sorrow to the decree, while the nobler Antigone declared her determination to disobey it. They disappeared, and the chorus of Theban senators came upon the scene. To me the choruses were the most enjoyable part of the performance. It was delightful to sit with the Greek text before one and hear the old familiar favourites, Πολλὰ τὰ δεινὰ and Ἔρως ἀνίκατε μάχαν, chanted by strong, manly voices, under the real Attic sky and within sight of the Acropolis and Lycabettos.

I need not go through the various scenes of the drama. Creon was, of course, loud, dictatorial, self-important. If the Imperial visitor could have spared time to come from Corfu to Athens, he would have played the part to admiration. One of the most effective parts was that of the Phylax, a rough, meanly clad sentinel who, with blushing and confusion of face, had to tell his master that through the lack of vigilance of himself and his mates the body of Polynices had been buried by some unknown sympathiser. At this Creon is seized with a paroxysm of rage and he threatens death to the faithless sentinels.

The sly aside of the sentinel, "If I once get away from this place, see if I ever come back into your presence," was effectively uttered and much applauded by the audience.

Then came the discovery that Antigone was the transgressor against the law, and the stormy scene between her and Creon. This part of the play was not to my mind very successful. Antigone (represented by a stout married lady) was too self-possessed, one might almost say too much of a virago, trying to outstorm the king by her invectives.

I believe that Sophocles meant to give the clue to

her character by that beautiful line (the most heartily applauded of any in the play),

οὔτοι συνέχθειν ἀλλὰ συμφιλεῖν ἔφυν.[1]

Antigone is not naturally a spirit of strife or rebellion. She does not hate even her domineering uncle, and it gives her no pleasure to set herself against her country's laws. It is only the fulness of her love for her dead brother, "the pity of it" that his poor mangled corpse should be left to dogs and vultures to devour, that nerves her to her act of pious revolt and forces her into collision with unpitying power.

Next in merit to the sly sentinel, if not above him, most of the spectators with whom I talked were inclined to rank the aged seer Teiresias, who came in with feebly sliding step and blindly groping eyes, with one hand resting on the shoulder of a bright Athenian boy, to warn Creon of the dangers impending over his house if he persisted in his stern resolve to punish Antigone's pious disobedience with death. Very finely represented was the old man's spiritual grapple with the king. Teiresias, in his utter bodily weakness, strong in his conviction that he spoke the will of the Gods: Creon, in all the plenitude of his kingly power, half defying the aged seer and half cringing before him.

Those who sat where they could see behind the scenes said that it was a refreshing sight to see the agility with which, after this scene was ended, the blind old seer (a young man of three and twenty) ran and bounded over the stadium as soon as he believed himself to be free from the observation of the audience.

Young Haemon, Antigone's lover, was represented as a gay and gallant spark, and it must be confessed that when, after his suicide, he was brought in upon the stage as if on an ambulance, one was a little more disposed towards laughter than towards tears. But on the whole the effect of the play (acted, it must be remembered, by amateurs) was good, and as the audience descended from their places and streamed out over the long white galleries, it was not a hopeless impossibility to persuade ourselves that we had been witnessing the

[1] "I was not made for fellowship in hate, but fellowship in Love."

representation of a Sophoclean drama at a genuine Dionysiac festival. Some difficulty however was caused by the modern Athenian pronunciation, regulated entirely by accent and regardless of quantity. This seemed to me sometimes to destroy the regular beat of the Iambic rhythm: one noticed the conflict less in the irregular choric metres. And sometimes the grandeur of the Athenian words is surely lost by the sounds now given both to vowels and consonants. You cannot, it seems to me, represent all those vowels and diphthongs, αι, ει, οι, η, υ, ι, by the one sound *ee*, without losing much of the original richness of the Greek vocalisation, and it pained me to hear *Fev*, *Fev*, such a thin and insignificant sound, instead of the φεῦ, φεῦ of our boyish remembrance, which seemed so perfectly to express the despairing cry of a bereaved one.

On Wednesday, the 12th of April, the Congress ended its learned labours, and then began, for most of its members, the delights of the archaeological excursions, delights which were real and worthy of remembrance, notwithstanding the occasional discomforts of a too crowded steamer or a turbulent Ægean. The writer of this notice will never forget the extraordinary interest of his visit to the Museum at Candia, and the Evans excavations at Knossos, nor yet the wonder of the entrance at sunrise into the sea-paved crater of Santorin, or the joy of floating, on a sea smooth as a mirror, past Naxos, Delos, Paros,

"On from island unto island, at the gateways of the Day."