

be pardoned, first on the ground that they were given by foreigners and that too many years ago, and secondly on the principle that bad readings generally lead to worse interpretations. Those that have had to read the play in the existing editions and reprints, and have felt the necessity of better editions and better commentaries, will easily find what help the present attempt is able to render them. I therefore say nothing regarding its claims or its merits, but leave the work to speak for itself, though I am fully conscious that the discovery of more ancient and better, because more reliable, Mss. will make further purification of the text possible.

S. P. P.

