



Evangelinus Apostolides Sophocles

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EVANGELINUS APOSTOLIDES SOPHOCLES.

EVANGELINUS APOSTOLIDES SOPHOCLES died, December 17, 1883, in his room in Holworthy Hall, at Harvard College. He was born in 1804 in the village of Tsangarada (Τσαγκαράδα) in Thessaly, on the slope of Mount Pelion. His father's name was Apostolos, and thus he obtained the patronymic Apostolides, which the rest of his family still continue to use as a surname. The name of Sophocles, by which he has always been known away from home, was given him in his youth by his teacher Gazes, as a compliment to his scholarship. He spent his childhood in his Thessalian home, and thus he became familiar with the scenes famous in the story of the Argonauts, with the home of Achilles, and with the rocky coast of Magnesia on which a part of the fleet of Xerxes was dashed as it was on its way to attack Greece. While still a boy he accompanied his uncle to Cairo, where he spent several years in the branch of the Sinaitic monastery of St. Catherine, visiting also the principal monastery on Mount Sinai itself. He returned to Thessaly in 1820, where he remained a year at school, chiefly studying the Greek classic authors, under the instruction of several teachers of repute, especially Anthimos Gazes, who had been twenty-five years in Vienna and had there published a periodical in Greek and a Lexicon of Ancient Greek, besides other literary works. The breaking out of the Greek Revolution in 1821 closed this school, and Sophocles, at the age of fourteen, returned to the monastery in Cairo. After a few years he left the Sinaitic brotherhood on the death of his uncle, and became again a pupil of Gazes at Syra, where he became acquainted with the Rev. Josiah Brewer, a missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, who visited Gazes in September, 1827. A few months later he removed with his teacher to the island of Ægina, then the seat of the Provisional Government of Greece. Mr. Brewer, who accompanied the party from Syra to Ægina, there invited Sophocles to go to the United States, and by the advice of Gazes the invitation was accepted. Sophocles arrived at Boston from Smyrna, July 15, 1828, and put himself under the tuition of Mr. Colton, of Monson, Mass. Here he studied Latin for the first time. In 1829 he entered as Freshman at Amherst College, but remained only a part of one year. He afterwards lived at Hartford and New Haven. All his earlier works were published at Hartford, where at one time he taught mathematics. In 1842 he came to Harvard College as Tutor in Greek, and remained until 1845. He

returned, in 1847, to take the same office, and since that time the college apartment in which he died, No. 2 Holworthy, has been his only home. In 1859 he was made Assistant Professor of Greek; and in 1860 a new Professorship of Ancient, Byzantine, and Modern Greek was created for him, which he continued to fill until his death. This professorship has since been abolished by vote of the Corporation and Overseers. He received the honorary degree of A. M. from Yale College in 1837, and from Harvard College in 1847; and that of LL. D. from the Western Reserve College in 1862, and from Harvard College in 1868.

The principal publications of Professor Sophocles are as follows:—

Greek Grammar, 1838; second edition (a new work), 1847.

First Lessons in Greek, 1839.

Greek Exercises, 1841; second edition, 1848.

Romaic Grammar, 1842; second edition, 1857; republished in London, 1866.

Greek Lessons for Beginners, 1843.

Catalogue of Greek Verbs, 1844.

History of the Greek Alphabet, with Remarks on Greek Orthography and Pronunciation, 1848; second edition, 1854.

Glossary of Later and Byzantine Greek, published as Vol. VII. of the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1860.

Greek Lexicon of the Roman and Byzantine Periods (from B. C. 146 to A. D. 1100), 1870; a revised and much enlarged edition of the Glossary just mentioned.

Professor Sophocles was a scholar of extraordinary attainments. His knowledge of the Greek literature in its whole length and breadth could hardly be surpassed, and he had much rare and profound erudition on many points on which the Western scholarship is most weak. On the other hand, he treated the classic philology of Germany with neglect, if not with contempt, and he never learned German so as to read it with facility. The works of most of the great German scholars of the present century were little known to him, except so far as they were written in Latin or translated into English. But many things which are found in these works came to Sophocles independently. His native language was a great help to him in his study of Ancient Greek, and his intuitions often seemed to come to his aid where book-learning failed him. He showed little or no sympathy with the attempt to resuscitate the ancient forms of Greek in the literary language of the new kingdom of Greece; indeed, for this indifference, and for his general lack of interest in the progress of Greece since the Revolution, he was often censured by his fellow

countrymen. But much of this, as well as much of his show of indifference to the ordinary calls of humanity, was a part of his habitual cynicism, which was quite as much affected as real. While he refused to take part in most of the ordinary charities, and seldom or never let his name appear on a subscription paper, he was really in his own way one of the most benevolent of men; and it may be doubted whether there was another man in our community whose gifts bore so large a proportion to his personal expenses. Many are the poor who will miss his unostentatious benevolence now that he is gone.

Though he took little interest in any religious questions, he always remained faithful in name to the Greek Church in which he was born. In later years he renewed his relations with the monks of Mount Sinai; and as his strength failed, he wandered back more and more in his thoughts to the Sacred Mountain. The monastery of St. Catherine was enriched by more than one substantial present by his kindness, and the pious monks offered solemn prayers on Mount Sinai daily for his recovery from his last sickness, and sent him their congratulations by Atlantic cable on his saint's day. Now that he has left us, we feel that a bond is suddenly broken which connected us with a world which lies beyond our horizon. Such a phenomenon as Sophocles is indeed rare in our academic circles, and we feel that it was a privilege to have him among us.

*Ἡρέμ' ὑπὲρ τύμβοιο Σοφόκλεος, ἡρέμα, κισσέ,
Ἐρπύζοις, χλοερούς ἐκπροχέων πλοκάμους.*

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS.

STEPHEN ALEXANDER.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN ALEXANDER was born in Schenectady, N. Y., on September 1, 1806, and died at his residence in Princeton, N. J., on Monday evening, June 25, 1883.

His father, who was of Scotch extraction, an active and prominent business man in Schenectady, died in 1809, at the early age of forty-four, leaving his widow with two small children, one the subject of this sketch, the other a sister, two years younger, who afterwards became the wife of Professor Henry of the Smithsonian Institution.