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DAVID BINNING MONRO

1836-1905

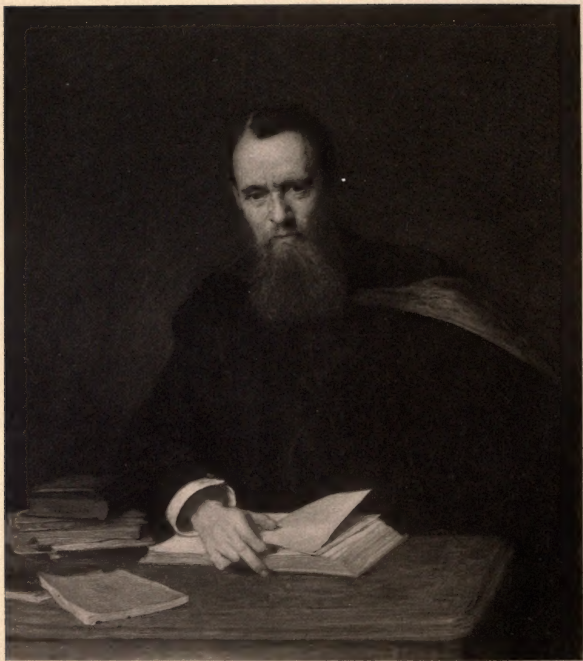
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*David Binning Monro
From the picture by Orchardson at Oriel*

DAVID BINNING MONRO

A SHORT MEMOIR

TRANSLATED, WITH SLIGHT ALTERATIONS, FROM
A NOTICE BY J. COOK WILSON IN THE 'JAHRES-
BERICHT ÜBER DIE FORTSCHRITTE DER KLASSI-
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THE loss of D. B. Monro, Provost of Oriel College, by universal consent the most eminent Homeric critic of Great Britain, is deeply felt both by the University and by the college of which he had been head for thirty-one years. In learning and scholarship a chief ornament of his University, and in all practical spheres of academical life a counsellor of the first rank, he exercised a quiet powerful influence such as hardly any one else possessed: and at the same time he was so retiring and unassuming that only after losing him do we realize what a large place he filled in our Oxford life. How often and how sadly shall we miss, in difficulties of theory or practice, the resort which had become so familiar to us—'let us see what Monro says.'

The late Provost of Oriel, David Binning Monro, born in Edinburgh, November 16, 1836, came of a Scotch family of position. His father (Alexander Monro Binning, writer to the Signet, who took later the name of Binning Monro) was a landed proprietor, and Monro, as his eldest son, inherited the two family properties of Auchinbowie in Stirlingshire and of Softlaw in Roxburghshire. On his mother's side he had ancestors of high rank in the scientific world; his grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather were all of them Professors of Anatomy in the famous medical faculty of Edinburgh.

As quite a young student at the University of Glasgow he showed the many-sided talent which distinguished him in later life. Not only in his own special department, Classical Philology, but also in Mathematics and Logic, he obtained the first place in his classes, and won various first prizes beside his class prizes. When he left Glasgow to begin his studies at Oxford it is said that he was at first uncertain whether he should devote himself chiefly to Mathematics or to Philology.

He matriculated at Oxford as Scholar of Brasenose, and in his first year won a Scholarship at Balliol, the highest prize of the sort which the colleges offer; besides this, he obtained from Glasgow the much-coveted Snell Exhibition. His career as a student was a distinguished one. He soon settled on 'Literæ Humaniores' as his chief subject, but along with that he worked diligently at Mathematics. He obtained a 'first class' in Classical Moderations, a 'first class' in 'Literæ Humaniores', a 'first class' in Mathematical Moderations, and a 'second class' in the final mathematical examination. In the last year of his undergraduate course he won the 'Ireland Scholarship', the first prize in Oxford for Classical Philology. The following year, 1859, he obtained the University Prize for a Latin Essay on the Argonaut Myth (an augury of his future life-long study), and after a brilliant examination was elected Fellow of Oriel College.

He did not at once decide on an academical calling, and at first had some thought of going to the Bar; but after about two years' study of Jurisprudence he accepted a special invitation from his college to become one of its tutors, gave up all thought of a practical career, and came back to Oxford, where for the next fourteen years, that is till he became Vice-Provost and, in effect,

head of his college, he devoted himself to the work of a College Tutor and Lecturer.

Here his many-sidedness came again to light: for in the list of his lectures are found, besides Homer and Comparative Philology, subjects of Greek Philosophy, Early Greek History, Thucydides, Herodotus, Early Roman History, Roman Constitutional History, and Roman Public Law. The latter was at that time a favourite extra subject of his, and his lectures on it were much appreciated (among other things the writer remembers being referred by the then Professor of Latin to Monro for information about the style and idiom of Latin inscriptions). It is probable that he gave up this study in the seventies. The only proofs of the thoroughness of his interest in it, which appeared in print, are a few reviews in the *Academy* and a few articles in the *Journal of Philology*, such as 'Notes on Roman History' (on passages in Festus, Livy, Plutarch, Horace, and Cicero), and 'The Pedarii in the Roman Senate'. A paper read to the Oxford Philological Society on the Roman praefectura seems never to have been printed. In Logic he was always interested, and it was a kind of hobby of his to give 'Pass-men' instruction in the elements of it. He printed also a short outline of the Rules of Syllogistic Logic for the use of his hearers.

But all his life long Homer and the study of Comparative Philology remained his chief interests. With regard to the latter he was held by far the greatest authority in Oxford after Max Müller. For him, indeed, these two branches were intimately connected, and he expressly advocated the necessity of a thorough knowledge of the results of linguistic research for the criticism of Homer. An interesting example of the soundness of

this view is to be seen in his decisive paper (*Transactions of the Oxford Philological Society*, 1888-9, p. 6) on certain textual changes which had been proposed by Cobet, Nauck, Van Leeuwen and others, where it is shown how a number of erroneous emendations had arisen in some cases from imperfect acquaintance with Comparative Philology, and in others from imperfect acquaintance with Homeric Idiom¹.

The first publication which made Monro known to the world of letters outside his own University and the circle of his acquaintance was apparently his article in the *Quarterly Review* for October, 1868, entitled 'The Homeric Question'. This was at once recognized as one of the best things which had appeared in England on this subject. In later years he recast and developed his views in an article published in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1880, art. 'Homer')—an essay which remains to-day unsurpassed in English scholarship in this field, or only surpassed by his own last utterance in the edition of the *Odyssey*. Fortunately there was found among his papers a copy of this piece of work with manuscript changes and additions intended for a new edition in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. By the good offices of his faithful fellow-worker, T. W. Allen, this will shortly see the light.

Upon the article in the *Quarterly* there followed, in the next seven years, a series of essays and reviews in the *Academy* and in the *Journal of Philology*, and of papers read before the Oxford Philological Society (altogether about thirty articles)² on subjects of very

¹ Compare his review of C. Mutzbauer, *Classical Review*, 1894, p. 35: also *Class. Rev.*, 1894, p. 455, and *Class. Rev.*, June 1887.

² The following may be mentioned:—In the *Journal of Philology*, II. iv. p. 197, 'Notes on Roman History'; II. iv. p. 214, 'On

different kinds, Roman Antiquities, Greek Music (a favourite subject of his), Plato, Aristotle, Comparative Mythology, but the greater number on Homer; for the most part short but to the point, without any rhetorical superfluity, and like everything else of the kind afterwards which Monro wrote, generally decisive; for he was wont only to write when long and scientific testing of evidence had made him fairly sure of his ground.

In the last part of this period he worked at a collation of manuscripts of Scholia to the *Iliad*, especially in Venice. This was intended for an edition undertaken by W. Dindorf, the first two volumes of which appeared in 1875, and advertised by the Clarendon Press as 'Scholia Graeca in Iliadem, ed. by W. Dindorf after a collation of the Venetian MSS. by D. B. Monro'.

Monro himself announced the book in the *Academy* (1874, VI. p. 75); and six years later, in the *Academy* for the 6th of March, 1880, he wrote on the importance of the Townley manuscript for these Scholia. The last two volumes of the edition appeared in 1877. To the

Herodotus, II. 116, and Thucyd. I. 11'; IV. vii. p. 113, 'On the Pedarii in the Roman Senate.' In the *Academy*, vol. i. p. 166, 'Marquardt's Aristoxenus' (review); Vol. ii. p. 22, 'On the Composition of the *Odyssey*' (review); Vol. ii. p. 45, review of Bachofen's *Coriolanus*; Vol. iv. p. 34, 'Römisches Staatsrecht, Marquardt und Mommsen' (review); Vol. iv. p. 176, 'Hayman's *Odyssey*' (review); Vol. iv. p. 338, 'Hartel's *Hom. Studies*' (review); Vol. vi. p. 302, 'Chappell's *History of Music* (ancient)' (review).

The following papers were read before the Oxford Philological Society:—1870, 'Loss of digamma before \omicron and ω '; 'φρένες ἀμφιμέλαιαι'; 'On the Composition of the *Nicomachean Ethics*'; 1871, 'Some inorganic aspirates in Greek'; 1872, 'κύκλος as title of a poem in Aristotle and Philoponus'; 1873, 'The powers of the Homeric King'; 'On a Mathematical test of the probability of Lachmann's Emendations of Babrius'; 1874, 'On *Iliad* I. 6, 291, II. 190, V. 89, 492'; 'Grammar and Logic'; 1875, 'Instances of Homeric uses of the prepositions in later Greek.' In the *Quarterly Review*, 1871 (No. 262, pp. 492-522), review of Jowett's *Plato*.

years 1876, 1877 belong the two papers read to the Oxford Philological Society, 'The Roman Praefectura' and 'Notes on Homeric Subjects: (1) The article with epithets, (2) the reflexive pronoun, (3) the division into books with reference to the epitome of Pindarus Thebanus'; and an article in the *Journal of Philology*, VI. xii. p. 185, 'On Nicomachean Ethics, II. vii.'

His first book appeared in the year 1878. Monro exercised so strict a self-criticism that it was sometimes doubted whether he would ever come to a book at all, and it so happened that his first book was a school edition of the first book of the *Iliad*, apparently a small matter for a man of his reputation. But the modest little volume, which contained an excellent short Homeric Grammar, betrayed the hand of a master; and the competent judge could observe how often in it traditional and unquestioned explanations of the text were disposed of in a simple and unassuming manner. Six years later appeared his school edition of the first half of the *Iliad*, and in 1889 that of the second half. The short introduction on the main points of the Homeric question is excellent of its kind, and the President of Magdalen College, Oxford (Mr. T. H. Warren¹), has drawn the attention of the writer to the value of the short summaries of the argument which precede the Commentary to each book of the *Iliad*. In fact, if these short introductions are put together, they give a clear view of what is most essential in the way of evidence for the unity and consistency of the whole poem.

In the years 1878-80 he wrote about eight short papers on Homeric subjects and Comparative Philology.²

¹ The writer has to thank several friends, and especially Dr. Shadwell, Provost of Oriel, for information and for other kind help.

² 'Use of *ἀν* and *κέν* in Homer'; 'Curtius, das Verbum der

In 1880 appeared the article in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on the Homeric question, which has been already referred to, and in 1882 at last his *Magnum opus*, namely the *Grammar of the Homeric Language*, so long in the conception, and so eagerly awaited by his fellow-workers. This book put him at once in the first rank among grammarians and Homeric scholars, and confirmed in the world at large the reputation which he had so long enjoyed at home. Two years later, in 1884, followed the school edition of the *Iliad*, I-XII, already mentioned. In the four years 1881-4, there appeared about fourteen short papers, on Homer, on the Epic Cycle, and on Comparative Philology.¹ In the next three years there followed six Homeric studies, and among others, 'The bearing of the Catalogue of Ships in the

griechischen Sprache, chiefly with reference to the forms *τιθέασι*, *διδόασι*, *βεβίασι*, *γεγίασι*'; 'On the Epic Cycle'; all three read to the Philological Society in 1878-9. *Transactions of the Oxford Philological Society*, 1879-80, p. 15, 'On the MS. containing arguments of "Cyclic" poems, with reference to a theory of Prof. Michaelis'; p. 25, 'On the characteristic *ā* of the Perfect and First Aorist in Greek.' *Journal of Philology*, IX. xviii. p. 252, 'Traces of different dialects in the language of Homer.' *Academy*, 1878, Oct. 9, review of F. A. Paley's *Homeri quae nunc exstant an reliquis Cycli Carminibus antiquiora iure habita sint*; 1880, March 6, review of Roemer, *Die exegetischen Scholien des Ilias im Coll. Ven.*

¹ The following may be mentioned:—*Trans. Oxf. Phil. Soc.* 1880-1, p. 4, 'On *πλέες* and *χέρηες*'; p. 27, '(1) On *νηγάτεος*, (2) The origin of the construction of the infin. with *πρίν* and *πάρος*'; 1881-2, p. 2, 'On *μιάσθη*'; 1883-4, p. 1, 'Oxymoron in Homer'; p. 6, 'On supposed changes in Wolf's view of the Homeric question'; p. 8, 'On the derivation of *τριχάϊκες*'; 1884-5, p. 2, 'On *ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν προτετύχθαι ἑάσομεν*'; p. 3, 'On *πᾶσαι, αἱ πλείους*, in the Scholia of Homer (with reference to Ludwig, *Aristarch's Homerische Textkritik*).' *Journal of Philology*, XI. xxi. p. 56, 'Further notes on Homeric subjects'; p. 61, 'Notes on Homeric Greek'; p. 125, 'Notes on the second book of the *Iliad*.' *Academy*, Dec. 23, 1882, 'The Language of Homer.' *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 1883, p. 305, 'Proclus' abstract of the Epic Cycle, &c.'; 1884, p. 1, 'The poems of the Epic Cycle.'

Iliad upon the earliest Greek History' (*Historical Review*, 1886, pp. 43-53), 'Fick's Theory of the Homeric Dialect' (*Trans. Oxf. Phil. Soc.* 1885-6, p. 19)¹; and in 1889 came the second half of the school edition of the *Iliad* (XIII-XXIV).

After 1889 the production of short articles and reviews, the whole number of which amounts to about ninety, became less regular, and in the last sixteen years of his life he published, besides some short reviews, four articles on Homeric subjects, namely, 'Notes on Homer' (*Trans. Oxf. Phil. Soc.*, 1889-90, p. 21), 'Mutzbauer's Tenses of Homer' (*Classical Review*, 1894), 'Place and Time of Homer' (*Classical Review*, June, 1905), and 'Il dialetto omerico', delivered at the International Congress at Rome in 1903; two on the Number of Plato (another favourite subject of his) in the *Classical Review*, April and June, 1892, two on Greek Music (*Classical Review*, February and March, 1895); a review of Goodwin's Moods and Tenses (*Classical Review*, May, 1890), and one of Delbrück's Comparative Syntax (*Classical Review*, 1894, pp. 394-403). To this period, on the other hand, belong five books. The second edition of the *Homeric Grammar* appeared in 1891; in 1894 *Modes of Greek Music*. The latter constitutes an important contribution to the history of this celebrated problem; and even if perhaps the solution offered should not win approval, the union of clear exposition and logical arrangement of the materials with accurate knowledge of the ancient sources and mastery of the principles of music must command admiration, and it would be

¹ The others are: *Journal of Philology*, XIII. xxvi. p. 288, 'Notes on Homeric Geography.' *Trans. Oxf. Phil. Soc.*, 1886-7, p. 32, 'Inaccuracy of apparatus in La Roche's *Iliad*'; 1888-9, p. 7, 'Homeric emendations.' *Classical Review*, July, 1887, 'Dialect of Homer.'

admitted that this highly stimulating discussion has lent a new interest to this department of the study of antiquity, and has done much to clear the way for further advance. In 1896 he published an edition of the Homeric text, *Homeri opera et reliquiae* (the readings for the *Hymns* by T. W. Allen); and in 1902, in collaboration with T. W. Allen, a text of the *Iliad* provided with an apparatus criticus.

But the chief work of his last years was an edition of the last twelve books of the *Odyssey*, with a Commentary and comprehensive appendices on the chief problems of Homeric research, published by the Clarendon Press in 1901. Here are put together the results of years of careful study of the Homeric question. With unwearying industry he had made himself master of all the necessary material, and had submitted everything to a slow, thorough, and searching scrutiny. The remarkable patience with which he reserved his judgement was a proverb among his acquaintance, who, indeed, often felt that his decision might be too long deferred. But Monro had a horror of all that was unripe and premature, and his long deliberation is fully justified by the results. These results, buried as they are in the edition above mentioned, and unassuming as they are in form—for Monro had also a horror of the superfluous—do not at first sight perhaps attract sufficient attention, but it may be expected that their worth will be recognized more and more as time goes on, and that they will, more and more, come to be accounted a pattern of sound and sober judgement. It must be expressly noticed that Monro possessed just the faculty which, though necessary before all else to the handling of the Homeric question, is only too often lacking in criticism of the analysing and dissecting type—a fine sense of literary form.

Monro's style is strictly scientific in the best sense of the word; compact and curt, but not sacrificing lucidity to brevity, good pure English 'simplex munditiis'. The mode of statement is singularly clear, and the course of the argument shows an analytical transparency for which perhaps he had to thank his training in Logic and Mathematics.

As was but natural, Monro held German learning and research in high honour. Compare, among other things, his review of Delbrück's *Comparative Syntax* in the *Classical Review*, 1894, pp. 394-403, and, to take another instance, he was accustomed to quote Ludwich's *Aristarch's Homerische Textkritik* as a final authority. Particularly in his later years he followed Dörpfeld's work with lively interest. The writer remembers a stirring evening at Mr. G. C. Richards's in Oriel College, when Dörpfeld (in the presence of Monro and his friend C. B. Heberden, Principal of Brasenose College, whose guest Dörpfeld was) explained his views on Ithaca and Leucas, which had then but recently occurred to him. Monro was obviously fascinated, and added some confirmations of his own. In an article (*Classical Review*, June, 1905) published shortly before his death, he contributed some fresh testimony in favour of Dörpfeld's theory derived from some observations which he had made when travelling in Greece.

In the various movements of his time for the reform and advance of the higher education Monro bore an important part.

In all probability he was the chief and perhaps the sole founder of the Oxford Philological Society. He was the first president of it: the first meeting (1870) was held in his rooms in Oriel College, and, with a few exceptions, for thirty years all the meetings were at

Oriel. During the whole of this time he was president; the first nine years he was also secretary, and managed all the affairs of the Society.

Monro belonged to the group of scholars who founded the *Academy*, and was for many years a frequent contributor. He had a share in the institution of the Hellenic Society. At the first Conference, called together by Sir Charles Newton, Monro was, with Professor Pelham, representative of the University of Oxford. From the beginning he was a member of the Council, and often attended its sittings. From 1886 onwards he was Vice-President of the Society itself. He was also a member of the Standing Committee which founded and controlled the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*.

In the establishment of the Classical Association of England and Wales Monro played a considerable part, although he did not belong to the seven actual founders. This is apparent from the account of its first meeting (see *Classical Review*, February, 1904). From the beginning he was Vice-President, attended the public sittings, and, as the writer learns from Professor Postgate, he was often at the sittings of the Council, and took a lively interest in the well-being of the Society in general.

He was always a generous supporter of the British School at Rome, and for the last fifteen years of his life was on the Council of the British School at Athens.

Here also should be mentioned a very useful piece of work of his. Thirty years ago, or even earlier, at the suggestion of James Bryce, the present¹ Minister and Chief Secretary for Ireland, at that time a Fellow of Oriel College, Monro brought about a union between college libraries in accordance with which some colleges

¹ At the time when this memoir was written; now His Majesty's representative at Washington.

bound themselves to assign a portion of the income of their library to some special subject, or, in particular cases, to the purchase of scientific periodicals. In this manner there have grown up in time some valuable collections of books, as for instance in Oriel College for Comparative Philology and Comparative Mythology, in Merton College for Modern History, and in Worcester College for Classical Archaeology.

If a right estimate is to be formed of the work of Monro's life it must be borne in mind that he constantly devoted himself in a self-sacrificing manner to the service of his University and of his college. He united practical shrewdness and liberal views with rare impartiality, and that is why he was so indispensable in the business affairs of the University. It may be remarked that his study of Jurisprudence did him here good service, and he was relied upon to draw up in proper form the statutes passed from time to time by the University.

For twenty years he was a member of the Hebdomadal Council, for twelve years he belonged to the Board of Curators of the University Museum, and for twenty years to the Delegacy of the University Press. For about three years he was pro-Vice-Chancellor, and for three years Vice-Chancellor of the University. He gave up the latter office about a year before his death. In dealings with foreign universities his talent for languages came in very usefully. He spoke German, French, and Italian, and was able on academical occasions to make public speeches in all three languages.

In academical politics Monro belonged distinctly to the party of reform, and must be reckoned as one of its chief leaders. It is true that it was not his to inspire zeal for progress by any exceptional gift of oratory, but great value was set upon his opinion, for he was credited with

remarkable clearness of vision and saneness of judgement. His manner was, from first to last, unobtrusive, and so it came about that his influence reached further than people suspected. For example, there are few even in Oxford who know in what important respects the list of voluntary special subjects for honours in 'Literæ Humaniores', drawn up some years ago, the main features of which still remain, was determined from a plan sketched by Monro. The changes which a Parliamentary Commission in the seventies introduced into the constitution of the University were not all to his mind, but he strongly approved of some of them, and he contributed a good deal towards putting the new regulations into an advantageous and practical shape.

He approved especially of the principle that the stipends of existing professorships should be supplemented out of the incomes of the colleges, and that new professorships should be founded from the same sources. And, many details being left to the decision of the colleges themselves, he took care that in his own college this and other provisions for the good of the University at large should be faithfully carried out. Moreover he maintained the principle that, notwithstanding usual practice, the University should have the right to offer a professorship to a man who had not entered as a candidate for it: and he was not a little pleased, as appears from his speech when resigning the Vice-Chancellorship of the University, that on some recent occasions distinguished men had, as a matter of fact, been invited to professorships from other countries.¹

¹ 'Insigne est et prope singulare huius Universitatis propositum orbi terrarum universo velut ius hospitii tribuere. Itaque in professore quovis eligendo tam longe abest ut Academiae nostrae finibus contineamur, ut ne imperii quidem Britannici limitibus coartari velimus.'

Monro was by nature very quiet and retiring, and on that account, outside the narrow circle of his intimate acquaintance, he passed for a somewhat cold disposition. In reality he was kind-heartedness itself. Those who sought his help never sought it in vain. The undergraduates of his college were fond of him; the college servants adored him. The latter, with their families—a numerous company—he entertained every year at a delightful Christmas party, where the children received handsome presents under the Christmas tree. This was one of the chief pleasures of his life; for Monro was touchingly fond of children.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the University of Glasgow, that of Doctor of Letters by Trinity College, Dublin, and that of Doctor of Civil Law by his own University—an exceptional honour in the case of a resident. From France he received the honorary title of 'Officier de l'Instruction Publique'. He was one of the original Fellows of the British Academy, whose names are the only ones which appear in the foundation charter.

He left to his college the part of his library relating to Comparative Philology and Comparative Mythology, more than a thousand volumes. His Homeric library—or rather the most important part of it—also over a thousand volumes, was bought by friends and presented to Bodley's Library. His books on Greek Music, those on Greek Mathematics, and a collection of editions of Thackeray and Matthew Arnold, he left to three friends.¹

This brief sketch may be closed with an estimate of

¹ The editions of Thackeray and Arnold to the Rev. L. R. Phelps, of Oriel College; the Greek Music to Mr. C. B. Heberden, Principal of Brasenose College; and the Greek Mathematics to the writer.

Monro's Homeric work communicated by Mr. T. W. Allen, who has been already mentioned as his faithful friend and collaborator.

'What distinguished Monro's Homeric work from that of other Englishmen of his generation was, in the first place, his knowledge of Comparative Grammar or Philology. When he began to write on Homer he was almost alone in this possession, and at his death there are few members of his own University who have a first-hand knowledge of Comparative Philology.

'This equipment enabled him, on the one hand, to take account of the results of the comparative method in establishing the Homeric text beyond the period of literary tradition, and thereby preserved him from the one-sided attitude of so eminent a Homerist as Arthur Ludwig: and on the other, it gave him the means to gauge and to resist the eccentricities of the purely linguistic school. Monro, from the first, denied the hypothesis of August Fick, which still in a modified form holds the field on the continent, namely, that Homer was originally written in the Aeolic dialect; and in his latest work, the Appendix to the *Odyssey*, Books XIII-XXIV, he may be said to have given the deathblow to it. He there laid down his own theory of the Homeric language (which he also embodied in a paper read at the Archaeological Congress at Rome in 1903), namely, that it was one of the varieties of the common tongue of pre-Dorian Greece, which accident and the merits of Homer elevated to the position of a literary language. This theory, that of the *illustre volgare*, appears likely to prevail.

'His position in Homeric criticism was defined by tradition on the one hand, and linguistic results on the other. He had difficulty in admitting into the text a form recovered to the Greek language by linguistic

method unless there was documentary evidence to show that it had once stood in the text, or its disappearance could be easily and clearly accounted for. Thus he restored ἦος τῆος τεθυηώς, &c., on the ground that the MS. forms were the result of mechanical mistranscription, but retained metrical irregularities like Αἰόλου, ἀνεψιοῦ, &c., because the forms in -οο are without inscrip-tional testimony, and cannot be assigned to a definite period. In these matters his method was very much that of Aristarchus, who, so far as we can gather, did not admit a correction into the Vulgate of his day, unless diplomatic authority could be found for it. Monro, indeed, in many respects, resembled that most judicious of ancient critics. Besides this he was a great exegete, and had a sure knowledge both of Greek and of Homeric usage. His annotations, of which he was sparing, are mostly in this province.

‘He was in one sense not original. Probably he had done little actual collection of material—though it is absurd to call his work, as a recent German critic has done, a “mosaic”. From this position—that of estimating and utilizing the statistics of others—he derived two benefits: the absence of intellectual fatigue, which prevents the researcher from weighing and utilizing his own collections, and freedom from prejudice and partiality. His judgement indeed was unapproached. The motives for liking or dislike were far from him, and from his verdict there is seldom an appeal. Few can have had dealings with him, personal or literary, without feeling that *πρότερος γέγνευι καὶ πλείονα ἤδη.*’

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