

HOMER AND THE ILIAD

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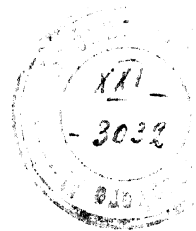
GLASGOW JAMES MACLEHOSE.

HOMER AND THE ILIAD

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THE ILIAD IN ENGLISH VERSE

BOOKS I.-XII.

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BOOK I.



ARGUMENT.

*A god-sent plague invades the tented Greeks,
Which wakes among the chiefs contention dire ;
Atrides reaves the maid with lovely cheeks,
And Peleus' son doth from the camp retire ;
Thetis in grief the Olympian threshold seeks,
Where Jove's high will doth with her wish conspire.
The gods are soured ; but soon with quenchless laughter
The limping grace of Vulcan shakes the rafter.*

BOOK I.

THE baneful wrath, O goddess, sing, of Peleus' son, the source
 Of sorrows dire, and countless woes to all the Grecian force ;
 That wrath which many a stout heroic soul from joyful day
 To gloomy Hades hurled, and left their mangled limbs a prey
 To dogs and vultures : thus the will of mightiest Jove was done ;
 Since first contention keen arose, and sundering strife begun
 Between Atrides, king of men, and Peleus' godlike son.

Which of the gods between them twain the rancorous feud
 inspired ?

Latona's son ; for he against the king, with anger fired,
 Shot through the camp a sore disease ; the people drooped and
 died ;

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For that Atrides to his priest the righteous suit denied,
 When to the swift sea-ploughing ships came Chryses with a prayer,
 And for his daughter's freedom brought the precious ransom rare.
 He on a golden sacred staff, with outstretched arm, displayed
 The wreath of the far-darting god, and thus to all he prayed,
 But chiefly to the kingly pair, whose word the host obeyed :