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J.F. BOISSONADE

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Fiches faltos







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Sir

You propose to your readers in a note to Homer's Iliad the solution of a much debated question why the poet in the Shield of Achilles says that the Great Bear alone never sets. You seem not to be satisfied with any solution that has been offered and with good reason.

May I therefore take the liberty without having the honor of your acquaintance to write to you in the poet's defense and remark that Homer does not say so as has been supposed of the Great Bear but of the Little Bear.

Among the constellations on Achilles' shield he mentions the bear whom men call also by another name the wain and then adds and who in the same part revolves and watches Orion and alone mingles not in ocean's waves. The ~~accusative~~ relative is in the accusative at first and then is put in the nominative which makes a clear distinction in the original. Besides the word $\alpha\upsilon\tau\omicron\upsilon$ in the same part can only mean in the same part of the heavens as the Great Bear just before mentioned and watching Orion a constellation that marks the south peculiarly belongs to the Little Bear which contains the polar star that marks the north and is said never to set.

Are we not still shewn the Great Bear with

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its double appellation as a guide to the Little Bear with its remarkable attributes exactly as Homer shews us them? The book of Nature is open to compare with what he says and shews his text to be a faithful copy of it. I rejoice to find you religiously respect and defend it against modern Titans

I will subscribe my name and address if what I have said should meet with your approbation and you should like to know them. I understand French but not sufficiently to write it correctly

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

J. Turner

aux soins de M. M. E. Fenzi & Co.^{ie}

Banquiers

Florence (Italie)

28. July 1845.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly a list or ledger entry, with a red circular stamp visible in the center.]

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