The Project Gutenberg EBook of The Odyssey, by Homer

:

:

:

Title: The Odyssey

:

Author: Homer

:

Translator: Samuel Butler

:

:

Release Date: April, 1999 [EBook #1727]

Last Updated: April 9, 2013

:

Language: English

:

Character set encoding: ASCII

:

*** START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE ODYSSEY ***

:

:

:

:

Produced by Jim Tinsley

:

:

:

:

:

:

:

:

:

THE ODYSSEY

:

:

rendered into English

prose for the use of

those who cannot

read the original

:

:

By Samuel Butler

:

:

:

:

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

:

This translation is intended to supplement a work entitled "The

Authoress of the Odyssey", which I published in 1897. I could not give

the whole "Odyssey" in that book without making it unwieldy, I therefore

epitomised my translation, which was already completed and which I now

publish in full.

:

I shall not here argue the two main points dealt with in the work just

mentioned; I have nothing either to add to, or to withdraw from, what I

have there written. The points in question are:

:

(1) that the "Odyssey" was written entirely at, and drawn entirely

from, the place now called Trapani on the West Coast of Sicily, alike

as regards the Phaeacian and the Ithaca scenes; while the voyages of

Ulysses, when once he is within easy reach of Sicily, solve themselves

into a periplus of the island, practically from Trapani back to Trapani,

via the Lipari islands, the Straits of Messina, and the island of

Pantellaria.

:

(2) That the poem was entirely written by a very young woman, who lived at the place now called Trapani, and introduced herself into her work under the name of Nausicaa.

:

The main arguments on which I base the first of these somewhat startling contentions, have been prominently and repeatedly before the English and Ital