A PROBLEM IN GREEK ETHICS

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Editor's note

This chapter reproduces the text of the edition of ‘A Problem in Greek Ethics’ that was privately printed in 1883. Symonds’ footnotes from that edition are retained as footnotes here. For ease of referencing, translations of Symonds’ use of Ancient Greek throughout the essay are indicated and collated in a notes section at the end of the chapter. The printed copy held by the British Library and used here was clearly Symonds’ personal copy, and written emendations throughout the copy were made by him in preparation of a version of ‘A Problem in Greek Ethics’ for inclusion in Sexual Inversion. These emendations are indicated in curly brackets and by the editor’s notes, which are contained within square brackets.

I. INTRODUCTION: method of treating the subject.

II. Homer had no knowledge of παιδεραστία —Achilles.—Treatment of Homer by the later Greeks.

III. The romance of Achilles and Patroclus.

IV. The heroic ideal of masculine love.

V. Vulgar παιδεραστία.—How introduced into Hellas.—Crete.—Laius.—The myth of Ganymede.

VI. Discrimination of two loves, heroic and vulgar. —The mixed sort is the παιδεραστία denied as Greek love in this essay.

VII. The intensity of παιδεραστία. as an emotion, and its quality.

VIII. Myths of παιδεραστία.

IX. Semi-legendary tales of love.—Harmodius and Aristogeiton.

X. Dorian customs.—Sparta and Crete.—Conditions of Dorian life.—Moral quality of Dorian love.—Its final degeneracy.—Speculations on the early Dorian ἱθος.—Bœsotian [sic] customs.—The sacred