



CHAPTER XIII

THE ERECHTHEUM. PLATES XLI. TO XLV.

ALTHOUGH the Erechtheum did not form an integral part of the first edition of this work, it is a building of such surpassing interest and beauty that no apology need be offered for now including some account of it in its present state, and of the indications which the more recent clearing of the site have brought into view. The subject is illustrated by five plates, a plan, and three sections, and also a restored plan of the temple (Plate XLV.), and on the same plate are some further particulars connected with the west elevation.

It is much to be regretted that in the interval between 1847 and 1883 the remains of the temple have suffered serious loss from the fall of the upper part of the western wall, with its peculiar arrangement of windows combined with the attached columns. Also the remains of bases of pilasters on the westernmost of the two cross walls are no longer to be seen. I have restored these bases on the plan and sections from sketches and dimensions supplied to me by Professor H. T. Lewis, who measured them in 1842. They are also shown on the plan of the Erechtheum by M. Tetaz.¹ It will be shown further on, however, that there is reason to doubt whether these windows and pilasters formed part of the original construction of the temple. The removal of encumbrances, however, has exhibited several points not visible at the time referred to, and particularly as to the arrangements at the base of the western wall. It is evident that here we have some remains of an earlier structure upon which the existing temple was founded, one of the oblique joints of the earlier temple extends into the threshold of the small doorway leading from the north portico and shows itself upon the surface. Other stones, both marble and poros, having the same parallel direction in their joints were covered up and were merely used as foundation. The angle between the older and the more recent structures is about $13^{\circ}.30'$. The drain, which discharged water from the western area by means of a pipe carried through the middle step of the north portico, is shown on the plan, Plate XLI. (see also Plate XLIII.)²

Unlike the rest of the Erechtheum, the west wall has no moulded plinth, but the *orthostata* rise at once from a double step, of which the lower has been hacked away. These steps, however, do not appear to have extended to the south of the doorway in the western wall, as the projection, of which a small portion remains on the south side of this door, has a different section and projects only .34, whilst in depth it is equal to the double step; and, judging from its jointed side on the south, seems to have been continued farther in that direction originally. It should be noticed that this doorway is not in the centre of the wall, nor is it symmetrically placed with respect to the attached columns. The sill is slightly below the top of the lower of the two steps. On the outer face of the wall, below it and to the

¹ *Revue Archéologique*, Paris, Leleux, 1853.
² This drain was first noticed by Herr Karl Bötticher, *Untersuchungen*, etc. Herr Bötticher also thought he had discovered the foundation of a wall about 7 or 8 feet southwards of the drain, and which abutted obliquely against the west wall of the Erechtheum. I was enabled, however, to examine the ground underneath the stones he refers to, and found them to have only such foundations as would be suitable for pavement, neither could I find the trace or mark of any such wall upon the west front of the temple.