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Others will be added at short intervals.

DAVID McKAY, Publisher, Philadelphia, Pa.

SELECT ORATIONS  
OF  
LYSIAS

LITERALLY TRANSLATED BY  
EDWARD ROTH  
AND OTHERS

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
EDWARD BROOKS, JR.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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LYSIAS, the author of the Oration against the Grain Dealers, a translation of which will be found in the following pages, was one of the ten Attic Orators, and lived during the fifth century before Christ. The date of his birth can only be established by conjecture. Some authorities place it as early as 459 B.C. There is a tradition to the effect that Lysias went to Thurii at the age of fifteen, and as that town was founded in 444 B.C., this may account for the view that he was born at that time. Other authorities fix the date of his birth somewhat later. In Plato's republic, the scene of which is laid about 430 B.C., Cephalus, the father of Lysias, is represented as being alive, and as it is thought that the emigration to Thurii did not take place until after his father's death, the birthday of Lysias is supposed to have been somewhere between 444 and 436 B.C.

Cephalus, the father of Lysias, was born in Syracuse. Upon the invitation of Pericles he had settled at Athens, and became what was known in those times as a "resident alien." It is probable that among the friends of Cephalus were to be numbered Plato and other Athenian men of letters, so that the early childhood of Lysias was, in all probability, influenced by the society of some of the most distinguished Athenians.

At the age of fifteen, upon the death of his father,

Lysias removed to Thurii, an Athenian colony near the site of the ancient Sybaris, on the Tarentine gulf. Herodotus was one of Thurii's early residents, and it is not improbable that the young orator derived some inspiration and culture from association with the famous historian. Tradition says that at Thurii Lysias commenced the study of rhetoric under Tisias, the pupil of Corax.

The terrible defeat of the Athenians by the Sicilians gave rise to a strong anti-Athenian party in Thurii. Lysias and his brother Ptolemarchus were accused of too strongly sympathizing with the Athenians, and were driven from the city. They thereupon took up their residence in Athens. Ptolemarchus had a house in Athens itself, and Lysias had another in the Piræus. They were both quite wealthy men, having inherited considerable property from their father. While not having been admitted to the rights of Athenian citizenship, the fact that they were allowed to own property shows that they were classed as foreigners who paid only the same taxes as Athenian citizens, and were exempt from the special tax laid upon aliens. The two brothers engaged in the business of manufacturing shields, and owned a large factory near the Piræus, in which were employed one hundred and twenty skilled slaves.

Upon the establishment of the Thirty Tyrants in Athens there commenced a rigorous persecution of resident aliens not unlike that of the Jews to-day in some countries. Lysias and his brother were among the first singled out as victims. Ptolemarchus was arrested and compelled to die by "drinking the hemlock." Lysias, by the aid of a bribe, slipped out by the back door of the house in which he was a prisoner and escaped to Megara. During his

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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