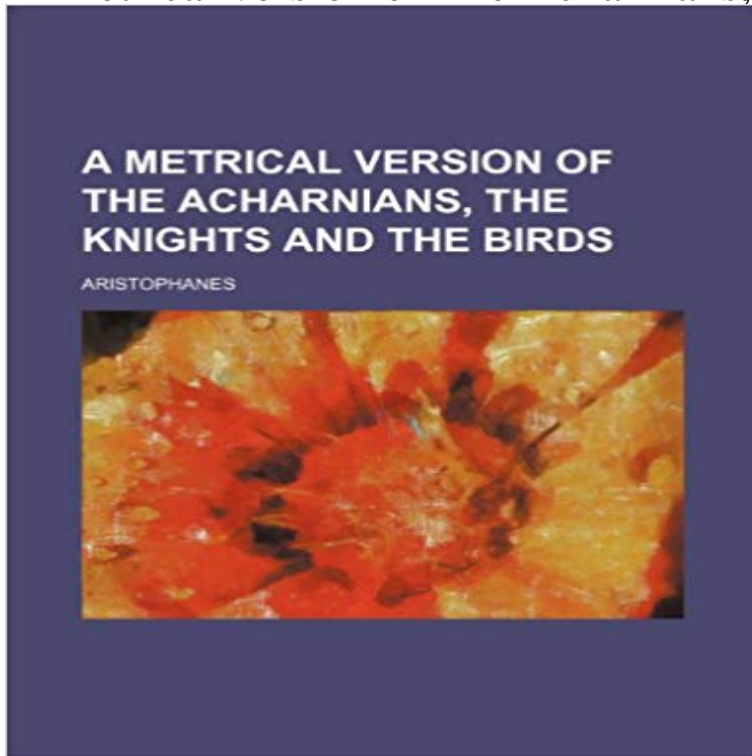


A metrical version of The Acharnians, the Knights and the Birds



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1887 Excerpt: ...as a meritorious statesman, in the next rank to Lysicles, Cynna and Salabaccha; I may be allowed to continue dining in the Prytaneum, &c. &c. It should seem that the three discreditable names are substituted for those of Pericles, Cymon, and Themistocies, with whom it appears that Cleon was in the habit of comparing himself; for we shall see that in the present scene he is attacked for having presumed to place himself in parallel with Themistocies, Observe that the change of the scene is accompanied by the idea of naval manoeuvre. The ancient theatres being open at top, the machinery was worked from below; so that with the help of a little imagination the stage might at such a moment be thought to resemble the deck of a ship. Observe too, that as by the change of scene and its transfer to the Pnyx (which had been deprecated by the Sausage-seller) the advantage is supposed to be transferred to the less ignoble character, the metre changes from the tetrameter iambic to the anapaest, as in the scenes of altercation in the other comedies, where the ascendancy of the noble or ignoble personage or argument, is marked by a change of the metre; though the scenes which follow may perhaps be considered as an exception; for the Sausage-seller has the better even in the anapaest; but his complete triumph is reserved for the tetrameter. t The image is that of a merchant vessel defending itself against the attack of a ship of war: the pinnace was interposed to break the shock of the enemys prow; and the dolphin, a huge mass of lead, was raised to a great height, at the end of the yard of the enormous lateen sail (still to be seen in some large old-fashioned craft in the Mediterranean). It was then dropped

suddenly at the moment of contact, to sink
the enem...

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