DEMOSTHENES AND THE STRATIOTIC FUND*

BY

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The first success that Demosthenes had in a public cause was, as far as we know, his defence of Philocrates in 348 when he was charged under the γραφὴ παρανόμων with illegally proposing to seek peace with Philip 1). After that success he disappeared from the scene, until Philocrates again led the movement for peace and Demosthenes was elected with him to the first embassy; in the negotiations of Elaphebolion Demosthenes was Philocrates' chief agent 2). Before 348, however, wherever the result of the debates in which Demosthenes participated is known, clearly he was on the losing side. The trierarchic system was not reformed, as he had urged in the speech On the Symmories; the administration of the Theoric Fund was not affected by the speech On the Syntaxis; the Megalopolitans were unsuccessful in their appeal; the Rhodian democrats received no help; none of the proposals of the First Philippic appears to have been acted on; the defence of Olynthus was aided less, presumably, than Demosthenes had advocated; according to himself, he was the only one to oppose intervention in Euboea. For the results of the great political trials in which he participated we are reduced to conjecture but it is likely that he was no more successful here. Androtion was probably acquitted in 355/4, for he continued in public life 3); if we may judge by the fact that Charidemus was general in 351/0 4), the attack on Aristo-

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1) Aesch. II 14.

2) For Demosthenes' role in 346 cp. Aesch. III 79 ff. Both his intervention on the 19th of Elaphebolion (ibid. § 71 ff.) and the preparatory decrees on the 6th (ibid. § 67) and the 8th (Aesch. II 55, 61, 110 and Dem. XVIII 28) show his close concord with Philocrates.

3) Ambassador to Mausolus in 354 (Dem. XXIV 12).

4) Dem. III 5.
crates had little effect; against Midias he did not even dare to press his attack in 348 and the case was never heard \(^1\). Whether Timocrates was sent to prison as Demosthenes demanded \(^2\) seems unlikely: both he and his son Polyeuctus were prominent as supporters of Midias in 348 \(^3\). All in all, until he supported Philocrates, Demosthenes appears to have been singularly unsuccessful.

Glotz thought otherwise. In an article published in 1932 \(^4\), he claimed for Demosthenes in 349–8 a success which had been overlooked to the detriment of our understanding of both the speeches and Athenian policy. This success was no less than the creation of the Stratiotic Fund. After years of preparation \(^5\), in the shadow of Philip’s attack on Olynthus he demanded in the First Olynthiac (§ 19) the provision of a proper military fund and subsequently got the Athenians to vote it. The sign of this Glotz found in an inscription \(^6\) belonging to late 349/8 where money for purchase of corn, presumably for an army, is to be taken ἐκ τῶν στρατιωτικῶν. In the Third Olynthiac (§ 10 f.) he advised, in vain, the further step of diverting the monies due to the Theoric Fund into his new Stratiotic Fund.

There is nothing to commend this theory. When in the First Olynthiac Demosthenes speaks περὶ χρημάτων πόρου (§§ 19 and 20), he appears to be concerned with the use of the monies that go to form the Theoric Fund, that is, the surplus revenues, τὰ περιόντα χρήματα τῆς διουκήσεως \(^7\). Whereas in the Third Olynthiac (§ 10 f.) he openly (σαφῶς οὕτωσι) demands the repeal of the law that diverts to the Theoric Fund money that should be used for war, in the First he is cautious enough to disclaim any proposal attacking that law. ‘Τι οὖν,’ ἓν τις εἴποι, ‘σὺ γράφεις ταῦτα ἐν εὐσκῆς καὶ μὴ Δι’ οὖν ἐγὼγέ. That is, he will not run the risk of the penalties in

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\(^2\) Dem. XXIV 125.
\(^3\) Dem. XXI 139.
\(^6\) I.G. II \(^a\) 207 b 11.
\(^7\) Dem. LIX 4.