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STATIUS

II

THE

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"STATIUS" [Works]

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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OF LONDON

IN TWO VOLUMES

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II

THEBAID V-XII · ACHILLEID



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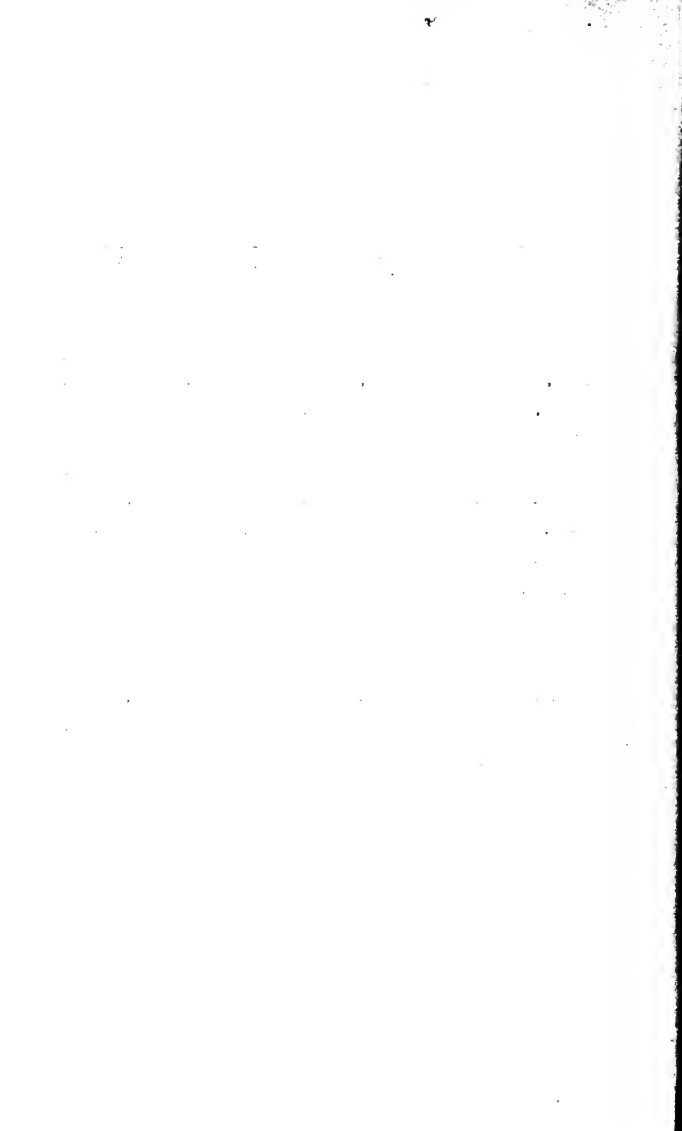
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THEBAID
BOOKS V-XII

THEBAIDOS

LIBER V

Pulsa sitis fluvio, populataque gurgitis altum¹
agmina linquebant ripas annemque minorem ;
acrior et campum sonipes rapit et pedes arva
implet ovans, rediere viris animique minaeque 5
votaque, sanguineis mixtum ceu fontibus ignem
hausissent belli magnasque in proelia mentes.
dispositi in turmas rursus legemque severi
ordinis, ut cuique ante locus ductorque, monentur
instaurare vias. tellus iam pulvere primo
crescit, et armorum transmittunt fulgura silvae. 10
qualia trans pontum Phariis deprensa serenis
rauca Paraetonio decedunt agmina Nilo,
quo² fera cogit hiemps : illae clangore fugaci,
umbra fretis arvisque, volant, sonat avius aether.
iam Borean imbresque pati, iam nare solutis 15
annibus et nudo iuvat aestivare sub Haemo.

Hic rursus simili procerum vallante corona
dux Talaionides, antiqua ut forte sub orno

¹ altum *P* : alvum ω (*D* with *alveum* written over).
² quo *Vollmer* : cum *P* ω .

^a *i.e.*, cranes, *cf.* Virg. *Aen.* x. 264.

^b The epithet is taken from a town named Paraetonium, on the Libyan coast west of the Delta.

THEBAID

BOOK V

THEIR thirst was quenched by the river, and the army having ravaged the water's depths was leaving the banks and the diminished stream ; more briskly now the galloping steed scours the plain, and the infantry swarm exultant over the fields, inspired once more by courage and hope and warlike temper, as though from the blood-stained springs they had drunk the fire of battle and high resolution for the fray. Marshalled again in squadrons and the stern discipline of rank, they are bidden renew the march, each in his former place and under the same leader as before. Already the first dust is rising from the earth, and arms are flashing through the trees. Just so do flocks of screaming birds,^a caught by the Pharian summer, wing their way across the sea from Paraetonian^b Nile, whither the fierce winter drove them ; they fly, a shadow upon the sea and land, and their cry follows them, filling the pathless heaven. Soon will it be their delight to breast the north wind and the rain, soon to swim on the melted rivers, and to spend the summer days on naked Haemus.

Then the son of Talaus, ringed round once more by a band of chieftain peers, as he stood by chance

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stabat et admoti nixus Polynicis in hastam :
 "at tamen, o quaecumque es" ait, "cui—gloria tanta—
 venimus innumerae fato¹ debere cohortes, 21
 quem non ipse decum sator aspèrnetur honorem,
 dic age, quando tuis alacres absistimus undis,
 quae domus aut tellus, animam quibus hauseris astris?
 dic, quis et ille pater ? neque enim tibi numina longe,
 transierit fortuna licet, maiorque per ora 26
 sanguis, et afflicto spirat reverentia vultu."

Ingemit, et paulum fletu cunctata modesto
 Lemnias orsa refert : "immania vulnera, rector,
 integrare iubes, Furias et Lemnon et artis 30
 arma inserta toris debellatosque pudendo
 ense mares ; redit ecce nefas et frigida cordi
 Eumenis. o miserae, quibus hic furor additus ! o nox !
 o pater ! illa ego nam, pudeat ne forte benignae
 hospitis, illa, duces, raptum quae sola parentem 35
 ocului. quid longa malis exordia necto ?
 et vos arma vocant magnique in corde paratus.
 hoc memorasse sat est : claro generata Thoante
 servitum Hypsipyle vestri fero capta Lycurgi."

Advertere animos, maiorque et honora videri 40
 parque operi tanto ; cunctis tunc noscere casus
 ortus amor, pater ante alios hortatur Adrastus :

¹ *fato* *ms. at Peterhouse, Camb.* : *fatum* *Pw.*

^a If "fatum" of most mss. is kept = "our lives," then "honorem," etc., must be in a kind of apposition to the preceding sentence, *e.g.*, "to owe our lives, an honour which . . ." In any case "venimus debere" is doubtful Latin, and the line has been variously emended.

^b *i.e.*, where were you born ?

beneath an aged ash-tree, and leaned on Polynices' spear hard by him, thus spoke: "Nay, tell us, thou, who'er thou art, to whom—such is thy glory—fate^a has brought our countless cohorts owing thee such high honour as the Sire of the gods himself would not despise—tell us, now that we are departing in all speed from thy waters, what is thy home or native land, from what stars didst thou draw thy life?^b And who was that sire thou spakest of? For heaven is not far to seek in thy descent, though fortune may have been traitorous; a nobler birth is in thy looks, and even in affliction thy countenance breathes majesty."

The Lemnian sighed, and, stayed by shamefast tears awhile, then makes reply: "Deep are the wounds, O prince, thou biddest me revive, the tale of Lemnos and its Furies and of murder done even in the bed's embrace, and of the shameful sword whereby our manhood perished; ah! the wickedness comes back upon me, the freezing Horror grips my heart! Ah! miserable they, upon whom this frenzy came! alas, that night! alas, my father! for I am she—lest haply ye feel shame for your kindly host—I am she, O chieftains, who alone did steal away and hide her father. But why do I weave the long prelude to my woes? Moreover battle summons you and your hearts' high enterprise. Thus much doth it suffice to tell: I am Hypsipyle, born of renowned Thoas, and captive thrall to your Lycurgus."

Close heed they gave her then, and nobler she seemed and worthy of honour, and equal to such a deed; then all craved to learn her story, and father Adrastus foremost urged her: "Ay, verily, while

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“immo age, dum primi longe damus agmina vulgi—
 nec facilis Nemeae latas evolvere vires,
 quippe obtenta comis et ineluctabilis umbra— 45
 pande nefas laudesque tuas gemitusque tuorum,
 unde hos advenias regno deiecta labores.”

Dulce loqui miseris veteresque reducere questus.
 incipit : “Aegaeo premitur circumflua Nereo
 Lemnos, ubi ignifera fessus respirat ab Aetna 50
 Muleiber ; ingenti tellurem proximus umbra
 vestit Athos nemorumque obscurat imagine pontum ;
 Thraeces arant contra, Thracum fatalia nobis
 litora, et inde nefas. florebat dives alumnis
 terra, nec illa Samo fama Delo sonanti 55
 peior et innumeris quas spumifer adsilit Aegon.
 dis visum turbare domos, nec pectora culpa
 nostra vacant : nullos Veneri sacravimus ignis,
 nulla deae sedes ; movet et caelestia quondam
 corda dolor lentoque inrepunt agmine Poenae. 60
 illa Paphon veterem centumque altaria linquens
 nec vultu nec crine prior solvisse ingalem
 ceston et Idalias procul ablegasse volucres
 fertur. erant certe, media quae noctis in umbra
 divam alios ignes maioraque tela gerentem 65
 Tartareas inter thalamis volitasse sorores
 vulgarent, utque implicitis arcana domorum
 anguibus et saeva formidine nupta repletset¹
 limina nec fidi populum miserata mariti.

¹ nupta repletset *P* : cuncta replevit ω .

^a Some explain “with oracles,” but the more likely meaning is “with dashing waves,” as in the next line.

^b *i.e.*, the Aegean Sea.

^c *lit.*, “not as she previously was in respect of . . .” *Cf.* xi. 459, “non habitu, quo nota prius, non ore sereno.”

we set in long array the columns of our van—nor does Nemea readily allow a broad host to draw clear, so closely hemmed is she by woodland and entangling shade—tell us of the crime, and of thy praiseworthy deed and the sufferings of thy people, and how cast out from thy realm thou art come to this toil of thine.”

Pleasant is it to the unhappy to speak, and to recall the sorrows of old time. Thus she begins : “Set amid the encircling tides of Aegean Nereus lies Lemnos, where Mulciber draws breath again from his labours in fiery Aetna ; Athos hard by clothes the land with his mighty shadow, and darkens the sea with the image of his forests ; opposite the Thracians plough, the Thracians, from whose shores came our sin and doom. Rich and populous was our land, no less renowned than Samos or echoing ^a Delos or the other countless isles against which Aegon ^b dashes in foam. It was the will of the gods to confound our homes, but our own hearts are not free from guilt ; no sacred fires did we kindle to Venus, the goddess had no shrine. Even celestial minds are moved at last to resentment, and slow but sure the Avenging Powers creep on. She, leaving ancient Paphos and her hundred shrines, with altered looks and tresses, ^c loosed, so they say, her love-alluring girdle and banished her Idalian doves afar. Some, 'tis certain, of the women told it abroad that the goddess, armed with other torches and deadlier weapons, had flitted through the marriage chambers in the darkness of midnight with the sisterhood of Tartarus about her, and how she had filled every secret place with twining serpents and our bridal thresholds with dire terror, pitying not the people of her

protinus a Lemno teneri fugistis Amores, 70
 mutus Hymen versaeque faces et frigida iusti
 cura tori! nullae redeunt in gaudia noctes,
 nullus in amplexu sopor est, Odia aspera ubique
 et Furor et medio recubat Discordia lecto.
 cura viris tumidos adversa Thracas in ora 75
 eruere et saevam bellando frangere gentem.
 cumque domus contra stantesque in litore nati,
 dulcius Edonas¹ hiemes Arctonque prementem
 excipere, aut tandem tacita post proelia nocte
 fractorum subitas torrentum audire ruinas. 80
 illae autem tristes—nam me tunc libera curis
 virginitas annique tegunt—sub nocte dieque
 adsiduis aegrae in lacrimis solantia miscent
 conloquia, aut saevam spectant trans aequora Thracen.
 Sol operum medius summo librabat Olympo 85
 lucentes, ceu staret, equos; quater axe sereno
 intonuit, quater antra dei fumantis anhelos
 exseruere apices, ventisque absentibus Aegon
 motus et ingenti percussit litora ponto:
 cum subito horrendas aevi matura Polyxo 90
 tollitur in furias thalamisque insueta relictis
 evolat. insano veluti Teumesia thyias
 rapta deo, cum sacra vocant Idaeaque suadet
 buxus et a summis auditus montibus Euhian:
 sic erecta genas aciemque offusa² trementi 95
 sanguine desertam rabidis clamoribus urbem
 exagitat, clausasque domos et limina pulsans

¹ Edonas *Servius, Schol. on Lucan, edd.*: edonias *Pw.*

² offusa *Barth, Heinsius*: effusa *Pw.*

^a *i.e.*, Vulcan, who dwelt in Lemnos.

^b *i.e.*, Theban, from Teumesus, a mountain of Boeotia.

faithful spouse. Straightway fled ye from Lemnos, ye tender Loves: Hymen fell mute and turned his torch to earth; chill neglect came o'er the lawful couch, no nightly return of joy was there, no slumber in the beloved embrace, everywhere reigned bitter Hatred and Frenzy and Discord sundering the partners of the bed. For the men were bent on overthrowing the boastful Thracians across the strait, and warring down the savage tribe. And in despite of home and their children standing on the shore, sweeter it was to them to bear Edonian winters and the brunt of the cold North, or, when at last still night followed a day of battle, to hear the sudden outburst of the crashing mountain torrent. But the women—for I at that time was sheltered by care-free maidenhood and tender years—sad and sick at heart sought tearful solace in converse day and night, or gazed out across the sea to cruel Thrace.

“The sun in the midst of his labours was poisoning his shining chariot on Olympus’ height, as though at halt; four times came thunder from a serene sky, four times did the smoky caverns of the god^a open their panting summits, and Aegon, though the winds were hushed, was stirred and flung a mighty sea against the shores: when suddenly the crone Polyxo is caught up in a dire frenzy, and deserting unwontedly her chamber flies abroad. Like a Teumesian^b Thyiad rapt to madness by the god, when the sacred rites are calling and the boxwood pipe of Ida^c stirs her blood, and the voice of Euhan is heard upon the high hills: even so with head erect and quivering bloodshot eyes she ranges up and down the lonely city wildly clamouring, and beating at closed doors

^a The Phrygian mountain, where Cybele was worshipped.

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concilium vocat ; infelix comitatus eunti
 haerebant nati. atque illae non segnus omnes
 erumpunt tectis, summasque ad Pallados arces 100
 impetus : huc propere stipamur et ordine nullo
 congestae ; stricto mox ense silentia iussit
 hortatrix scelerum et medio sic ausa profari :
 ‘ rem summam instinctu superum meritique doloris,
 o viduae—firmate animos et pellite sexum !— 105
 Lemniades, sancire paro ; si taedet inanes
 acternum servare domos turpemque iuventae
 flore situm et longis steriles in luctibus annos,
 inveni, promitto, viam—nec numina desunt—
 qua renovanda Venus : modo par insumite robur 110
 luctibus, atque adeo primum hoc mihi noscere datur.
 tertia canet hiemps ; cui conubialia vincla
 aut thalami secretus honos ? cui coniuge pectus
 intepuit ? cuius vidit Lucina labores,
 dicite, vel iustos cuius pulsantia menses 115
 vota tument ? qua pace feras volucresque iugari
 mos datus. heu segnes ! potuitne ultricia Graius
 virginibus dare tela pater laetusque dolorum
 sanguine securos iuvenum perfundere somnos :
 at nos volgus iners ? quodsi propioribus actis 120
 est opus, ecce animos doceat Rhodopeia coniunx,
 ulta manu thalamos pariterque epulata marito.
 nec vos immunis scelerum securave cogo :
 plena mihi domus atque ingens, en cernite, sudor.

^a Danaus, *cf.* iv. 133 n.

^b Proene, wife of Tereus, king of Thrace ; she set before him the flesh of his son Itys. Rhodope, a mountain in Thrace.

and thresholds summons us to council ; her children clinging to her bear her woeful company. No less eagerly do all the women burst from their houses and rush to the citadel of Pallas on the hill-top : hither in feverish haste we press and crowd disorderly. Then with drawn sword she commands silence, and prompting us to crime dares thus to speak among us : ‘ Inspired by heaven and our just anger, O widowed Lemnians—steel now your courage and banish thought of sex !—I make bold to justify a desperate deed. If ye are weary of watching homes for ever desolate, of watching your beauty’s flower blight and wither in long barren years of weeping, I have found a way, I promise you—and the Powers are with us !—a way to renew the charm of Love ; only take courage equal to your griefs, yea, and of that assure me first. Three winters now have whitened—which of us has known the bonds of wedlock, or the secret honours of the marriage chamber ? Whose bosom has glowed with conjugal love ? Whom has Lucina beheld in travail ? Whose ripening hope throbs in the womb as the due months draw on ? Yet such permission is granted to beasts and birds to unite after their manner. Alas ! sluggards that we are ! could a Grecian sire ^a give avenging weapons to his daughters, and with treacherous joy drench in blood the bridegroom’s careless slumber ? And are we then to be but a spiritless mob ? Or if ye would have deeds nearer home, lo ! let the Thracian wife ^b teach us courage, who with her own hand avenged her union and set the feast before her spouse. Nor do I urge you on, guiltless myself or without care : full is my own house, and huge—ay, look ^c—the struggle.

^c She points to her four children, whom it is hard to slay.

quattuor hos una, decus et solacia patris, 125
 in gremio, licet amplexu lacrimisque morentur,
 transadigam ferro saniemque et vulnera fratrum
 miscebo patremque simul spirantibus addam.
 ecqua tot in caedes animum promittit ? ’

Agebat

pluribus ; adverso nituerunt vela profundo : 130
 Lemnia classis erat. rapuit gavisia Polyxo
 fortunam atque iterat : ‘ superisne vocantibus ultro
 desumus ? ecce rates ! deus hos, deus ultor in iras
 adportat coeptisque favet. nec imago quietis
 vana meae : nudo stabat Venus ense, videri 135
 clara mihi somnosque super “ quid perditis aevum ? ”
 inquit “ age aversis thalamos purgate maritis.
 ipsa faces alias melioraque foedera iungam.”
 dixit, et hoc ferrum stratis, hoc, credite, ferrum
 imposuit. quin o miserae, dum tempus agi¹ rem, 140
 consulite ; en validis spumant eversa lacertis
 aequora, Bistonides veniunt fortasse maritae.’
 hinc stimuli ingentes, magnusque advolvitur astris
 clamor. Amazonio Scythiam fervere tumultu
 lunatumque putes agmen descendere, ubi arma 145
 indulget pater et saevi movet ostia Belli.
 nec varius fremor aut studia in contraria rapti
 dissensus, ut plebe solet : furor omnibus idem,
 idem animus solare domos iuvenumque senumque

¹ agi *Heinsius* : agit *Pω*, *prob. from Aen. v. 638.*

Behold these four together, the pride and comfort of their sire; though they should stay me with embraces and tears, even here in my bosom I will pierce them with the sword, and unite the brothers in one heap of wounds and blood, and set their father's corpse on their yet breathing bodies! Who of you can promise me a spirit for slaughter so great?'

"Yet more was she urging, when yonder out at sea white sails shone—the Lemnian fleet! Exultant, Polyxo seizes the moment's chance and cries again: 'The gods themselves invite us—do we fail them? See, there are the ships! Heaven, avenging heaven, brings them to meet our wrath, and favours our resolve. Not vain was the vision of my sleep: with naked sword Venus stood over me as I slumbered, plain to my sight, and cried: "Why do ye waste your lives? Go, purge your chambers of the husbands who have lost their love! I myself will light you other torches and join you in worthier unions." She spoke, and laid this sword, this very sword, believe it, on my couch. Take heed then, unhappy ones, whilst there is time to act. Lo! the waters churn and foam beneath the strong arms of the rowers—perchance Thracian brides come with them!' At this all are wrought to highest pitch, and a loud clamour rolls upward to the skies. One would think it was Scythia swarming with tumultuous bands of Amazons, trooping to the fight with crescent bucklers, when the Father gives rein to armed conflict and flings wide the gates of savage War. Their uproar held no varying voices, nor did dissension cleave into opposing factions, as is the wont of a crowd; one frenzy, one purpose inspires all alike, to lay desolate our homes, to break life's thread for

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praecipitare colos plenisque adfrangere parvos 150
 uberibus ferroque omnes exire per annos.
 tunc viridi luco¹—lucus iuga celsa Minervae
 propter opacat humum niger ipse, sed insuper ingens
 mons premit et gemina pereunt caligne soles—
 hic sanxere fidem, tu Martia testis Enyo 155
 atque inferna Ceres, Stygiaeque Acheronte recluso
 ante preces venere deae ; sed fallit ubique
 mixta Venus, Venus arma tenet, Venus admovet iras.
 nec de more cruor : natum Charopeia coniunx
 obtulit, accingunt sese et mirantia ferro 160
 pectora congestisque avidae simul undique dextris
 perfringunt, ac dulce nefas in sanguine vivo
 coniurant, matremque recens circumvolat umbra.
 talia cernenti mihi quantus in ossibus horror,
 quisve per ora color ! qualis cum cerva cruentis 165
 circumventa lupis, nullum cui pectore molli
 robur et in volucris tenuis fiducia cursu,
 praecipitat suspensa fugam, iamiamque teneri
 credit et elusos audit concurrere morsus.
 Illi aderant, primis iamque offendere carinae 170
 litoribus, certant saltu contingere terram
 praecipites. miseri, quos non aut horrida virtus
 Marte sub Odrysio, aut medii inclementia ponti
 hauserit ! alta etiam superum delubra vaporant
 promissasque trahunt pecudes : niger omnibus aris 175
 ignis, et in nullis spirat deus integer extis.

¹ viridi luco *P* : viridis late ω .

young and old, to crush babes against the teeming breasts, and with the sword to make havoc through every age. Then in a green grove—a grove that darkens the ground hard by the lofty hill of Minerva, black itself, but above it the mountain looms huge, and the sunlight perishes in a twofold night—they pledged their solemn word, and thou wast witness, Martian Enyo, and thou, Ceres of the underworld,^a and the Stygian goddesses came in answer to their prayers; but unseen among them everywhere was Venus, Venus armed, Venus kindling wrath. Unwonted was the blood, for the wife of Charops made offering of her son, and they girded themselves, and at once all greedily stretched forth their right hands and mangled with the sword his marvelling breast, and made common oath in impious joy upon the living blood, while the new ghost hovers about his mother. What horror struck my limbs when I beheld so dire a sight! What colour came upon my cheeks! As when a deer is surrounded by savage wolves, and no strength is left in her tender breast and scanty confidence in speed of foot, she darts away in fearful flight, and each moment believes that she is taken, and hears behind her the snap of baffled jaws.

“They were come, and already the keels grated on the edge of the strand, and they leap ashore in emulous haste. Unhappy they, whom their stark valour 'neath Odrysian Mars^b destroyed not, nor the rage of the intervening sea! And now they fill with smoke of incense the high shrines of the gods, and drag their promised victims; but murky is the fire on every altar, and in no entrails breathes

^a *i.e.*, Proserpine.

^b *i.e.*, in Thracian warfare.

STATIUS

tardius umentem noctem deiecit Olympo
 Iuppiter et versum miti, reor, aethera cura
 sustinuit, dum fata vetat, nec longius umquam
 cessavere novae perfecto sole tenebrae. 180
 sera tamen mundo venerunt astra, sed illis
 et Paros et nemorosa Thasos crebraeque relucent
 Cyclades ; una gravi penitus latet obruta caelo
 Lemnos, in hanc tristes nebulae, et plaga caeca superne
 textitur, una vagis Lemnos non agnita nautis. 185
 iam domibus fusi et nemorum per opaea sacrorum
 ditibus indulgent epulis vacuantque profundo
 aurum immane mero, dum quae per Strymona pugnae,
 quis Rhodope gelidove labor sudatus in Haemo,
 enumerare vacat. nec non, manus impia, nuptae 190
 serta inter festasque dapes quo maxima cultu
 quaeque iacent ; dederat mites Cytherea suprema
 nocte viros longoque brevem post tempore pacem
 nequiquam et miseros perituro adflaverat igni.
 conticuere chori, dapibus ludoque licenti 195
 fit modus et primae decrescunt murmura noctis,
 cum consanguinei mixtus caligine Leti
 rore madens Stygio morituram amplectitur urbem
 Somnus et implacido¹ fundit gravia otia cornu
 secernitque viros. vigilant nuptaeque nurusque 200
 in scelus, atque hilares acuunt fera tela Sorores.
 invasere nefas, cuncto sua regnat Erinys
 pectore. non aliter Scythicos armenta per agros
 Hyrcanae clausere leae, quas exigit ortu

¹ implacido *P*ω : implicito *N*.

^a The god shows his will in the yet living ("spirat") entrails, just as he speaks in the cry of birds; to be favourable the entrails must be perfect ("integer"), and every slight imperfection was given some meaning by the "haruspices."

the god unimpaired.^a Slowly did Jupiter bring down the night from moist Olympus, and with kindly care held back, I ween, the turning sky, and stayed the fates, nor ever, the sun's course finished, did the new shadows longer delay their coming. Yet at last the late stars shone in heaven, but their light fell on Paros and woody Thasos and the myriad Cyclades: Lemnos alone lies under a heavy sky's thick pall of darkness, gloomy fogs descend upon it and above is a woven belt of night, alone is Lemnos unmarked of wandering mariners. And now, streaming forth from their homes and through the shade of sacred groves, they sate themselves in sumptuous feasting and drain vast golden goblets of the brimming wine, and tell at their leisure of battles on the Strymon, of sweat of war on Rhodope or frozen Haemus. Nay more, their wives, unnatural consorts, recline among the garlands and by the festal tables, each in her choicest raiment; on that last night Cytherea had made their husbands gracious toward them, and given a brief moment of vain bliss after so long a time, and breathed into the doomed ones a passion soon to perish.

“The choirs fell silent, a term is set to banqueting and amorous sport, and as night deepens the noises die away, when Sleep, shrouded in the gloom of his brother Death and dripping with Stygian dew, enfolds the doomed city, and from his relentless horn pours heavy drowse, and marks out the men. Wives and daughters are awake for murder, and joyously do the Sisters sharpen their savage weapons. They fall to their horrid work: in the breast of each her Fury reigns. Not otherwise on Scythian plains are cattle surrounded by Hyrcanian lionesses, whom

STATIUS

prima fames, avidique implorant ubera nati. 205
 quos tibi nam, dubito, scelerum de mille figuris
 expediam casus.¹ Elymum temeraria Gorge
 evinctum ramis altaque in mole tapetum
 efflantem somno crescentia vina superstans
 vulnera disiecta rimatur veste, sed illum 210
 infelix sopor admota sub morte refugit.
 turbidus incertumque oculis vigilantibus hostem
 occupat amplexu, nec segnius illa tenentis
 pone adigit costas, donec sua pectora ferro
 tangeret. is demum sceleri modus ; ora supinat 215
 blandus adhuc oculisque tremens et murmure Gorgen
 quaerit et indigno non solvit² braccia collo.
 non ego nunc volgi quamquam crudelia pandam
 funera, sed propria luctus de stirpe recordor :
 quod te, flave Cydon, quod te per colla refusus 220
 intactum, Crenaeae, comis, quibus ubera mecum
 obliquumque a patre genus, fortemque, timebam
 quem desponsa, Gyan vidi lapsare eruentae
 vulnere Myrmidones, quodque inter sarta torosque
 barbara ludentem fodiebat Epopea mater. 225
 flet super aequaevum soror exarmata Lycaste
 Cydimon, heu similes perituro in corpore vultus
 aspiciens floremque genae et quas finxerat auro
 ipsa comas, cum saeva parens iam coniuge fuso
 adstitit impellitque minis atque ingerit³ ensem. 230
 ut fera, quae rabiem placido desueta magistro

¹ *Other edd. read* (nam dubito) . . . casus ?

² non solvit *P*_ω : solvit sua *N*.

³ ingerit *P* (*in margin*) : inserit *P*_ω.

^a For similar scenes see x. 273 *sq.*

hunger drives forth at sunrise and greedy cubs implore for their udders' milk. Of a thousand shapes of guilt I hesitate what to tell thee that befell.^a Bold Gorge stands over chaplet-crowned Elymus, who on high-piled cushions pants out in his sleep the rising fumes of wine, and probes in his disordered garments for a vital blow, but his ill-omened slumber flees from him at the near approach of death. Confused and half-awake he seizes his foe in his embrace, and she, as he holds her, straightway stabs through his side from behind, till the point touches her own breast. There at last the crime had ending : his head falls back, but still with quivering eyes and murmur of endearing words he seeks for Gorge, nor looses his arms from her unworthy neck. I will not now tell of the slaughter of the multitude, cruel as it was, but I will recall the woes of my own family : how I beheld thee, fair-haired Cydon, and thee, Crenaeus, with thy unshorn locks streaming o'er thy shoulders—my foster-brothers these, born of another sire—and brave Gyas, my betrothed, of whom I stood in awe, all fallen beneath the blow of bloodthirsty Myrmidone ; and how his savage mother pierced Epopeus as he played among the garlands and the couches. Lycaste, her weapon flung away, is weeping over Cydimus, her brother of equal years, gazing alas ! upon his doomed body, his face so like her own, the bloom upon his cheeks and that hair which she herself had decked in gold, when her cruel mother, her spouse already slain, stands over her, and threatening drives her to the deed, and thrusts the sword upon her. Like a wild beast, that under a soothing master has unlearnt its madness

STATIUS

tardius arma movet stimulisque et verberare crebro
 in mores negat ire suos, sic illa iacenti
 incidit undantemque sinu conlapsa cruorem
 excipit et laceros premit in nova vulnera crines. 235
 ut vero Alcimedem etiamnum in murmure truncos
 ferre patris vultus et egentem sanguinis ensem
 conspexi, riguere comae atque in viscera saevus
 horror iit : meus ille Thoas, mea dira videri
 dextra mihi ! extemplo thalamis turbata paternis 240
 inferor. ille quidem dudum—quis magna tuenti
 somnus ?—agit versans secum, etsi lata recessit
 urbe domus, quinam strepitus, quae murmura noctis,
 cur fremibunda quies ? trepido scelus ordine pando,
 quis dolor, unde animi : ‘ vis nulla arcere furentes ; 245
 haec sequere, o miserande ; premunt aderuntque mo-
 ranti,
 et mecum fortasse cades.’ his motus et artus
 erexit stratis. ferimur per devia vastae
 urbis et ingentem nocturnae caedis acervum
 passim, ut quosque sacris crudelis vespera lucis 250
 straverat, occulta speculamur nube latentes.
 hic impressa toris ora exstantesque reclusis
 pectoribus capulos magnarum et fragmina trunca
 hastarum et ferro laceras per corpora vestes,
 crateras pronos epulasque in caede natantes 255
 cernere erat, iugulisque modo torrentis apertis
 sanguine permixto redeuntem in pocula Bacchum.
 hic iuvenum manus et nullis violabilis armis

and is slow to make attack, and in spite of goadings and many a blow refuses to assume its native temper, so she falls upon him as he lies, and sinking down gathers the welling blood in her bosom, and staunches the fresh wounds with her torn tresses. But when I beheld Alcimede carry her father's head still murmuring and his bloodless sword, my hair stood erect and fierce shuddering horror swept through my frame; that was my Thoas, methought, and that my own dread hand! Straightway in agony I rush to my father's chamber. He indeed long while had pondered—what sleep for him whose charge is great?—although our spacious home lay apart from the city, what was the uproar, what the noises of the night, why the hours of rest were clamorous. I tell a confused story of the crime, what was their grievance, whence their passionate wrath. 'No force can stop their frenzy; follow this way, unhappy one; they are pursuing, and will be on us if we linger, and perchance we shall fall together.' Alarmed by my words he sprang up from the couch. We hurry through devious paths of the vast city, and, shrouded in a covering of mist, everywhere behold great heaps of nocturnal carnage, wheresoe'er throughout the sacred groves the cruel darkness had laid them low. Here could one see faces pressed down upon the couches, and sword-hilts projecting from breasts laid open, broken fragments of great spears and bodies with raiment gashed and torn, mixing-bowls upset and banquets floating in gore, and mingled wine and blood streaming back like a torrent to the goblets from gaping throats. Here are a band of youths, and there old men whom no violence should profane, and children

STATIUS

turba senes, positique patrum super ora gementum
 semineccs pueri trepidas in limine vitae 260
 singultant aninias. gelida non saevius Ossa
 luxuriant Lapitharum epulae, si quando profundo
 Nubigenae caluere mero ; vix primus ab ira
 pallor, et impulsis surgunt ad proelia mensis.
 Tunc primum sese trepidis sub nocte Thyoneus 265
 detexit, nato portans extrema Thoanti
 subsidia, et multa subitus cum luce refulsit.
 agnovi : non ille quidem turgentia sertis
 tempora nec flava crinem destrinxerat uva :
 nubilus indignumque oculis liquentibus imbrem 270
 adloquitur : “ dum fata dabant tibi, nate, potentem
 Lemnon et externis etiam servare timendam
 gentibus, haud umquam iusto mea cura labori
 destitit : absciderunt tristes crudelia Parcae
 stamina, nec dictis, supplex quae plurima fudi 275
 ante Iovem frustra, lacrimisque avertere luctus
 contigit ; infandum natae concessit honorem.
 adcelerate fugam, tuque, o mea digna propago,
 hac rege, virgo, patrem, gemini qua bracchia muri
 litus eunt : illa, qua rere¹ silentia, porta 280
 stat funesta Venus ferroque accincta furentes
 adiuvat—unde manus, unde haec Mavortia divae
 pectora ?— : tu lato patrem committe profundo.
 succedam curis.” ita fatus in aera rursus
 solvitur et nostrum, visus arcantibus umbris, 285
 mitis iter longae claravit limite flammae.

¹ rere *P* : rara ω .

^a The Centaurs ; the epithet is sometimes explained by regarding them as a personification of mountain-torrents ; cf. *Theb.* i. 365.

half-slain flung o'er the faces of their moaning parents and gasping out their trembling souls on the threshold of life. No fiercer are the banquet-revellings of the Lapithae on frozen Ossa, when the cloud-born ones^a grow hot with wine deep-drained ; scarce has wrath's first pallor seized them, when overthrowing their tables they start up to the affray.

“ Then first Thyoneus^b beneath night's cover revealed himself to us in our distress, succouring his son Thoas in his hour of need, and shone in a sudden blaze of light. I knew him : yet he had bound no chaplets round his swelling temples, nor yellow grapes about his hair : but a cloud was upon him, and his eyes streamed angry rain as he addressed us : ‘ While the fates granted thee, my son, to keep Lemnos mighty and feared still by foreign peoples, never failed I to aid thy righteous labours ; the stern Parcae have cut short the relentless threads, nor have my prayers and tears, poured forth in vain supplication before Jove, availed to turn away this woe ; to his daughter hath he granted honour unspeakable.^c Hasten ye then your flight, and thou, O maiden, worthy offspring of my race, guide thy sire this way where the wall's twin arms approach the sea ; at yonder gate, where thou thinkest all is quiet, stands Venus in fell mood and aids the furious ones ; —whence hath the goddess this violence, this heart of Mars ? Trust thou thy father to the broad deep : I will take thy cares upon me.’ So speaking he faded into air again, and since the shadows barred our vision lit up our road with a long stream of fire,

^b Bacchus.

^c *i.e.*, to Venus, to whom he has granted the awful privilege of destroying the Lemnians.

STATIUS

qua data signa, sequor ; dein curvo robore clausum
 dis pelagi Ventisque et Cycladas Aegaeoni
 amplexo commendo patrem, nec fletibus umquam
 fit¹ modus alternis, ni iam dimittat Eoo 290
 Lucifer astra polo. tunc demum litore rauco
 multa metu reputans et vix confisa Lyaeo
 dividor, ipsa gradu nitente, sed anxia retro
 pectora, nec requies, quin et surgentia caelo
 flamina et e cunctis prospectem collibus undas. 295
 exoritur pudibunda dies, caelumque retexens
 aversum Lemno iubar et declinia Titan
 opposita iuga nube refert. patuere furores
 nocturni, lucisque novae formidine cunctis,
 quamquam inter similes, subitus² pudor ; impia terrae
 infodiunt scelera aut festinis ignibus urunt. 301
 iam manus Eumenidum captasque refugerat arces
 exsaturata Venus ; licuit sentire, quid ausae,
 et turbare comas et lumina tingere fletu.
 insula dives agris opibusque armisque virisque, 305
 nota situ et Getico nuper ditata triumpho,
 non maris incursu, non hoste, nec aethere laevo
 perdidit una omnes orbata excisaque fundo³
 indigenas : non arva viri, non aequora vertunt,
 conticuere domus, cruor altus et oblita crasso 310
 cuncta rubent tabo, magnaеque in moenibus urbis
 nos tantum et saevi spirant per culmina manes.
 ipsa quoque arcanis tecti in penetralibus alto
 molior igne pyram, sceptrum super armaque patris
 inicio et notas regum velamina vestes, 315

¹ fit *Pω* : sit *Gronovius*.

² subitus *Bentley* : habitus *Pω*.

³ fundo *Bentley* (*from a ms.*) : mundo *Pω*.

in kindly succour. I follow where the signal leads, and anon entrust my sire, hidden in a vessel's curving beams, to the gods of the sea and the winds and Aegaeon who holds the Cyclades in his embrace ; nor set we any limit to our mutual grief, were it not that Lucifer is already chasing the stars from the eastern pole. Then at last I leave the sounding shore, in brooding fear and scarce trusting Lyaeus' word, resolute in step but casting anxious thoughts behind me ; nor rest I but must fain watch from every hill the breezes rising in heaven and the ocean waves. Day rises shamefast, and Titan opening heaven to view turns aside his beams from Lemnos and hides his averted chariot behind the barrier of a cloud. Night's frenzied deeds lay manifest, and to all the new terrors of the day brought sudden shame, though all had share therein ; they bury in the earth their impious crimes or burn with hurried fires. And now the Fury band and Venus sated to the full had fled the stricken city ; now could the women know what they had dared, now rend their hair and bedew their eyes with tears. This island, blest in lands and wealth, in arms and heroes, famed for its site and enriched of late by a Getic triumph, has lost, not by onslaught of the sea or of the foe or by stroke of heaven, all her folk together, bereft and ravaged to the uttermost. No men are left to plough the fields or cleave the waves, silent are the homes, swimming deep in blood and stained red with clotted gore : we alone remain in that great city, we and the ghosts that fiercely hiss about our rooftops. I, too, in the inner courtyard of my house build high a flaming pile and cast thereon my father's sceptre and arms and well-known royal

STATIUS

ac prope maesta rogam confusis ignibus adsto
 ense cruentato, fraudemque et inania busta
 plango metu, si forte premant, cassumque parenti
 omen et hac dubios leti precor ire timores.
 his mihi pro meritis, ut falsi criminis astu 320
 parta fides, regna¹ et solio considerare patris—
 supplicium !—datur. ane illis obsessa negarem ?
 accessi, saepe ante deos testata fidemque
 immeritasque manus ; subeo—pro dira potestas !—
 exsanguie imperium et maestam sine culmine Lemnon.
 iam magis atque magis vigiles dolor angere sensus,
 et gemitus clari, et paulatim invisā Polyxo, 327
 iam meminisse nefas, iam ponere manibus aras
 concessum et multum cineres iurare sepultos.
 sic ubi duetorem trepidae stabulique maritum, 330
 quem penes et saltus et adultae gloria gentis,
 Massylo frangi stupuere sub hoste iuvencae,
 it truncum sine honore pecus, regemque peremptum
 ipse ager, ipsi annes et muta armenta queruntur.

Ecce autem aerata dispellens aequora prora 335
 Pelias intacti late subit hospita ponti
 pinus ; agunt Minyae, geminus fragor ardua canet
 per latera, abruptam credas radicibus ire
 Ortygiam aut fractum pelago decurrere montem.
 ast ubi suspensis siluerunt aequora tonsis, 340
 mitior et senibus cygnis et pectine Phoebi

¹ regna *P* : regno *ω*.

^a She weeps from fear lest they suspect the fraud, and prays that it may not be an evil omen to her father, and that she may escape death.

^b *i.e.*, a lion, often called Massylian, *i.e.*, African.

raiment, and sadly do I stand by the blazing welter of the pyre with blood-stained sword, and lament the feigned deed and empty funeral in fear, should they perchance accuse me, and pray that the omen may be void of harm towards my sire and that so my doubting fears of death may come to nought.^a For these deserts—since the ruse of my pretended crime wins credence—the throne and kingdom of my father are given me—punishment indeed! Was I to deny their urgent pressure? I submitted, having oft called heaven to witness my innocence and to give protection; I succeed—ah! ghastly sovereignty—to power's pale image and to a Lemnos sad without its chief. And now ever more and more do they writhe in wakeful anguish, now openly lament, and little by little grow to hate Polyxo; now is it permitted to remember the crime, and to set altars to the dead and adjure with many prayers their buried ashes. Even so when the frightened heifers behold in horror their leader and sire of the stall, to whom belonged the pastures and the glory of the grown herd, lying mangled beneath the Massylian foe,^b leaderless and dejected goes the herd, and the very fields and rivers with the mute cattle mourn the monarch slain.

“But lo! dividing the waters with brazen prow the Pelian pinewood bark draws nigh, stranger to that wide unadventured sea: the Minyae are her crew; the twofold splashing wave runs white along her towering sides: one would think Ortygia moved uprooted or a sundered mountain sailed upon the deep. But when the oars stayed poised in air and the waters fell silent, there came from the vessel's midst a voice sweeter than dying swans or quill of

STATIUS

vox media de puppe venit, maria ipsa carinae
 accedunt. post nosse datum est : Oeagrius illic
 acclinis malo mediis intersonat Orpheus
 remigiis tantosque iubet nescire labores. 345
 illis in Scythicum Borean iter oraque primi
 Cyaneis artata maris. nos Thracia visu
 bella ratae vario tecta incursare tumultu,
 densarum pecudum aut fugientum more volucrum.
 heu ubi nunc furiae ? portus amplexaque litus 350
 moenia, qua longe pelago despectus aperto,
 scandimus et celsas turres ; huc saxa sudesque
 armaque maesta virum atque infectos caedibus enses
 subvectant trepidae ; quin et squalentia texta
 thoracum et voltu galeas intrare soluto 355
 non pudet ; audaces rubuit mirata catervas
 Pallas, et averso risit Gradivus in Haemo.
 tunc primum ex animis praeceps amentia cessit,
 nec ratis illa salo, sed divum sera per aequor
 iustitia et poenae scelerum adventare videntur. 360
 iamque aberant terris, quantum Cortynia currunt
 spicula, caeruleo gravidam cum Iuppiter imbri
 ipsa super nubem ratis armamenta Pelasgae
 sistit agens ; inde horror aquis, et raptus ab omni
 sole dies miscet tenebras, quis protinus unda 365
 concolor ; obnixa lacerant cava nubila venti
 diripiuntque fretum, nigris redit umida tellus
 verticibus, totumque notis certantibus¹ aequor
 pendet et arquato iamiam prope sidera dorso
 frangitur, incertae nec iam prior impetus alno, 370

¹ certantibus *P* : portantibus ω , v. i. 293.

^a Cretan, *i.e.*, arrows, for which Crete was famous.

^b This phrase can be explained by inversion, "all the sunlight taken from the day," or by translating "dies" as "light" (*cf.* 421), with hypallage of "omni."

Phoebus, and the seas themselves drew nigh the ship. Thereafter did we learn 'twas Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, who leaning against the mast sang thus amid the rowers and bade them know such toils no more. Towards Scythian Boreas were they voyaging and the mouth of the unattempted sea that the Cyanean rocks hold fast. We at the sight of them deemed them Thracian foes, and ran to our homes in wild confusion like crowding cattle or fluttering birds. Alas! where now is our frenzied rage? We man the harbour and the shore-embracing walls, which give a far view over the open sea, and the lofty towers; hither in excited haste they bring stones and stakes and the arms that mourn their lords, and swords stained with slaughter; nay, it shames them not to don stiff woven corselets and to fit helms about their wanton faces; Pallas blushed and marvelled at their bold array, and Gradivus laughed on the far slopes of Haemus. Then first did our headlong madness leave our minds, nor seemed it a mere ship on the salt sea, but the gods' late-coming justice and vengeance for our crimes that drew nigh o'er the deep. And already were they distant from the land the range of a Gortynian^a shaft, when Jupiter brought a cloud laden with dark rain and set it over the very rigging of the Pelasgian ship; then the waters shudder, all its light is stolen from the sun^b and the gloom thickens, and the wave straightway takes the colour of the gloom; warring winds tear the hollow clouds and rend the deep, the wet sand surges up in the black eddies, and the whole sea hangs poised between the conflict of the winds, and with arching ridge now all but touching the stars falls shattered; nor has the bewildered

STATIUS

sed labat exstantem rostris modo gurgite in imo,
 nunc caelo Tritona ferens. nec roborum prosunt
 semideum heroum, puppemque insana flagellat
 arbor et instabili proeumbens pondere curvas
 raptat aquas, remique cadunt in peetus inanes. 375
 nos quoque per rupes murorumque aggere ab omni,
 dum labor ille viris fretaque indignantur et austros,
 desuper invalidis fluitantia tela lacertis—
 quid non ausa manus?—Telamona et Pelea contra
 spargimus, et nostro petitur Tiryntius areu. 380
 illi—quippe simul bello pelagoque laborant—
 pars clipeis munire ratem, pars aequora fundo
 egerere; ast alii pugnant, sed inertia motu
 corpora, suspensaeque earent conamine vires.
 instamus iactu telorum, et ferrea nimbis 385
 certat hiemps, vastaeque sudae fractique molares
 spiculaeque et multa erinitum missile flamma
 nunc pelago, nunc puppe cadunt, dat operta fragorem
 pinus, et abiunctis regemunt tabulata cavernis.
 talis Hyperborea viridis nive verberat agros 390
 Iuppiter; obruitur campis genus omne ferarum,
 depressaeque cadunt volucres, et messis amaro
 strata gelu, fragor inde iugis, inde omnibus irae.
 ut vero elisit nubes Iove tortus ab alto
 ignis et ingentes patuere in fulmine nautae, 395
 deriguere animi, manibusque horrore remissis
 arma aliena cadunt, rediit in pectora sexus.

^a For this meaning of "flagello" *cf.* iii. 36, x. 169.

^b *i.e.*, so that they act as a sort of bulwark.

vessel its former motion, but pitches to and fro, with the Triton on its bows now projecting from the waters' depths, now borne aloft in air. Nor aught avails the might of the heroes half-divine, but the demented mast makes the vessel rock and sway,^a and falling forward with overbalancing weight smites upon the arching waves, and the oars drop fruitlessly on the rowers' chests. We, too, from rocks and every walled rampart, while they thus toil and rage against the seas and the southern blasts, with weak arms shower down wavering missiles—what deed did we not dare?—on Telamon and Peleus, and even on the Tiryinthian we bend our bow. But they, hard pressed both by storm and foe, fortify, some of them, the ship with shields,^b others bale water from the hold; others fight, but the motion makes their bodies helpless, and there is no force behind their reeling blows. We hurl our darts more fiercely, and the iron rain vies with the tempest, and enormous stakes and fragments of millstones and javelins and missiles trailing tresses of flame fall now into the sea, now on the vessel: the decking of the bark resounds and the beams groan as the gaping holes are torn. Even so does Jupiter lash the green fields with Hyperborean snow; beasts of all kinds perish on the plains, and birds are overtaken and fall dead, and the harvest is blasted with untimely frost; then is there thundering on the heights, and fury in the rivers. But when from on high Jove flung his brand with shock of cloud on cloud, and the flash revealed the mariners' mighty forms, our hearts were frozen fast, our arms dropped shuddering and let fall the unnatural weapons, and our true sex once more held sway. We behold the

STATIUS

cernimus Aeacidas murisque immane minantem
 Ancaeam et longa pellentem cuspage rupes
 Iphiton ; attonito manifestus in agmine supra est 400
 Amphitryoniades puppemque alternus utrimque
 ingravat et medias ardet descendere in undas.
 at levis et miseræ nondum mihi notus Iason
 transtra per et remos impressaque terga virorum
 nunc magnum Oeniden, nunc ille hortatibus Idan 405
 et Talaum et cana rorantem asparagine ponti
 Tyndariden iterans gelidique in nube parentis
 vela laborantem¹ Calain subnectere malo
 voce manuque rogat ; quatiunt impulsibus illi
 nunc freta, nunc muros, sed nec spumantia cedunt 410
 aequora, et incussae redeunt a turribus hastae.
 ipse graves fluctus clavumque audire negantem
 lassat agens Tiphys palletque et plurima mutat
 imperia ac laevas dextrasque obtorquet in undas
 proram navifragis avidam concurrere saxis, 415
 donec ab extremae cuneo ratis Aesone natus
 Palladios oleae, Mopsi gestamina, ramos
 extulit et socium turba prohibente poposcit
 foedera ; praecipites vocem involvere procellac.
 tunc modus armorum, pariterque exhausta quierunt
 flamina, confusoque dies respexit Olympo. 421
 quinquaginta illi, trabibus de more revinctis,
 eminus abrupto quatiunt nova litora saltu,
 magnorum decora alta patrum, iam fronte sereni
 noscendique habitu, postquam tumor² iraque cessit 425

¹ laborantem *Pw* : laboranti *Bentley*.

² tumor *Bentley* : timor *Pw*.

^a *i.e.*, Castor or Pollux.

^b *i.e.*, Boreas.

^c Apparently a reminiscence of *Aen.* vi. init.

sons of Aeacus, and Ancaeus threatening mightily our walls, and Iphitus with long spear warding off the rocks; clear to view among the desperate band the son of Amphitryon outtops them all, and alternately on either hand weighs down the ship and burns to leap into the midst of the waves. But Jason—not yet did I know him to my cost—leaping nimbly over benches and oars and treading the backs of heroes, calls now on great Oenides, now on Idas and Talaus, now on the son of Tyndareus^a dripping with the white spume of the sea, and Calais striving aloft in the clouds of his frosty sire^b to fasten the sails to the mast, and with voice and gesture again and again encourages them. With vigorous strokes they lash the sea and shake the walls, but none the more do the foaming waters yield, and the flung spears rebound from our towers. Tiphys himself wearies by his labours the heavy billows and the tiller that will not hear him, and pale with anxiety oft changes his commands, and turns right- and leftward from the land the prow that would fain dash itself to shipwreck on the rocks, until from the vessel's tapering bows the son of Aeson holds forth the olive-branch of Pallas that Mopsus bore, and though the tumult of his comrades would prevent him, asks for peace; his words were swept away by the headlong gale. Then came there a truce to arms, and the tempest likewise sank to rest, and day looked forth once more from the turbid heaven. Then those fifty heroes, their vessels duly moored,^c as they leap from the sheer height shake the stranger shores, tall comely sons of glorious sires, serene of brow and known by their bearings, now that the swelling rage has left their countenances. Even so

STATIUS

vultibus. arcana sic fama erumpere porta
 caelicolas, si quando domos litusque rubentum
 Aethiopum et mensas amor est intrare¹ minores ;
 dant Fluvii Montesque locum, tum Terra superbit
 gressibus et paulum respirat caelifer Atlans. 430

Hic et ab adserto nuper Marathone superbum
 Thesea et Ismarios, Aquilonia pignora, fratres,
 utraque quis rutila stridebant tempora pinna,
 cernimus, hic Phoebō non indignante priorem
 Admetum et durae similem nihil Orphea Thracae, 435
 tunc prolem Calydone satam generumque profundi
 Nereos. ambiguo visus errore laecessunt
 Oebalidae gemini ; chlamys huic, chlamys ardet et illi,
 ambo hastile gerunt, umeros exsertus uterque,
 nudus uterque genas, simili coma fulgurat astro. 440
 audet iter magnique sequens vestigia mutat
 Herculis et tarda quamvis se mole ferentem
 vix cursu tener aequat Hylas Lernaëque tollens
 arma sub ingenti gaudet sudare pharetra.

Ergo iterum Venus et tacitis corda aspera flammis
 Lemniadum pertemptat Amor. tunc regia Iuno 446
 arma habitusque virum pulchraeque insignia gentis
 mentibus insinuat, certatimque ordine cunctae
 hospitibus patuere fores ; tunc primus in aris
 ignis, et infandis venere oblivia curis ; 450
 tunc epulae felixque sopor noctesque quietae,

¹ intrare *Pω* : iterare *Schrader*, cf. *Lactantius* frequenter epulatur Jupiter . . . frequenter eos revisunt.

^a Homer describes the gods as visiting the Aethiopians and banqueting with them (*Il.* i. 423).

^b One of the exploits of Theseus was to slay a wild bull that ravaged the fields of Marathon.

^c *i.e.*, Thracian, Northern, sons of the north wind.

the denizens of heaven are said to burst forth from their mystic portals, when they desire to visit the homes and the coast and the lesser banquet of the red Aethiopians^a: rivers and mountains yield them passage, Earth exults beneath their footsteps and Atlas knows a brief respite from the burden of the sky.

“Here we behold Theseus, lately come in triumph from setting Marathon free,^b and the Ismarian^c brethren, pledges of the North Wind’s love, with red wing-feathers whirring loud on either temple; here, too, Admetus, whom Phoebus was content to serve, and Orpheus, in nought resembling barbarous Thrace; then Calydon’s offspring and the son-in-law of watery Nereus. The twin Oealidae^d bewilder our vision with puzzling error: each wears a bright red mantle and wields a spear, bare are the shoulders of each and their faces yet unbearded, their locks are aglow with the same starry radiance. Young Hylas bravely marching follows great Hercules stride for stride, scarce equalling his pace, slow though he bear his mighty bulk, and rejoices to carry the Lernaean arms and to sweat beneath the huge quiver.

“So once more Venus and Love try with their secret fires the fierce hearts of the Lemnian women. Then royal Juno instils into their minds the image of the heroes’ arms and raiment, and their signs of noble race, and all fling open their doors in emulous welcome to the strangers. Then first were fires lit on the altars, and unspeakable cares were forgotten, then came feasting and happy sleep and tranquil

^d Castor and Pollux; Oealus was their grandfather, a king of Sparta.

STATIUS

nec superum sine mente, reor, placuere fatentes.
 forsitan et nostrae fatum excusabile culpae
 noscere cura, duces. cineres furiasque meorum
 testor : ut externas non sponte aut crimine taedas 455
 attigerim—scit cura deum—etsi blandus Iason
 virginibus dare vincla novis : sua iura cruentum
 Phasin habent ; alios, Colchi, generatis amores.
 iamque exuta gelu tepuerunt sidera longis
 solibus, et vclox in terga revolvitur annus. 460
 iam nova progenies partusque in vota soluti,
 et non speratis clamatur Lemnos alumnis.
 nec non ipsa tamen thalami monimenta coacti
 enitor geminos, duroque sub hospite mater
 nomen avi renovo ; nec quae fortuna relictis 465
 nosse datur, iam plena quater quinquennia pergunt,
 si modo fata sinunt aluitque rogata Lycaste.

Detumuere animi-maris, et clementior Auster
 vela vocat : ratis ipsa moram portusque quietos
 odit et adversi¹ tendit retinacula saxi. 470
 inde fugam Minyae, sociosque appellat Iason
 efferus, o utinam iam tunc mea litora rectis
 praetervectus aquis, cui non sua pignora cordi,
 non promissa fides ; certe stat fama remotis
 gentibus : aequorei redierunt vellera Phruxi. 475
 ut stata lux pelago venturumque aethera sensit
 Tiphys et occidui rubuere cubilia Phoebi,

¹ adversi *P* : adsueti *ω* : asserti *D*.

nights, nor without heaven's will, I ween, did they find favour, when they confessed their crime. My fault, too, my fated pardonable fault, perchance ye would hear, O chieftains : by the ashes and avenging furies of my people I swear, innocent and unwilling did I light the torch of alien wedlock—as Heaven's Providence doth know—though Jason be wily to ensnare young maidens' hearts : laws of its own bind blood-stained Phasis, and you, ye Colchians, breed far different passions. And now the skies have broken through the bonds of frost and grow warm in the long sunlit days, and the swift year has wheeled round to the opposite pole. A new progeny is brought to birth in answer to our prayers, and Lemnos is filled with the cries of babes un-hoped-for. I myself also bear twin sons, memorial of a ravished couch, and, made a mother by my rough guest, renew in the babe his grandsire's name ; nor may I know what fortune hath befallen since I left them, for now full twenty years are past, if the fates but suffer them to live and Lycaste reared them as I prayed her.

“The boisterous seas fell tranquil and a milder southern breeze invites the sails : the ship herself, hating to tarry in the quiet haven, strains with her hawsers at the resisting rock. Then would the Minyae fain begone, and cruel Jason summons his comrades—would he had ere that sailed past my shores, who recked not of his own children, nor of his sworn word ; truly his fame is known in distant lands : the fleece of seafaring Phrixus hath returned. When the destined sun had sunk beneath the sea and Tiphys felt the coming breeze and Phoebus' western couch blushed red, once more alas ! there

heu iterum gemitus, iterumque novissima nox est.
vix reserata dies, et iam rate eelsus Iason
ire iubet, primoque ferit dux verberare pontum. 480

illos e scopulis et summo vertice montis
spumea porreeti dirimentes terga profundi
prosequimur visu, donec lassavit euntes
lux oculos longumque polo contexere visa est
aequor et extremi pressit freta margine caeli. 485

Fama subit portus, vectum trans alta Thoanta
fraterna regnare Chio, mihi crimina nulla,
et vacuos arsisse rogos ; fremit impia plebes,
sontibus accensae stimulis facinusque reposeunt.
quin etiam occultae vulgo increbrescere voces : 490
“ solane fida suis, nos autem in funera laetae¹ ?
non deus haec fatumque ? quid imperat urbe ne-
fanda ? ”

talibus exanimis dictis—et triste propinquat
supplicium, nec regna iuvant—vaga litora furtim
incomitata sequor funestaque moenia linquo, 495
qua fuga nota patris ; sed non iterum obvius Euhan,
nam me praedonum manus hue adpulsa taentem²
abripit et vestras famulam transmittit in oras.”

Talia Lernaeis iterat dum regibus exsul
Lemnias et longa solatur damna querella, 500
immemor absentis—sic di suasistis !—alumni,
ille graves oculos languentiaque ora comanti

¹ laetae *Pw* : *Garrod conj.* nostra autem in funera laeta est ?

² taentem *Pw* : iacentem latentem *edd.* : licentem *Garrod.*

^a “ euntes ” expresses the “ travelling ” of the sight as it follows the ships out to sea.

^b *i.e.*, our deed was ordained by heaven and fate ; in disobeying them she is “ nefanda.”

was lamentation, once more the last night of all. Scarce is the day begun, and already Jason high upon the poop gives the word for sailing, and strikes as chieftain the first oar-stroke on the sea. From rocks and mountain height we follow them with our gaze as they cleave the foamy space of outspread ocean, until the light wearied our roaming^a vision and seemed to interweave the distant waters with the sky, and made the sea one with heaven's extremest marge.

"A rumour goes about the harbour that Thoas has been carried o'er the deep and is reigning in his brother's isle of Chios, that I am innocent and the funeral pyre a mockery; the impious mob clamours loud, maddened by the stings of guilt, and demands the crime I owe them. Moreover, secret murmurings arise and increase among the folk: 'Is she alone faithful to her kindred, while we rejoiced to slay? Did not heaven and fate ordain the deed? why then bears she rule in the city, the accursed one?'^b Aghast at such words—for a cruel retribution draws nigh, nor does queenly pomp delight me—I wander alone in secret on the winding shore and leave the deadly walls by the road of my father's flight, well known to me; but not a second time did Euhan meet me, for a band of pirates putting in to shore carried me speechless away and brought me to your land a slave."

While thus the Lemnian exile recounts her tale to the Lernaean princes and by a long plaint consoles her loss, forgetful—so ye gods constrained her!—of her absent charge,^c he, with heavy eyes and

^c *i.e.*, Opheltis, the infant, *cf.* iv. 742, 787.

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mergit humo, fessusque diu puerilibus actis
 labitur in somnos, presa manus haeret in herba.
 Interea campis, nemoris sacer horror Achaei, 505
 terrigena exoritur serpens, tractuque soluto
 immanem sese vehit ac post terga relinquit.
 livida fax oculis, tumidi stat in ore veneni
 spuma virens, ter lingua vibrat, terna agmina adunci
 dentis, et auratae crudelis gloria fronti 510
 prominet. Inachii¹ sanctum dixere Tonanti
 agricolae, cui cura loci et silvestribus aris
 pauper honos ; nunc ille dei circumdare templa
 orbe vago labens, miserae nunc robora silvae
 atterit et vastas tenuat complexibus ornos ; 515
 saepe super fluvios geminae iacet aggere ripae
 continuus, squamisque incisus adaestuat amnis.
 sed nunc, Ogygii iussis quando omnis anhelat
 terra dei trepidaeque latent in pulvere Nymphae,
 saevior anfractu laterum sinuosa retorquens 520
 terga solo siccique nocens furit igne veneni.
 stagna per arentesque lacus fontesque repressos
 volvitur et vacuis fluviorum in vallibus errat,
 incensusque siti² liquidum nunc aera lambit
 ore supinato, nunc arva gementia radens 525
 pronus adhaeret humo, si quid viridantia sudent
 gramina ; percussae calidis adflatibus herbae,
 qua tulit ora, cadunt, moriturque ad sibila campus :
 quantus ab Arctois discriminat aethera plaustris
 Anguis et usque Notos alienumque exit in orbem ; 530

¹ Inachii *Mueller* : Inachio *Pω*.

² incensusque siti *Schrader* : incertusque sui *Pω*.

^a *i.e.*, Bacchus, patron deity of Thebes.

^b I have adopted *Schrader*'s emendation ; " incertusque sui " seems hardly to justify *Klotz*'s explanation " mentis non compos," *i.e.*, " in a fury."

drooping head and wearied by his long childish play, sinks to slumber, deep buried in the luxuriant earth, while one hand holds the grass tight-clutched.

Meanwhile an earth-born serpent, the accursed terror of the Achaean grove, arises on the mead, and loosely dragging his huge bulk now bears it forward, now leaves it behind him. A livid gleam is in his eyes, the green spume of foaming poison in his fangs, and a threefold quivering tongue, with three rows of hooked teeth, and a cruel blazonry rises high upon his gilded forehead. The Inachian countrymen held him sacred to the Thunderer, who has the guardianship of the place and the scant worship of the woodland altars; and now he glides with trailing coils about the shrines, now grinds the hapless forest oaks and crushes huge ash-trees in his embrace; oft lies he in continuous length from bank to bank across the streams, and the river sundered by his scales swells high. But fiercer now, when all the land is panting at the command of the Ogygian god ^a and the Nymphs are hurrying to the hiding of their dusty beds, he twists his tortuous writhing frame upon the ground, and the fire of his parched venom fills him with a baneful rage. Over pools and arid lakes and stifled springs he winds his way, and wanders in the riverless valleys, and consumed by burning thirst ^b now flings back his head and laps the liquid air, now brushing o'er the groaning fields cleaves downward to the earth, should there be any sap or moisture in the grasses; but the herbage falls stricken by his hot breath, whereso'er he turns his head, and the mead shrivels at the hissing of his jaws; vast is he as the Snake that divides the pole from the Northern Wain and passes even unto the Southern winds and an

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quantus et ille sacri spiris intorta movebat
cornua Parnassi, donec tibi, Delie, fixus
vexit harundineam centeno vulnere silvam.

Quis tibi, parve, deus tam magni pondera fati
sorte dedit? tunc hoc vix prima ad limina vitae 535
hoste iaces? an ut inde sacer per saecula Grais
gentibus et tanto dignus morerere sepulcro?

occidis extremae dstrictus verberare caudae
ignaro serpente puer, fugit ilicet artus
sognus, et in solam patuerunt lumina mortem. 540

cum tamen attonito moriens vagitus in auras
excidit et ruptis immutuit ore querellis,
qualia non totas peragunt insomnia voces,
audiit Hypsipyle, facilemque negantia cursum
exanimis genua aegra rapit; iam certa malorum 545

mentis ab augurio sparsoque per omnia visu
lustrat humum quaerens et nota vocabula parvo
nequiquam ingeminans: nusquam ille, et prata re-
centes

amisere notas. viridi piger accubat hostis
collectus gyro spatiosaque iugera complet, 550
sic etiam obliqua cervicem expostus in alvo.

horruit infelix visu longoque profundum
incendit clamore nemus; nec territus ille,
sed iacet. Argolicas ululatus flebilis aures
impulit; extemplo monitu ducis advolat ardens 555
Arcas eques causamque refert. tunc squamea demum
torvus ad armorum radios fremitumque virorum
colla movet: rapit ingenti conamine saxum,

^a He means the snake (Draco) that winds between the two Bears (*cf.* Virg. *G.* i. 244), but his expression is difficult; nor does Draco go anywhere near the southern hemisphere.

alien sky,^a or as he that shook the horns of sacred Parnassus, twining his coils among them, until pierced by a hundred wounds he bore, O Delian, a forest of thy arrows.^b

What god appointed for thee, little one, the burden of so dire a fate? Scarce on thy life's earliest threshold, art thou slain by such a foe? Was it that thus thou mightest be sacred for ever to the peoples of Greece and dying merit so glorious a burial? Thou diest, O babe, struck by the end of the unwitting serpent's tail, and straightway the sleep left thy limbs and thine eyes opened but to death alone. But when thy frightened dying wail rose upon the air and the broken cry fell silent on thy lips, like the half-finished accents of a dream, Hypsipyle heard it and sped with faint and failing limbs and stumbling gait; her mind forebodes sure disaster, and with gaze turned to every quarter she scans the ground in search, vainly repeating words the babe would know; but he is nowhere, and the recent tracks are vanished from the meadows. Gathered in a green circle lies the sluggish foe and fills many an acre round, so lies he with his head slantwise on his belly. Struck with horror at the sight the unhappy woman roused the forest's depths with shriek on shriek; yet still he lies unmoved. Her sorrowful wail reached the Argives' ears: forthwith the Arcadian knight^c at his chief's word flies thither in eager haste and reports the cause. Then at last, at the glint of armour and the shouting of the men he rears his scaly neck in wrath: with a vast effort tall Hippo-

though Statius may have been thinking of either Hydra or Serpens, which do, and confused them somehow with Draco.

^b Python, slain by Apollo at Delphi. ^c Parthenopaeus.

STATIUS

quo discretus ager, vacuasque impellit in auras
 arduus Hippomedon, quo turbine bellica quondam 560
 librati saliunt portarum in claustra molares.
 cassa ducis virtus : iam mollia colla refusus
 in tergum serpens venientem evaserat¹ ictum.
 dat sonitum tellus, nemorumque per avia densi
 dissultant nexus. "at non mea vulnera" clamat 565
 et trabe fraxinea Capaneus subit obvius "umquam
 effugies, seu tu pavidi ferus incola luei,
 sive deis, utinamque deis, concessa voluptas,
 non, si consertum super haec mihi membra Giganta
 subveheres." volat hasta tremens et hiantia monstri
 ora subit linguaeque secat fera vinela trisulcae, 571
 perque iubas stantes capitisque insigne corusci
 emicat, et nigri sanie perfusa cerebri
 figitur alta² solo. longus vix tota peregit³
 membra dolor, rapido celer ille volumine telum 575
 circuit avulsumque ferens in opaea refugit
 templa dei ; hic magno tellurem pondere mensus
 implorantem animam dominis adsibilat aris.
 illum et cognatae stagna indignantia Lernae,
 floribus et vernis adsuetae spargere Nymphae, 580
 et Nemees reptatus ager, lucosque per omnis
 silvicolae fracta genuistis harundine, Fauni.
 ipse etiam e summa iam tela poposeerat aethra
 Iuppiter, et dudum nimbique hiemesque coibant,

¹ evaserat *Barth* (from a *ms.*), *Baehrens* : exhauserat *Pω*.

² alta *ω* : hasta *P* : aeta *Heinsius*.

³ peregit *Pω* : peredit *Lachmann*.

^a Statius loses no opportunity of emphasizing Capaneus's hostility to the gods.

^b The Giants were said to have snakes for legs, *cf.* *Ov. F.*

medon seizes a stone, the boundary mark of a field, and hurls it through the empty air; with such a whirlwind do the poised boulders fly forth against the barred gates in time of war. Vain was the chieftain's might, in a moment had the snake bent back his supple neck and foiled the coming blow. The earth re-echoes and in the pathless woods the close-knit boughs are rent and torn. "But never shalt thou escape my stroke," cries Capaneus, and makes for him with an ashen spear, "whether thou be the savage inmate of the trembling grove, or a delight granted to the gods—ay, would it were to the gods!^a—never even if thou broughtest a Giant to battle with me upon those limbs.^b" The quivering spear flies, and enters the monster's gaping mouth and cleaves the rough fastenings of the triple tongue, then through the upright crest and the adornment of his darting head it issues forth, and fouled with the brain's black gore sinks deep into the soil. Scarce has the pain run the length of his whole frame, with lightning speed he twines his coils around the weapon, and tears it out and carries it to his lair in the dark temple of the god; there measuring his mighty bulk along the ground he gasps and hisses out his life at his patron's shrine. Him did the sorrowing marsh of kindred Lerna mourn, and the Nymphs who were wont to strew him with vernal flowers, and Nemea's fields whereon he crawled; ye too, ye woodland Fauns, bewailed him in every grove with broken reeds. Jupiter himself had already called for his weapons from the height of air, and long had clouds and storms been gathering, had not

v. 37 "mille manus illis dedit et pro cruribus angues." Or "super haec membra" may be "over these (slain) limbs."

ni minor ira deo gravioraque tela mereri 585
 servatus Capaneus ; moti tamen aura cucurrit
 fulminis et summas libavit vertice cristas.

Iamque pererratis infelix Lemnia campis,
 liber ut angue locus, modico super aggere longe
 pallida sanguineis infectas roribus herbas 590
 prospicit. huc magno cursum rapit effera luctu
 agnoscitque nefas, terraeque inlisa nocenti
 fulminis in morem non verba in funere primo,
 non lacrimas habet : ingeminat misera oscula tantum
 incumbens animaeque fugam per membra tepentem
 quaerit hians. non ora loco, non pectora restant, 596
 rapta cutis, tenuia ossa patent nexusque madentes
 sanguinis imbre novi, totumque in vulnere corpus.
 ac velut aligerae sedem fetusque parentis
 cum piger umbrosa populatus in ilice serpens, 600
 illa redit querulaeque domus mirata quietem
 iam stupet¹ impendens advectosque horrida maesto
 excutit ore cibos, cum solus in arbore paret
 sanguis et errantes per capta cubilia plumae.

Ut laceros artus gremio miseranda recepit 605
 intexitque comis, tandem laxata dolori²
 vox invenit iter, gemitusque in verba soluti :
 “ o mihi desertae natorum dulcis imago,
 Archemore, o rerum et patriae solamen ademptae
 servitiique decus, qui te, mea gaudia, sontes 610
 exstinxere dei, modo quem digressa reliqui
 lascivum et prono vexantem gramina cursu ?
 heu ubi siderei vultus ? ubi verba ligatis

¹ iam stupet *P* : stat super ω .

² dolori *Bentley*, *Heinsius* : dolore *P* ω .

the god allayed his wrath and Capaneus been preserved to merit a direr punishment ; yet the wind of the stirred thunderbolt sped and swayed the summit of his crested helm.

And now the unhappy Lemnian, wandering o'er the fields when the place was rid of the serpent, grows pale to behold on a low mound afar the herbage stained with streams of blood. Thither frantic in her grief she hastens, and recognizing the horror falls as though lightning-struck on the offending earth, nor in the first shock of ruin can find speech or tears to shed ; she only bends and showers despairing kisses, and breathlessly searches the yet warm limbs for traces of the vanished life. Nor face nor breast remain, the skin is torn away and the frail bones are exposed to view, and the sinews are drenched in fresh streams of blood : the whole body is one wound. Even as when in a shady ilex-tree a lazy serpent has ravaged the home and brood of a mother bird, she, returning, marvels at the quiet of her clamorous abode, and hovers aghast, and in wild dismay drops from her mouth the food she brings, for there is nought but blood on the tree and feathers shed about the plundered nest.

When, poor woman, she had gathered the mangled limbs to her bosom and covered them in her tresses, at length her voice released gave passage to her grief and her moans melted into words : " Archemorus, sweet image of my babes in my lonely plight, solace of my woes and exile, and pride of my thralldom, what guilty gods have slain thee, O my joy, whom, when I lately parted from thee, I left frolicking and crushing the grasses in thy crawl ? Alas, where is that star-bright face ? Where are thy half-formed

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imperfecta sonis risusque et murmura soli
 intellecta mihi ? quotiens tibi Lemnon et Argo¹ 615
 sueta loqui et longa somnum suadere querella !
 sic equidem luctus solabar et ubera parvo
 iam materna dabam, cui nunc venit inritus orbae
 lactis et infelix in vulnera liquitur imber.
 nosco deos : o dura mei praesagia somni 620
 nocturnique metus, et numquam impune per umbras
 attonitae mihi visa Venus ! quos arguo divos ?
 ipsa ego te—quid enim timeam moritura fateri ?—
 exposui fatis. quae mentem insania traxit ?
 tantane me tantae tenuere obliviae curae ? 625
 dum patrios casus famaеque exorsa retracto
 ambitiosa meae—pietas haec magna fidesque !—
 exsolvi tibi, Lemne, nefas ; ubi letifer anguis,
 fert, duces, meriti si qua est mihi gratia duri,
 si quis honos dictis, aut vos exstinguite ferro, 630
 ne tristes dominos orbamque inimica revisam
 Eurydicen, quamquam haud illi mea cura dolendo
 cesserit. hocne ferens onus inlaetabile matris
 transfundam gremio ? quae me prius ima sub umbras
 mergat humus ? ” simul haec terraеque et sanguine
 voltum 635

sordida magnorum circa vestigia regum
 vertitur, et tacite maerentibus imputat undas.

Et iam sacrifici subitus per tecta Lycurgi
 nuntius implerat lacrimis ipsumque domumque,
 ipsum adventantem Persei vertice sancto 640

¹ Argo *Gronovius* : Argos *Pω*.

^a Eurydice, wife of Lycurgus, was the mother of the babe Opheltes, whom Hypsipyle had been nursing.

^b *i.e.*, blames them for the disaster, of which the stream was the cause, by separating her from the babe.

words and tongue-tied utterance, those smiles, and mutterings that I alone could understand? How often used I to talk to thee of Lemnos and the Argo, and with my long sad tale soothe thee to sleeping! For so indeed did I console my griefs, and gave the babe a mother's breasts, where now in my bereavement the milk flows in vain and falls in barren drops upon thy wounds. 'Tis the gods' work, I see: O cruel presage of my dreams and nightly terrors! ah! Venus, who never appeared in the darkness to my startled vision but ill befell! But why do I blame the gods? Myself I exposed thee to thy fate—for why should I fear to confess, so soon to die? What madness carried me away? Could I so utterly forget a charge so dear? While I recount the fortunes of my country and the boastful prelude of my own renown—what true devotion, what loyalty!—I have paid thee, Lemnos, the crime I owed. Take me then, ye princes, to the deadly snake, if ye have any gratitude for the service that has cost so dear, or any respect to my words; or slay me yourselves with the sword, lest I see again my sorrowing masters and bereaved Eurydice, now made my foe^a—although my grief comes not short of hers. Am I to carry this hapless burden and cast it on a mother's lap? nay, what earth may sooner engulf me in its deepest shades?" Thereupon, her face befouled with dust and gore, she turns to follow the mighty chieftains, and secretly as they grieve lays the waters to their charge.^b

And now the news, sweeping sudden through the palace of devout Lycurgus, had brought full measure of tears to himself and all his house—himself, as he drew nigh from the sacred summit of Perseus' moun-

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montis, ubi averso dederat prosecta Tonanti,
 et caput iratis rediens quassabat ab extis.
 hic sese Argolicis immunem servat ab armis
 haud animi vacuus, sed templa araeque tenebant.
 necdum etiam responsa deum monitusque vetusti 645
 exciderant voxque ex adytis accepta profundis :
 “ prima, Lycurge, dabis Dircaeo funera bello.”
 id cavet, et maestus vicini pulvere Martis
 angitur ad lituos periturisque invidet armis.

Ecce—fides superum !—laceras comitata Thoantis
 advehit exsequias, contra subit obvia mater, 651
 femineos coetus plangentiaque agmina ducens.
 at non magnanimo pietas ignava Lycurgo :
 fortior ille malis, lacrimasque insana resorbet
 ira patris, longo rapit arva morantia passu 655
 vociferans : “ illa autem ubinam, cui parva cruoris
 laetave damna mei ? vivitne ? impellite raptam,
 ferte citi comites ; faxo omnis fabula Lemni
 et pater et tumidae generis mendacia sacri
 exciderint.” ibat letumque inferre parabat 660
 ense furens raptō ; venienti Oeneius heros
 impiger obiecta proturbat pectora parma,
 ac simul infrendens : “ siste hunc, vesane, furorem,
 quisquis es ! ” et pariter Capaneus acerque reducto
 adfuit Hippomedon rectoque Erymanthius ense, 665
 ac iuvenem multo praestringunt lumine ; at inde

^a Cf. iii. 460 ; apparently the same mountain is meant.

^b “prosecta,” lit. that which is cut out for offering, *i.e.*, the entrails.

^c Tydeus. “Erymanthian,” below = Arcadian, *i.e.*, Parthenopaeus.

tain,^a where he had offered sacrifice^b to the angry Thunderer, and was shaking his head as he returned from the ill-omened entrails. Here he abides without share in the Argolic war, not lacking in courage, but the temples and the altars kept him back; nor had the gods' response and ancient warning yet faded from his mind, nor the words received from the innermost shrine: "In the Dircaean war, Lyeurgus, the first death shall be thine to give." Of that he is afraid, and, saddened by the dust of neighbouring armies, he is tortured at the trumpets' sound, and envies the doomed hosts.

But lo!—so the gods keep faith!—the daughter of Thoas accompanies the mangled infant's funeral train, and his mother comes to meet her, leading a band of women and troops of mourners. But not sluggish was the devotion of great-souled Lycurgus: grief emboldened him, the father's mad rage thrust back the tears, and with long strides he covers the fields that stay his wrath, and cries aloud: "Where now is she, who recks little or is glad of the shedding of my blood? Lives she? Then seize her, comrades, and bring her speedily! I will make her insolence forget all her tale of Lemnos and her father and her lies about a race divine!" He advanced and prepared to deal the death-blow, his sword drawn in rage; but as he came, the Oeneian hero,^c quick to act, thrust his shield against his breast and barred the way, with stern rebuke: "Abate thy fury, madman, whoe'er thou art!" and Capaneus likewise and brave Hippomedon, with sword drawn back, and the Erymanthian, with levelled blade, were there to succour, and the prince is dazzled by their flashing swords: but on the other side the rustie bands

STATIUS

agrestum pro rege manus. quos inter Adrastus
 mitius et sociae veritus commercia vittae¹
 Amphiaras ait : “ ne, quaeso ! absistite ferro,
 unus avum sanguis, neve indulgete furori, 670
 tuque prior.” sed non sedato pectore Tydeus
 subicit : “ anne ducem servatricemque cohortis
 Inachiae ingratis coram tot milibus ausus²
 mactare in tumulos—quanti pro funeris ultor !—
 cui regnum genitorque Thoas et lucidus Euhan 675
 stirpis avus ? timidone parum, quod gentibus actis
 undique in arma tuis inter rapida agmina pacem
 solus habes ? habeasque, et te victoria Graium
 inveniatur tumulis etiamnum haec fata gementem.”
 Dixerat, et tandem cunctante modestior ira 680
 ille refert : “ equidem non vos ad moenia Thebes
 rebar, at³ hostiles huc advenisse catervas.
 pergite in excidium, socii si tanta voluptas
 sanguinis, imbuite arma domi, atque haec inrita
 dudum
 templa Iovis—quid enim haud licitum ?—ferat impius
 ignis, 685
 si vilem, tanti premerent cum pectora luctus,
 in famulam ius esse ratus dominoque ducique.
 sed videt haec, videt ille deum regnator, et ausis
 sera quidem, manet ira tamen.” sic fatus, et arces
 respicit. atque illic alio certamine belli 690
 tecta fremunt ; volucres equitum praeverterat alas

¹ vittae *BQ2* : vitae *PDNQ*.

² ausus *P* : audes *ω* : ausis *Kohlmann*.

³ at *Barth* : et *Pω*.

^a Lycurgus had just been sacrificing, and would be wearing the fillets; Amphiaras as a soothsayer wore them habitually.

protect their king. Between them Adrastus in gentler mood and Amphiaraus, fearing the strife of kindred fillets,^a cry: "Not so, I pray you, unhand the sword! Our sires are of one blood, give not vent to rage! Thou first disarm!" But Tydeus, his spirit not assuaged, rejoins: "Darest thou then slay upon the grave—and in revenge for what a death!—^b and before so many thankless thousands the guide and preserver of the Inachian host, who was once a queen, and has Thoas for her sire and shining Euhan for her ancestor? Is it too little for thy cowardice that, when on all sides thy folk are speeding to war, thou alone keepest peace among the hurrying cavalcades? Keep it then, and let the Grecian triumph find thee still groaning at this tomb."

He spoke, and the other, now more controlled as anger ebbed, replied: "Indeed I thought your troops were bound, not for the walls of Thebes, but hither with hostile intent. March on then to destroy, if kindred murder so delights you. flesh first your arms at home, ay, and let impious fire—what indeed is not lawful?—devour Jove's temple that but now I sought in vain, if I thought, oppressed by bitter grief, that I had power upon a worthless slave, who am her king and lord!^c But the ruler of the gods beholds it, yea he beholds it, and his wrath, though late it fall, awaits your daring deeds." So speaking he looks back toward the city. And lo! there another armed affray is raging from house to house; recent Fame had outstripped the horsemen's

^b Ironically spoken: it was only a babe's death.

^c This too is ironical: let Jove's temple be destroyed, if he was so impious as to think he had power over his own slave!

Fama recens, geminos alis amplexa¹ tumultus :
 illi ad fata rapi atque illi iam occumbere leto,
 sic meritam Hypsipylum iterant, creduntque, nec irae
 fit mora, iamque faces et tela penatibus instant, 695
 vertere regna fremunt raptumque auferre Lycurgum
 cum Iove cumque aris ; resonant ululatus aedes
 femineis, versusque dolor dat terga timori.

Alipedum curru sed enim sublimis Adrastus
 secum ante ora virum fremibunda Thoantida portans
 it medius turmis, et " parcite, parcite ! " clamat, 701
 " nil actum saeve, meritis nec tale Lycurgus
 excidium, gratique inventrix fluminis ecce² ! "
 sic ubi diversis maria evertere procellis
 hinc Boreas Eurusque, illinc niger imbris Auster,
 pulsa dies regnantque hiemes, venit aequoris alti 706
 rex sublimis equis, geminusque ad spumea Triton
 frena natans late pelago dat signa cadenti,
 et iam plana Thetis, montesque et litora crescunt.

Quis superum tanto solatus funera voto 710
 pensavit lacrimas inopinaque gaudia maestae
 rettulit Hypsipylae ? tu gentis conditor, Euhan,
 qui geminos iuvenes Lemni de litore vectos
 intuleras Nemeae mirandaque fata parabas.
 causa viae genetrix, nec inhospita tecta Lycurgi 715
 praebuerant aditus, et protinus ille tyranno
 nuntius extinctae miserando vulnere prolis.

¹ alis amplexa *P*_ω : agilis complexa *Lachmann* : aulis *Garrod*, who brackets volucres . . . recens as a parenthesis. Certainly the repetition of alas . . . alis is odd, but a characteristic of Statius.

² ecce *P*_ω : haec est *Phillimore*.

flying squadrons, with twofold tumults gathered beneath her wings; some repeat that Hypsipyle is being dragged to death, some that she is even now meeting her fate, and is deserving of it: they believe, nor stay their anger, and already brands and javelins fly against the palace, cries are raised to overturn the kingdom, and to seize and carry away Lycurgus with Jove and all his shrines; the houses re-echo with female shrieks, and routed grief flees before panic terror.

But Adrastus, aloft upon his car of wing-footed steeds and bearing with him the daughter of Thoas in the sight of the raging warriors, drives in amongst the ranks and cries: "Give o'er, give o'er; no cruel deed has been done, nor has Lycurgus deserved to perish thus, and lo! here is the discoverer of the welcome stream!" So when with opposing blasts Boreas and Eurus from one quarter, and from another Auster black with rain has upheaved the sea, when day is banished and the hurricanes hold sway, high on his chariot comes the ruler of the deep, and twy-formed Triton swimming by the foaming bridles gives signal far and wide to the subsiding main; Thetis is smooth again, and hills and shores emerge.

Which of the gods consoled her loss, and by granting her heart's desire brought joys unhopèd-for to sad Hypsipyle and recompense for tears? Thou, Euan, author of her race, who didst convey the twin youths^a from Lemnos' shore to Nemea, and wert preparing a wondrous destiny. In search of their mother they came, and not inhospitably had the palace of Lycurgus given them entry, when forthwith came that message to the monarch of his offspring's piteous

^a Their names were Thoas and Euneus.

STATIUS

ergo adsunt comites—pro fors et caeca futuri
mens hominum!—regique favent; sed Lemnos ad
aures

ut primum dictusque Thoas, per tela manusque 720
iruerant, matremque avidis complexibus ambo
diripiunt flentes alternaque pectora mutant.

illa velut rupes immoto saxea visu
haeret et expertis non audet credere divis.

ut vero et vultus et signa Argoa relictis 725

ensibus atque umeris amborum intextus Iason,
cesserunt luctus, turbataque munere tanto
conruit, atque alio maduerunt lumina fletu.

addita signa polo, laetoque ululante tumultu
tergaque et aera dei motas crepuere per auras. 730

Tunc pius Oeclides, ut prima silentia volgi
mollior ira dedit placidasque accessus ad aures:

“audite, o ductor Nemeae lectique potentes
Inachidae, quae certus agi manifestat Apollo.
iste quidem Argolicis haud olim indebitus armis 735

luctus adest, recto descendunt limite Parcae:
et sitis interitu fluviorum et letifer anguis,

et puer, heu nostri signatus nomine fati,
Archemorus, cuncta haec superum demissa suprema
mente fluunt. differte animos festinaque tela 740

ponite; mansuris donandus honoribus infans.

et meruit; det pulchra suis libamina virtus
manibus, atque utinam plures innectere pergas,

^a Amphiaraus.

^b The metaphor is probably of a river-channel; *cf.* “fluunt,” l. 740.

^c “Archemorus” means “the beginning of doom.”

death. Therefore hasten they to his support—so strange is Chance, so blind the purposes of men!—and favour the king's cause; but when "Lemnos" and "Thoas" reached their ears, straight had they rushed through weapons and troops of men, and both with tears snatch their mother to their greedy embrace and in turn press her to their bosoms. But she, like a stony rock, with countenance unmoved stirs not nor dares believe the gods she knows so well. But when she recognized their faces and the marks of Argo on the swords the mariners had left and Jason's name inwoven on their shoulders, her grief was stayed, and overcome by so great a blessing she swooned, and her eyes were moist with other tears. Signs too were shown in heaven, and the drums and cymbals of the god and the glad huzzas of his wild train resounded through the echoing air.

Then the devout Oeclides,^a so soon as wrath appeased made the crowd fall silent, and there was approach to tranquil ears: "Hearken, O ruler of Nemea and ye flower of Argive princes, what Apollo surely reveals for us to do. Long hath this woe been ordained for you at Argive hands, unwavering runs the line of Destiny.^b The drought of perished streams, the deadly serpent, and the child Archemorus, whose name, alas, bears the seal of our fate,^c all these events flow down and issue from the high purpose of the gods. A truce now to your passions, lay down your hasty arms! To this infant enduring honours must be paid. Truly he hath deserved them; let virtue make fair libation to a virtuous soul, and would that thou mightest continue, O Phoebus, to weave even more delays, would that new chances

STATIUS

Phoebe, moras, semperque novis bellare vetemur
casibus, et semper Thebe funesta recedas ! 745
at vos magnorum transgressi fata parentum
felices, longum quibus hinc per saecula nomen,
dum Lernaea palus et dum pater Inachus ibit,
dum Nemea tremulas campis iaculabitur umbras,
ne fletu violate sacrum, ne plangite divos : 750
nam deus iste, deus, Pyliae nec fata senectae
maluerit, Phrygiis aut degere longius annis.”
finierat, caeloque cavam nox induit umbram.

might ever bar us from the fray, and thou, O deadly Thebes, fade from our sight for ever! And O ye happy ones, who have surpassed the common fate of noble parents, whose name will long endure through the ages, while Lerna's lake remains and father Inachus flows on, while Nemea throws the flickering shadows across her fields—profane not this holy rite by weeping, mourn not for the gods: for a god is he, yea a god, nor would he prefer to enjoy a Pylian age, nor a life that outlived the Phrygian span.^a” He finished, and night wrapt the heaven in her enfolding shade.

^a *i.e.*, longer than Nestor or Priam.

LIBER VI

Nuntia multivago Danaas perlabitur urbes
 Fama gradu, sancire novo sollemnia busto
 Inachidas ludumque super, quo Martia bellis
 praesudare paret seseque accendere virtus.
 Graium ex more decus : primus Pisaea per arva 5
 hunc pius Alcides Pelopi certavit honorem
 pulvereumque fera crinem deterisit oliva ;
 proxima vipereo celebratur¹ libera nexu
 Phocis, Apollineae bellum puerile pharetrae ;
 mox circum tristes servata Palaemonis aras 10
 nigra superstitio, quotiens animosa resunit
 Leucothea gemitus et amica ad litora festa
 tempestate venit : planctu conclamat uterque
 Isthmos, Echioniae responsant flebile Thebae.
 et nunc eximii regum, quibus Argos alumnis 15
 conexum caelo, quorumque ingentia tellus
 Aonis et Tyriae suspirant nomina matres,
 concurrunt nudasque movent in proelia vires :
 ceu primum ausurae trans alta ignota biremes,
 seu Tyrrenam hiemem, seu stagna Aegaea lacesant,
 tranquillo prius arma lacu clavumque levesque 21
 explorant remos atque ipsa pericula discunt ;

¹ celebratur *P* : celebravit *ω*.

^a The festivals alluded to are those at Olympia, Delphi, and Isthmus of Corinth.

^b Boeotian. "Tyrian" = Theban.

BOOK VI

FAR-TRAVELLING Rumour glides through the Danaan cities, and tells that the Inachidae are ordaining sacred rites for the new tomb, and games thereto, whereby their martial valour may be kindled and have foretaste of the sweat of war. Customary among the Greeks is such a festival: first^a did the dutiful Alcides contest this honour with Pelops in the fields of Pisa, and brush the dust of combat from his hair with the wild-olive spray; next is celebrated the freeing of Phocis from the serpent's coils, the battle of the boy Apollo's quiver: then the dark cult of Palaemon is solemnized about the gloomy altars, so oft as undaunted Leucothea renews her grief, and in the time of festival comes to the welcoming shores: from end to end Isthmos resounds with lamentation and Echionian Thebes makes answering wail. And now the peerless princes whose rearing links Argos with heaven, princes whose mighty names the Aonian^b land and Tyrian mothers utter with sighs, meet in rivalry and arouse their naked vigour to the fray: just as the two-banked galleys that must venture the unknown deep, whether they provoke the stormy Tyrrhenian or the calm Aegean sea, first prove on a smooth lake their tackling and rudder and nimble oars, and learn to face the real perils; but when their crews are

STATIUS

at eum experta cohors, tunc pontum intrumpere fretae
longius ereptasque oculis non quaerere terras.

Clara laboriferos caelo Tithonia currus 25
extulerat vigilesque deae pallentis habenas
et Nox et cornu fugiebat Somnus inani ;
iam plangore viae, gemitu iam regia mugit
flebilis, acceptos longe nemora avia frangunt
multiplicantque sonos. sedet ipse exutus honoro 30
vittarum nexu genitor squalentiaque ora
sparsus et incultam ferali pulvere barbam.
asperior contra planctusque egressa viriles
exemplo famulas premit hortaturque volentes
orba parens, lacerasque super prorumpere¹ nati 35
reliquias ardet totiensque avolsa refertur.
arcet et ipse pater. mox ut maerentia dignis
vultibus Inachii penetrarunt limina reges,
ceu nova tunc clades et primo saueius infans
vulnere letalisve intrumperet atria serpens, 40
sic alium ex alio quamquam lassata fragorem
pectora congeminant, integratoque resultant
accensae clamore fores ; sensere Pelasgi
invidiam et lacrimis excusant crimen obortis.

Ipsa, datum quotiens intereisoque tumultu 45
contieuit stupefacta domus, solatur Adrastus
adloquiis genitorem ultro, nunc fata recensens
resque hominum duras et inexorabile pensum,
nunc aliam prolem mansuraque numine dextro
pignora. nondum orsis modus, et lamenta redibant.

¹ prorumpere *P* : procumbere ω .

^a Sleep is thought of as pouring slumber from a horn upon the earth, *cf.* x. 111.

^b Much of the following can be paralleled from the Consolatory poems of the *Silvae*.

trained, then confidently do they push further out into the main nor seek the vanished coast.

The bright consort of Tithonus had shown in heaven her toil-bringing car, and Night and Sleep with empty horn^a were fleeing from the pale goddess' wakeful reins; already the ways are loud with wailing, and the palace with tearful lamentation; from afar the wild forests catch the sounds, and scatter them in a thousand echoes. The father himself^b sits stripped of the honour of the twined fillet, his unkempt head and neglected beard sprinkled with the dust of mourning. More violent than he and passionate with more than a man's grief, the bereaved mother urges on her handmaidens by example and by speech, willing though they be, and yearns to cast herself upon the mangled remains of her child, and as oft they tear her from them and bring her back. Even the father too restrains her. Soon when the Inachian princes with royal bearing entered the sorrowing portals, then, as though the stroke were fresh and the babe but newly hurt, or the deadly serpent had burst into the palace, they smite their breasts though wearied and raise clamour upon clamour, and the doors re-echo with the new-kindled wailing; the Pelasgians feel their ill-will and plead their innocence with streaming tears.

Adrastus himself, when so'er the tumult was quelled and the distracted house fell silent, and opportunity was given, addressed the sire unbidden with consoling words, reviewing now the cruel destiny of mankind and the inexorable thread of doom, now giving hope of other offspring and pledges that by heaven's favour would endure. But he had not ended, when mourning broke forth anew. Nor does the king more gently

STATIUS

ille quoque adfatus non mollius audit amicos, 51
 quam trucis Ionii rabies clamantia ponto
 vota virum aut tenues curant vaga fulmina nimbos.
 Tristibus interea ramis teneraque cupresso
 damnatus flammae torus et puerile feretrum 55
 textitur : ima virent agresti stramina cultu ;
 proxima gramineis operosior area sertis,
 et picturatus morituris floribus agger ;
 tertius adsurgens Arabum strue tollitur ordo
 Eoas complexus opes incanaque glebis 60
 tura et ab antiquo durantia cinnama Belo.
 summa crepant auro, Tyrioque attollitur ostro
 molle supercilium, teretes hoc undique gemmae
 iradiant, medio Linus intertextus acantho
 letiferique canes : opus admirabile semper 65
 oderat atque oculos flectebat ab omine mater.
 arma etiam et veterum exuvias circumdat avorum
 gloria mixta malis adflictaeque ambitus aulae,
 ceu grande exsequiis onus atque immensa ferantur
 membra rogo, sed cassa tamen sterilisque dolentes 70
 fama iuvat, parvique augescunt funere manes.
 inde ingens lacrimis honor et miseranda voluptas,
 muneraque in cineres annis graviora feruntur—
 namque illi et pharetras brevioraque tela dicarat
 festinus voti pater insontesque sagittas ; 75
 iam tunc et nota stabuli de gente probatos
 in nomen pasebat equos—cinctusque sonantes

^a A legendary king of Egypt, father of Danaus : also an Asiatic monarch, as in *Virg. Aen.* i. 621 and *Ov. M.* iv. 213. Statius only means "cinnamon from the East," *cf. Silv.* iv. 5. 32.

^b Linus, according to one story, was the name of the babe whose fate is told in i. 557 *sqq.*, the son of Apollo and Psamathe, daughter of Crotopus.

hear his friendly speech than the madness of the fierce Ionian hears the sailors shouting prayers upon the deep, or the wayward lightnings heed the frail clouds.

Meanwhile the flame-appointed pyre and the infant bier are intertwined with gloomy boughs and shoots of cypress ; lowest of all is laid the green produce of the country-side, then a space is more laboriously wrought with grassy chaplets and the mound is decked with flowers that soon must perish ; third in order rises a heap of Arabian spices and the rich profusion of the East, with lumps of hoary incense and cinnamon that has come down from Belus of old.^a On the summit is set tinkling gold, and a soft coverlet of Tyrian purple is raised high, gleaming everywhere with polished gems, and within a border of acanthus is Linus woven and the hounds that caused his death^b : hateful ever to his mother was this marvellous work, and ever did she turn her eyes from the omen. Arms, too, and spoils of ancestors of old are cast about the pyre, the pride and chequered glory of the afflicted house, as though the funeral train bore thither the burden of some great warrior's limbs ; yet even empty and barren fame delights the mourners, and the pomp magnifies the infant shade. Wherefore tears are held in high reverence and afford a mournful joy, and gifts greater than his years are brought to feed the flames. For his father,^c in haste for the fulfilment of his prayers, had set apart for him quivers and tiny javelins and innocent arrows, and even already in his name was rearing proved horses of his stable's famous breed ;

^a The long parenthesis is awkward, but the only alternative is to construe "pasebat" by zeugma with "cinctusque . . . lacertos."

STATIUS

armaque maiores expectatura lacertos.
 spes avidae ! quas non in nomen credula vestes
 urgebat studio cultusque insignia regni 80
 purpureos sceptrumque minus ? cuncta ignibus atris
 damnat atrox suaque ipse parens gestamina ferri,
 si damnis rabidum queat exsaturare dolorem.¹

Parte alia gnari monitis exercitus instat
 auguris aeriam truncis nemorumque ruina, 85
 montis opus,² cumulare pyram, quae crimina caesi
 anguis et infausti cremet atra piacula belli.
 his labor accisam Nemeen umbrosaue tempe
 praecipitare solo lucosque ostendere Phoebo.
 sternitur extemplo veteres incaedua ferro 90
 silva comas, largae qua non opulentior umbrae
 Argolicos inter saltusque educta Lycaeos
 extulerat super astra caput : stat sacra senectae
 numine, nec solos hominum transgressa veterno
 fertur avos, Nymphas etiam mutasse superstes 95
 Faunorumque greges. aderat miserabile luco
 excidium : fugere ferae, nidosque tepentes
 absiliunt—metus urget—aves ; cadit ardua fagus,
 Chaoniumque nemus brumaeque inlaesa cupressus,
 procumbunt piceae, flammis alimenta supremis, 100
 ornique iliceaeque trabes metuendaque suco
 taxus et infandos belli potura cruores

¹ *Lines 79-83 are missing in PBL (added in margin of B), but are found in DKNS. They are usually bracketed by edd. as spurious.* ² opus Weber : onus P ω .

^a Perhaps because belts were commonly adorned with gold and silver and precious stones, and would therefore ring against the armour ; *cf. Aen. v. 312.*

^b There appears to be no parallel for this use of "muto," "to take one for another," *i.e.*, "to see one (generation of

loud-ringing belts ^a too are brought, and armour waiting for a mightier frame. Insatiable hopes! what garments did she not make for him in eager haste, credulous woman, and robes of purple, emblems of royalty, and childish sceptre? Yet all does the sire himself ruthlessly condemn to the murky flames, and bid his own signs of rank be borne withal, if by their loss he may sate his devouring grief.

In another region the army hastens at the bidding of the wise augur to raise an airy pile, high as a mountain, of tree-trunks and shattered forests, to expiate the crime of the serpent's slaying and make dark burnt-offering for the ill-omened war. These labour to cut down Nemea and its shady glens and hurl them to the ground, and to lay the forests open to the sunlight. Straightway a wood that axe has never shorn of its ancient boughs is felled, a wood than which none more rich in abundant shade between the vales of Argolis and Mount Lycaeus ever raised aloft its head above the stars; in reverend sanctity of eld it stands, and is said not only to reach back in years beyond the grandsires of men, but to have seen Nymphs pass ^b and flocking Fauns and yet be living. Upon the wood came pitiful destruction: the beasts are fled, and the birds, terror-driven, flutter forth from their warm nests; the towering beeches fall and the Chaonian ^c groves and the cypress that the winter harms not, spruces are flung prostrate that feed the funeral flames, ash-trees and trunks of holm-oak and yews with poisonous sap, and mountain ashes destined to drink the gore Nymphs) succeed another"; but Statius is very free in his use of the word, *cf.* ii. 672, vii. 71.

^c *i.e.*, of oaks, from Chaonia in Epirus, where was the oak-grove of Dodona.

STATIUS

fraxinus atque situ non expugnabile robur.
 hinc audax abies et odoro vulnere pinus
 scinditur, adclinant intonsa cacumina terrae 105
 alnus amica fretis nec inhospita vitibus ulmus.
 dat gemitum tellus : non sic eversa feruntur
 Ismara, cum fracto Boreas caput extulit antro,
 non grassante noto citius nocturna peregit
 flamma nemus ; linquent flentes dilecta locorum 110
 otia cana Pales Silvanusque arbiter umbrae
 semideumque pecus, migrantibus adgemit illis
 silva, nec amplexae dimittunt robora Nymphae.
 ut cum possessas avidis victoribus arces
 dux raptare dedit, vix signa audita, nec urbem 115
 invenias ; ducunt sternuntque abiguntque feruntque
 immodici, minor ille fragor, quo bella gerebant.

Iamque pari cumulo geminas hanc tristibus umbris,
 ast illam superis aequus labor auxerat aras,
 cum signum luctus cornu grave mugit adunco 120
 tibia, cui teneros suetum producere¹ manes
 lege Phrygum maesta. Pelopem monstrasse ferebant
 exsequiale sacrum carmenque minoribus umbris
 utile, quo geminis Niobe consumpta pharetris
 squalida bisenas Sipylon deduxerat urnas. 125

Portant inferias arsuraque fercula primi
 Graiorum, titulisque pios testantur honores
 gentis quisque suae ; longo post tempore surgit
 colla super iuvenum—numero dux legerat omni—

¹ *Servius on Aen. v. 138 quotes solitum deducere.*

^a *i.e.*, when turned into spear-shafts.

^b *i.e.*, because it “dares” the deep, when turned into ships.

^c Italian rustic deities.

^d The Nymphs are often thought of as the living spirits of the trees, *cf. Silv. i. 3. 63*. The passage reminds one of Milton's Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity, st. 20.

of cursed battle,^a and oaks unconquerable by age. Then the daring^b fir is cloven, and the pine with fragrant wound, alders that love the sea bow to the ground their unshorn summits, and elms that give friendly shelter to the vines. The earth groans: not so are the woods of Ismarus swept away uprooted, when Boreas breaks his prison cave and rears his head, no swifter does the nightly flame tear through the forest before the south wind's onset; hoar Pales and Silvanus,^c lord of the shady glen, and the folk, half-god, half-animal, go forth weeping from the leisure haunts they loved, and as they go the woodland groans in sympathy, nor can the Nymphs loose the trees from their embrace.^d As when a leader gives over to the greedy conquerors the captured towers to plunder, scarce is the signal heard, and the city is nowhere to be found; they drive and carry, take captive and strike down in fury unrestrained: the din of battle was less loud.

Two altars now of equal height had they with like toil erected, one to the doleful shades, the other to the gods above, when the low braying of the pipe with curved horn gave signal for lament, the pipe that by Phrygia's mournful use was wont to escort the youthful dead. They say that Pelops ordained for infant shades this funeral rite and chant, to which Niobe, undone by the quivers twain, and dressed in mourning garb, brought the twelve urns to Sipylus.^e

The Grecian leaders bear the funeral gifts and offerings for the flame, each by his titles witnessing to his race's honourable renown; long after, high upon the necks of youths chosen by the prince from

^e The mountain on which her children were slain by Apollo and Artemis.

STATIUS

ipse fero clamore torus. cinxere Lyncurgum 130
 Lernaei proceres, genetricem mollior ambit
 turba, nec Hypsipyle raro subit agmine; vallant
 Inachidae memores, sustentant livida nati
 bracchia et inventae concedunt plangere matri.

Illic infaustos ut primum egressa penates 135

Eurydice, nudo vocem de pectore rumpit
 planctuque et longis praefata ululatus infit:
 "non hoc Argolidum coetu circumdata matrum
 speravi te, nate, sequi, nec talia demens
 fingebam votis annorum elementa tuorum, 140

nil saevum reputans; etenim his in finibus aevi
 unde ego bella tibi Thebasque ignara timerem?
 cui superum nostro committere sanguine pugnas
 dulce? quis hoc armis vovit scelus? at tua nondum,
 Cadme, domus, nullus Tyrio grege plangitur infans.

primitias egomet lacrimarum et caedis acerbae 146
 ante tubas ferrumque tuli, dum deside cura
 credo sinus fidos altricis et ubera mando.

quidni ego? narrabat servatum fraude parentem
 insontesque manus. en! quam ferale putemus 150

abiurasse sacrum et Lemni gentilibus unam
 immunem furiis, haec illa—et creditis ausae¹!—
 haec pietate potens solis abiecit in arvis
 non regem dominumve, alienos impia partus,
 hoc tantum, silvaeque infamis tramite liquit, 155

quem non anguis atrox—quid enim hac opus, ei mihi,
 leti

mole fuit?—tantum caeli violentior aura

¹ haec illa et . . . ausae *P*_ω: illa est . . . ausa *L*, *ausae*
 (with *ausa* est written over) *Q*, various conj. by edd., but the
 reading of *MSS.* seems satisfactory.

^a *i.e.*, the Argives, descended from Inachus.

all his host, amid wild clamour comes the bier. The Lernean chieftains encircle Lycurgus, a female company are gathered about the queen, nor does Hypsipyle go unattended: the Inachidae,^a not unmindful, surround her close, her sons support her bruised arms, and suffer their new-found mother to lament.

There, as soon as Eurydice came forth from her ill-starred palace, she bared her breast and cried aloud, and with beating of her bosom and prelude of long wailings thus began: "I never thought, my son, to follow thee with this encompassing train of Argive matrons, nor thus did I picture in my foolish prayers thy infant years, nought cruel did I expect; whence at my life's end should I have fear for thee from a Theban war, whereof I knew not? What god has taken delight in joining battle with our race? Who vowed this crime against our arms? But thy house, O Cadmus, has not suffered yet, no infant do Tyrian crowds lament. 'Tis I that have borne the first-fruits of grief and untimely death, before even trumpets brayed or sword was drawn, while in indolent neglect I put faith in his nurse's bosom and entrusted to her my babe to suckle. Why should I not? She told a tale of the cunning rescue of her sire and her innocence. But look! this woman, who alone, we must think, abjured the deadly deed she vowed, and alone of her race was free from the Lemnian madness, this woman here—and ye believe her, after her daring deed!—so strong in her devotion, cast away in desolate fields, no king or lord, but, impious one! another's child, that is all! and left him on a path in an ill-famed wood, where not merely poisonous snake—what need, alas, of so huge a slayer?—but a strong tempest only, or a bough broken by the

impulsaeque noto frondes cassusque valeret
 exanimare timor. nec vos incessere luctu
 orba aveo,¹ fixum matri immotumque manebat 160
 hac altrice nefas ; atquin et blandus ad illam,
 nate, magis, solam nosse atque audire vocantem,
 ignarusque mei : nulla ex te gaudia matri.
 illa tuos questus lacrimososque impia risus
 audiit et vocis decerpsit murmura primae. 165
 illa tibi genetrix semper, dum vita manebat,
 nunc ego. sed miserae mihi nec punire potestas
 sic meritam ! quid dona, duces, quid inania fertis
 iusta rogis ? illam—nil poscunt amplius umbrae,—
 illam, oro, cineri simul excisaeque parenti 170
 reddite, quaeso, duces, per ego haec primordia belli,
 cui peperit ; sic aequa gemant mihi funera matres
 Oxygiae.” sternit erines iteratque precando :
 “ reddite, nec vero crudelem avidamque vocate
 sanguinis : occumbam pariter, dum vulnere iusto 175
 exsaturata oculos, unum impellamur in ignem.”
 talia vociferans alia de parte gementem
 Hypsipylen—neque enim illa comas nec pectora
 servat—
 agnovit longe, et socium indignata dolorem :
 “ hoc saltem, o proceres, tuque o, cui pignora nostri
 proturbata tori, prohibete, auferte supremis 181
 invisam exsequiis. quid se funesta parenti
 miscet et in nostris spectatur et ipsa ruinis ?² 183

¹ aveo *Mueller* : habeo *P* (with *h* erased) ; habeo ω , which *Klotz* would defend by parallel of *Varro*, *R. R. i. 1. 2*, ut id mihi habeam curare roges.

² *There is some confusion in the mss. here ; the reading in the text is that of P, except that P omits auferte (l. 181) and reads invitam (l. 182). The other mss. read pignore nostro partus honos prohibete nefas auferte (nefas om. in QN), cf. ii. 172, xii. 84. Also, l. 182 quid ω : quia P. funesta ω :*

wind, or groundless fright could have availed to cause his death! Nor you would I accuse in my stricken grief; unalterable and sure came this curse upon the mother, at this nurse's hands. Yet her didst thou favour more, my son, her only didst thou know and heard when she called thee; me thou knewest not, no joy had thy mother of thee. But she, the fiend! she heard thy cries and thy laughter mixt with tears, and caught the accents of thy earliest speech. She was ever thy mother, while life remained to thee, I only now. But woe is me! that I cannot punish her for her crime! Why bring ye these gifts, ye chieftains, to the pyre, why these empty rites? Herself, I beg—no more does his shade demand—herself, I pray you, offer, both to the dead and to the ruined parent, I beseech you by this first bloodshed of the war, for which I bore him; so may the Ogyian mothers have deaths to mourn as sad as mine!" She tears her hair and repeats her supplication: "Ay, give her up, nor call me cruel or greedy of blood; I will die likewise, so be it that, my eyes full-sated by her just death, we fall upon the selfsame fire." Thus loudly crying she beheld elsewhere afar Hypsipyle lamenting—for she too spares nor hair nor bosom—and ill brooking a partner in her woe: "This at least prevent, O princes, and thou for whom the child of our own bed has been flung to ruin; remove that hated woman from the funeral rites! Why does she offend his mother with her accursed presence, and show herself

fecisse P. L. 183 P omits et. After l. 183 come the lines :

*cui luget complexa suos? dixitque repente
concidit, abruptisque obmutuit ore querelis.*

but only in DQNS (ait atque D, dixitque also in B marg.).

STATIUS

sic ait abruptisque immutuit ore querellis : 185
 non secus ac primo fraudatum lacte iuvencom,
 cui trepidae vires et solus ab ubere sanguis,
 seu fera seu duras avexit pastor ad aras ;
 nunc vallem spoliata parens, nunc flumina questu,
 nunc armenta movet vacuosque interrogat agros ; 190
 tunc piget ire domum, maestoque novissima campo
 exit et oppositas impasta avertitur herbas.

At genitor sceptrique decus cultusque Tonantis
 inicit ipse rogis, tergoque et pectore fusam
 caesariem ferro minuit sectisque iacentis 195
 obnubit tenuia ora comis, ac talia fletu
 verba pio miscens : “ alio tibi, perfide, pacto,
 Iuppiter, hunc crinem voti reus ante dicaram,
 si pariter virides nati libare dedisses
 ad tua templa genas, sed non ratus ore sacerdos, 200
 damnataeque preces : ferat haec, quae dignior,
 umbra.”

iam face subiecta primis in frondibus ignis
 exclamat,¹ labor insanos arcere parentes.

Stant iussi Danaum atque obtentis e minus armis
 prospectu visus interclusere nefasto. 205
 ditantur flammae ; non umquam opulentior illic
 ante cinis : crepitant gemmae, atque immane liquescit
 argentum, et pictis exsudat vestibus aurum ;

¹ exclamat *Pω* : exclamant *Baehrens*, *i.e.* parentes.

^a “genas,” here “cheeks,” that would be in the flush of manhood ; “viridis” often = “in the prime of age.” The clause “si dedisses” is not the protasis to “dicaram,” but expresses the content of the vow, *i.e.* implies an ellipse :

thus in my day of ruin ? ” Thus spake she and fell silent, and her complainings ceased. Even so when a wild beast has seized or shepherd borne away to the cruel shrine a bullock cheated of its first milk, whose strength is yet but frail and whose vigour is drawn but from the udder, the despoiled mother stirs now the valley, now the streams, now the herds with her moanings, and questions the empty meads ; then it irks her to go home, and she leaves the desolate fields the last of all, and turns unfed from the herbage spread before her.

But the father hurls with his own hand upon the pyre his glorious sceptre and the emblems of the Thunderer, and with the sword cuts short the hair that fell o'er back and breast, and with the shorn tresses covers the frail features of the infant where he lies, and mingles with tender tears such words as these : “ Far otherwise, treacherous Jupiter, did I once consecrate these locks to thee, and held me to my vow, shouldst thou have granted me to offer therewith my son's ripe manhood at thy shrine ; ^a but the priest confirmed it not, and my prayer was lost ; let his shade, then, who is worthier, receive them ! ” Already the torch is set to the pyre, and the flame crackles in the lowest branches ; hard is it to restrain the frenzied parents. Danaans are bidden stand and with barrier raised of weapons shut out afar from their vision the awful scene. The fire is richly fed : never before was so sumptuous a blaze ; precious stones crack, huge streams of molten silver run, and gold oozes from out the embroidered

^a “ I had, previously, promised (that I would give you the lock) if you should have, etc.” “ dicaram ” is not “ vivid ” for “ dicassem ” ; cf. vi. 609-610.

STATIUS

nec non Assyriis pinguescunt robora sucis,
 pallentique croco strident ardentia¹ mella, 210
 spumantesque mero paterae verguntur et atri
 sanguinis et rapti gratissima cymbia lactis.
 tunc septem numero turmas—centenus ubique
 surgit eques—versis ducunt insignibus ipsi
 Graiugenae reges, lustrantque ex more sinistro 215
 orbe rogam et stantes inclinant pulvere flammis.
 ter curvos egere sinus, inlisaque telis
 tcla sonant, quater horrendum pepulere fragorem
 arma, quater mollem famularum bracchia planctum.
 semianimas alter pecudes spirantiaque ignis 220
 accipit armenta ; hic luctus abolere novique
 funeris auspiciam vates, quamquam omina sentit
 vera, iubet : dextri gyro et vibrantibus hastis
 hac redeunt, raptumque suis libamen ab armis
 quisque iacit, seu frena libet seu cingula flammis 225
 mergere seu iaculum summae seu cassidis umbram.
 [multa gemunt extra raucis concentibus agri,
 et lituis aures circum pulsantur acutis.
 terretur clamore nemus : sic Martia vellunt
 signa tubae, nondum ira calet, nec sanguine ferrum
 inrubit, primus bellorum comitur ille 231
 vultus, honoris opus² : stat adhuc incertus in alta
 nube, quibus sese Mavors indulgeat armis.³]

¹ ardentia *P*ω : armentia *N*1, tymetia *N* marg., whence *Garrod conj.* hymetia (with *ard* written over) as reading of archetype.

² honoris opus *B*3*Q* : horrisono *K* (not scanning).

³ Lines 227-233 are only found in *Q*, the margin of *B* by a late hand, and *K*, and are probably spurious.

raiment; the boughs are fattened with Assyrian juices, pale saffron drops hissing in the burning honey; foaming bowls of wine are outpoured, and beakers of black blood and pleasant milk yet warm from the udder.^a Then squadrons seven in number—a hundred tall knights in each—led by the Greek-born kings themselves with arms reversed, circling leftward in due manner purify the pyre, and quell with their dust the shooting flames. Thrice accomplished they their wheeling course, then with resounding clash of arms on arms four times^b their weapons gave forth a terrible din, four times the handmaids beat their breasts in womanly lament. The other fire receives half-dead animals and beasts yet living; here the prophet bids them cease their wailing, ominous of fresh disaster, although he knows the signs are true; rightward they wheel and so return with quivering spears, and each throws some offering snatched from his own armour, be it rein or belt he is pleased to plunge into the flames, or javelin or helmet's shady crest. [Around, the countryside is filled with the hoarse cries of wailing, and piercing trumpets rend the ear. Loud shouts affright the groves; even so do the bugles tear the Martian standards from the ground, while anger still is cool, and the sword unreddened with blood, and the first face of battle is made fair and glorious: high on a cloud stands Mavors, uncertain yet which host to favour.]

^a "rpto," suggested by Phillimore and E. H. Alton, is perhaps to be preferred here: "most pleasing to the lost one," *cf. Silv. ii. 1. 208.*

^b It is not clear whether "quater" is meant to apply to "sonant" as well as "pepulere," or why, if they clashed arms thrice, the noise was heard four times.

STATIUS

Finis erat, lassusque putres iam Mulciber ibat
in cineres ; instant flammis multoque soporant 235
imbre rogam, posito donec cum sole labores
exhausti ; seris vix cessit cura tenebris.

roscida iam novies caelo dimiserat astra
Lucifer et totidem Lunae praevenerat ignes
mutato nocturnus equo, nec conscia fallit 240

sidera et alterno deprenditur unus in ortu ;
mirum, opus adcelerasse manus¹ : stat saxea moles,
templum ingens cineri, rerumque effectus in illa
ordo docet casus : fessis hic flumina monstrat
Hypsipyle Danais, hic reptat flebilis infans, 245
hic iacet, extremum tumuli circum asperat orbem
squameus ; exspectes morientis ab ore cruenta
sibila, marmorea sic volvitur anguis in hasta.

Iamque avidum pugnas visendi vulgus inermes
fama vocat ; cunctis arvis ac moenibus adsunt 250
exciti ; illi etiam, quis belli incognitus horror,
quos effeta domi, quos prima reliquerat aetas,
conveniunt : non aut Ephyraeo in litore tanta
umquam aut Oenomai fremuerunt agmina circo.

Collibus incurvis viridique obsessa corona 255
vallis in amplexu nemorum sedet ; hispida circum
stant iuga, et obiectus geminis umbonibus agger
campum exire vetat, longo quem tramite planum
gramineae frontes² sinuataque caespite vivo
mollia non subitis augent fastigia clivis. 260

¹ adcelerasse manus *P* ω : adcelerante manu *D*.

² frontes *P* : frondes ω .

^a *i.e.*, they are quite aware that the morning and evening stars are really the same.

The end was come, and weary Mulciber was sinking now to crumbling ash; they attack the flames and drowse the pyre with plenteous water, till with the setting sun their toils were finished; scarce did their labour yield to the late-coming shadows. And now nine times had Lucifer chased the dewy stars from heaven, and as often changed his steed and nightly heralded the lunar fires—yet he deceives not the conscious stars, but is found the same in his alternate risings; ^a 'tis marvellous how the work has sped! there stands a marble pile, a mighty temple to the departed shade, where a row of sculptured scenes tells all his story: here Hypsipyle shows the river to the weary Danai, here crawls the unhappy babe, here lies he, while the scaly snake writhes angry coils around the hillock's end; one would think to hear the dying hisses of his blood-stained mouth, so twines the serpent about the marble spear.

And now Rumour is summoning a multitude eager to behold the unarmed battles; called forth from every field and city they come; they also gather together, to whom the horror of war is yet unknown, and they who through weary age or infant years had stayed behind; never were such clamouring throngs on the strand of Ephyre or in the circus of Oenomaus.^b

Set in a green ring of curving hills and embraced by woodland lies a vale; rough ridges stand about it, and the twin summits of a mound make a barrier and forbid issue from the plain, which running long and level rises with gentle slope to grassy brows and winding heights soft with living turf. There in dense

^b *i.e.*, at the Isthmian or Olympian games.

STATIUS

illic conferti, iam sole rubentibus arvis,
 bellatrix sedere cohors ; ibi corpore mixto
 metiri numerum vultusque habitusque suorum
 dulce viris, tantique iuvat fiducia belli.
 centum ibi nigrantes, armenti robora, tauros 265
 lenta mole trahunt ; idem numerusque colorque
 matribus et nondum lunatis fronte iuvençis.
 Exin magnanimum series antiqua parentum
 invehitur, miris in vultum animata figuris.
 primus anhelantem duro Tirynthius angens 270
 pectoris attritu sua frangit in ossa leonem.
 haud illum impavidi, quamvis et in aere suumque
 Inachidae videre decus. pater ordine iuncto
 laevus harundinae recubans super aggere ripae
 cernitur emissaeque indulgens Inachus urnae. 275
 Io post tergum, iam prona dolorque parentis,
 spectat innociduis stellatum visibus Argum.
 ast illam melior Phariis erexerat arvis
 Iuppiter atque hospes iam tunc Aurora colebat.
 Tantalus inde parens, non qui fallentibus undis 280
 imminet aut refugae sterilem rapit aera silvae,
 sed pius et magni vehitur conviva Tonantis.
 parte alia victor curru Neptunia tendit
 lora Pelops, prensatque rotas auriga natantes
 Myrtilos et voluceri iam iamque relinquitur axe. 285
 et gravis Acrisius speciesque horrenda Coroebi
 et Danae culpata sinus, et in amne reperto

^a *i.e.*, with horns.

^b *i.e.*, on all fours. Statius appears to mean that there were two representations of Io, one of her as a heifer, and one of her in Egypt, when Jupiter "had raised her erect again."

^c *i.e.*, the East.

^d Pelops was a favourite of Poseidon, *cf.* Pindar, *Ol.* i. 39.

crowds, while the fields were still rosy in the dawn, the warrior company took their seats; there the heroes delight to reckon the number of the motley multitude, and scan the faces and the dress of their fellows, and they feel the glad confidence of a mighty host. Thither they drag a hundred black bulls, the strength of the herd, slow-paced and straining; as many cows of similar hue, and bullocks with foreheads not yet crescent-crowned.^a

Then the ancient line of great-hearted sires is borne along, in images marvellously fashioned to a living likeness. First the Tirynthian crushes the gasping lion against the strong pressure of his breast and breaks it upon his own bones; him the Inachidae behold not without terror, though he be in bronze and their own famous hero. Next in order is seen father Inachus reclining leftward on the mound of a reedy bank and letting the streaming urn flow free. Io, already prone^b and the sorrow of her sire, sees behind her back Argus starred with eyes that know no setting. But kindlier Jupiter had raised her erect in the Pharian fields, and already was Aurora^c giving her gracious welcome. Then father Tantalus, not he who hangs above the deceiving waters and snatches the empty wind of the elusive branch, but the great Thunderer's god-fearing guest is borne along. Elsewhere triumphant in his car Pelops handles the reins of Neptune,^d and Myrtilos the charioteer grasps at the bounding wheels, as the swift axle leaves him far and farther behind. Grave Acrisius too and the dread likeness of Coroebus and Danaë's guilty bosom, and Amymone^e in sadness

^e A daughter of Danaus, to whom Poseidon showed a spring at Lerna in time of drought, and ravished her there.

STATIUS

tristis Amygone, parvoque Alcmena superbit
 Hercule, tergemina crinem circumdata luna.
 iungunt discordes inimica in foedera dextras 290
 Belidae fratres ; sed vultu mitior adstat
 Aegyptus, Danaï manifestum adgnoscerè ficto
 ore notas pacisque malae noctisque futurae.
 mille dehinc species. tandem satiata voluptas
 praestantesque viros vocat ad sua praemia virtus. 295
 Primus sudor equis. dic inelyta, Phoebe, regentum
 nomina, dic ipsos ; neque enim generosior umquam
 alipedum conlata acies, ceu praepete cursu
 configant densae volucres aut litore in uno
 Acolus insanis statuât certamina ventis. 300
 Ducitur ante omnis rutilae manifestus Arion
 igne iubae. Neptunus equo, si certa priorum
 fama, pater ; primus teneri¹ laesisse lupatis
 ora et litoreo domitasse in pulvere fertur,
 verberibus parcens ; etenim insatiatus eundi 305
 ardor et hiberno par inconstantia ponto.
 saepe per Ionium Libycumque natantibus ire
 interiunctus equis omnesque adsuerat in oras
 caeruleum deferre patrem ; stupuere relicta
 Nubila, certantes Eurique Notique sequuntur. 310
 nec minor in terris bella Eurysthea gerentem
 Amphitryoniaden alto per gramina sulco
 duxerat, illi etiam feros indocilisque teneri.
 mox divum dono regis dignatus Adrasti
 imperia et multum mediis mansueverat annis. 315
 tunc rector genero Polynici indulget agendum

¹ teneri *Garrod* : teneris *Pw.*

^a Because of the night of threefold length in which Hercules was begotten.

^b The suitors of the Danaïds, sons of Aegyptus, who was son of Belus, as was also Danaus ; *cf.* iv. 133.

by the stream she found, and Alcmena proud of the infant Hercules, a threefold moon^a about her hair. The sons of Belus^b join their discordant right hands in a pledge of enmity, but Aegyptus with milder look stands near; easy is it to mark on the feigned countenance of Danaus the signs of a treacherous peace and of the coming night. Then follow shapes innumerable. At length pleasure is sated, and prowess summons the foremost heroes to its own rewards.

First came the sweat of steeds. Tell, O Phoebus, the drivers' famous names, tell of the steeds themselves; for never did nobler array of wing-footed coursers meet in conflict: even as serried ranks of birds compete in swift course or on a single shore Aeolus appoints a contest for the wild winds.

Before the rest Arion, marked by his mane of fiery red, is led forth. Neptune, if the fame of olden time be true, was his sire; he first is said to have hurt his young mouth with the bit and tamed him on the sand of the sea-shore, sparing the lash; for insatiable was his eagerness to run, and he was capricious as a winter sea. Oft was he wont to go in harness with the steeds of ocean through the Libyan or Ionian deep, and bring his dark-blue sire safe home to every shore; the storm-clouds marvelled to be outstripped, and East and South winds strive and are left behind. Nor less swiftly on land had he borne Amphitryon's son, when he waged Eurystheus' wars, in deep-pressed furrows o'er the mead, fierce to him also and impatient of control. Soon by the gods' bounty he was deemed worthy to have Adrastus for his lord, and meanwhile had grown far gentler. On that day the chieftain allows him to be driven

STATIUS

multa monens, ubi fervor equo, qua suetus ab arte
 mulceri, ne saeva manus, ne liber habenis
 impetus. "urge alios" inquit "stimulisque minisque;
 ille ibit, minus ipse volens." sic ignea lora 320
 cum daret et rapido Sol natum imponeret axi,
 gaudentem lacrimans astra insidiosa docebat
 nolentesque teri zonas mediamque polorum
 temperiem : pius ille quidem et formidine cauta,
 sed iuvenem durae prohibebant discere Parcae. 325
 Oebalios sublimis agit, spes proxima palmae,
 Amphiaras equos ; tua furto lapsa propago,
 Cyllare, dum Scythici diversus ad ostia Ponti
 Castor Amyclaeas remo permutat habenas.
 ipse habitu niveus, nivei dant colla iugales, 330
 concolor est albis et cassis et infula cristis.
 quin et Thessalicis felix Admetus ab oris
 vix steriles compescit equas ; Centaurica dicunt
 semina (credo, adeo sexum indignantur, et omnis
 in vires adducta Venus) ; noctemque diemque 335
 adsimulant, maculis internigrantibus albae :
 tantus uterque color, credi nec degener illo
 de grege, Castaliae stupuit qui sibila cannae
 laetus et audito contempsit Apolline pasci.
 ecce et Iasonidae iuvenes, nova gloria matris 340
 Hypsipyles, subiere iugo, quo vectus uterque,
 nomen avo gentile Thoas atque omine dictus
 Euneos Argoo. geminis eadem omnia : vultus,

^a For other references to horse-breeding see x. 228, *Silv.* v. 2. 21. It is not clear why being of Centaur's seed should make them scornful of their sex.

^b *i.e.*, the horses of Admetus, whom Apollo served as a shepherd.

^c The word *Euneos* = happy voyaging.

by his son-in-law Polynices, and much did he counsel him, what arts would soothe the horse when enraged, not to use too fierce a hand, nor to let him gallop free of the rein; "urge other steeds," said he, "with voice and goad; but he will go, ay, faster than you wish." Even so, when the sun granted the fiery reins and set his son upon the whirling chariot, with tears did he warn the rejoicing youth of treacherous stars and zones that would fain not be o'errun and the temperate heat that lies midway between the poles; obedient was he and cautious, but the cruel Fates would not suffer him to learn. Amphiaraus, next favourite for the prize, aloft in his chariot drives Oebalian steeds; thy progeny, Cyllarus, stealthily begotten while far away by the mouth of Scythian Pontus Castor was exchanging for the oar the Amyclean rein. Snow-white his own raiment, snow-white are the coursers that lend their necks to the yoke, his helm and fillet match the whiteness of his crested plume. Admetus, too, the fortunate, from Thessalian shores, can scarce restrain his barren mares, of Centaur's seed, as they tell (so scornful, methinks, are they of their sex, and their natural heat turns all to body's vigour).^a White with dark flecks, they resemble day and night: so strongly marked was each colour, nor unfit were they to be deemed of that stock^b which stood spellbound at the piping of the Castalian reed, and scorned their pasture when they heard Apollo play. Lo! the young sons of Jason, too, their mother Hypsipyle's new-found pride, took stand upon the chariots wherein each rode, Thoas, bearing the name of his grand-sire, proper to his race, and Euneos,^c called from Argo's omen. In everything were the twins alike,

STATIUS

currus, equi, vestes, par et concordia votis,
vincere vel solo cupiunt a fratre relinqui. 345

it Chromis Hippodamusque, alter satus Hercule
magno,

alter ab Oenomao : dubites, uter effera presset
frena magis. Getici pecus hic Diomedis, at ille
Pisaei iuga patris habet, crudelibus ambo
exuviis diroque imbuti sanguine currus. 350

metarum instar erant¹ hinc nudo robore quercus,
olim omnis exuta comas, hinc saxeus umbo,
arbiter agricolis ; finem iacet inter utrumque,
quale quater iaculo spatium, ter harundine vincas.

Interea cantu Musarum nobile mulcens 355
concilium citharaeque manus insertus Apollo

Parnassi summo spectabat ab aethere terras ;
orsa deum—nam saepe Iovem Phlegramque suique
anguis opus fratrumque pius cantarat honores—
tunc aperit, quis fulmen agat, quis sidera ducat 360

spiritus, unde animi fluviis, quae pabula ventis,
quo fonte immensum vivat² mare, quae via solis
praecipitet noctem, quae porrigat, imane tellus
an media et rursus mundo succincta latenti.

finis erat, differt avidas audire sorores, 365

dumque chelyn lauro textumque inlustre coronae
subligat et picto discingit pectora limbo,
haud procul Herculeam Nemcen clamore reductus
aspicit atque illic ingens certaminis instar

¹ erant *Slater* : erat *Pw*.

² vivat ω : bibat *P*, immensum quo fonte bibat *conj. Phillimore*.

^a A javelin could be flung 80 yards if the "amentum" or strap were used (Pauly-Wissowa, *Real-Encycl.* s.v. *Hasta*) ; the distance between the posts was therefore about 300 yards.

^b Phlegra was the scene of the battle between the gods

in looks, in car and steeds, in raiment, and in the harmony of their wishes, either to win or to lose only at a brother's hands. Next ride Chromis and Hippodamus, the one born of mighty Hercules, the other of Oenomaus : it were doubtful which drove more madly. The one has horses bred by Getic Diomede, the other a yoked pair of his Pisæan sire, both chariots are decked with cruel spoils and drip with ghastly blood. For turning-points there stood here a bare oak-trunk, there a stone pillar, arbiter of husbandmen ; betwixt either bound there lay a space thou mightest reach with four times a javelin's cast, with thrice an arrow's flight.^a

Meanwhile Apollo was charming with his strains the Muses' glorious company, and, his finger placed upon the strings, was gazing down to earth from the airy summit of Parnassus. First he recounts the deeds of the gods—for oft in duty bound he had sung of Jove and Phlegra and his own victory o'er the serpent and his brothers' praises^b—and then reveals what spirit drives the thunderbolt or guides the stars, whence comes the fury of the rivers, what feeds the winds, what founts supply the unmeasured ocean, what pathway of the sun hastens or draws out the course of night, whether earth be lowest or in mid-heaven and encompassed by yet another world we view not. There he ended, and puts off the sisters, eager though they are to listen, and while he fastens bay about his lyre and the woven brilliance of his coronet, and ungirds his breast of the pictured girdle, he hears a clamour, and beholds not far away Nemea famed for Hercules, and there the mighty and the giants ; the snake is the Python ; his brothers are Bacchus and Hercules, both sons of Zeus.

STATIUS

quadriiugi. noscit cunctos, et forte propinquo 370
 constiterant Admetus et Amphiarus in arvo.
 tunc secum : " quisnam iste duos,¹ fidissima Phoebi
 nomina, commisit deus in discrimina reges ?
 ambo pii carique ambo ; nequēam ipse priorem
 dicere. Peliacis hic cum famularer in arvis— 375
 sic Iovis imperia et nigrae voluere Sorores—
 tura dabat famulo nec me sentire minorem
 ausus ; at hic tripodum comes et pius artis alumnus
 aetheriae. potior meritis tamen ille, sed huius
 extrema iam fila colu ; datur ordo senectae 380
 Admeto serumque mori ; tibi nulla supersunt
 gaudia, nam Thebae iuxta et tenebrosa vorago.
 scis miser, et nostrae pridem cecinere volucres."'
 dixit, et os fletu paene inviolabile tinctus
 extemplo Nemeen radiante per aera saltu 385
 ocior et patrio venit igne suisque sagittis.
 ipse olim in terris, caelo vestigia durant,
 claraque per zephyros etiamnum semita lucret.

Et iam sortitus Prothous versarat aena
 casside, iamque locus cuique est et liminis ordo. 390
 terrarum decora ampla viri, decora aequa iugales,
 divum utrumque genus, stant uno margine clausi
 spesque audaxque una metus et fiducia pallens.
 nil fixum cordi : pugnant exire paventque,
 concurrunt summos animosum frigus in artus. 395

¹ duos ω : duo P (cf. Klotz ad loc. and Housman. Manil. i. 792).

spectacle of a four-horsed chariot-race. He recognizes all, and by chance Admetus and Amphiaraus had taken their stand in a field hard by. Then to himself he spake: "What god has set those two princes, Phoebus' most loyal names, in mutual rivalry? Both are devoted to me, and both are dear; nor could I say which holds first place. The one, when I served as thrall on Pelian ground—such was Jove's command, so the dark Sisters willed—burnt incense to his slave, nor dared to deem me his inferior. The other is the companion of the tripods and the devout pupil of the wisdom of the air: and though the first has preference by his deserts, yet the other's thread is near its distaff's end. For Admetus is old age ordained, and a late death; to thee no joys remain, for Thebes awaits thee and the dark gulf. Thou knowest it, unhappy one: long since have my own birds sung thy doom." He spoke, and tears bedewed the face that scarce any sorrow may profane; then straightway came he to Nemea, bounding radiant through the air, swifter than his father's fire and his own shafts. Long had he reached the earth, yet still his tracks remain in heaven, and still athwart the zephyrs his path gleams bright.

And now Prothous had shaken the lots in a brazen helmet, and each had his place and order at the starting. The heroes, each his country's glorious boast, and the coursers, a match to them in glory, all alike of blood divine, stand penned by the one barrier, hopeful, daring yet fearful, anxious yet confident. All is confusion in their hearts; they strive, yet are afraid, to be gone, and a thrill of courage mixt with dread runs through them to the extremities of their limbs. The steeds are as ardent

STATIUS

qui dominis, idem ardor equis ; face lumina surgunt,
 ora sonant morsu, spumisque et sanguine ferrum
 uritur, impulsi nequeunt obsistere postes
 claustraque, compressae transfumat anhelitus irae.
 stare adeo miserum est, pereunt vestigia mille 400
 ante fugam, absentemque ferit gravis ungula campum.
 circumstant fidi, nexusque et torta iubarum
 expediunt firmantque animos et plurima monstrant.
 insonuit contra Tyrrhenum murmur, et omnes
 exsiluere loco. quae tantum carbasa ponto, 405
 quae bello sic tela volant, quae nubila caelo ?
 annibus hibernis minor est, minor impetus igni,
 tardius astra cadunt, glomerantur tardius imbres,
 tardius e summo decurrunt flumina monte.
 Emissos videre atque agnovere Pelasgi. 410
 et iam rapti oculis, iam caeco pulvere mixti
 una in nube latent, vultusque umbrante tumultu
 vix inter sese clamore et nomine noscunt.
 evolvere globum, et spatio quo quisque valebat
 diducti : delet sulcos iterata priores 415
 orbita, nunc avidi prono iuga pectore tangunt,
 nunc pugnante genu et pressis duplicantur habenis.
 colla toris crinita tument, stantesque repectit
 aura iubas, bibit albentes humus arida nimbos.
 fit sonus immanisque pedum tenuisque rotarum. 420
 nulla manu requies, densis insibilat aer
 verberibus ; gelida non crebrior exsilit Arcto
 grando, nec Oleniis manant tot cornibus imbres.

^a Th' impatient courser pants in ev'ry vein,
 And pawing, seems to beat the distant plain ;
 Hills, vales and floods appear already cross'd,
 And ere he starts, a thousand steps are lost.

Pope, *Windsor Forest*.

^b *i.e.*, of the trumpet ; see note on iii. 650.

^c *i.e.*, at the turning-points.

as their masters : their eyes dart flame, they loudly champ the bits, and blood and foam corrode the iron ; scarce do the confining posts resist their pressure, they smoke and pant in stifled rage. Such misery is it to stand still, a thousand steps are lost ere they start, and, on the absent plain, their hooves ring loud.^a Around stand trusty friends, smoothing out the twisted tangled manes, and speak heartening words and give much counsel. The Tyrrenian^b blast rang in their ears, and all leapt forward from their places. What canvas on the deep, what javelins in war, what clouds so swiftly fly across the heavens ? less violent are winter streams, or fire ; slower fall stars or gather rains, more slowly flow the torrents from the mountain-summits.

As they sped forth the Pelasgi saw and marked them ; now are they lost to view, now confused and hidden in one cloud of blinding dust ; they can see nothing for the press, and scarce by shout of name can they recognize each other. Then some draw clear of the throng, and each takes place according to his strength ; the second lap blots out the former furrows, and now stooping forward in their eagerness they touch the yoke, now with straining knees they bend double, tugging at the reins.^c On the shaggy necks the muscles swell, and the breeze combs back the erect manes, while the dusty ground drinks up the white rain of foam. The thunder of hooves and the gentler sound of running wheels are blended. Never idle are their arms, the air hisses with the oft-plied lash ; no more densely spatters the hail from the cold North, nor streams the rain from the Olenian horns.^d

^a See note on iii. 25.

STATIUS

Senserat adductis alium praesagus Arion
 stare ducem loris, dirumque expaverat insons 425
 Oedipodioniden ; iam illinc a limine discors
 iratusque oneri solito¹ truculentior ardet.
 Inachidae credunt accensum laudibus ; ille
 aurigam fugit, aurigae furiale minatur
 efferus, et campo dominum circumspicit omni. 430
 ante tamen cunctos sequitur longequae secundus
 Amphiaraus agit, quem Thessalus aequat eundo
 Admetus : iuxta gemini, nunc Euneos ante
 et nunc ante Thoas, cedunt vincuntque, nec umquam
 ambitiosa pios conclidit gloria fratres. 435
 postremum discrimen erant Chromis asper et asper
 Hippodamus, non arte rudes, sed mole tenentur
 cornipedum ; prior Hippodamus fert ora sequentum,
 fert gemitus multaue umeros incenditur aura.
 speravit flexae circum compendia metae 440
 interius ductis Phoebus augur habenis
 anticipasse viam ; nec non et Thessalus heros
 spe propiore calet, dum non cohibente magistro
 spargitur in gyros dexterque exerrat Arion.
 iam prior Oeclides et iam non tertius ibat 445
 Admetus, laxo cum tandem ambo² orbe reductus
 aequoreus sonipes premit evaditque parumper
 gavisos ; subit astra fragor, caelumque tremiscit,
 omniaque excusso patuere sedilia vulgo.
 sed nec lora regit nec verbera pallidus audet 450
 Labdacides : lassa veluti ratione magister

¹ solito *PS* : insolito ω .

² ambo *Alton* (Cl. Quart. xvii. 175) : ab $P\omega$: ex *or* et ab *late mss.* : *Klotz conj.* ambage.

^a Or, as he was son of Neptune, "prescient," "inspired."
 "insons" : the guilty mortal makes the guiltless horse afraid.

^b *i.e.*, Polynices ; the patronymic merely indicates descent,

By instinct ^a had Arion guessed that another driver stood grasping the reins, and feared, innocent as he was, the dire son of Oedipus; from the very start he rages more fiercely than his wont, fretting angrily against his burden. The sons of Inachus think him fired by praises, but it is the charioteer that he is flying, the charioteer that he threatens in maddened fury, and he looks round for his lord on all the plain. Amphiaraus follows him, yet far before the rest and by a long space second, and level with him runs Thessalian Admetus; the twins are together, now Euneos to the fore, now Thoas, and in turn give ground and go ahead, nor ever does ambitious love of glory set at variance the devoted brothers. Last of all fierce Chromis and fierce Hippodamus contend, not lacking skill, but the weight of their coursers retards them; Hippodamus, leading, feels the panting breath of the following steeds, and their hot wind upon his shoulders. The seer of Phoebus hoped by drawing tight his rein and turning close around the goal to gain first place; and the Thessalian hero too feels hope glow nearer, while Arion, defying control, dashes here and there in circles and strays rightward from the course. Already Oeclides was in front and Admetus no longer third, when the sea-born steed, at last brought back from his wide circuit, overtakes and passes both, their triumph but short-lived; a loud crash rises to the sky, and heaven trembles, and all the seats flashed bare, as the crowd sprang to their feet. But the son of Labdacus ^b in pale anxiety neither handles the rein nor dares the lash: just as a steersman, his skill exhausted, rushes as later l. 467, where he is called "son of Echion," one of the founders of Thebes.

STATIUS

in fluctus, in saxa ruit nec iam amplius astra
respicit et victam proiecit casibus artem.

Rursus praecipites in reeta ac devia campi
obliquant tenduntque vias, iterum axibus axes 455
infracti, radiisque rotae ; pax nulla fidesque :
bella geri ferro levius, bella horrida credas ;
is furor in laudes, trepidant mortemque minantur,
multaque transversis praestringitur ungula campis.
nec iam sufficiunt stimuli, non verbera, voce 460
nominibusque cient Pholoen Admetus et Irin
fumantemque Thoen, rapidum Danaeius augur
Ascheton increpitans meritumque vocabula Cygnum.
audit et Herculeum Strymon Chromin, Euneon audit
igneus Athion ; tardumque Cydona laecessit 465
Hippodamus, variumque Thoas rogat ire Podarceon.
solus Echionides errante silentia curru
maesta tenet trepidaque timet se voce fateri.

Vixdum coeptus equis labor, et iam pulvere quarto
campum ineunt, iamque et tepidis sudoribus artus 470
effeti, et crassum rapit eiectatque vaporem
cornipedum flammata sitis, nec iam integer illis
impetus, et longi suspendunt ilia flatus.
hic anceps Fortuna diu decernere primum
ausa venit. ruit, Haemonium dum fervidus instat 475
Admetum superare, Thoas, nec pertulit¹ ullam
frater opem. velit ille quidem, sed Martius ante
obstitit Hippodamus mediasque immisit habenas.
mox Chromis Hippodamum metae interioris ad orbem
viribus Herculeis et toto robore patris 480
axe tenet presso, luctantur abire iugales

¹ pertulit *Baehrens* : praetulit *Pw.*

upon waves and rocks alike, nor any more consults the stars, but flings his baffled art to the merey of chance.

Again at headlong speed they swerve right-handed from the track into the plain, and strive to keep their course, and again comes the shock of axle on axle, wheel on wheel-spokes ; no truce is there, nor keeping faith ; a lighter task, one would think, were war, savage war, and bloodshed, such furious will to victory is theirs, such fear and threats of death ; and many a hoof is struck as it runs crosswise o'er the plain. Neither goads nor lashes now suffice, but with shout of name does Admetus urge Iris and Pholoë and steaming Thoë, and the Danaan augur chide fleet Aschetos and Cygnus well so-called. Strymon too hears Chromis, son of Hercules, and fiery Aethion Euneos ; Hippodamus provokes slow Cydon, Thoas entreats piebald Podarces to greater speed. Only Echion's son keeps gloomy silence in his erring car, and fears to confess his plight by cries of alarm.

Scarce was the real struggle of the steeds begun, and yet now they are entering the fourth dusty lap, and now steaming sweat is pouring from their exhausted limbs, and fiery thirst heaves and gasps forth the thick breath of the horn-footed steeds ; and now their vigour flags, and their flanks are racked with long-drawn pantings. Then first does Fortune, long time doubtful, dare to step in and make decision. Thoas, pressing madly on to pass Haemonian Admetus, falls, nor does his brother aid him ; fain would he, but Martian Hippodamus forestalled him and drove his team between them. Next Chromis by Hereulean vigour and all his father's strength holds Hippodamus with axles interlocked, as he wheels inside him past the goal ; in vain the steeds struggle to get free,

STATIUS

nequiquam frenosque et colla rigentia tendunt.
 ut Siculas si quando rates tenet aestus et ingens
 auster agit, medio stant vela tumentia ponto.
 tunc ipsum fracto curru deturbat, et isset 485
 ante Chromis ; sed Thraces equi ut videre iacentem
 Hippodamum, redit illa fames, iamiamque trementem
 partiti furiis, ni frena ipsosque frementes
 oblitus palmae retro Tiryntius heros
 torsisset victusque et conlaudatus abisset. 490

At tibi promissos iamdudum Phoebus honores,
 Amphiaræ, cupit. tandem ratus apta favori
 tempora pulverei venit in spatia horrida circi,
 cum iam in fine viae, et summum victoria nutat ;
 anguicomam monstri effigiem, saevissima visu 495
 ora, movet sive ille Erebo seu finxit in astus¹
 temporis, innumera certe formidine cultum
 tollit in astra nefas. non illud ianitor atrae
 impavidus Lethes, non ipsae horrore sine alto
 Eumenides vidisse queant, turbasset euntes 500
 Solis equos Martisque iugum. nam flavus Arion
 ut vidit, saliere iubae, atque erectus in armos
 stat sociumque iugi comitesque utrimque laboris
 secum alte suspendit equos. ruit ilicet exsul
 Aonius nexusque diu per terga volutus 505
 exuit ; abripitur longe moderamine liber
 currus ; at hunc putri praeter tellure iacentem

¹ astus *P* : astu ω .

and strain their sinewy necks and bridles. As when the tide holds fast Sicilian craft and a strong South wind impels them, the swelling sails stand motionless in mid-sea. Then Chromis hurls his rival from the shattered car, and had sped on the foremost, but when the Thracian horses saw Hippodamus lying on the ground, that awful hunger comes back upon them, and already had they shared in their mad lust his trembling frame, had not the Tirynthian hero, forgetful of victory, taken their bridles and dragged away the neighing steeds, and left the field vanquished but praised of all.

But Phoebus hath long desired for thee, Amphiraus, thy promised honours. At last, deeming the moment fit to show thee favour, he visits the grim spaces of the dusty course, when now the race is nearing its end, and for the last time victory hovers doubtful; a snake-tressed monstrous phantom, of visage terrible to behold, whether he wrought it in Erebus or for the cunning purpose of the moment, certainly endowed with countless terrors—this horrid plague he raises to the world above. The guardian of dusky Lethe could not have beheld it unterrified, nor the Eumenides themselves without a deep thrill of fear, it would have overturned the horses of the sun in mid-career, and the team of Mars. When golden Arion saw it, his mane leapt up erect, and he halts with upreared shoulders and holds high suspended his yoke-fellow and the steeds that shared his toil on either side. Straightway the Aonian exile is flung backward head-over-heels: he drops the reins, and the chariot, freed from restraint, dashes far away. But past him as he lies on the crumbling

STATIUS

Taenarii currus et Thessalus axis et heros
 Lemnius obliqua, quantum vitare dabatur,
 transabiere fuga. tandem caligine mersum 510
 erigit adcursum comitum caput aegraque tollit
 membra solo, et socero redit haud speratus Adrasto.

Quis mortis, Thebane, locus, nisi dura negasset
 Tisiphone, quantum poteras dimittere bellum?
 te Thebe fraterque palam, te plangeret Argos, 515
 te Nemeae, tibi Lerna comas Larissaque supplex
 poneret, Archemori maior colerere sepulcro.

Tum vero Oeclides, quamquam iam certa sequenti
 praemia, cum vacuus domino prior iret¹ Arion,
 ardet adhuc cupiens vel inanem vincere currum. 520
 dat vires refovetque deus; volat ocior euro,
 ceu modo carceribus dimissus in arva solutis,
 verberibusque iubas et terga lacessit habenis
 increpitans Caerumque levem Cygnumque nivalem.
 nunc saltem, dum nemo prior, rapit igneus orbes 525
 axis, et effusae longe sparguntur harenae.
 dat gemitum tellus et iam tunc saeva minatur.
 forsitan et victo prior isset Arione Cygnus,
 sed vetat aequoreus vinci pater: hinc vice iusta
 gloria mansit equo, cessit victoria vati. 530
 huic pretium palmae gemini cratera ferebant
 Herculeum iuvenes: illum Tirynthius olim
 ferre manu sola spumantemque ore supino
 vertere, seu monstri victor seu Marte, solebat.

¹ prior iret *Mueller*: praeciret *Pw*: domitore praeciret
Unger, cf. ii. 551.

^a *i.e.*, Amphiarus, Admetus, and Thoas.

earth sweep the Taenarian car and the Thessalian axle and the Lemnian hero,^a and just avoid him by swerving in their flight. His friends rush up, and at last he lifts his dazed head and reeling limbs from the ground, and returns, scarce hoped for by his father-in-law Adrastus.

How timely then, O Theban, had been thy death, had not stern Tisiphone forbidden! How grievous a war couldest thou have prevented! Thebe had bewailed thee and thy brother made show thereof, and Argos too had mourned, and Nemea and Lerna and Larissa had in suppliant guise shorn tresses for thee, thou hadst excelled Archemorus in funeral pomp.

Then Oeclides, although the prize was now sure for him as he followed, since masterless Arion held first place, yearned yet with keen desire to pass even the empty chariot. The god lends strength and refreshment; swifter than the East wind he flies, as though the barrier were but just fallen and he were starting on the race, and calling aloud on nimble Caerus and snow-white Cygnus, plies their necks with blows and shakes the reins upon their backs. Now at least, when nobody is in front, the fiery axle devours the course, and the scattered sand is thrown afar. The earth groans, and even then savagely threatens. And perchance Arion too had owned defeat and Cygnus taken first place, but his ocean-sire suffers him not to be defeated; thus by a just division the glory remained for the horse, but the prophet gained the victory. His meed of triumph was a Herculean bowl, borne by two youths; the Tirynthian on a time was wont to take it in one hand, and with head flung back quaff it foaming, whether victorious over a monster or in the field of

STATIUS

Centauros habet arte truces aurumque figuris 535
 terribile : hic mixta Lapitharum caede rotantur
 saxa, faces aliique iterum crateres, ubique
 ingentes morientum irae ; tenet ipse furem
 Hylaeum et torta molitur robora barba.
 at tibi Maconio fertur circumflua limbo 540
 pro meritis, Admete, chlamys repetitaque multo
 murice : Phrixei natat hic contemptor ephebus
 aequoris et picta tralucet eacerulus unda ;
 in latus ire inanus¹ mutaturusque videtur
 bracchia, nec siceum speres in stamine crinem ; 545
 contra autem frustra sedet anxia turre suprema
 Sestias in speculis, moritur prope conscius ignis.
 has Adrastus opes dono victoribus ire
 imperat ; at generum famula solatur Achaea.
 Sollicitat tunc ampla viros ad praemia cursu 550
 praeceles : agile studium et tenuissima virtus,
 pacis opus, cum sacra vocant, nec inutile bellis
 subsidium, si dextra neget. prior omnibus Idas,
 nuper Olympiacis umbratus tempora ramis,
 prosilit ; excipiunt plausu Pisaea iuventus 555
 Eleaeque manus. sequitur Sicyonius Alcon,
 et bis in Isthmiaca victor clamatus harena
 Phaedimus, alipedumque fugam praegressus equorum
 ante Dymas, sed tunc aevo tardante secutus.
 multi et, quos varii tacet ignorantia vulgi, 560
 hinc atque hinc subiere. sed Arcada Parthenopaeum

¹ manus *Pω* (*i.e.* videntur) : manu *Markland*.

^a *i.e.*, the mixing-bowls portrayed on this bowl.

^b Leander, who swam from Abydos to Sestos.

^c *i.e.*, in contrast to the robust sports of chariot-racing, boxing, etc. ; *cf.* l. 730.

Mars. Fierce Centaurs has it, cunningly wrought, and fearful shapes in gold : here amid slaughter of Lapithæ are stones and torches flying, and again other bowls^a ; everywhere the furious anger of dying men ; he himself seizes the raging Hylæus, and grips him by the beard and wields his club. But for thee, Admetus, is brought for thy deserving a cloak with a flowing border of Maeonian dye, stained many a time with purple ; here swims the youth contemptuous of Phrixean waters,^b and gleams with sea-blue body through the pictured wave ; one sees the sideward sweep of his arm, and he seems about to make the alternate stroke, nor would one think to find his hair dry in the woven fabric. Yonder high upon her tower sits anxiously watching, all in vain, the Sestian maid ; near her the conscious lamp droops and flickers. These rich rewards Adrastus bids be given to the victors ; but his son-in-law he consoles with an Achæan handmaid.

Then he incites those heroes who are speediest of foot to strive for ample rewards : a contest of agility where prowess is frailest,^c fit pursuit for peace, when sacred games invite, nor useless in war as a refuge should power of arm fail. Before all the rest Idas leaps to the front, whose temples were lately shaded by Olympian wreaths ; the youth of Pisa and the bands of Elis hail him with applause. Alcon of Sicyon follows, and Phaëdimus, twice acclaimed the victor on the sands of Isthmus, and Dymas, who once outstripped the flight of wing-footed steeds, but now they outran him by reason of retarding age. Many too, whom the ignorant multitude received in silence, came forward from this side and from that. But for Parthenopæus the Arcadian they call aloud, and

STATIUS

appellant densique cient vaga murmura circi.
 nota parens cursu ; quis Maenaliac Atalantes
 nesciat egregium decus et vestigia cunctis
 indepresa procis ? onerat celeberrima natum 565
 mater, et ipse procul fama iam notus inermes
 narratur cervas pedes inter aperta Lycaei
 tollere et emissum cursu deprendere telum.
 tandem exspectatus volucri super agmina saltu
 emicat et torto chlamydem diffibulat auro. 570
 effulsere artus, membrorumque omnis aperta est
 laetitia, insignes umeri, nec pectora nudis
 deteriora genis, latuitque in corpore vultus.¹
 ipse tamen formae laudem aspernatur et arcet
 mirantes ; tunc Palladios non inscius haustus 575
 incubuit pinguique cutem fuscatur olivo.
 hoc Idas, hoc more Dymas aliique nitescunt.
 sic ubi tranquillo perlucent sidera ponto
 vibraturque fretis caeli stellantis imago,
 omnia clara nitent, sed clarior omnia supra 580
 Hesperos exercet radios, quantusque per altum
 aethera, caeruleis tantus monstratur in undis.
 proximus et forma nec multum segnior Idas
 cursibus atque aevo iuxta prior ; attamen illi
 iam tenuem pingues florem induxere palaestrae, 585
 deserpitque genis nec se lanugo fatetur
 intonsae sub nube comae. tunc rite citatos
 explorant acuuntque gradus, variasque per artes
 exstimulant docto languentia membra tumultu :
 poplite nunc sidunt flexo, nunc lubrica forti 590

¹ latuitque in corpore vultus *P* (*corr. from* aluitque in corpore virtus) : patuitque (valuitque *Klotz*) in corpore virtus *Peyrared*.

arouse murmurs that roam throughout the close-packed circus. Well known is his parent for speed of foot; who cannot tell of the peerless renown of Atalanta, and of those footprints that no suitor could o'ertake? The son bears all his mother's glory, and he himself, already known to fame, is said to catch on foot the defenceless hinds in the open glades of Mount Lycaeus, and, as he runs, to o'ertake the flung javelin. Long expected, at last darts he forward, leaping lightly o'er the companies, and unfastens the twisted golden clasp of his cloak. His limbs shine forth, and all his graceful frame is revealed, his fine shoulders, and breast as smooth and comely as his cheeks, and his face was lost in his body's beauty. But he scorns the praise of his fairness, and suffers not admirers to come near him. Then he cunningly sets to work with the draughts of Pallas,^a and makes his skin tawny with rich oil. Thus do Idas and Dymas and the rest shine sleek and glossy. So when the starlight glitters on a tranquil sea, and the spangled heaven is mirrored tremulous in the deep, brilliant is every star, but more brilliant than the rest does Hesperus shoot his beams, and brightly as he flames in the high heavens, so bright is his reflection in the dark-blue waves. Idas is next in beauty, nor much slower in speed, next older too in years; but for him already has the palaestra's oil brought on the tender growth, and the down is creeping o'er his cheeks, nor yet confesses itself among the cloud of unshorn locks. Then they duly try their speed and sharpen up their paces, and by various arts and feigned excitement stir their languid limbs; now they sink down with bended knees, now smite with

^a Patron goddess of Athens, to whom the olive was sacred.

STATIUS

pectora conlidunt plausu, nunc ignea tollunt
crura brevemque fugam necopino fine reponunt.

Ut ruit atque aequum submisit regula limen,
corripuere leves spatium, campoque refulsit
nuda cohors : volucres isdem modo tardius arvis 595
isse videntur equi ; credas e plebe Cydonum
Parthorumque fuga totidem exsiluisse sagittas.

non aliter celeres Hyrcana per avia cervi,
cum procul impasti fremitum acceperere leonis
sive putant, rapit attonitos fuga caeca metusque 600
congregat, et longum dant cornua mixta fragorem.
effugit hic oculos rapida puer ocior aura

Maenalius, quem deinde gradu premit horridus Idas
inspiratque umero, flatuque et pectoris umbra
terga premit. post ambiguo discrimine tendunt 605

Phaedimus atque Dymas, illis celer imminet Alcon.
flavus ab intonso pendebat vertice crinis
Arcados ; hoc primis Triviae pascebat ab annis
munus et, Ogygio victor cum Marte redisset,
nequiquam patriis audax promiscrat aris. 610

tunc liber nexu lateque in terga solutus
occursu zephyri retro fugit¹ et simul ipsum
impedit infestoque volans obtenditur² Idae.
inde dolum iuvenis fraudique adcommoda sensit
tempora ; iam finem iuxta, dum limina victor 615

Parthenopaeus init, correpto crine reductum
occupat, et longae³ primus ferit ostia portae.

¹ fugit *Pω* : fuit *Bentley*.

² obtenditur *B* : ostenditur *Pω*.

³ longae *ω* : longe *PN*.

^a "limina" practically = "limes," the line marking the goal.

^b In a Greek stadium the line marking the starting-point and the goal was 30 yards long. But "longae" might =

loud claps their slippery breasts, now ply their fiery feet in short sprint and sudden stop.

As soon as the bar fell, and left the threshold level, they nimbly dashed away and the naked forms gleamed upon the plain; more slowly seemed the swift coursers to move of late on the same ground: one might deem them so many arrows poured forth from Cydonian host or flying Parthians. Not otherwise speed the stags over Hyrcanian wilds, hearing, or fancying that they hear, a famished lion roar afar; blind fear drives them in crowding panic-stricken flight, amid the ceaseless noise of clashing horns. Then swifter than the rapid breeze the Maenalian boy outstrips the sight, and hard behind him fierce Idas runs and breathes upon his shoulder and presses close upon his rear with panting breath and overshadowing form. After them Phaedimus and Dymas strive in doubtful contest, near them fleet Alcon. The yellow hair hung down from the Arcadian's unshorn head; this from his earliest years he cherished as a gift to Trivia, and vainly boasting had vowed it to his country's altars, when he should return in triumph from the Ogygian war. At that time, freed from its band and streaming loose behind, it flies backward as it meets the wind, at once hindering his own speed, and spreading out in front of his rival Idas. Thereat the youth bethought him of deceit and an opportunity for fraud; already close upon the goal, even while Parthenopaeus is triumphantly crossing the threshold,^a he grasps his hair, and pulling him back seizes his place, and is the first to breast the wide entrance of the goal.^b

"longinuae" (distant) here. In any case "longe" cannot be right.

STATIUS

Arcades arma fremunt, armis defendere regem,
 ni raptum decus et meriti reddantur honores,
 contendunt totoque parant descendere circo. 620
 sunt et quis Idae placeat dolus. ipse regesta
 Parthenopaeus humo vultumque oculosque madentes
 obruit, accessit lacrimarum gratia formae.
 pectora nunc maerens, nunc ora indigna cruento
 ungue secat meritamque comam, furit undique clamor
 dissonus, ambiguumque senis cunctatur Adrasti 626
 consilium. tandem ipse refert : "compescite litem,
 o pueri ! virtus iterum temptanda ; sed ite
 limite non uno, latus hoc conceditur Idae,
 tu diversa tene, fraus cursibus omnis abesto." 630

Audierant, dictoque manent. mox numina supplex
 affatu tacito iuvenis Tegeaeus odorat :
 "diva potens nemorum, tibi enim hic, tibi crinis honori
 debitus, eque tuo venit haec iniuria voto,
 si bene quid genetrix, si quid venatibus ipse 635
 promerui, ne, quaeso, sinas hoc omine Thebas
 ire nec Arcadiae tantum meruisse pudorem."
 auditum manifesta fides : vix campus euntem
 sentit, et exilis plantis intervenit aer,
 raraque¹ non fracto vestigia pulvere pendent. 640
 inrumpit clamore fores, clamore recurrit
 ante ducem prensaque fovet suspiria palma.
 finiti cursus, operumque insignia praesto.
 Arcas equum dono, clipeum gerit improbus Idas,
 cetera plebs Lyciis vadit contenta pharetris. 645
 Tunc vocat, emisso si quis decernere disco

¹ raraque *P* : rasaanque *Heinsius* : raptaque *Garrod*.

The Arcadians cry "To arms!" and with arms they hasten to defend their prince, if the lost prize and merited honour be not restored, and make ready to descend on all the course. Others again were pleased by the ruse of Idas. Parthenopaeus himself pours showers of earth upon his face and streaming eyes, and the comeliness of tears is added to his beauty. In his grief he rends with bloody nails now his breast, now his innocent cheeks and guilty hair, while all around discordant clamour rages, and old Adrastus halts irresolute of counsel. At last he speaks: "Cease quarrelling, youths! your prowess must be tried again; but run not in one track only; Idas has this side; keep thou apart yonder, and let there be no cheating in the race!"

They heard, and abide by his command. Then the youth of Tegea with silent prayer humbly entreats the gods: "Goddess, queen of the woodlands, for to thee and to thine honour these locks of mine are vowed, and from this vow comes my disgrace: if my mother or I myself have deserved well of thee in hunting, suffer me not, I pray thee, to go ill-omened thus to Thebes, or to have won such bitter shame for Arcadia." Clear proof was given that he was heard. The plain scarce feels him as he goes, his feet treads tenuous air, and the rare footsteps hover and leave the dust unbroken. With a shout he dashes to the goal, with a shout he runs back to the chief, and seizing the palm appeased his grief. The running was over, and prizes for their toils stand ready. The Arcadian is given a horse, the shameless Idas bears away a shield, the rest go contented with Lycian quivers.

Then he invites any who may wish to try the

STATIUS

impiger et vires velit ostentare superbas.
 it iussus Pterelas, et aenae lubrica massae
 pondera vix toto curvatus corpore iuxta
 deicit ; inspectant taciti expenduntque laborem 650
 Inachidae. mox turba ruunt, duo gentis Achaeae,
 tres Ephyreiadae, Pisa satus unus, Acarnan
 septimus ; et plures agitabat gloria, ni se
 arduus Hippomedon cavea stimulante tulisset
 in medios, lateque ferens sub pectore dextro 655
 orbem alium : “ hunc potius, iuvenes, qui moenia saxis
 frangere, qui Tyrias deiectum vaditis arces,
 hunc rapite : ast illud cui non iaculabile dextrae
 pondus ? ” et abreptum nullo conamine iecit
 in latus. absistunt procul attonitique fatentur 660
 cedere ; vix unus Phlegyas acerque Menestheus—
 hos etiam pudor et magni tenere parentes—
 promiserere manum ; concessit cetera pubes
 sponte et adorato rediit ingloria disco.
 qualis Bistoniis clipeus Mavortis in arvis 665
 luce mala Pangaea ferit solemque refulgens
 territat incussaque dei grave mugit ab hasta.

Pisaeus Phlegyas opus incohat et simul omnes
 abstulit in se oculos : ea viso¹ corpore virtus
 promissa. ac primum terra discumque manumque
 asperat, excusso mox circum pulvere versat, 671
 quod latus in digitos, mediae quod certius ulnae
 conveniat, non artis egens : hic semper amori

¹ ea viso *P* : exhausto *ω* : ex viso *Baehrens*.

^a I have translated the word both “ quoit ” and “ disk,” though the discus, a *plate* of iron or stone about 10 or 12 inches in diameter, was very different from our quoit, which is a *ring*. The “ discus ” is well illustrated by the familiar

issue with the hurled quoit,^a and display untiring vigour and proud strength. At his command goes Pterelas, and with all his body bent scarce lays down beside him the slippery weight of the bronze mass; in silence the sons of Inachus look on and estimate the toil. Soon a number rush forward: two of Achaean race, three sons of Ephyre, one Pisa-born, the seventh an Acarnanian; and more was the love of glory urging on, had not tall Hippomedon, incited by the crowd, come forward, and carrying another broad disk at his right side: "Take this one rather, ye warriors, who are marching to shatter walls with stones, and to overthrow the Tyrian towers, take this one! As for that other, any hand can toss that weight!" and with no effort he caught it up and threw it to one side. They fall back in amaze and confess themselves outdone; scarce Phlegyas alone and eager Menestheus, compelled by sense of shame and noble ancestry, vouchsafed to try their strength; the rest of their own accord gave place, and returned inglorious, marvelling at the disk. Even so the shield of Mars on the Bistonian^b plain reflects an evil light on Mount Pangaeus, and shining strikes the sun with terror, and deeply clangs beneath the spear of the god.

Phlegyas of Pisa begins the toil; straightway he drew all eyes upon himself, when they beheld his frame, such promise of great deeds was there. And first with earth he roughens the quoit and his own hand, then shaking off the dust turns it right skilfully to see which side best suits his fingers, or fits more surely the middle of his arm. This sport had he "Discobolus" of Myron. Thomas Gray wrote a verse translation of this passage (646-725).^b Thracian.

STATIUS

ludus erat, patriac non tantum ubi laudis obiret
 sacra, sed alternis Alpheon utrumque solebat 675
 metari ripis et, qua latissima distant,
 non unquam merso transmitters flumina disco.
 ergo operum fidens non protinus horrida campi
 iugera, sed caelo dextram metitur, humique
 pressus utroque genu collecto sanguine discum 680
 ipse super sese rotat atque in nubila condit.
 ille citus sublime petit similisque cadenti
 crescit in adversum, tandemque exhaustus ab alto
 tardior ad terram redit atque immergitur arvis.
 sic cadit, attonitis quotiens avellitur astris, 685
 Solis opaca soror; procul auxiliantia gentes
 aera crepant frustra que timent, at Thessala victrix
 ridet anhelantes audito carmine bigas.
 conlaudant Danaï, sed non tibi molle tuenti,
 Hippomedon, maiorque manus speratur in aequo. 690
 Atque illi extemplo, cui spes infringere dulce
 immodicas, Fortuna venit. quid numina contra
 tendere fas homini? spatium iam immane parabat,
 iam cervix conversa, et iam latus omne redibat:
 excidit ante pedes elapsam pondus et ictus 695
 destituit frustra que manum demisit inanem.
 ingemuere omnes, rarisque ea visa voluptas.
 inde ad conatus timida subit arte Menestheus

^a Here again the reader may refer to the "Discobolus" of Myron.

^b It is flung aloft so swiftly that its fall by contrast is actually slower—a rhetorical paradox.

^c Eclipses of the moon were believed to be caused by Thessalian witches, who were thought to have the power of drawing it down to earth; the steeds are those of the chariot of the moon.

ever loved, not only when he attended his country's famous festival, but he was wont to reckon the space between Alpheos' either bank, and, where they are most widely distant, to clear the river nor ever wet the disk. At once, then, confident in his powers he measures, not the rough acres of the plain, but the sky's expanse with his right arm, and with either knee bent earthward ^a he gathers up his strength and whirls the disk above him and hides it in the clouds. Swiftly it speeds aloft, and as though falling grows faster as it mounts; ^b at last exhausted it returns to earth more slowly from the height, and buries itself in the field. So falls, whenever she is torn from the astonished stars, the darkened sister of the sun; ^c afar the peoples beat the bronze for succour, and indulge their fruitless fears, but the Thessalian hag triumphant laughs at the panting steeds who obey her spell. The Danai shout applause, though amid thy frowns, Hippomedon, and he hopes for a mightier throw along the level.^d

But thereupon Fortune, whose pleasure it is to dash immoderate hopes, assails him; what power has man against the gods? Already he was preparing a mighty throw, his head was turned and all his side was swinging back ^e: the weight slipped and fell before his feet and baffled his throw, and his hand dropped empty and unavailing. All groaned, while to a few the sight brought pleasure. Menestheus then, more cautious, brings careful skill to the

^d Phlegyas's first throw is a practice-throw, upwards instead of "on the flat" ("in aequo").

^e *i.e.*, his left side had been bent round towards the discus in his right hand; it has already begun to swing back into place as he begins to throw.

STATIUS

cautior, et multum te, Maia crete, rogato
 molis praevalidae castigat pulvere lapsus. 700
 illa manu magna et multo felicior exit,
 nec partem exiguam circi transvecta quievit.
 fit sonus, et fixa signatur terra sagitta.
 tertius Hippomedon valida ad certamina tardos
 molitur gressus ; namque illum corde sub alto 705
 et casus Phlegyae monet et fortuna Menesthei.
 erigit adsuetum dextrae certamen,¹ et alte
 sustentans rigidumque latus fortesque lacertos
 consulit ac vasto contorquet turbine, et ipse
 prosequitur. fugit horrendo per inania saltu 710
 iamque procul meminit dextrae servatque tenorem
 discus, nec dubia iunctave Menesthea victum
 transabiit meta : longe super aemula signa
 consedit viridesque umeros et opaca theatri
 culmina ceu latae tremefecit mole ruinae : 715
 quale vaporifera saxum Polyphemus ab Aetna
 lucis egente manu tamen in vestigia puppis
 auditae iuxtaque inimicum exegit Ulixen.
 sic et Aloidae, cum iam calcaret Olympum
 desuper Ossa rigens, ipsum glaciale ferebant 720
 Pelion et trepido sperabant iungere caelo.²
 Tum genitus Talao victori tigrin inanem
 ire iubet, fulvo quae circumfusa nitebat
 margine et extremos auro mansueverat ungues.
 Gnosiacos arcus habet et vaga tela Menestheus. 725
 “ at tibi ” ait, “ Phlegya, casu frustrate sinistro,
 hunc, quondam nostri decus auxiliumque Pelasgi,

¹ certamen *P* : gestamen ω .

² *Lines 719-721 are only found in late and inferior mss., and are usually bracketed as spurious.*

^a Hermes ; see note on iv. 228.

attempt, and uttering many a prayer to thee, O son of Maia,^a corrects with dust the slippery surface of the powerful mass. With far better fortune it speeds from his huge hand, nor falls till it has covered no mean extent of the course. They applaud, and an arrow is fixed to mark the spot. Third, Hippomedon with slow and ponderous step advances to the labours of the contest ; for deep in his heart he takes warning from the fate of Phlegyas and the good fortune of Menestheus. He lifts the instrument of combat that his hand knew well, and holding it aloft summons up the strength of his unyielding side and vigorous arms, and flings it with a mighty whirl, springing forward after it himself. With a terrific bound the quoit flies through the empty air, and even in its flight remembers the hand that flung it and keeps to its due path, nor attains a doubtful or a neighbouring goal as it passes the defeated Menestheus, but far beyond the rival sign it falls to earth, and makes tremble the green buttresses and shady heights of the theatre, as though they were falling in vast and widespread ruin ; even so from smoke-emitting Aetna did Polyphemus hurl the rock, though with hand untaught of vision, yet on the very track of the ship he could but hear, and close to his enemy Ulixes. Thus too the Aloidae, when rigid Ossa already trod Olympus under foot, bore icy Pelion also, and hoped to join it to the frightened heaven.

Then the son of Talaus bids a tiger's skin go as prize to the victor : all glossy it shone with a yellow border, and its sharp claws were tamed with gold. Menestheus receives a Gnosian bow and errant shafts. " But to thee, Phlegyas," he cries, " whom unlucky fortune foiled, we give this sword, once the

STATIUS

ferre damus, neque enim Hippomedon inviderit, ense.
nunc opus est animis : infestos tollite caestus
comminus ; haec bellis et ferro proxima virtus." 730

Constitit immanis cerni immanisque timeri
Argolicus Capaneus, ac dum nigrantia plumbo
tegmina cruda boum non mollior ipse lacertis
induitur, " date tot iuvenum de milibus unum
huc " ait, " atque utinam potius de stirpe veniret 735

aemulus Aonia, quem fas demittere leto,
nec mea crudelis civili sanguine virtus."

obstipuere animi, fecitque silentia terror.
tandem insperatus nuda de plebe Laeonum
prosilis Alcidas, mirantur Dorica regum 740

agmina ; sed socii fretum Polluce magistro
norant et sacras inter crevisse palaestras.

ipse deus posuitque manus et brachia finxit—
materiae suadebat amor ;—tunc saepe locavit
comminus, et simili stantem miratus in ira 745

sustulit exultans nudumque in pectora pressit.
illum indignatur Capaneus ridetque vocantem
ut miserans, poseitque alium, tandemque coetus
restitit, et stimulis iam languida colla tumescunt.
fulmineas alte suspensi corpora plantis 750

erexere manus ; tuto procul ora recessu
armorum in speculis, aditusque ad volnera clusi.
hie, quantum Tityos Stygiis consurgat ab arvis,
si torvae patiantur aves, tanta undique pandit
membrorum spatia et tantis ferus ossibus exstat. 755
hie paulo ante puer, sed enim maturius aevo

^a " crudelis " here seems to have the meaning of " crudus " (from " cruor ").

^b Cf. iv. 229, where the Spartans are said to be trained by Mercury, the patron god of the wrestling-ground, in the modes of naked valour.

glory and aid of our Pelasgus, nor will Hippomedon grudge it thee. And now is courage needed; wield ye the terrible cestus in close conflict: valour here comes nighest to that of battle and the sword."

Argive Capaneus took his stand—awful his aspect, awful the terror he inspires—and, binding on his arms the raw ox-hide black with lumps of lead, himself no softer, "Send me one," says he, "from all those thousands of warriors; and would rather that my rival were of Aonian stock, whom it were right to slay, and that my valour were not stained ^a with kindred blood." They stood aghast and terror made them silent. At last Alcidamas, unexpected, leapt forth from the naked ^b crowd of Laconians, while the Dorian princes marvel; but his comrades knew he relied on his master Pollux, and had grown up in the wrestling-school of a god. Pollux himself guided his hands and moulded his arms—love of the sport constrained him—and oft he set him against himself, and admiring him as he stood up in like mood caught him up exultant, and pressed his naked body to his breast. Capaneus thinks scorn of him and mocks at his challenge, as though in pity, and demands another foe; at last perforce he faces him, and now his languid neck swells at anger's prompting. With bodies poised at their full height they lift their hands, deadly as thunderbolts; safe withdrawn are their faces on their shoulders, ever watching, and closed is the approach to wounds. The one is as great in broad expanse of every limb and terrible in size of bone as though Tityos should rise up from the Stygian fields, did the fierce birds allow him; the other was lately but a boy, yet his strength is riper than his

STATIUS

robur, et ingentes spondet tener impetus annos,
quem vinci haud quisquam saevo neque sanguine tingui
malit, et erecto timeat spectacula voto.

Ut sese permensi oculis et uterque priorem 760
speravere locum, non protinus ira nec ictus :
alternus paulum timor et permixta furori
consilia, inclinant tantum contraria iactu
bracchia et explorant caestus hebetantque terendo.
doctior hic differt animum metuensque futuri 765
cunctatus vires dispensat : at ille nocendi
prodigus incautusque sui ruit omnis et ambas
consumit sine lege manus atque inrita frendit
insurgens seque ipse premit. sed providus astu
et patria vigil arte Lacon hos reicit ictus, 770
hos cavet ; interdum nutu capitisque citati
integer obsequio, manibus nunc obvia tela
discutiens, instat gressu voltuque recedit :
saepe etiam iniustis conlatum viribus hostem—
is vigor ingenio, tanta experientia dextrae est— 775
ultra audax animis intratque¹ et obumbrat et alte
adsilit. ut praeceps cumulo salit unda minantes
in scopulos et fracta redit, sic ille furentem
circuit expugnans ; levat ecce diuque minatur
in latus inque oculos ; illum rigida arma caventem 780
avocat ac manibus necopinum interserit ictum

¹ intratque *Pw.* : instatque *late mss.*

^a *i.e.*, that Alcidas would win. For “quisque” to be supplied after “nemo” *cf.* Orelli’s note on *Hor. Sat. i. 1. 1.*

^b They have not yet begun boxing in earnest, but are just sparring and rubbing glove against glove.

^c E. H. Alton would transpose “intrat” and “instat,”

years, and his youthful vigour gives promise of a mighty manhood; him would none wish to see defeated nor stained with cruel gore, but each man fears the spectacle with eager prayers.^a

Scanning each other with their gaze and each awaiting the first opening, they fell not at once to angry blows, but stayed awhile in mutual fear, and mingled caution with their rage; they but incline their arms against each other as they spar, and make trial of their gloves, dulling them with mere rubs.^b The one, more skilfully trained, puts by his fury, and taking thought for the future delays and husbands up his strength; but the other, prodigal of harm and reckless of his powers, rushes with all his might and in wild blows exhausts both arms, and attacks with fruitless gnashing of teeth, and injures his own cause. But the Laconian, prudent and crafty, and with all his country's vigilance, now parries, now avoids the blow; sometimes by the throwing back or rapid bending of his head he shuns all hurt, now with his hands he beats off the aimed assault, and advances with his feet while keeping his head drawn back.^c Often again, as his foe engages him with superior power—such strength is in his cunning, such skill in his right hand—with bold initiative he enters his guard and overshadows him, and towering high assails him. Just as a mass of water hurls itself headlong on a threatening rock, and falls back broken, so does he wheel round his angry foe, breaking his defence; look! he lifts his hand and threatens a long time his face or side, and thus by fear of his hard weapons diverts his guard and cunningly plants a sudden blow, contrasting the former with "recedit": "he stands up to him with his footwork, but keeps his head out of reach."

STATIUS

callidus et mediam designat volnere frontem :
 iam cruor, et tepido signantur tempora rivo.
 nescit adhuc Capaneus subitumque per agmina murmur
 miratur ; verum ut fessam super ora reduxit 785
 forte manum et summo maculas in vellere vidit,
 non leo, non iaculo tantum indignata recepto
 tigris : agit toto eedentem fervidus arvo
 praecipitatque retro iuvenem atque in terga supinat,
 dentibus horrendum stridens, geminatque rotatas 790
 multiplicatque manus. rapiunt conamina venti,
 pars cadit in caestus ; motu Spartanus aeuro
 mille cavet lapsas circum cava tempora mortes
 auxilioque pedum, sed non tamen immemor artis
 adversus fugit et fugiens tamen ictibus obstat. 795
 Et iam utrumque labor suspiriaque aegra fatigant.
 tardius ille premit, nec iam hic absistere¹ velox,
 defectique ambo genibus pariterque quierunt.
 sic ubi longa vagos lassarunt aequora nautas
 et signum de puppe datum, posuere parumper 800
 braccia : vix requies, iam vox citat altera remos.
 ecce iterum immodice venientem eludit et exit
 sponte ruens mersusque umeris : effunditur ille
 in eaput, adsurgentem alio puer improbus ictu
 pereulit eventuque impalluit ipse secundo. 805
 clamorem Inachidae, quantum non litora, tollunt,
 non nemora. illum ab humo conantem ut vidit
 Adrastus

¹ absistere *Pw* : obsistere *Baehrens*.

^a *i.e.*, Capaneus, of course; Alcidas crouches (for "mersus umeris" *cf.* "colla demersere umeris," l. 850) and rushes at Capaneus, who pitches forward over the Spartan's
 118

and marks the middle of his forehead with a wound ; blood flows, and the warm stream stains his temples. Capaneus, yet ignorant, wonders at the sudden murmur of the crowd, but when, as he chanced to draw his weary hand across his face, he saw the stains upon the cowhide, no lion nor tiger feeling the javelin's smart was e'er so mad ; hotly he drives the youth before him in headlong retreat over the whole field, and is forcing him on to his back ; terribly he grinds his teeth and whirls his fists in countless repeated blows. The strokes are wasted on the winds, some fall on the gloves of his foe ; with active movement and aid of nimble feet the Spartan eludes the thousand deaths that shower about his temples, yet not unmindful of his art he flees still fighting, and though fleeing meets blows with blows.

And now both are wearied with the toil and their exhausted panting ; slower the one pursues, nor is the other so swift to escape ; the knees of both fail them and alike they rest. Thus when long wandering o'er the sea has wearied the mariners, the signal is given from the stern and they rest their arms awhile ; but scarce have they taken repose, when another cry summons them to the oars again. Lo ! a second time he makes a furious dash, but the other tricks him and goes at him with a rush of his own and sinking into his shoulders ; forward he ^a pitches on his head, and as he rises the merciless boy smote him another blow and himself grew pale at his success. The Inachidae raise a shout louder than the noise of shore or forest. But when Adrastus saw him head. This rush of Alcidas is the "first" blow, and explains "alio," l. 804.

tollentemque manus et non toleranda parantem :
 " ite, oro, socii, furit, ite, opponite dextras,
 festinate, furit, palmamque et praemia ferte ! 810
 non prius, effracto quam misceat ossa cerebro,
 absistet, video, moriturum auferte Lacona."
 nec mora, prorumpit Tydeus, nec iussa recusat
 Hippomedon ; tunc vix ambo conatibus ambas
 restringunt cohibentque manus ac plurima suadent :
 " vincis, abi ; pulchrum vitam donare minori. 816
 noster et hic bellique comes." nil frangitur heros,
 ramumque oblatumque manu thoraca repellit
 vociferans : " liceat ! non has ego pulvere crasso
 atque cruore genas, meruit quibus iste favorem 820
 semivir,¹ infodiam mittamque informe sepulcro
 corpus et Oebalio donem lugere magistro ? "
 dicit ; at hunc socii tumidum et vicisse negantem
 avertunt, contra laudant insignis alumnum
 Taygeti longeque minas risere Lacones. 825

Iamdudum variae laudes et conscia virtus
 Tydea magnanimum stimulis urgentibus angunt.
 ille quidem et disco bonus et contendere cursu,
 nec caestu bellare minor, sed corde² labores
 ante alios erat uncta pale. sic otia Martis 830
 degere et armiferas laxare adsueverat iras
 ingentes contra ille viros Acheloia circum
 litora felicesque deo monstrante palaestras.
 ergo ubi luctandi iuvenes animosa citavit

¹ iste favorem semivir ω : ista iuventa semivir *P* : ista iuventa semiviri *Klotz*. *Garrod defends P in J. Ph. lviii.*

² corde *P ω* : cara *Markland* : cura *Garrod*.

^a *i.e.*, Pollux (Oebalian = Spartan).

struggling from the ground, and lifting his hands, intent on hideous deeds; "Haste, friends, I pray you, he is mad! hasten, prevent him! he is out of his mind—quick! bring the palm and the prizes! He will not cease, I see well, till he pounds the brain within the shattered skull. Rescue the doomed Laconian!" At once Tydeus darts forth, and Hippomedon, obedient to command; then scarce do the two with all their might master his two arms and bind them fast, and forcefully urge him: "Leave the field, thou art victorious; 'tis noble to spare the vanquished. He too is one of us, and a comrade in the war." But no whit is the hero's fury lessened; he thrusts away the proffered branch and the cuirass, and shouts: "Let me free! Shall I not smash in gore and clotted dust those cheeks whereby that eunuch-boy gained favour, and send his unsightly corpse to the tomb, and give cause for mourning to his Oebalian masters?" So says he, but his friends force him away, swelling with wrath and protesting that he has not conquered, while the Laconians praise the nursling of famed Taygetus, and laugh loud at the other's threats.

Long time have the varied deeds of valour and his own conscious worth provoked with urgent stings great-hearted Tydeus; both at the quoit and in speed of foot did he excel, nor less was he a champion of the boxing-glove, but before all other sports the anointed wrestling-match was dear. Thus had he been wont to spend the leisure intervals of fighting and relax his martial ire, and with mighty heroes on the banks of Achelous did he strive, heaven-taught, in many a victorious bout. Therefore when keen ambition called the youths to wrestle, the

STATIUS

gloria, terrificos umeris Aetolus amictus 835
 exiit patriumque suem. levat ardua contra
 membra Cleonaeae stirpis iactator Agylleus,
 Herculea nec mole minor, sic grandibus alte
 insurgens umeris hominem super improbus exit.
 sed non ille rigor patriumque in corpore robur : 840
 luxuriant artus, effusaque sanguine laxo
 membra natant ; unde haec audax fiducia tantum
 Oenidae superare parem. quamquam ipse videri
 exiguus, gravia ossa tamen nodisque lacerti
 difficiles. numquam hunc animum natura minori 845
 corpore nec tantas ausa est includere vires.

Postquam oleo gavis a cutis, petit aequor uterque
 procurso medium atque hausta vestitur harena.
 tum madidos artus alterno pulvere siccant,
 collaque demersere umeris et brachia late 850
 vara tenent. iam tunc astu deducit in aequum
 callidus et celsum procurvat Agyllea Tydeus,
 submissus tergo et genibus vicinus harenae.
 ille autem, Alpini veluti regina cupressus
 verticis urgenti cervicem inclinat in austro¹ 855
 vix sese radice tenens, terraeque propinquat,
 iamdudum aetherias eadem reditura sub auras :
 non secus ingentes artus praecelesus Agylleus
 sponte premit parvumque gemens duplicatur in
 hostem,
 et iam alterna manus frontemque umerosque latusque

¹ in austro *Baehrens* : in austros *Pw.*

^a From Cleonae, the scene of Hercules' first exploit, the Nemean lion ; *i.e.* = Herculean.

^b "sanguine laxo" seems to express the opposite of "close-knit," *i.e.*, flabbiness, softness of flesh.

Aetolian puts off the terrible covering of native boar-hide from his shoulders. Against him Agylleus, who boasts of Cleonaeen ^a stock, raises his tall limbs, no less in bulk than Hercules, so loftily he towers with huge shoulders and monstrously surpasses human measure. But he lacks his father's close-knit strength of body; loose-limbed and overgrown is he, unsteady and soft of muscle ^b; hence is Oenides ^c boldly confident to overthrow so mighty an antagonist. Though slight himself to look upon, yet he is heavy of bone and hard and sinewy of arm: never did nature dare enclose so fiery a spirit or so great force in so small a frame.

When their skins had taken pleasure in the oil, both ran forward to the middle of the plain and clad themselves in showers of sand; then with the dust they dry their wet limbs in turn, and sink their necks into their shoulders and hold out their arms wide-branching. At once Tydeus with cunning craft stoops his own body, his knees near touching the sand, and so draws down the tall Agylleus and makes him bend to his own level. But just as the cypress, queen of the Alpine height, inclines her summit to the south wind's pressure, scarce holding by her root, and nears the ground, yet soon springs up again into the air—not otherwise does towering Agylleus of his own will force down his huge limbs and groaning ^d bend double over his little foe; and now, first one, then the other, their hands attack brow and shoulder

^c *i.e.*, Tydeus.

^d Not from pain, but because, as Cicero says, "*profundenda voce corpus intenditur venitque plaga vehementior*" (*Tusc.* ii. 23. 56), *i.e.*, uttering a sound makes the body strained up and taut, and helps the force of the blow (in boxing).

STATIUS

collaque pectoraque et vitantia crura lacessit. 861
 interdumque diu pendent per mutua fulti
 bracehia, nunc saevi digitorum vincula frangunt.
 non sic ductores gemini gregis horrida tauri
 bella movent ; medio coniunx stat candida prato 865
 victorem exspectans, rumpunt obnixa furentes
 pectora, subdit amor stimulos et volnera sanat :
 fulmineo sic dente sues, sic hispida turpes
 proelia villosis ineunt complexibus ursi.
 vis eadem Oenidae ; nec sole aut pulvere fessa 870
 membra labant, riget arta cutis durisque laborum
 castigata toris. contra non integer ille
 flatibus alternis aegroque effetus hiatu
 exiit ingestas fluvio sudoris harenas
 ac furtim rapta sustentat pectora terra. 875
 instat agens Tydeus fietumque in colla minatus
 crura subit ; coeptis non evaluere potiri
 frustratae brevitae manus, venit arduus ille
 desuper oppressumque ingentis mole ruinae
 condidit. haud aliter collis scrutator Hiberi 880
 cum subiit longeque diem vitamque reliquit,
 si tremuit suspensus ager subitumque fragorem
 rupta dedit tellus, latet intus monte soluto
 obrutus, ac penitus fractum obtritumque eadaver
 indignantem animam propriis non reddidit astris.
 acrior hoc Tydeus, animisque et pectore supra est.
 nec mora, cum vinclis onerique elapsus iniquo 887
 circuit errantem et tergo necopinus inhaeret,

^a *i.e.*, makes them not to be felt.

and side and neck and breast and legs that evade the clutch. Sometimes they hang a long while locked in each other's grip, now savagely they seek to break the fingers' clasp. Less fiercely do two bulls, the leaders of the herd, make war; in the meadow stands the fair white heifer and awaits the victor, while their breasts are torn in the mad struggle, and love plies the goad and heals their wounds^a; so do boars fight with flashing tusks, so do ugly bears grasp shaggy hides in hairy conflict. So violent is Oenides; neither dust nor heat of sun makes his limbs faint and weary, but his skin is close-knit and firm, and schooled by toil to hard muscle. But the other, unsound in wind, pants heavily, and breathes sickly gasps in his exhaustion, and the caked sand runs off him in streams of sweat, while furtively he snatches support for his body from the ground. On him Tydeus constantly presses, and feinting at his neck catches at his legs, but his arms were baffled by their shortness and failed in their design, while all the other's towering height came down upon him, and crushed and buried him under the huge falling mass. Just as when the Iberian^b miner burrows beneath a hill and leaves far behind the living day, then, if the suspended ground has rocked and the tunnelled earth crashed down with sudden roar, overwhelmed by the fallen mount he lies within, nor ever does his crushed and utterly broken corpse deliver up the indignant soul to its own skies. More vigorous is Tydeus than his foe, and superior in spirited valour; nor is it long before he has slipped from the other's hold and unequal weight, and encompassing him as he hesitates fastens suddenly on his back, then

^a Spain was famous for its mines.

STATIUS

mox latus et firmo celer implicat ilia nexu,
 poplitibus genua inde premens evadere nodos 890
 nequiquam et lateri dextram insertare parantem
 improbans, horrendum visu ac mirabile pondus,
 sustulit. Hereuleis pressum sic fama lacertis
 terrigenam sudasse Libyn, cum fraude reperta
 raptus in excelsum, nec iam spes ulla cadendi, 895
 nec licet extrema matrem contingere planta.
 fit sonus, et laetos adtollunt agmina plausus.
 tunc alte librans inopinum sponte remisit
 obliquumque dedit, procumbentemque secutus
 colla simul dextra, pedibus simul inguina vinxit. 900
 deficit obsessus soloque pudore repugnat.
 tandem pectus humi pronamque extensus in alvum
 sternitur, ac longo maestus post tempore surgit,
 turpia signata linquens vestigia terra.
 palmam autem dextra laevaue nitentia dono 905
 arma ferens Tydeus: "quid si non sanguinis huius
 partem haud exiguam—scitis—Dircaeus haberet
 campus, ubi hae nuper Thebarum foedera plagae?"
 haec simul ostentans quaesitaque praemia laudum
 dat sociis, sequitur neglectus Agyllea thorax. 910
 Sunt et qui nudo subeant concurrere ferro.
 iamque aderant instructi armis Epidaurius Agreus
 et nondum fatis Dircaeus agentibus exsul.
 dux vetat Iasides: "manet ingens copia leti,
 o iuvenes! servate animos avidumque furorem 915

^a Antaeus. He was a son of Earth, and derived all his strength from contact with her. Hercules' "trick," therefore, was to deprive him of strength by keeping him lifted up above the ground.

^b *i.e.*, "what would have happened to him if I had not suffered loss of blood?"; the reference is to his adventures as an envoy (hence "foedera") at Thebes (see Bk. ii.).

swiftly enfolds sides and groin in a firm embrace and grips his knees between his thighs, and relentlessly, as he struggles in vain to escape from the grasp and force his hand against his side—a burden wonderful and terrible to see—raises him aloft. So, fame tells, did Hercules hold fast in his arms the sweating earth-born Libyan,^a when he found the trick and snatched him up on high, and left him no hope of falling, nor suffered him to touch even with his foot's extremity his mother earth. A shout arises and glad applause from the multitude. Then, poising him aloft, suddenly of his own will he loosed him and threw him sideways, and following him as he fell seized his neck with his right hand and his middle between his legs. Thus beset, his spirit fails, and only shame drives him to struggle. At last he lies extended, with breast and belly prone on the ground, and a long time after sadly rises, leaving the marks of his disgrace on the imprinted earth. But Tydeus, bearing the palm in his right hand and in his left the prize of shining armour: "What if the plain of Dirce held not no small measure of my blood—as well ye know—where of late these scars made treaty with Thebes^b?" So speaking he displays the scars, and gives to his comrades the glorious rewards that he had won, while the spurned corselet follows Agylleus from the field.

There are some, too, who advance to combat with the naked sword. And already were they taking their stand, fully armed, Agreus from Epidaurus, and the Dircean exile, not yet doomed by fate. But the chieftain, the son of Iasus, forbids them: "Great store of death remains, O youths, preserve your warlike temper and your mad desire for a foe-

sanguinis adversi. tuque o, quem propter avita
iugera, dilectas cui desolavimus urbes,
ne, precor, ante aciem ius tantum casibus esse
fraternisque sinas—abigant hoc numina!—votis.”
sic ait, atque ambos aurata casside ditat. 920
tum generum, ne laudis egens, iubet ardua necti
tempora Thebarumque ingenti voce citari
victorem : dirae recinebant¹ omnia Parcae.

Ipsam etiam proprio certamina festa labore
dignari et tumulo supremum hunc addere honorem
hortantur proceres ac, ne victoria desit 926
una ducum numero, fundat vel Lyctia cornu
tela rogant, tenui vel nubila transeat hasta.
obsequitur gaudens, viridique ex aggere in aecum
stipatus summis iuvenum descendit ; at illi 930
pone leves portat pharetras et cornua iussus
armiger : ingentem iactu transmittere circum
eminus et dictae dare vulnera destinat orno.

Quis fluere occultis rerum neget omina causis ?
fata patent homini, piget inservare, peritque 935
venturi praemissa² fides : sic omina³ casum
fecimus, et vires hausit⁴ Fortuna nocendi.

Campum emensa brevi fatalis ab arbore tacta,
horrendum visu, per quas modo fugerat auras,
venit harundo retro versumque a fine tenorem 940
pertulit, et notae iuxta ruit ora pharetrae.

¹ recinebant *P*: retinebant ω .

² praemissa *P*: promissa ω .

³ omina ω : omnia *PB*.

⁴ hausit *PS*: auxit ω .

^a Alton suggests “Thebanum” here, finding the omen in the ambiguity of the word, as meaning either Polynices or his brother.

man's blood. And thou, for whose sake we have laid bare our ancestral acres and our beloved cities, give not, I pray thee, such power to chance before the fight begins, nor—may the gods forbend it!—to thy brother's prayers." Thus he speaks, and enriches them both with a golden helm. Then lest his son-in-law lack praise, he bids his lofty temples be garlanded, and himself proclaimed aloud victor of Thebes^a: the dire Fates echoed back the ominous sound.

The monarch himself also do the princes urge to dignify with some exploit of his own the festal contests, and to confer this final honour on the tomb; they bid him, lest one victory be lacking to the number of the leaders, to shoot Lyctian^b arrows from his bow, or to cleave the clouds with the slender spear. Gladly he accedes, and thronged about by the foremost warriors descends from the green mound to the level plain; his armour-bearer at command bears after him his light quiver and his bow: he prepares to shoot the circus' mighty length, and to plant wounds upon an appointed ash-tree.

Who will deny that omens flow from the hidden causes of things to come? The fates lie open to mankind, but we choose not to take heed, and the proof foreshown is wasted; thus turn we omens into chance, and from hence Fortune draws her power of harm.

The fateful arrow in a moment measured the plain and struck the tree, and then—awful to behold!—came back through the air it but now had traversed and turning homeward from the goal kept on its way, and fell by the mouth of its well-known quiver.

^b *i.e.*, Cretan.

STATIUS

multa duces errore serunt : hi nubila et altos
occurrisse notos, adversi roboris ictu
tela repulsa alii. penitus latet exitus ingens
monstratumque nefas : uni remeabile bellum
et tristes domino spondebat harundo recursus.

945

THEBAID, VI. 942-946

Much talk the princes interchange in error : some say the clouds and the winds on high did meet and drive the shaft, others that the impact of the wood repelled it. Deep hidden lies the mighty issue and the awful truth foretold : to its master only did the arrow vouchsafe survival, and a sad returning from the war.

LIBER VII

Atque ea cunctantes Tyrii primordia belli
 Iuppiter haud aequo respexit corde Pelasgos,
 concussitque caput, motu quo celsa laborant
 sidera proclamatque adici cervicibus Atlas.

5

tunc ita velocem Tegees adfatus alumnum :
 'i, medium rapido Borean inlabere saltu
 Bistonias, puer, usque domos axemque nivosi
 sideris, Oceano vetitum qua Parrhasis ignem
 nubibus hibernis et nostro pascitur imbri.

10

atque ibi seu posita respirat cuspide Mavors,
 quamquam invisā quies, seu, quod reor, arma tubasque
 insatiatus habet¹ caraeque in sanguine gentis
 luxuriat : propere monitus iramque parentis
 ede, nihil parcens. nempe olim accendere iussus
 Inachias acies atque omne, quod Isthmius umbo

15

distinet et raucae circumtonat ira Maleae :
 illi vix muros limenque egressa iuventus
 sacra colunt ; credas bello rediisse, tot instant
 plausibus, offensique sedent ad iusta sepulcri.
 hicne tuus, Gradive, furor ? sonat orbe recusso

20

¹ habet *Pω* : havet *Schrader* : obit *Baehrens* : hiat *Garrod*.

^a Callisto of Parrhasus in Arcadia, who was turned into a bear and made the constellation of Ursa Major.

^b The strange phrase appears to express the love of the

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BOOK VII

As thus they tarried at the outset of the Tyrian war, Jupiter turned on the Pelasgians his wrathful gaze and shook his head, at the movement of which the high stars tremble and Atlas cries that his shoulders' burden is increased. Then thus did he address the speedy Tegean : " Go, boy, and swiftly leaping glide through the North as far as the Bistonian dwellings and the snowy constellations of the pole, where the Parrhasian^a feeds her Ocean-barred fires on storm-clouds and Heaven's own rain. And there, whether Mars has laid aside his spear and draws breath again—though repose be hateful to him—or whether, as I think, he has his arms and his trumpets, whereof he never tires, and is wantoning in the blood of his beloved tribe,^b haste thou to deliver the angry message of his sire, and spare nought. Surely long since was he bidden to inflame the Inachian host, and all that the rock of Isthmus holds apart and the thunderous wrath of echoing Malea encompasses ; yet scarce hath their army passed the boundary of their walls and they hold sacred festival ; one would deem they had returned from war, so keen is their applause, as they attend the rites of an offended tomb. Is this thy rage, Gradivus ? The round War-God for the warrior people (the Thracians), and also his joy in bloodshed for its own sake.

STATIUS

discus et Oebalii cocunt in proelia caestus.
 at si ipsi rabies ferrique insana voluptas
 qua tumet, immeritas cineri dabit impius urbes
 ferrum ignemque ferens, implorantesque Tonantem
 sternet humi populos miserumque exhauriet orbem.
 nunc lenis belli nostraque remittitur ira. 26
 quodni praccipitat pugnas dictoque iubentis
 ocius impingit Tyriis Danaa agmina muris—
 nil equidem crudele minor—, sit mite bonumque
 numen, et effreni laxentur in otia mores, 30
 reddat equos ensemque mihi, nec sanguinis ultra
 ius erit : aspiciam terras pacemque iubebo
 omnibus; Ogygio sat erit Tritonia bello.”

Dixerat, et¹ Thracum Cyllenius arva subibat ;
 atque illum Arctoac labentem cardine portae 35
 tempestas aeterna plagae praetentaque caelo
 agmina nimborum primique Aquilonis hiatus
 in diversa ferunt : crepat aurea grandine multa
 palla, nec Arcadii bene protegit umbra galeri.
 hic steriles delubra notat Mavortia silvas— 40
 horrescitque tuens—, ubi mille furoribus illi
 cingitur averso domus immansueta sub Haemo.
 ferrea compago laterum, ferro apta² teruntur
 limina, ferratis incumbunt tecta columnis.

¹ et *Pω* : at *KQ*.

² apta *P* : arta *ω*.

^a See note on vi. 822.

^b Theban. “Tritonia” : *i.e.*, Pallas Athena, the warlike goddess; the name was derived from a lake in Libya, where she was born, according to one legend.

^c Statius uses “cardo” here not in its literal sense of “hinge,” though “portae” follows, but as = “pole” (so Lucan often). The North is one of the poles or turning-points of the world, and also a gate or entrance into the

quoit crashes and reverberates, and the Oebalian^a gloves meet in the boxing-match. But if he really hath that boasted fury and mad joy in battle, then ruthlessly will he lay innocent towns in ashes, wielding sword and fire, and strike the peoples to the ground while they implore the Thunderer, and exhaust the miserable world. Now he is lenient in warfare and he grows slack though I am angry : but if he hastens not the fight and hurls not, more swiftly than the word of my command, the Danaan ranks against the Tyrian walls—with nought cruel do I threaten him—let his power be all for kindliness and goodness, and his ungoverned rage be slackened to quietness and peace, let him return me his horses and his sword, nor have right of bloodshed any more : I will look upon the earth, and bid all cease from strife ; for the Ogygian^b war Tritonia will suffice.”

He had spoken, and the Cyllenian was drawing nigh the fields of Thrace ; down-gliding from the gate of the Northern pole^c he is driven this way and that by the region's everlasting tempest and the serried storm-clouds ranged athwart the sky and the first blasts of Aquilo : the pouring hail rattles upon his golden robe and ill does the shady hat^d of Arcady protect him. Here he observes barren forests, the sacred haunts of Mars—and he shudders as he looks—where on the far slopes of Haemus his savage mansion is ringed by a thousand furies. The walls are of iron structure, iron portals bear upon the threshold, the roof is carried by columns wrought of

sky, as being the nearest point to it ; the two ideas are combined in the one phrase.

^d *i.e.*, the broad-brimmed hat known as “petasus,” regularly worn by Mercury.

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laeditur adversum Phoebi iubar, ipsaque sedem 45
 lux timet, et durus contristat sidera fulgor.
 digna loco statio : primis salit Impetus amens
 e foribus caecumque Nefas Iraeque rubentes
 exsanguisque Metus, occultisque ensibus adstant
 Insidiae geminumque tenens Discordia ferrum. 50
 innumeris strepit aula Minis, tristissima Virtus
 stat medio, lactusque Furor voltuque cruento
 Mors armata sedet ; bellorum solus in aris
 sanguis et incensis qui raptus ab urbibus ignis.
 terrarum exuviae circum, et fastigia templi 55
 captae insignibant gentes, caelataque ferro
 fragmina portarum bellatricesque carinae,
 et vacui currus protritaque curribus ora,
 paene etiam gemitus : adeo vis omnis et omne
 vulnus. ubique ipsum, sed non usquam ore remisso
 cernere erat : talem divina Mulciber arte 61
 ediderat ; nondum radiis monstratus adulter
 foeda catenato luerat conubia lecto.
 Quaerere templorum regem vix coeperat ales
 Maenalius, tremit ecce solum et mugire refractis 65
 corniger Hebrus aquis ; tunc quod pecus utile bello
 vallem infestabat, trepidas spumare per herbas,
 signa adventantis, clausaeque adamante perenni
 dissilueret fores. Hyrcano in sanguine pulcher
 ipse subit curru, diraque adspargine latos 70
 mutat agros, spolia a tergo flentesque catervae :

^a Statius is thinking of the pediment of some temple ; he appears to describe now carvings, now real things. No doubt he has Virg. *Aen.* vi. 183 *sqq.* in his mind.

^b Mulciber (Vulcan) was the architect and craftsman of the gods (*cf.* Milton, *P.L.* i. 730 *sqq.*) ; he had here given Mars of his best work, because he had not yet been offended

iron. The rays of Phoebus are weakened when they meet it, the very light fears that dwelling, and its murky glare dismays the stars. Fit sentinels hold watch there: from the outer gate wild Passion leaps, and blind Mischief and Angers flushing red and pallid Fear, and Treachery lurks with hidden sword, and Discord holding a two-edged blade. Threatenings innumerable make clamour in the court, sullen Valour stands in the midst, and Rage exultant and armed Death with blood-stained visage are seated there; no blood but that of wars is on the altars, no fire but snatched from burning cities. All around were spoils of every land, and captured peoples adorned the temple's high front,^a and fragments of iron-wrought gates and ships of war and empty chariots and faces ground by chariot-wheels, ay, almost even their groans! truly every form of violence and wounds. Himself was everywhere to behold, but nowhere with softened looks; in such wise had Mulciber with divine skill portrayed him: not yet had the adulterer, made manifest by the sun's bright beams, atoned his shameful union in the bed's grasping chains.^b

Scarce had the winged Maenalian begun to seek the temple's lord—lo! earth trembles, and horned Hebrus bellows and stays his torrent's flow; then all the war-steeds that troubled the valley sped foaming o'er the frightened meads, sure sign of his approach, and the gates barred with everlasting adamant flew open. Glorious in Hyrcanian gore he himself comes riding by; far and wide the dire bespattering changes the aspect of the fields, behind him are borne spoils

by Mars' intrigue with Venus, his wife: on that occasion he had caught them together by means of a cunning bed he had made himself, *cf.* Hom. *Od.* viii. 266 *sqq.*

STATIUS

dant silvae nixque alta locum ; regit atra iugales
 sanguinea Bellona manu longaque fatigat
 euspide. deriguit visu Cyllenia proles
 submititque genas : ipsi reverentia patri, 75
 si prope sit, dematque minas nee talia mandat.
 “ quod Iovis imperium, magno quid ab aethere
 portas ? ”

occupat Armipotens “ neque enim hunc, germane,
 sub axem

sponte venis hiemesque meas, cui roseida iuxta
 Maenala et aestivi elementior aura Lycaei.” 80

ille refert consulta patris. nee longa moratus,
 sicut anhelabant, iuneto sudore volantes
 Mars impellit equos, resides in proelia Graios
 ipse etiam indignans. vidit pater altus et irae¹
 iam levior tardo flectebat pondere vultum : 85

ut si quando ruit debellatasque relinquit
 Euris aquas, pax ipsa tumet pontumque iacentem
 exanimis iam volvit hiemps : nondum arma carinis²
 omnia, nec toto respirant pectore nautae.

Finierat pugnas honor exsequialis inermes, 90
 necdum aberant coetus, cunctisque silentibus heros
 vina solo fundens cinerem placabat Adrastus
 Arhemori : “ da, parve, tuum trieteride multa
 instaurare diem, nec saucius Areadas aras
 malit adire Pelops Eleaque pulset eburna 95
 templa manu, nec Castaliis altaribus anguis,
 nec sua pinigero magis adnatet umbra Lechaeo.

¹ irae *Peyrared* : ira *Pw*.

² carinis *w* : *om. P* (quiescunt *in margin*).

^a *i.e.*, let not the festivals of Olympia, Delphi, or the Isthmus be more honoured. For Pelops see n. on iv. 590. The snake is the Python slain by Apollo, the shade that of Palaemon.

and weeping throngs ; forests and deep snows give him room ; with bloody hand dark Bellona guides the team and plies them hard with her long spear. The offspring of Cyllene grew stiff with terror at the sight, and cast down his eyes : ay, even the Father himself would feel awe, were he present, and would forgo his threats nor command so sternly. First spake the Lord of War : "What decree of Jove, what message bringest thou from the vast heaven ? For not of thine own will comest thou, O brother, to this clime and to my wintry storms, thou whose home is dewy Maenalus and the kindlier air of warm Lycaeus." He reports his sire's resolve. Nor does Mars long delay, but drives forward his flying steeds, all panting as they were and sweating together 'neath the yoke, himself indignant that the Greeks were sluggish to begin the war. The Father on high beheld, and abating now his anger let his head sink with slow weight : as when the East wind sinks to rest and leaves the waters it has vanquished, yet even in calm the waters swell and the departed storm yet rolls the surface of the deep ; not yet have the vessels all their tackling set, nor do the mariners draw a full breath again.

The funeral rites had brought an end to the unarmed combats, but the crowds were not gone away, when amid universal silence the hero Adrastus poured wine upon the ground and propitiated the ashes of Archemorus : "Grant, little one, that this day may be renewed at many a triennial feast ; let not maimed Pelops prefer to seek Arcadian altars or knock at Elean temples with his ivory arm, nor the serpent rather glide to the Castalian shrine, nor its own shade to the pine-groves of Lechaëum.^a We

nos te lugenti, puer, infitiamur Averno,
 maestaque perpetuis sollemnia iungimus astris,
 nunc festina cohors. at si Boeotia ferro 100
 vertere tecta dabis, magnis tunc dignior aris,
 tunc deus, Inachias nec tantum culta per urbes
 numina, captivis etiam iurabere Thebis.”
 dux ea pro cunctis, eadem sibi quisque vovebat.

Iam pronis Gradivus equis Ephyraea premebat 105
 litora, qua summas caput Acrocorinthos in auras
 tollit et alterna geminum mare protegit umbra.
 inde unum dira comitum de plebe Pavorem
 quadripedes anteire iubet: non alter anhelos
 insinuare metus animoque avertere vires¹ 110
 aptior; innumerae monstro vocesque manusque
 et facies quamcumque velit; bonus omnia credi
 auctor et horrificis lymphare incursibus urbes.
 si geminos soles ruituraque suadeat astra,
 aut nutare solum aut veteres descendere silvas, 115
 a! miseri vidisse putant. tunc acre novabat
 ingenium: falso Nemeaeum pulvere campum
 erigit; attoniti tenebrosam a vertice nubem
 respexere duces; falso clamore tumultum
 auget, et arma virum pulsusque imitatur equorum,
 terribilemque vagas ululatum spargit in auras. 121
 exsiluere animi, dubiumque in murmure vulgus
 pendet: “ubi iste fragor? ni² fallimur aure. sed unde
 pulvereo stant astra globo? num Ismenius ultro

¹ animoque avertere vires *P*: animumque avertere veris ω .

² ni *P* ω : num *Wilkins*.

^a A curious parallel with *Macbeth*.

refuse thee, O child, to sad Avernus, and link these mournful rites with the undying stars, we who hurry now to arms. But if thou wilt grant us to overthrow the Boeotian dwellings with the sword, then a mighty temple shall exalt thee, then shalt thou be a god indeed, nor through Inachian cities only shall thy worship spread, but Thebes also in her captivity shall swear by thy name." So vowed the chief for all, so vowed each warrior for himself.

Already Gradivus with forward-straining steeds was trampling the Ephyrean shores, where Acrocorinthus raises his summit into the airy heights and casts his shadow over the twin seas in turn. Then he orders Panic, one of his fearful train, to go before the horses : none more skilled than he to insinuate gasping terror and to steal courage from the heart ; voices and hands innumerable has the monster, and aspects to assume at will ; all-persuasive is he, and his onslaughts drive cities mad with horror. If he suggests that there are two suns, or that the stars are falling, or the ground heaving, or ancient forests marching down from the hills,^a alas ! the wretches believe that they have seen it. A new and cunning trick was he then devising : he raises a phantom dust upon the plain of Nemea ; astounded the chiefs behold above their heads the darkling cloud ; he swells the tumult with unsubstantial clamour and imitates the clank of armour and the tread of horses' hooves, and scatters the terrible war-cry upon the wandering breezes. Their hearts leap in fear, and the crowd wait muttering in suspense : " Whence comes the noise ?—unless our ears betray us. But why stands the heaven in a cloud of dust ? surely the Ismenian soldiery have not dared so far ? Ay,

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miles? ita est: veniunt. tanta autem audacia
Thebis? 125

an dubitent—age!—, dum inferias et busta colamus?”
haec Pavor attonitis; variosque per agmina vultus
induitur, nunc Pisaeis e milibus unus,
nunc Pylius, nunc ore Lacon, hostesque propinquos
adiurat turmasque metu consternat inani. 130

nil falsum trepidis. ut vero amentibus ipse
incidit et sacrae circum fastigia vallis
turbine praevectus rapido ter sustulit hastam,
ter concussit equos, clipeum ter pectore plausit:
arma, arma insani sua quisque ignotaque nullo 135
more rapit, mutant galeas alienaque cogunt
ad iuga cornipedes; ferus omni in pectore saevit
mortis amor caedisque, nihil flagrantibus obstat:
praecipitant redimuntque moras. sic litora vento
incipiente fremunt, fugitur cum portus; ubique 140
vela fluunt, laxi iactantur ubique rudentes;
iamque natant remi, natat omnis in aequore summo
ancora, iam dulcis medii de gurgite ponti
respicitur tellus comitesque a puppe relictis.

Viderat Inachias rapidum glomerare cohortes 145
Bacchus iter; gemuit Tyriam conversus ad urbem,
altricemque domum et patrios reminiscitur ignes,
purpureum tristi turbatus pectore vultum:
non crines, nonserta loco, dextramque reliquit
thyrsus, et intactae ceciderunt cornibus uvae. 150
ergo ut erat lacrimis lapsoque inhonoris amictu
ante Iovem—et tunc forte polum secretus habebat—

^a The lightning that struck his mother Semele and caused his birth.

'tis even so ; they come ! But is Thebes then so bold ? Must they wait, think you, for us to pay rites to sepulchres ? ” Thus Panic in their bewildered minds : and many a different countenance does he assume amid their ranks, now is he one of a thousand men of Pisa, now a Pylian, now a Laconian by his look, and he swears the foe are near, and dismays the host with vain alarm. To their terror nought is false. But when undisguised he fell upon the distracted warriors, and, borne on a swift whirlwind around the heights of the sacred vale, thrice brandished his spear, thrice smote his steeds, thrice clashed his shield upon his breast, “ to arms, to arms,” they cry, each snatching in wild disorder his neighbour’s or his own, and they seize other helms and force strange steeds beneath the yoke ; in every heart burns the mad lust of death and slaughter, nothing hinders their fiery rage ; in furious haste they atone for their delays. Such a clamour fills the shore when the wind is rising, and men are leaving the port ; everywhere sails are bellying and loose ropes flapping, and now the oars are afloat and every anchor too upon the surface, and now from mid-sea they are gazing back at the land they love and at the friends left far astern.

Bacchus had seen the Inachian cohorts gather swiftly for the march ; with a groan he turned towards the Tyrian city, and he recalls the home that nurtured him and his father’s fires,^a with sadness in his heart and dismay upon his bright countenance ; disordered were his locks and garlands, the thyrsus was fallen from his hand and the untouched grapes from off his horns ; tearful then and unsightly as he was with dishevelled robe, he stood before Jupiter—reigning then by chance alone in

STATIUS

constitit, haud umquam facie conspectus in illa—
 nec causae latuere patrem—, supplexque profatur :
 “ excindisne tuas, divum sator optime, Thebas? 155
 saeva adeo coniunx ? nec te telluris amatae
 deceptique laris miseret cinerumque meorum ?
 esto, olim invitum iaculatus nubibus ignem—
 credimus— : en iterum atra refers incendia terris,
 nec Styge iurata, nec paelicis arte rogatus. 160
 quis modus ? an nobis pater iratusque, bonusque
 fulmen habes ? sed non Danaeîâ limina talis
 Parrhasiumque nemus Ledaesque ibis Amyclas.
 scilicet e cunctis ego neglectissima natis
 progenies ? ego nempe tamen, qui dulce ferenti 165
 pondus eram, cui tu dignatus limina vitae
 praereptumque iter¹ et maternos reddere menses.
 adde, quod imbellis rarisque exercita castris
 turba meas acies, mea tantum proelia norunt,
 nectere fronde comas et ad inspirata rotari 170
 buxa : timent thyrsos nuptarum et proelia matrum.
 unde tubas Martemque pati, qui fervidus ecce
 quanta parat ? quid si ille tuos Curetas in arma
 ducat et innocuis iubeat decernere peltis ?
 quin etiam invisos—sic hostis defuit ?—Argos 175
 eligis² ! o ipsis, genitor, graviora periclis

¹ iter *Pω* : uterum *Barth.* iter *is helped by* limina ; *still*,
 uterum *is extremely plausible.*

² eligis *Markland* (*cf.* i. 259) : elicis *Pω.*

^a Callisto (see on i. 8) was beloved of Jupiter.

^b Bacchus, born untimely from Semele his mother, when she was blasted with Jove's lightning, was received into his father's thigh, and born again from there.

^c *i.e.*, in Bacchic revelling.

heaven—in such guise as had never before been seen—yet his sire knew well the cause—and spake in supplication: “Destroyest thou thine own Thebes, O worthy father of the gods? is thy spouse so cruel? pitiest thou not that well-loved land, that hearth thou didst deceive, those ashes I hold dear? Be it so, once thou didst hurl unwilling fire from the clouds—so I believe—but lo! a second time art thou bringing deadly fire upon the land, without oath of Styx or cunning paramour’s request. What limit wilt thou set? Art thou my father, and incensed against me? Kindly, and yet dost wield the thunderbolt? Not in such mood wouldst thou go to Danaë’s city, or the Parrhasian grove,^a or Amyclae, Leda’s home. Am I then in truth the worst-scorned of all thy sons? Yet am I surely he, who was a sweet burden for thy carrying, for whom thou deignedst to open once more life’s threshold and the way once closed against me, and the period of the womb.^b Moreover, my people are unwarlike, and rarely schooled in camps, and know my warfare only, my battles, the twining of garlands in their hair and twirling to the frenzied pipe; they fear the wands that brides wield, the wars that matrons wage.^c How should they endure the bray of trumpets and the work of Mars, who makes—behold him!—such furious preparation? What if he were to lead thy own Curetes to the fight, and bid them^d decide the issue with their guileless targes? Nay more, ’tis hated^e Argos thou choosest—was there no other foe? Ah! cruel, O father, is our peril, but more cruel thy

^a *i.e.*, my citizens.

^e “hated,” because Juno was its patron goddess, the enemy of Thebes and Semele.

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iussa : novercales luimus¹ ditare Myeenas !
 cedo equidem. quo sacra tamen ritusque peremptae
 gentis et, in tumulos si quid male feta reliquit
 mater, abire iubes ? Thracen silvasque Lycurgi ? 180
 anne triumphatos fugiam captivus ad Indos ?
 da sedem profugo ! potuit Latonia frater
 saxa—nec invideo—defigere Delon et imis
 commendare fretis ; eara submovit ab aere
 hostiles Tritonis aquas ; vidi ipse potentem 185
 gentibus Eois Epaphum dare iura, nec ulla
 Cyllene secreta tubas Minoave curat
 Ida : quid heu tantum nostris offenderis aris ?
 hic tibi—quando minor iam nostra potentia—noctes
 Herculeae placitusque vagae Nycteidos ardor, 190
 hic Tyrium genus et nostro felicior igne
 taurus : Agenoreos saltem tutare nepotes.”

Invidiam risit pater, et iam poplite flexum
 sternentemque manus tranquillus ad oseula tollit
 inque vicem placida orsa refert : “ non coniugis ista
 consiliis, ut rere, puer, nec saeva roganti 196
 sic expostus ego : immoto deducimur orbe
 fatorum ; veteres seraeque in proelia causae.
 nam cui tanta quies irarum aut sanguinis usus
 parcior humani ? videt axis et ista per aevom 200

¹ Luimus *P* : ruimus ω .

^a “ ditare ” is one of those infinitives of purpose that Statius uses so freely, *cf.* iii. 321. Often the sense is helped by the main verb bearing analogy to a verb that would naturally take an infinitive ; this, however, is not the case here.

^b *i.e.*, anchor it safely there.

^c In her contest with Poseidon Athena repelled the waters of the sea-god ; Epaphus was the son of Zeus by Io ; on

command! We pay the penalty, to make rich^a my stepmother's Mycenæ. I yield! But my ruined people's sacred rites, and aught that my mother left when she brought forth but for the tomb—whither must we depart? to Thrace and the forests of Lycurgus? or shall I flee a captive to that India where I once did triumph? Grant the outlaw some resting-place! My brother could make Delos fast, Lato's rocky home—nor do I grudge him that—and entrust it to the lowest depths^b; the Tritonian removed the hostile waters from her beloved citadel; myself I have seen Epaphus lording it over Eastern races, and remote Cyllene and Minoan Ida fear not the trumpet's blast;^c why do our altars so offend thee? Here—since my own influence must already yield—here were those nights of Hercules' begetting, and the favoured flame of wandering Nycteis,^d here was the race of Tyre and the bull more fruitful than my lightning-brand: protect at least Agenor's offspring!”

Smiling at his jealousy his father raised him quietly to his embrace from where he knelt with arms outstretched, and in turn makes tranquil answer: “This comes not by my consort's will, as thou thinkest, my son, nor am I thus a slave to her fierce demands; 'tis fate's unchanging wheel that ordains our destiny;^e ancient causes are leading, now late in time, to war. Whose anger sinks so soon to rest, who is more sparing of human blood? The heavens and my Cyllene Maia bore Hermes to Zeus, while Ida in Crete was the scene of Zeus' own birth.

^d Antiope, daughter of Nycteus.

^e The metaphor here is from spinning, of which “deducere” is a common term; “inmoto” must therefore mean “steady,” “unshaken.”

STATIUS

mecum aeterna domus, quotiens iam torta reponam
 fulmina, quam rarus terris hic imperet ignis.
 quin etiam invitus magna uleiscendaque passis
 aut Lapithas Marti, aut veterem Calydonia Dianae
 expugnare dedi; maesta est¹ iactura pigetque 205
 tot mutare animas, tot reddere corpora vitae.
 Labdacios vero Pelopisque a stirpe nepotes
 tardum abolere mihi; seipsum—ut crimina mittam
 Dorica—, quam promptae superos incessere Thebae;
 te quoque—sed, quoniam vetus excedit ira, silebo.
 non tamen aut patrio respersus sanguine Pentheus,
 aut matrem scelerasse toris aut crimine fratres 212
 progenuisse reus, lacero tua lustra replevit
 funere: ubi hi fletus, ubi tunc ars tanta precandi?
 ast ego non proprio diros impendo dolori 215
 Oedipodionidas: rogat hoc tellusque polusque
 et pietas et laesa fides naturaque, et ipsi
 Eumenidum mores. sed tu super urbe moveri
 parca tua: non hoc statui sub tempore rebus
 occasum Aoniis, veniet suspectior aetas 220
 ultoresque alii: nunc regia Iuno queretur.”
 his ille auditis mentemque habitumque recepit;
 ut cum sole malo tristisque rosaria pendent
 usta noto, si clara dies zephyrique refecit
 aura polum, redit omnis honos, emissaque lucent 225
 germina et informes ornat sua gloria virgas.

Nuntius attonitas iamdudum Eteoclis ad aures

¹ maesta est *Alton*: mea est *Pω*: nimia est *Phillimore*: Iovis, nostra *conj. Garrod*: meaque est *late mss., edd.*

^a More literally, “that I have already begun to whirl.”

^b Pentheus, king of Thebes, was torn in pieces by the Bacchanals, whose revelling he tried to put down.

eternal age-long dwelling witness how often I lay by the whirling^a thunderbolt, how rarely these fires have mastery of the earth. Unwillingly indeed, though they had suffered great wrongs that cried for vengeance, did I deliver the Lapithae to Mars or ancient Calydon to Diana for destruction; sad is the loss, and 'tis irksome to give so many new lives for old, and animate afresh so many bodies. But for the seed of Labdacus and the sons of Pelops' line, them am I slow to destroy; thou knowest thyself—to leave unsaid the Dorian crimes—how ready is Thebes to accuse the gods; thee too—but my former anger is appeased and I will hold my peace. Pentheus^b was stained by no father's blood nor bore the guilt of defiling his mother's bed and begetting brothers, yet he filled thy haunts with the mangled fragments of his limbs: where then were these tears, this eloquent appeal? But it is to glut no private wrath that I sacrifice the sons of Oedipus: earth and heaven demand it, and natural piety and injured faith, and the laws of the Avenging Powers themselves. But be not distressed for thy city; not at this time have I decreed that the Aonian state shall fall, a darker age shall come hereafter, and others to avenge^c; now royal Juno shall complain." He hearing this was composed in mind and aspect; as when rose-gardens droop 'neath a fiery scorching sun and cruel South wind, should the day clear and Western breezes refresh the sky, all their beauty returns, the blooms open resplendent, and the unsightly branches are decked in their proper glory.

Long since has the messenger brought sure tidings

^c *i.e.*, the Epigoni, or perhaps Alexander, whose troops sacked Thebes.

STATIUS

explorata ferens longo docet agmine Graios
 ire duces, nec iam Aoniis procul afore campis ; 229
 quacumque ingressi, tremere ac miserescere cunctos
 Thebarum ; qui stirpe, refert, qui nomine et armis.
 ille metum condens audire exposcit et odit
 narrantem ; hinc socios dictis stimulare suasque
 metiri decernit opes. exciverat omnem 234
 Aoniam Euboeamque et Phocidos arva propinque
 Mars, ita dulce Iovi ; longe fugit ordine velox
 tessera : propellunt acies, seseque sub armis
 ostentant ; subeunt campo, qui proximus urbi
 damnatus bellis patet expectatque furores. 239
 nondum hostes contra, trepido tamen agmine matres
 conscendunt muros, inde arma nitentia natis
 et formidandos monstrant sub casside patres.

Turre procul sola nondum concessa vidcri
 Antigone populis teneras defenditur atra
 veste genas ; iuxtaque comes, quo Laius ibat 245
 armigero ; tunc virgo senem regina veretur.
 quae sic orsa prior : “ spesne obstatura Pelasgis
 haec vexilla, pater ? Pelopis descendere totas
 audimus gentes : dic, o precor, extera regum
 agmina ; nam video, quae noster signa Menoeceus,
 quae noster regat arma Creon, quam celsus aena 251
 Sphinge per ingentes Homoloidas exeat Haemon.”
 sic rudis Antigone, senior cui talia Phorbas :
 “ mille sagittiferos gelidae de colle Tanagrae

of discovery to the astounded ears of Eteocles, announcing that the Grecian chiefs are on the march at the head of a long array, and soon will be nigh the Aonian fields; wheresoever they advance, all tremble and pity Thebes; he reports the family and fame of each and their warlike deeds. The king hiding his fear demands to be told and hates the teller; then he decides to send a stirring message to his allies and to take the measure of his own resources. Mars—so it pleased Jove—had stirred up all Aonia and Euboea and the neighbouring lands of Phocis; far flies the rapid signal from town to town; they march forth their hosts and display themselves in arms; they move upon the plain that, doomed to war, spreads near the city and awaits the fury of the fray. They meet no foe as yet, but matrons in an excited throng ascend the walls, and thence show to their children the glittering armour and their sires' formidable helms.

Far removed upon a lonely tower and still withheld from the eyes of the people, Antigone shrouds in a black veil her tender cheeks; with her was an attendant, Laius' squire of old, whom the royal maid reveres. She first addressed him: "Is there hope, O father, that these standards will hold the Pelasgians in check? We hear that all the tribes of Pelops descend upon us; recount, I pray, the princes and their foreign bands, for I see what standards our own Menoeceus, and what troops our Creon hath under command, and how Haemon with towering crest of brazen Sphinx marches out from the mighty Homoloian gates." So spake artless Antigone, and old Phorbas thus replied: "Dryas, look! leads forth a thousand archers from cold Tanagra's hill: he

STATIUS

promovet ecce Dryas ; hic, cui nivea arma tridentem
 atque auro rude fulmen habent, Orionis alti 256
 non falsus virtute nepos : procul, oro, paternum
 omen et innuptae vetus excidat ira Dianae.
 iungunt se castris regisque in nomen adoptant
 Ocalea Medeonque et confertissima lucis 260
 Nisa Dionaeisque avibus circumsona Thisbe.
 proximus Eurymedon, qui pastoralia Fauni
 arma patris pinuque iubas imitatur equinas,
 terribilis silvis : reor et Mavorte cruento
 talis erit. dites pecorum comitantur Erythrae, 265
 qui Scolon densamque iugis Eteonon iniquis,
 qui breve litus Hyles Atalantaeamque superbi
 Schoenon habent notique colunt vestigia campi ;
 fraxineas Macetum vibrant de more sarisas
 saevaque difficiles excludere volnera peltas. 270
 ecce autem clamore ruunt Neptunia plebes
 Onchesti : quos pinigeris Mycalessos in agris
 Palladiusque Melas Hecataeaeque gurgite nutrit
 Gargaphie, quorumque novis Haliartos aristis 275
 invidet et nimia¹ sata laeta supervenit herba.
 tela rudes trunci, galeae vacua ora leonum,
 arborei dant scuta sinus. hos regis egenos
 Amphion en noster agit—cognoscere pronum,
 virgo—, lyra galeam tauroque insignis avito.
 macte animo iuvenis, medios parat ire per enses 280
 nudaque pro caris opponere pectora muris.

¹ nimia ω : nivea P : *Garrod conj.* viva.

^a Various causes are assigned for Diana's anger with Orion : see *Class. Dict.*

^b Thisbe was famous for its doves. All these towns are in Boeotia ; a very similar list occurs in Plin. *N.H.* iv. 7. 12, but Statius also takes hints from Homer's

whose snow-white armour bears a trident and a fire-brand rudely wrought in gold, is for valour the true son of exalted Orion : heaven forbend the ill omen of his sire, and chaste Diana's ancient grudge ^a ! Ocalea and Medeon join our camps and declare for our monarch's cause, and thickly-wooded Nisa and Thisbe echoing with Dione's tuneful birds.^b Next is Eurymedon who counterfeits the pastoral arms and horsehair crest of his father Faunus with club and leaves of pine ; terrible is he in the woodland, and such, I ween, will he be in the bloody conflict. Erythrae rich in flocks is with us, and so are they who hold Scolos, and Eteonos set thick with arduous ridges, and the brief strand of Hyle, and the proud folk of Schoenos, Atalanta's home, who till the famous plain her feet imprinted : they brandish as of wont the long ashen Macedonian shafts, and targes that scarce can ward off savage blows. But lo ! the Neptunian folk of Onchestus rush on with shouts : they whom Mycalessos nourishes beneath her pines, and Melas, Pallas' stream, and Gargaphie with the waters loved of Hecate, and they on whose young wheat Haliartos looks jealously, o'ergrowing the glad cornlands with too abundant grass. Unfashioned tree-trunks are their weapons, and lions' empty jaws their helms, the curving bark affords them bucklers. These, as they lack a king, our own Amphion, look ! is leading — 'tis easy to recognize him, O maid—conspicuous with a lyre and our ancestral bull upon his helm. A blessing on thy courage, youth ! he is ready to go where swords are thickest, and protect with naked breast the walls he loves. Ye too come to add your

Catalogue. *e.g.* πολυτρήρωνα Θίσβην, ποιήενθ' Ἀλιάρτον, see *Il.* ii. 494 *sqq.*

STATIUS

vos etiam nostris, Heliconia turba, venitis
 addere rebus opem ; tuque, o Permesse, canoris
 et felix, Olmie,¹ vadis armastis alumnos
 bellorum resides. patriis concentibus audis 285
 exsultare gregem, quales, cum pallida cedit
 bruma, renidentem deducunt Strymona cygni.
 ite alacres, numquam vestri morientur honores,
 bellaque perpetuo memorabunt carmine Musae.”
 Dixerat, et paulum virgo interfata loquenti : 290
 “ illi autem, quanam iunguntur origine fratres ?
 sic certe paria arma viris, sic exit in auras
 cassidis aequus apex ; utinam haec concordia nostris ! ”
 cui senior ridens : “ non prima errore videndi
 falleris, Antigone : multi hos—nam decipit aetas—
 dixerunt fratres. pater est natusque, sed aevi 296
 confudere modos : puerum Lapithaona nympha
 Dercetis expertem thalami crudumque maritis²
 ignibus ante diem cupido violavit amore
 improba conubii ; nec longum, et pulcher Alatreus
 editus, ac primae genitorem in flore iuventae 301
 consequitur traxitque notas et miscuit annos.
 et nunc sic fratres mentito nomine gaudent,
 plus pater ; hunc olim iuvat et ventura senectus.
 tercentum genitor totidemque in proelia natus 305
 exercent equites : hi deseruisse feruntur
 exilem Glisanta Coroniamque, feracem
 messe Coroniam, Baccho Glisanta colentes.³

¹ Olmie *Gronovius* : hormie *Pw.*

² maritis *late MSS.* : mariti *Pw.*

³ colentes *Pw.* : colenti *Ellis.*

^a “ deducere ” here with two accusatives, the phrase “ concentum deducere ” being equivalent to “ cantare,” another example of Statian analogy. The construction is found also in Greek.

strength to ours, ye Heliconian throng, and thou, Permessus, and Olmius, happy in your tuneful streams, ye have armed your unwarlike sons. Now hearest thou thy people exult in strains worthy of their home, such strains as, when pale winter yields, the swans uplift in praise of smiling Strymon.^a Onward, valiant ones ! your praise shall never die, and Muses in songs unending shall recount your wars."

He had finished, when the maiden briefly spake in turn : " But those yonder, what tie of birth unites those brethren ? So truly alike are their arms, so rise their helmet-peaks into the air together ; would that my brothers had such concord ! " Smiling the old man answered her : " Thou art not the first, Antigone, to be so deluded in thy seeing ; many have called them brethren, for their years deceive. Father and son they are, though the fashions of age are all confounded : the nymph Dercetis in burning passion and shameless lust of wedlock corrupted ere his time the boy Lapithaon, still innocent of the marriage bed and unripe for a lover's flames ; and soon was born the fair Alatreus, and overtakes his father while still in the flower of youth, and assumes his features and confounds their years. So now they rejoice in the false name of brethren, but more the father ; for the past has brought him pleasure as well as the years to come.^b Three hundred knights doth the sire marshal for the fray, and the son as many more ; these, they say, have left scant Glisas and Coronia, once their husbandmen, Coronia rich in harvest, Glisas fertile in the grape. But rather look

^b " olim " has the Silver Latin meaning " all this time " (= " iamdudum ") ; " iuvat " seems to be used first impersonally and then with " senectus " as subject.

STATIUS

sed potius celsos umbrantem hunc aspice late
 Hypsea quadriugos, clipei septemplice tauro 310
 laeva, ter insuto servantur pectora ferro,
 pectora: nam tergo numquam metus. hasta
 vetustum
 silvarum decus, emissae cui pervia semper
 armaque corporaque et numquam manus inrita voti.
 Asopos genuisse datur, dignusque videri 315
 tunc pater, abreptis cum torrentissimus exit
 pontibus, aut natae tumidus cum virginis ultor
 flumina concussit generum indignata Tonantem.
 namque ferunt raptam patriis Aeginan ab undis
 amplexu latuisse Iovis: furit amnis et astris 320
 infensus bellare parat—nondum ista licebant
 nec superis—; stetit audaces effusus in iras,
 conseruitque manum, nec quem imploraret habebat,
 donec vix tonitru submotus et igne trisulco
 cessit. adhuc ripis animosus gurges anhelis 325
 fulmineum cinerem magnaque insignia poenae
 gaudet et Aetnaeos in caelum efflare vapores.
 talem Cadmeo mirabimur Hypsea campo,
 si modo placavit felix Aegina Tonantem.
 ducit Itonaeos et Alalcomenaea Minervae 330
 agmina, quos Midea et quos uvida¹ suggerit Arne,
 Aulida qui Graeanque serunt viridesque Plataeas,
 et sulco Peteona domant refluumque meatu
 Euripum, qua noster, habent, teque ultima tractu
 Anthedon, ubi gramineo de litore Glaucus 335
 poscentes inrupit aquas, iam crine genisque
 caerulus, et mixtos expavit ab inguine pisces.

¹ uvida *Heinsius* (from *Hom. Il. ii. 501*): vivida *P*:
humida *ω*.

at Hypseus casting his shadow far o'er his lofty steeds, his left side guarded by the sevenfold bull's-hide of his shield, his breast by triply woven mail: his breast, for no fear hath he for his back. His spear is an ancient glory of the woodland: once thrown it always cleaves armour and flesh alike, and his hand fails never of its aim. Asopos is deemed his sire, a father worthy to behold, when in full torrent he sweeps past the wreck of bridges, or in swollen wrath and vengeance for his maiden daughter he lashes his waters to fury and scorns the Thunderer her paramour. For they say that Aegina was carried by force from her father's stream and hidden in the embrace of Jove; the river in wild rage prepares fierce war against the stars—not yet had even the gods such licence—; in defiant, quenchless anger he stood and strove, nor had he any whose aid he could implore, till, scarce subdued by the threefold lightning of the brand, he yielded. Even yet doth the proud flood rejoice from out his heaving banks to pant forth 'gainst heaven fiery ashes, the signs of his dire punishment, and Aetnaean vapours. Such fury shall we marvelling see in Hypseus on the Cadmean plain, if but Aegina has happily appeased the Thunderer. He leads the men of Itone and Minerva's Alalcomenaeae bands, and those whom Midea furnishes and Arne rich in grapes, the men who sow the fields of Aulis and of Graea and verdant Plataeae, and subdue Peteon with furrows and hold—where it is ours—Euripus whose current ebbs and flows, and thee, Anthedon, remotest of our lands, where from the grassy shore Glaucus plunged beneath the waters that summoned him, sea-green already in face and hair, and started to behold the fish-tail

STATIUS

glandibus et torta zephyros incidere¹ funda
 cura : Cydoneas anteibunt gaesa sagittas.
 tu quoque praeclarum forma, Cephise, dedisses 340
 Narcissum, sed Thespiacis iam pallet in agris
 trux puer ; orbata florem, pater, adluis unda.
 quis tibi Phoebas acies veteremque revolvat
 Phocida ? qui Panopen, qui Daulida, qui Cyparisson,
 et valles, Lebadia, tuas et Hyampolin acri 345
 subnixam scopulo, vel qui Parnasson utrumque
 aut Cirrham tauris Anemorianque supinant
 Coryciumque nemus, propellentemque Lilaean
 Cephisi glaciale caput, quo suetus anhelam
 ferre sitim Python annemque avertere ponto, 350
 omnibus immixtas cono super aspice laurus
 armaque vel Tityon vel Delon habentia, vel quas
 hic deus innumera laxavit caede pharetras.
 Iphitus asper agit, genitor cui nuper ademptus
 Naubolus Hippasides, tuus, o mitissime Lai, 355
 hospes ; adhuc currus securaque lora tenebam,²
 cum tua subter equos iacuit convulsa eruentis
 ictibus, o utinam nostro cum sanguine, cervix ! ”

Dicenti maduere genae, vultumque per omnem
 pallor iit, vocisque repens singultus apertum 360
 interceptit iter ; refovet frigentis amicum
 pectus alumna senis ; redit atque exile profatur :
 “ o mihi sollicitum decus ac suprema voluptas,

¹ incidere ω : incedere P : incendere *Postgate*.

² tenebam P : tenebat ω .

^a “ mixtos ” is pregnant, “ joined with and growing from.”

^b Narcissus, beloved of Echo, fell in love with his own image while gazing into the water : he remained there till he died, when he was turned into the flower called after him. Cephissus is the Boeotian, not the Attic, river of that name (but *cf.* Soph. *Oed. Col.* 681 *sqq.*).

^c The Parnassians bear on their shields emblems of

growing from his waist.^a They whirl the sling and cleave the zephyrs with the bullets: their javelins will outstrip fleet arrows. Thou too, Cephissus, wouldst have sent Narcissus,^b pre-eminent in beauty, but already, stubborn-hearted boy, he is a pale flower in a Thespian field: thou, O father, dost lave it with thy childless waves. Who could recount to thee the troops of Phoebus and of ancient Phocis? Panope, Daulis, Cyparissos, thy valleys, Lebadia, and Hyampolis that nestles beneath a beetling cliff, the husbandmen who with their bulls upturn Parnassos' either slope and Cirrha and Anemoria and the woodland of Corycia, and Lilaea that sends forth the ice-cold springs of Cephissus, whither Python was wont to take his panting thirst and turn aside the river from the sea: on all their helms behold the entwined bay, on all their armour Tityos or Delos or the quivers that the god emptied here in countless slaughter.^c Their leader is warlike Iphitus, whose father lately slain was Naubolus, son of Hippasus, thy friend, most gentle Laius: still was I holding the chariot-reins, without thought of ill, when thy neck lay mangled by cruel blows beneath the horses' hooves—would that my blood had flowed there too!^d

His eyes were moistened as he spoke, and all his face grew pale, and sudden sobs checked the free passage of his voice; his ward soothes the trembling old man's friendly heart; he recovers and faintly speaks: "O thou, my anxious pride and chiefest Apollo's exploits, *e.g.* the slaughter of Tityos who attempted to outrage Leto, and of the Python, the snake that ravaged Delphi, or Delos, the island where he was born.

^d Oedipus, not knowing Laius, his father, met him at the place where three roads meet ("trifidae in Phocidis arto," i. 65), and slew him in a quarrel that arose there.

STATIUS

Antigone ! seras tibi demoror improbus umbras,
 fors eadem scelera et caedes visurus avitas, 365
 donec te thalamis habilem integramque resignem :
 hoc satis, et fessum vita dimittite, Parcae.
 sed dum labor iners, quanti—nunc ecce reviso—
 transabiere duces : Clonin atque in terga comantes
 non ego Abantiadas, non te, saxosa Caryste, 370
 non humiles Aegas altumque Capherea dixi.
 et iam acies obtunsa negat, cunctique resistunt,
 et tuus armatis iubet ecce silentia frater.”

Vix ea turre senex, cum rector ab aggere coepit :
 “ magnanimi reges, quibus haud parere recusem 375
 ductor et ipse meas miles defendere Thebas,
 non ego vos stimulare parem — nam liber in arma
 impetus, et meritas ultro iurastis in iras—,
 nec laudare satis dignasque rependere grates
 sufficiam—referent superi vestraeque subacto 380
 hoste manus— : urbem socia de gente subistis
 tutari, quam non aliis populator ab oris
 belliger externave satus tellure, sed hostis
 indigena adsultat, cui castra adversa regenti 384
 hic pater, hic genetrix, hic iunctae stirpe sorores,
 hic erat et frater. cerne en ubicumque nefandus
 excidium moliris avis : venere volentes
 Aoniae populi, nec sum tibi, saeve, relictus.
 quid velit ista cohors, et te sentire decebat :
 reddere regna vetant.” sic fatus, et omnia rite 390

pleasure, Antigone ! 'tis for thee I shamelessly delay my late-arriving death, though perchance I must behold the crimes and murders of thy house repeated, until I deliver thee unharmed and fit for wedlock : that is enough ; then, O Fates, let me leave this weary life. But while I am feebly swooning, what mighty champions—ah ! now I see them again—have passed before us ! Clonis I numbered not, nor the long-haired sons of Abas, nor thy men, rocky Carystus, nor low-lying Aegae and lofty Caphereus. But now my dimmed sight says me nay, and all have halted, while thy brother, look ! bids the armed host be silent.”

Scarce had the old man ended upon the tower, when the prince began from a high mound : “ Great-hearted chieftains, whom I your leader would not refuse to obey and fight, a common soldier for my native Thebes, no attempt were mine to stir your zeal—for freely have ye rushed to arms and of your own accord taken oath to champion my righteous anger—nor shall I suffice to praise enough or pay you worthy thanks—the gods and your own victory o'er the foe will make requital ; from friendly peoples are ye come to protect a city assailed by no pillaging warrior from foreign shores, no stranger from an alien land, but a native enemy, who as he marshals his opposing camps has here a father and a mother and sisters of one blood, ay, and a brother had he too. Lo ! with what guilt thou plottest destruction everywhere against thy father's race ; but the Aonian peoples have come willingly to my aid, nor, cruel one, am I left to be thy victim. What yonder army wills, thou too shouldst be feeling : they forbid me to give up the throne.” Thus he spoke, and

STATIUS

disponit, qui bella gerant, qui moenia servent,
 quas in fronte manus, medio quas robore sistat.
 perspicuas sic luce fores et virgea pastor
 claustra levat,¹ dum terra recens ; iubet ordine primo
 ire duces, media stipantur plebe maritae ; 395
 ipse levat¹ gravidas et humum tractura parentum
 ubera, succiduasque adportat matribus agnas.

Interea Danaï noctemque diemque sub armis,
 noctem iterum rursusque diem—sic ira ferebat—
 ingeminant : contempta quies, vix aut sopor illis 400
 aut epulae fecere moram ; properatur in hostem
 more fugae. nec monstra tenent, quae plurima
 necit

prodigiale canens certi fors praevia fati.
 quippe serunt diros monitus volucresque feraeque
 sideraque aversique suis decursibus amnes, 405
 infestumque tonat pater et mala fulgura lucent ;
 terrificaeque adytis voces clusaeque deorum
 sponte fores : nunc sanguineus, nunc saxeus imber,
 et subiti manes flentumque occursus avorum.
 tunc et Apollineae tacuere oracula Cirrhae, 410
 et non adsuetis pernox ululavit Eleusin
 mensibus, et templis Sparte praesaga reclusis
 vidit Amyclaeos—facinus !—concurrere fratres.
 Arcades insanas latrare Lycaonis umbras
 nocte ferunt tacita, saevo decurrere campo 415
 Oenomaum sua Pisa refert ; Acheloon utroque
 deformem cornu vagus infamabat Acarnan.
 Perseos effigiem maestam exorantque Mycenae

¹ levat . . . levat *Pw* : novat (*l.* 394) *conj.* *Phillimore* : iuvat (*l.* 396) *conj.* *Imhof*, but such repetitions are characteristic.

^a Castor and Pollux.

orders all things duly, who are to meet the foe, who to guard the walls, what troops shall lead the van, whom he shall place in mid-array. Even so does a shepherd, while the earth is fresh and the rays are shining through the doorways, unfasten the wattled pens; he bids the leaders go first, then follow the crowding ewes; he himself aids those that are with young, and the parents whose udders trail the ground, and bears to their mothers' side the failing lambs.

Meanwhile the Danaï by day and night and night and day march under arms: wrath bears them onward; they scorn repose, scarce sleep or food delays them, like a fleeing army they haste toward the foe. They heed not the portents that chance, the herald of doom, with ominous presage strews thickly in their path; for birds and beasts give awful warnings, stars also and backward flowing rivers, and the Father thunders against them and baneful lightnings gleam; terrifying voices are heard in shrines, and temple gates shut of their own accord; now it rains blood, now stones, ghosts suddenly appear and sires of old confront them weeping. Then too did Apollo's oracle at Cirrha fall silent, and all night through in months unwonted did Eleusis wail, and prophetic Sparta saw in open temples—fearful sight!—the brethren of Amyclae^a locked in conflict. The Arcadians say that in the silence of the night Lycaon's shade barked madly,^b and his own Pisa tells that Oenomaus drove o'er that cruel plain; Achelous, maimed of either horn,^c was dishonoured by the Acarnanian exile.^d Sad is the image of Perseus to which Mycenae prays,

^b Lycaon was turned into a wolf by Jupiter.

^c By Hercules in the struggle for Deianira.

^d "exile," *i.e.* Tydeus.

confusum Iunonis ebur ; mugire potentem
 Inachon agricolae, gemini maris incola narrat 420
 Thebanum toto planxisse Palaemona ponto.
 haec audit Pelopea phalanx, sed bellicus ardor
 consiliis obstat divum prohibetque timeri.

Iam ripas, Asope, tuas Boeotaque ventum
 flumina. non ausae transmittere protinus alae 425
 hostilem fluvium ; forte et trepidantibus ingens
 descendebat agris, animos sive imbrifer arcus,
 seu montana dedit nubes, seu fluminis illa
 mens fuit obiectusque vado pater arma vetabat.

tunc ferus Hippomedon magno cum fragmine ripae
 cunctantem deiecit equum, ducibusque relictis 431
 gurgite de medio frenis suspensus et armis

“ ite viri ” clamat, “ sic vos in moenia primus
 ducere, sic clusas voveo perfringere Thebas.”
 praecipitant cuncti fluvio puduitque secutos. 435

ac velut ignotum si quando armenta per amnem
 pastor agit, stat triste pecus, procul altera tellus
 omnibus et late medius timor : ast ubi ductor
 taurus init fecitque vadum, tunc mollior unda,
 tunc faciles saltus, visaeque accedere ripae. 440

Haudprocul inde iugum tutisque adcommoda castris
 arva notant, unde urbem etiam turresque videre¹
 Sidoniaſ ; placuit sedes fidiſque receptus,
 colle per excelsum patulo, quem subter aperto
 arva sinu, nullique aliis a montibus instant 445
 despectus ; nec longa labor munimina durus

¹ videre *SN* : videri *PBD*.

^a *i.e.*, at the Isthmus of Corinth, where Palaemon, son of Ino, was worshipped.

^b This use of “timor” may be compared with that in l. 746 of a landslide, “desilit horrendus timor.”

and downcast is Juno's ivory statue ; the rustics tell how mighty Inachus bellowed, and the dweller by the double main^a how Theban Palaemon made lament over the whole sea. The Pelopean phalanx hears these warnings, but warlike ardour hinders heavenly counsels and robs them of their terror.

Already they were come to thy banks, Asopus, and the Boeotian streams. The squadrons dared not cross the hostile river forthwith ; by chance too he was descending in mighty flood upon the trembling fields, whether the rain-bringing bow or mountain clouds had given him strength, or whether the riversire so purposed and hurled his stream athwart them to forbid their arms. Then fierce Hippomedon with a great tearing of the bank thrust down his wavering steed, and supported by reins and trappings shouts from mid-stream to the leaders left behind : " Forward, ye men ! and I will be the first, I warrant you, to lead the attack and break through the Theban ramparts." All fling themselves into the river, ashamed to have but followed. Just so do cattle stand dismayed when the herdsman drives them to an unknown stream ; far distant seems the other bank, and fear^b stretches wide between ; but when the chieftain bull leaps in and makes the crossing, then gentler seem the waters, and easier the plunge, and the banks seem to draw nearer.

Not far from thence they mark a ridge and suitable ground for a safe camp, whence too they can behold the city and the Sidonian towers ; the situation pleased them and offered secure retreat upon a high and spreading hill, with open swelling fields beneath nor any other mountains near at hand to overlook ; no weary toil added long lines of earthworks, for

STATIUS

addidit : ipsa loco mirum natura favebat.
 in vallum elatae rupes devexaque fossis
 aequa et fortuito ductae quater aggere pinnae ;
 cetera dant ipsi, donec sol montibus omnis 450
 erepsit rebusque dedit sopor otia fessis.

Quis queat attonitas dictis ostendere Thebas ?
 urbem in conspectu belli suprema parantis
 territat insomnem nox atra diemque minatur.
 discurrunt muris ; nil saeptum horrore sub illo, 455
 nil fidum satis, invalidaeque Amphionis arces.
 rumor ubique alios¹ pluresque adnuntiat hostes
 maioresque timor ; spectant tentoria contra
 Inachia externosque suis in montibus ignes.
 hi precibus questuque deos, hi Martia tela 460
 belligerosque hortantur equos, hi pectora fletu
 cara premunt miserique rogos et crastina mandant
 funera. si tenuis demisit lumina somnus,
 bella gerunt ; modo lucra morae, modo taedia vitae
 attonitis, lucemque timent lucemque precantur. 465
 it geminum excutiens anguem et bacchatur utrisque
 Tisiphone castris ; fratrem huic, fratrem ingerit illi,
 aut utrique patrem : procul ille penatibus imis
 excitus implorat Furias oculosque reposit.

Iam gelidam Phoeben et caligantia primus 470
 hauserat astra dies, cum iam tumet igne futuro
 Oceanus lateque novo Titane reclusum
 aequor anhelantum radiis subsidit equorum :
 ecce truces oculos sordentibus obsita canis
 exsanguis Iocasta genas et bracchia planctu 475

¹ alios *PS* : altus ω : alius *Gronovius*.

^a They are so sure of being slain in battle that they order their own funeral pyre for the next day.

^b Oedipus had remained secluded in an inner chamber of the palace, *cf.* i. 49.

nature herself marvellously favoured the spot. Rocks rose to form a rampart, and the shelving earth served for trenches, and four chance mounds made bastions : the rest they themselves provide, until all the light had left the hills, and sleep gave rest to weariness.

What words could portray the consternation of Thebes ? In the face of war's impending doom dark night racks her with sleepless terror and threatens her with the coming day. Men hurry hither and thither on the walls ; in that awful panic nought seems guarded or secure enough, no strength is in Amphion's fortress. Rumour announces other foes on every side, and Fear yet more and mightier ; yonder they see the Inachian tents and foreign watch-fires in their own native hills. Some pray and entreat the gods, others exhort their weapons of war and battle-steeds, others weeping embrace the hearts they love and piteously appoint their pyres and funeral honours for the morrow.^a If their eyes are closed in a brief slumber, they are waging war ; distraught, they now sicken of life. now prize delay ; they pray for the light, yet fear its coming. Tisiphone, shaking her twin serpents, goes rioting through either camp ; brother against brother she inflames and against both their sire : aroused he wanders far from his secret cell,^b and implores the Furies and prays for his lost eyes once more.

Already had breaking day put out cold Phoebe and the fading stars, while Ocean was pregnant with dawning fire, and the sea's expanse, revealed by new-born Titan, was sinking to rest beneath his radiant panting steeds : lo ! Jocasta, wild-eyed, with hoary unkempt hair falling about her haggard face, her bosom bruised and livid and in her hand a branch

STATIUS

nigra ferens ramumque oleae cum velleris atri
 nexibus, Eumenidum velut antiquissima, portis
 egreditur magna eum maiestate malorum.
 hinc atque hinc natae, melior iam sexus, aniles
 praecipitantem artus et plus quam possit euntem
 sustentant. venit ante hostes, et pectore nudo 481
 claustra adversa ferit tremulisque ululatus orat
 admitti : “ reserate viam ! rogat impia belli
 mater ; in his aliquod ius execrabile castris
 huic utero est.” trepidi visam expavere manipuli 485
 auditamque magis ; remeat iam missus Adrasto
 nuntius : excipiunt iussi mediosque per enses
 dant iter. illa duces ut primum aspexit Achivos,
 clamorem horrendum luetu furiata resolvit :
 “ Argolici proceres, eequis monstraverit hostem, 490
 quem peperit ? quam inveniam, mihi dicite, natum
 sub galea ? ” venit attonitae Cadmeius heros
 obvius, et raptam lacrimis gaudentibus implet
 solaturque tenens, atque inter singula matrem,
 matrem iterat, nunc ipsam urgens, nunc cara sororum
 pectora, eum mixta fletus anus asperat ira : 496
 “ quid molles lacrimas venerandaque nomina fingis,
 rex Argive, mihi ? quid colla amplexibus ambis
 invisamque teris ferrato pectore matrem ?
 tune ille exsilio vagus et miserabilis hospes ? 500
 quem non permoveas ? longae tua iussa cohortes
 expectant, multoque latus praefulgurat ense.

of olive entwined with sable wool, goes forth from the gates in all the mighty majesty of sorrow, like to the most ancient of the Furies. On this side and on that her daughters, now the better sex,^a support her as she hastens her aged limbs and would fain go faster than her strength allows. She goes to meet the foe, and baring her breast she strikes upon the gates and with tremulous wail prays for admittance: "Unbar the road! it is the guilty mother of the war who asks you; some right to utter curses in this camp have I by virtue of this womb." The squadrons started with alarm beholding her, and hearing her, yet more; and now the messenger sent to Adrastus returns; at his command they receive her, and open a way through the swords' midst. As soon as she saw the Achaean princes, she uttered a fearful cry of rage and grief: "Ye Argive chiefs, who will show me the enemy whom I bore? Under what helm—tell me—shall I find my son?" Thus frantic she is met by the Cadmean hero, who clasps her to him and sheds tears of joy, and holding her in his arms consoles her, and ever and anon repeats "mother!" "mother!" entreating now herself, now his beloved sisters—when the aged dame mingles sharp anger with her weeping: "Why this pretence of unmanly tears and venerable names to me, O Argive prince? Why dost thou put thy arms about my neck, and crush thy hated mother against this mail-clad breast? Art thou that wandering exile, that hapless stranger? Whose heart wouldst thou not stir? Far-stretching cohorts await thy word and countless blades glitter at thy side. Ah! we

^a *i.e.*, in contrast to their "impious" brothers.

STATIUS

a miserae matres ! hunc te noctesque diesque
 deflebam ? si verba tamen monitusque tuorum
 dignaris, dum castra silent suspensaue bellum 505
 horrescit pietas, genetrix iubeoque rogoque :
 i mecum patriosque deos arsuraque saltem
 tecta vide, fratremque—quid aufers lumina?—fratrem
 adloquere et regnum iam me sub iudice posce :
 aut dabit, aut ferrum causa meliore resumes. 510
 anne times, ne forte doli, et te conscia mater
 decipiam ? non sic miseros fas omne penates
 effugit : vix Oedipode ducente timeres.
 nupsi equidem peperique nefas, sed diligo tales,—
 a dolor !—et vestros etiamnum excuso furores. 515
 quodsi adeo perstas, ultro tibi, saeve, triumphum
 detulimus : religa captas in terga sorores,
 inice vincla mihi : gravis huc utcumque feretur
 et pater. ad vestrum gemitus nunc verto pudorem,
 Inachidae, liquistis enim parvosque senesque 520
 et lacrimas has quisque domi : sua credite matri
 viscera ! si vobis hic parvo in tempore carus—
 sitque precor—quid me, oro, decet quidve ista,
 Pelasgi,
 ubera ? ab Hyrcanis hoc Odrysiisve tulissem
 regibus, et si qui nostros vicere furores. 525
 adnuite, aut natum complexa superstite bello
 hic moriar.” tumidas frangebant dicta cohortes,
 nutantesque virum galeas et sparsa videres

^a *i.e.*, to Thebes, whither Jocasta has invited him.

unhappy mothers ! Is this the son whom I wept for day and night ? Yet if thou hast respect for the counsel of thy kinsfolk, now, while the armies are silent, and natural affection shrinks irresolute from war, I thy mother command thee and entreat : come with me, and look at least on thy country's gods and the homes which soon must burn, and, thy brother—why dost thou look away ?—speak to thy brother and demand thy realm with me now for arbiter : either he will grant it, or thou wilt resume the sword with better right. Or fearest thou, lest there be treachery, and I thy mother purposely deceive thee ? Not so wholly has righteousness fled our unhappy house ; scarce shouldst thou have to fear if Oedipus led thee.^a Sinful verily was my marrying and my bringing forth, but I love you even so—ah ! bitter grief!—and even now forgive your fury. But if thou dost persist so far, of our own accord we give thee the victory, cruel one ! Seize thy sisters and bind their hands behind them, load me with chains ; thy sire shall also be brought hither, aged though he be. And now to your sense of shame, ye sons of Inachus, I turn my sad appeal ; for ye have left at home, each one of you, little ones and aged parents and tears like these : believe in a mother's feelings ! If my son here has grown dear to you so soon—and I pray he may be dear—what must I feel, Pelasgians, how must this bosom suffer ! This might I have borne from Hyrcanian or Odrysian princes, and those whose frenzy surpassed my own. Grant my request, or may I die here with my arms around my son, nor live to see this war." The proud cohorts quailed before her words, and one could have seen the warriors' helmets quaking and their armour bedewed

STATIUS

fletibus arma piis. quales ubi tela virosque
 pectoris impulsu rabidi stravere leones, 530
 protinus ira minor, gaudentque in corpore capto¹
 securam differre famem : sic flexa Pelasgum
 corda labant, ferrique avidus mansueverat ardor.

Ipse etiam ante oculos nunc matris ad oscula versus,
 nunc rudis Ismenes, nunc flebiliora² precantis 535
 Antigones, variaque animum turbante procella
 exciderat regnum : cupit ire, et mitis Adrastus
 non vetat ; hic iustae Tydeus memor occupat irae :
 " me potius, socii, qui fidum Eteoclea nuper
 expertus, nec frater eram, me opponite regi, 540
 cuius adhuc pacem egregiam et bona foedera gesto
 pectore in hoc. ubi tunc fidei pacisque sequestra
 mater eras, pulchris cum me nox vestra morata est
 hospitiiis ? nempe haec trahis ad commercia natum ?
 duc illum in campum, vestro qui sanguine pinguis
 spirat adhuc pinguisque meo. tu porro sequeris,
 heu nimium mitis nimiumque oblite tuorum ? 547
 scilicet infestae cum te circum undique dextrae
 nudabunt enses, haec flebit et arma quiescent ?
 tene ille, heu demens, semel intra moenia clausum
 possessumque odiis Argiva in castra remittet ? 551
 ante haec excusso frondescet lancea ferro,
 Inachus ante retro nosterque Achelous abibit.
 sed mite adloquium et saevis pax quaeritur armis :
 haec quoque castra patent, necdum meruere timeri.
 an suspectus ego ? abscedo et mea volnera dono. 556

¹ in corpore capto *Pω* : cruore recepto *N* and written over in *D*.

² flebiliora *Pω* : flebilis ora *QDN*.

^a Tydeus ironically repeats Jocasta's plea for discussion, and suggests that it might just as well take place in the Argive camp ; cf. l. 509 ("adloquere").

with pious tears. As when lions with furious impact have strewn men and weapons on the ground, straightway their wrath abates, and they rejoice to sate their hunger untroubled on the captured prey : so the Pelasgians' hearts are swayed and waver, and their fiery greed of battle grows tame.

He himself, even before their eyes, turns to kiss now his mother, now Ismene plain of speech, now Antigone more tearful in her appeal, and in the varied tumult that distracts his mind the kingdom is forgot ; he would fain go, nor does kindly Adrastus forbid him ; then Tydeus, mindful of righteous anger, breaks in upon him : " Send me rather, comrades, who lately made trial of Eteocles' word, though not his brother, send me to face the king, whose boasted peace and honest covenant I yet bear on this breast of mine. Where then was the mother, mediator of peace and honour, when ye stayed me that night with such noble welcome ? Is it to such intercourse thou dost drag thy son ? Take him to that field which reeks yet richly of Theban blood, and richly yet of mine. Wilt thou follow her so far, too soft of heart, alas ! and too forgetful of thy friends ? Forsooth, when bared blades flash all round thee in hostile hands, her tears shall lay those swords to rest ? Fool that thou art, will *he* send thee back to the Argive camp, once safe within his walls and at the mercy of his hatred ? Ere that will this lance shake off its point and burgeon, or Inachus and my own Achelous flow backward. But 'tis gentle speech that thou art seeking, and peace amid savage arms : well, this camp too is open to thee, nor has yet merited fear.^a Or am I suspected ? then I depart

STATIUS

intret : et hic genetrix eadem mediaeque sorores.
 finge autem pactis evictum excedere regnis,
 nempe iterum reddes ? ” rursus mutata trahuntur
 agmina consiliis : subito ceu turbine caeli 560
 obvius adversum Boreae Notus abstulit aequor.
 arma iterum furiaeque placent ; fera tempus Erinys
 arripit et primae molitur semina pugnae.

Errabant geminae Dircaea ad flumina tigres,
 mite iugum, belli quondam vastator Eoi 565
 currus, Erythraeis sed nuper victor ab oris
 Liber in Aonios meritas dimiserat agros.
 illas turba dei seniorque ex more sacerdos
 sanguinis oblitus atque Indum gramen olentes
 palmite maturo variisque ornare corymbis 570
 curat et alterno maculas interligat ostro.
 iamque ipsi colles, ipsa has—quis credat ?—amabant
 armenta, atque ausae circum mugire iuvencae ;
 quippe nihil grassata fames : manus obvia pascit,
 exceptantque cibos¹ fusoque horrenda supinant 575
 ora mero, vaga rure quies ; si quando benigno
 urbem iniere gradu, domus omnis et omnia sacris
 templa calent, ipsumque fides intrasse Lyaeum.
 has ubi vipereo tactas ter utramque flagello
 Eumenis in furias animumque redire priorem 580
 impulit, erumpunt non agnoscentibus agris.²

¹ cibos *PDNQ* : dapes *BKS*.

² agris *Bentley and late mss.* : argis *Pω* : antris *B*.

^a *i.e.*, ask no vengeance for them. “Him” in the next sentence is, of course, Eteocles. In ll. 558, 559 the point seems to be, arbitrate if you wish, but if you fight and drive him from the throne, you are not likely to surrender it again, *i.e.*, you will be perpetually king ; therefore it is best to fight.

and make a present of my wounds.^a Let him enter: here too will he find mother and sisters to mediate. But suppose that utterly defeated he quits his covenanted realm: wilt thou surrender it a second time?" The troops, swayed by his words, veer round again; as when in a sudden hurricane the South wind swooping down wrests from Boreas the mastery of the sea. The rage of battle finds favour once more; fierce Erinys seizes the moment and sows the seed of opening conflict.

Two tigers were straying by Dirce's waters, gentle yoke-fellows, whose warlike chariot had once laid waste the East, but Liber, lately triumphant from Erythraean^b shores, had suffered them to roam in Aonian fields. The followers of the god and, as of wont, an aged priest are zealous to adorn them, forgetful now of bloodshed and redolent of Indian herbs, with full-grown shoots and varied clusters of the vine, and deck their spotted hide with bands of purple. And by now the very hills and even—who would believe it?—the cattle loved them, and the lowing heifers ventured near; for no hunger drives them to fell deeds, they take their food from hands ready to feed them, and throw back their terrible heads to quaff the wine outpoured; they wander at peace over the countryside; and whenever with placid gait they come into the city, every home and every temple glows with sacrificial fire, and all believe that Lyaeus himself has entered. These did the Fury touch, three times each, with her snaky lash, and stung them to their former mood of madness; they dash forth, and the fields know them not. As

^b The "mare Erythraeum" or Red Sea was what we call the Persian Gulf.

STATIUS

ceu duo diverso pariter si fulmina caelo
 rupta cadant longumque trahant per nubila crinem :
 non aliter cursu rapidae atque immane frementes
 transiliunt campos aurigamque impete vasto, 585
 Amphiarae, tuum—nec defuit omen, eriles
 forte is primus equos stagna ad vicina trahebat—
 corripiunt ; mox Taenarium, qui proximus, Idan
 Aetolumque Acamanta premunt : fuga torva per agros
 cornipedum, visa donec flammatus Aconteus 590
 strage virum, cui sueta feras prosternere virtus—
 Arcas erat—, densis iam fida ad moenia versas
 insequitur telis, multumque hastile resumens
 ter, quater adducto per terga, per ilia telo
 transigit. illae autem longo cum limite fusi 595
 sanguinis ad portas utrimque exstantia ducunt
 spicula semianimes, gemituque imitante querellas
 saucia dilectis adclinant pectora muris.
 templa putes urbemque rapi facibusque nefandis
 Sidonios ardere lares, sic clamor apertis 600
 exoritur muris ; mallent cunabula magni
 Herculis aut Semeles thalamum aut penetrale ruisse
 Harmoniae.¹ cultor Baccheus Acontea Phegeus
 iam vacuum telis geminoque in sanguine ovantem
 comminus ense petit ; subeunt Tegeaea iuventus
 auxilio tardi : iam supra sacra ferarum 606
 corpora maerenti iuvenis iacet ultio Baccho.

Rumpitur et Graium subito per castra tumultu
 concilium ; fugit exsertos² Iocasta per hostes
 iam non ausa preces ; natas ipsamque repellunt 610

¹ Harmoniae *PKQ* : Hermionae *DSN*.

² exsertos *P* : externos *ω*.

^a The death of Amphiarus's charioteer was an omen of that of his master. "primus": he happened to be first, and Idas and the others were following.

when from opposing tracts of heaven two lightning-brands burst forth together, and falling trail through the clouds their length of hair: not otherwise do they with rapid course and furious roar bound o'er the plains, and with a mighty spring seize thy charioteer, Amphiaras—nor was it without ill omen,^a that by chance he was first driving his master's horses to a neighbouring mere—then assail Taenarian Idas, following, and Aetolian Acamas; the horn-footed steeds flee madly over the fields, until Aconteus, kindling at the sight of heroes slain—an Arcadian was he, of wonted valour in the chase—pursued them, now making for their trusted walls, with thick-flung darts, and plying many a spear drove thrice and again the poised javelin through their backs and flanks. But they with a long trail of streaming blood bear fainting to the gates the darts that pierced them, and uttering human wails lean their wounded bodies on the walls they love. One would think the city and its shrines were being plundered, and the Sidonian homes were ablaze with accursed fire, such clamour arises when the gates are opened; rather would they that the cradle of great Hercules had perished, or Semele's bower or Harmonia's bridal chamber. Phegeus, votary of Bacchus, rushes with drawn sword on Aconteus, now weaponless and exulting in his victims twain; the youth of Tegea dash up in tardy succour, but already on the sacred bodies of the beasts the youth lies dead, and sorrowing Bacchus is avenged.

The Grecian council too is broken up in the sudden tumult of the camp: Jocasta flees through the enemy, already in battle trim; no longer dares she supplicate; they, of late so courteous, now spurn

STATIUS

qui modo tam mites, et praeceps tempore Tydeus
 utitur : “ ite age, nunc pacem sperate fidemque !
 num saltem differre nefas potuitve morari,
 dum genetrix dimissa redit ? ” sic fatus aperto
 ense vocat socios. saevus iam clamor, et irae 615
 hinc atque inde calent ; nullo venit ordine bellum,
 confusique duces volgo, et neglecta regentum
 imperia ; una equites mixti peditumque catervae
 et rapidi currus ; premit indigesta ruentes
 copia, nec sese vacat ostentare nec hostem 620
 noscere. sic subitis Thebana Argivaeque pubes
 confluxere globis ; retro vexilla tubaeque
 post tergum et litui bellum invenerunt secuti.
 tantus ab exiguo¹ crudescit sanguine Mavors !
 ventus uti primas struit intra nubila vires, 625
 lenis adhuc, frondesque et aperta cacumina gestat,
 mox rapuit nemus et montes patefecit opacos.

Nunc age, Pieriae, non vos longinqua, sorores,
 consulimus, vestras acies vestramque referte
 Aoniam ; vidistis enim, dum Marte propinquo 630
 horrent Tyrrhenos Heliconia plectra tumultus.

Sidonium Pterelan sonipes male fidus in armis
 rumpentem frenos diversa per agmina raptat
 iam liber, sic fessa manus : venit hasta per armos
 Tydeos et laevum iuveni transverberat inguen 635
 labentemque adfigit equo ; fugit ille perempto
 consertus domino, nec iam arma aut frena tenentem
 portat adhuc : ceu nondum anima defectus utraque

¹ ab exiguo ω : in ambiguo P.

her and her daughters, and Tydeus is quick to use the moment : " Away with you, now hope for peace and honest dealing ! Surely he could have waited and delayed the outrage till his mother had returned in safety ? " So speaking he bares his blade and calls to his comrades. And now fierce shouts are raised, and on every side wrath boils to fever-heat ; the host assembles in disorder, chiefs are confounded with the common soldiers, and leaders' commands unmarked ; horsemen, infantry in troops and rapid chariots are intermixed, and an indiscriminate mob urges the rout, nor is there time to display themselves nor scan the foe. Thus in sudden swarms the youth of Thebes and Argos engaged ; standards and bugles are in the rear, and the trumpets must needs follow to find the battle. So great waxes the conflict from so little bloodshed ! Even so the wind gathers its earliest strength within the clouds : gentle as yet, it sways the leaves and the unprotected summits, but soon it has torn away the forest and laid the dark mountain bare to view.

Come now, Pierian sisters, 'tis of no far-off deeds we bid you tell, sing your own country's wars, your own Aonia ; for ye beheld while Mars raged near and the quills of Helicon shook at the blaring of Tyrrhenian bronze.

The horse of Sidonian Pterelas, untrustworthy in battle, carries his rider, tearing at the reins, through the enemy's lines ; and now he is free, so weary is his master's arm, when through his shoulder the spear of Tydeus flies, and pierces the youth's left thigh and nails him swooning to his seat ; away he dashes, pinned to his dead lord, and bears him on, though no more he holds weapon or bridle : even as

STATIUS

cum sua Centaurus moriens in terga recumbit.
 certat opus ferri : sternunt alterna furentes 640
 Hippomedon Sybarin, Pylum Periphanta Menoeceus,
 Parthenopaeus Ityn : Sybaris iacet ense cruento,
 cuspide trux Periphias, Itys insidiante sagitta.
 Caeneos Inachii ferro Mavortius Haemon
 colla rapit, cui dividuum trans corpus hiantes 645
 truncum oculi quaerunt, animus¹ caput ; arma
 iacentis
 iam rapiebat Abas : cornu deprensus Achiva
 dimisit moriens clipeum hostilemque suumque.
 Quis tibi Baccheos, Eunaee, relinquere cultus,
 quis lucos, vetitus quibus emansisse sacerdos, 650
 suasit et adsuetum Bromio mutare furorem ?
 quem terrere queas ? clipei penetrabile textum
 pallentes hederæ Nysaeaque sarta eoronant,
 candida pampineo subnectitur instita pilo,
 crine latent umeri, crescunt lanugine malae, 655
 et rubet imbellis Tyrio subtemine thorax,
 braecchiaque in manicis et pictae vincula plantae
 carbaseique sinus, et fibula rasilis auro
 Taenariam fulva mordebat iaspide pallam,
 quam super a tergo velox corytus et arcus 660
 pendentisque sonant aurata lynce pharetrae.
 it lymphante deo media inter milia longum
 vociferans : “prohibete manus, haec omine dextro
 moenia Cirrhaea monstravit Apollo iuvenca ;
 pareite, in haec ultro scopuli venere volentes. 665
 gens saerata sumus : gener huic est Iuppiter urbi

¹ animus *Pw* : *Garrod conj.* umerus.

^a Which the oracle bade Cadmus follow till it lay down, and there built a city. The heifer was to be the first they
180

a Centaur, not yet bereft of both his lives, sinks on his own back in death. They vie with each other in the deadly work : in furious interchange Hippomedon lays Sybaris low, Menoeceus Pylian Periphas, Parthenopaeus Itys : Sybaris falls a victim to the reeking blade, fierce Periphas to the spear-point, Itys to a treacherous arrow. Mavortian Haemus severs with a blow the neck of Inachian Caeneus : his eyes wide-opened seek the trunk across the cloven wound, his spirit the head ; already Abas was spoiling him as he lay, when caught by an Achaean shaft he let fall in death his foeman's buckler and his own.

Who persuaded thee, Eunaeus, to desert thy Bacchic worship and the groves a priest may never leave, and to change thy Bromian frenzy ? Whom couldst thou make afraid ? Pale ivy-wreaths of Nysa garland the weak texture of thy shield, and a white riband is fastened to thy vine-wood javelin. Tresses hide his shoulders, and the down is yet growing on his cheeks ; his corslet blushes unwarlike with threads of Tyrian dye, he wears bracelets upon his arms and embroidered sandals on his feet, and is garbed in linen folds ; a smooth golden clasp bites with a tawny jasper stone his Taenarian cloak, whereon rattle the nimble bow-case and the bow and the hanging quivers of gold-embroidered lynxes' hide. Crazed by the god he goes through the midst of thousands, and cries afar : " Stay your hands ! these walls Apollo revealed by the good omen of Cirrha's heifer ^a ! Forbear ! rocks came willingly of their own accord to form them. A sacred race are we : Jove is this city's son-in-law, and its father-in-law is saw on going out from the temple, hence "Cirrhaea," *i.e.*, Delphic, from Cirrha, port of Delphi.

STATIUS

Gradivusque socer; Bacchum haud mentimur
alumnnum

et magnum Alciden." iactanti talia frustra
turbidus aera Capaneus occurrit in hasta.
qualis ubi primam leo mane cubilibus atris 670

erexit rabiem et saevo speculatur ab antro
aut cervum aut nondum bellantem fronte iuvenum,
it fremitu gaudens, licet arma gregesque lacesant
venantum, praedam videt et sua volnera nescit :
sic tum congressu Capaneus gavisus iniquo 675
librabat magna venturam mole cupressum.

ante tamen "quid femineis ululatus" inquit,
"terrificas, moriture, viros? utinam ipse veniret,
cui furis! haec Tyriis cane matribus!" et simul
hastam

expulit; illa volans, ceu vis non ulla moretur 680
obvia, vix sonuit clipeo et iam terga reliquit.

arma fluunt, longisque crepat singultibus aurum,
eruptusque sinus vicit cruor. occidis audax,
occidis Aonii puer altera cura Lyaei.
marcida te fractis planxerunt Ismara thyrsis, 685
te Imolos, te Nysa ferax Theseaque Naxos
et Thebana metu iuratus in orgia Ganges.

Nec segnem Argolicae sensere Eteoclea turmae,
parcior ad cives Polynicis inhorrui ensis.
eminet ante alios iam formidantibus arva 690
Amphiaraus equis ac multo pulvere vertit

^a Semele was the wife of Jove, and Harmonia the daughter of Mars and Venus.

^b *i.e.*, after Phegeus, l. 603.

Gradivus ^a : Bacchus and great Alcides we truly call our children." Amid boasts so vain fierce Capaneus meets him, a tall spear in his hand. And as at break of day a lion in his gloomy lair stirs up his fresh-awoken fury, and spies from the grim cave a hind or bullock with yet unwarlike forehead, and leaps forth with joyous roar, though assailed by the spears of hunting bands, but he sees his prey and knows not of his wounds : so then did Capaneus exult in the unequal conflict and poised for the throw the great weight of his cypress-spear. Yet first he cries : " Why, doomed one, dost thou affright our troops with womanly howls ? Would that he for whom thou ragest would come himself to battle ! Go, bawl that message to thy Tyrian dames ! " and therewith he flung the spear, which in its flight, as though no force could meet and stay it, scarce rang upon the shield and already had passed clean through his back. His weapons fall, the gold resounds with long choking sobs, blood streams forth and overflows his bosom. Thou art fallen, bold youth ; thou too, one favourite more ^b of Aonian Lyaeus, art fallen. Thee languid Ismarus lamented with broken wands, thee Tmolus and fruitful Nysa mourned, and Naxos of Theseus' fame, and Ganges, that in fear swore fealty to Theban orgies. ^c

Nor was Eteocles found a sluggard by the Argolic bands, but Polynices' sword, more sparing, shrank from his countrymen. Before the rest Amphiarus shines pre-eminent, although already ^d his horses fear the ground, and 'mid clouds of dust he upturns the

^c All these are places connected with Bacchus. India was conquered by him, according to one legend.

^d See l. 586.

STATIUS

campum indignantem : famulo decus addit inane¹
maestus et extremos obitus inlustrat Apollo.
ille etiam clipeum galeamque incendit honoro
sidere ; nec tarde fratri, Gradive, dedisti, 695
ne qua manus vatem, ne quid mortalia bello
laedere tela queant : sanctum et venerabile Diti
funus eat.² talis medios aufertur in hostes
certus et ipse necis, vires fiducia leti
suggerit ; inde viro maioraque membra diesque 700
laetior et numquam tanta experientia caeli,
si vacet : avertit morti contermina Virtus.
ardet inexpleto saevi Mavortis amore,
et fruitur dextra atque anima flagrante superbit.
hiene hominum casus lenire et demere Fatis 705
iura frequens ? quantum subito diversus ab illo,
qui tripodas laurusque sequi, qui doctus in omni
nube salutato volucrem cognoscere Phoebos !
innumeram ferro plebem, ceu letifer annus
aut iubar adversi grave sideris, immolat umbris 710
ipse suis : iaculo Phlegyan iaculoque superbum
Phylea, falcato Clonin et Chremetaona curru
comminus hunc stantem metit, hunc a poplite sectum,
cuspide non missa Chronin Iphinoumque Sagenque
intonsumque Gyan sacrumque Lycorea Phoebos—
invitus : iam fraxineum demiserat hastae 716
robur, et excussis apparuit infula cristis—,
Alcathoum saxo, cui circum stagna Carysti
et domus et coniunx et amantes litora nati
vixerat ille diu pauper scrutator aquarum, 720

¹ addit inane ω : abdidit omne P : adicit omne conj.
Garrod. ² eat P : erat ω.

^a *i.e.*, the omens of the sky ("dies" often = "caelum")
grew more and more favourable.

indignant plain ; Apollo sadly sheds a vain lustre upon his servant, and makes his last hours glorious. His shield too and his helm he sets afire with starry splendours, nor, Gradivus, wert thou slow to grant thy brother that no human hand, no mortal weapon should have power to harm the seer, but that he should go to Dis sacred and venerable in death. In such wise, conscious himself of doom, he is borne into the thickest of the fray ; the assurance of death gives him new strength, his limbs grow mightier and the sky more favourable,^a nor ever knew he so well to read the heavens, had he but leisure : but Valour, near neighbour of death, turns his gaze away. He glows with an insatiable love of savage War and revels in his might, and his fiery soul exults. Is this he who so oft alleviated the lot of man and made the Fates powerless ? How quickly changed from him who was skilled to follow the guidance of tripod and of bay, to salute Phoebus and learn the import of the birds in every cloud ! Like some pestilence or adverse ray of baleful star, his sword offers up to his own shade a host innumerable. With a javelin he slays Phlegyas and proud Phyleus, with scythed chariot he mows down Clonis and Chremetaon, the one standing to fight him, the other he severs at the knee ; with spear-thrust Chromis and Iphinous and Sages and unshorn Gyas and Lycoreus sacred to Phoebus—the last unwillingly : already had he driven home the ashen strength of the spear when the falling crest revealed the fillet—with a stone Alcathous, to whom by the meres of Carystus was home and wife and his children who loved its shores. Long had he lived a poor searcher of the waters :

STATIUS

decepit tellus, moriens hiemesque notosque
laudat et experti meliora pericula ponti.

Aspiciat has longe iamdudum Asopius Hypseus
palantum strages ardetque avertere pugnam,
quamquam haud ipse minus curru Tirynthia fundens
robora ; sed viso praesens minor augure sanguis : 726
illum armis animisque cupit. prohibebat iniquo
agmine consertum cunei latus ; inde superbus
exseruit patriis electum missile ripis,
ac prius : “ Aonidum dives largitor aquarum, 730
clare Giganteis etiannum, Asope, favillis,
da numen dextrae : rogat hoc natusque tuique
quercus alumna vadi ; fas et mihi spernere Phoebum,
si tibi conlatus divum sator. omnia mergam
fontibus arma tuis tristesque sine augure vittas.” 735
audierat genitor : vetat indulgere volentem
Phoebus, et aurigam iactus detorquet in Hersen.
ille ruit : deus ipse vagis succedit habenis,
Lernaeum falso simulans Haliacmona vultu.
tunc vero ardenti non ulla obsistere temptant 740
signa, ruunt solo terrore, et volnera citra
mors trepidis ignava venit, dubiumque tuenti
presserit infestos onus impuleritne iugales.
sic ubi nubiferum montis latus aut nova ventis
solvit hiemps, aut victa situ non pertulit aetas, 745
desilit horrendus campo timor, arva¹ virosque
limite non uno longaevaue robora secum
praecipitans, tandemque exhaustus turbine fesso
aut vallem cavat aut medios intercipit amnes.

¹ arva ω : arma *PS*.

^a *i.e.*, Argive.

^b For meaning see ll. 315 *sqq.* The “oaken nursling” is his spear.

earth played him false, and dying he praises the storms and winds, and the more welcome dangers of the familiar sea.

Long has Asopian Hypseus beheld from far the slaughter of the scattered rout, and burned to stay the tide of battle, though he himself not less has put to flight Tiryinthian^a forces; but the sight of the augur made him heed the present carnage less: for him his warlike spirit yearns. A dense phalanx of the foe bars his way: then proudly he makes ready a javelin, chosen from his father's banks, and first exclaims: "O bounteous lavisher of Aonian streams, Asopus, yet renowned for the ashes of Giants,^b give power to this right hand; thy son and the oaken nursling of thy river ask thee; if thou didst strive with the Sire of all the gods, I may despise Phoebus. All his armour will I sink in thy waters, and the sad fillets from the augur's head." His father heard him, but Phoebus would not suffer him, fain though he was, to grant the prayer, and turns the blow aside upon Horses the charioteer. He falls, and the god himself takes up the straying reins, assuming the feigned shape of Haliacmon of Lerna. Then indeed no squadrons try to resist his fiery course, but flee in terror unallayed, and in their panic they die a coward's death unwounded; 'tis doubtful to the view whether the fierce coursers are retarded or sped onward by the burden. So when a cloud-encompassed mountain-side is loosened by the fresh storms of winter, or by irresistible decay of age, it crashes down upon the plain, a fearful terror, and sweeps away in many a track of ruin fields, husbandmen, and aged oaks, and at length, its furious rush exhausted, either scoops out a vale or bars a river in mid-course.

STATIUS

non secus ingentique viro magnoque gravatus 750
 temo deo nunc hoc, nunc illo in sanguine fervet.
 ipse sedens telis pariterque ministrat habenis
 Delius, ipse docet iactus adversaque flectit
 spicula fortunamque hastis venientibus aufert.
 sternuntur terra¹ Melaneus pedes, Antiphus alto 755
 nil defensus equo, genitusque Heliconide nympha
 Action,² caesoque infamis fratre Polites,
 conatusque toris vittatam attingere Manto
 Lampus : in hunc sacras Phoebus dedit ipse sagittas.
 et iam cornipedes trepidi ac moribunda reflantes 760
 corpora rimantur terras, omnisque per artus
 sulcus et incisis altum rubet orbita membris.
 hos iam ignorantes terit impius axis, at illi
 vulnere semineces—nec devitare facultas—
 venturum super ora vident ; iam lubrica tabo 765
 frenas, nec insisti madidus dat temo, rotaeque
 sanguine difficiles, et tardior ungula fossis
 visceribus : tunc ipse furens in morte relicta
 spicula et e mediis exstantes ossibus hastas
 avellit, strident animae currumque sequuntur. 770
 Tandem se famulo summum confessus Apollo
 “ utere luce tua longamque ” ait, “ indue famam,
 dum tibi me iunctum Mors inrevocata veretur.
 vincimur : immites scis³ nulla revolvere Parcas
 stamina ; vade, diu populis promissa voluptas 775
 Elysiis, certe non perpressure Creontis
 imperia aut vetito nudus iaciture supulcro.”
 ille refert contra, et paulum respirat ab armis :
 “ olim te, Cirrhæe pater, peritura sedentem 779

¹ terra *Pω* : terrae *Kohlmann*.

² Action *Pω* : Action *LN* : Aethion *QD*.

³ scis *Pω* : fas *DN* (scis *written over in D*).

Not otherwise does the chariot, burdened by the great warrior and the mighty god, drive furiously through many a scene of bloodshed. From his seat the Delian guides both reins and weapons, and instructs his aim; he turns aside hostile darts and cheats the flying javelins of their fortune. Menaleus on foot is overthrown, and Antiphus, no whit defended by his lofty steed, and Aëtion, born of a nymph of Helicon, and Polites, ill-renowned for a brother's murder, and Lampus, who tried to defile the couch of the priestess Manto: against him Phoebus with his own hand sped holy arrows. And now the horn-footed steeds snort at the corpses in alarm and probe the ground, and every wheel-track runs o'er bodies and reddens deep with severed limbs. Some the remorseless axle grinds unconscious, but others half-dead from wounds—and powerless to escape—see it as it draws nigh to crush them. Already the reins are wet with gore, the slippery car gives no foothold, blood clogs the wheels and trampled entrails hinder the horses' hooves: then the hero himself madly tears out darts abandoned in the slain and spears projecting from the midst of corpses: ghosts shriek and pursue the chariot.

At length, revealing to his servant all his godhead, Apollo said: "Use the light that is thine, and put on eternal fame, while Death irrevocable fears me in thy company. We are overcome: thou knowest that the cruel Fates unravel no threads; depart, long-promised delight of Elysian peoples, thou who of a surety wilt never bend thy neck to Creon's rule, or lie exposed and barred from burial." The other, taking breath awhile from the fight, makes answer: "Long since knew I, Cirrhaean father, that thou wert

STATIUS

ad iuga—quis tantus miseris honor?—axe trementi
sensimus; instantes quonam usque morabere manes?
audio iam rapidae cursum Stygis atraque Ditis
flumina tergeminosque mali custodis hiatus.

accipe commissum capiti decus, accipe laurus,
quas Erebo deferre nefas. nunc voce suprema, 785
si qua recessuro debetur gratia vati,

deceptum tibi, Phoebæ, larem poenasque nefandæ
coniugis et pulehrum nati commendo furorem.”

desiluit maerens lacrimasque avertit Apollo:
tunc vero ingemuit currusque orbique iugales. 790

non aliter caeco nocturni turbine Cori
scit peritura ratis, cum iam damnata sororis
igne Therapnaei fugerunt carbasa fratres.

Iamque recessurae paulatim horrescere terrae
summaque terga quati graviorque effervere pulvis
coeperat; inferno mugit iam murmure campus. 796

bella putant trepidi bellicae hunc esse fragorem,
hortanturque gradus; alius¹ tremor arma virosque
mirantesque inclinat equos; iam frondea nutant

culmina, iam muri, ripisque Ismenos apertis 800

effugit; exciderunt irae, nutantia figunt
tela solo, dubiasque vagi nituntur in hastas
comminus inque vicem viso pallore reeedunt.

sic ubi navales miscet super aequora pugnas
contempto Bellona mari, si forte benigna² 805

¹ alius *Pω*: altus *Heinsius and late mss.*

² benigna *Pω*: maligna *BN*: *Phillimore conj.* nigrabit.

^a The star of Helen was baneful, as those of her brothers were beneficial, to ships at sea. *Cf. Silv. iii. 2. 8 sqq.*; also *Plin. N.H. ii. 37.*

seated on my doomed chariot's trembling axle—why such high honour to my hapless plight?—How long wilt thou delay the death that threatens me? Already I hear the flow of rapid Styx, and the dark rivers of Dis and the triple baying of his noxious sentinel. Receive the honours thou didst bestow upon my head, receive the laurels which may not be taken down to Erebus. Now with my last words, if any gratitude be owed to thy prophet ere he depart, I commend to thee, O Phoebus, my betrayed home and the punishment of my wicked spouse and my son's noble rage." Sad at heart Apollo leapt down and turned to hide his tears: then verily groaned the chariot and the horses, thus left desolate. Not otherwise in a blind hurricane at night, when the North-wester blows, does a ship know that she will perish, so soon as the brethren of Therapnae have fled the sails their sister's fire has doomed.^a

And now little by little the earth began to shudder to its rending, and the surface to rock, and the dust to rise in thicker clouds, already an infernal bellowing fills the plain. In alarm they think it is the battle and the noise of conflict, and hasten on their steps: a shock far different hurls arms and warriors and marvelling steeds to earth; already the leafy summits are nodding, and the walls, and Ismenos flees with all his banks exposed to view; their wrath is abated, they fix their swaying weapons in the ground, or wandering meet and lean on their rocking spears, and start when they see each other's pallor. So when Bellona, scorning the deep,^b joins ships in battle on the sea, then, should a kindly tempest

^b *i.e.*, outraging it by making it the scene of war. "Kindly," as being safer than battle.

STATIUS

tempestas, sibi quisque cavent, ensesque recondit
 mors alia, et socii pacem fecere timores.
 talis erat campo belli fluitantis imago.
 sive laborantes concepto flamine terrae
 ventorum rabiem et clusum eiecere furorem, 810
 exedit seu putre solum carpsitque terendo¹
 unda latens, sive hae volventis machina caeli
 incubuit, sive omne fretum Neptunia movit
 cuspis et extremas gravius mare torsit in oras,
 seu vati datus ille fragor, seu terra minata est 815
 fratribus : ecce alte praeceps humus ore profundo
 dissilit, inque vicem timuerunt sidera et umbrae.
 illum ingens haurit specus et transire parantes
 mergit equos ; non arma manu, non frena remisit :
 sicut erat, reectos defert in Tartara currus 820
 respexitque cadens caelum campumque coire
 ingemuit, donec levior distantia rursus
 miscuit arva tremor lucemque exclusit Averno.

¹ terendo *later mss.* : ferendo *Pω.*

befall, all look to their own safety, and another death bids all their swords be sheathed, and common fears make peace among them. Such was the appearance of the heaving combat on the plain. Whether the earth, labouring with imprisoned blasts, expelled the pent-up fury of the raging wind, or whether hidden waters ate away and wore down and sapped the crumbling soil, or the fabric of the rolling sky flung that way its weight, or Neptune's trident moved all the ocean and flung too vast a sea upon the shore, or whether that uproar was a tribute to the seer, or Earth threatened the brothers—lo! in a gaping chasm the ground yawns sheer and deep, and stars and shades feel mutual terror. Him the huge abyss engulfs, and swallows the horses as they try to leap across it; he drops neither reins nor weapons, but, just as he was, drove his unshaken chariot down to Tartarus, and as he sank looked back at the heavens and groaned to see the plain meet above him, until a fainter shock joined once more the parted fields and shut out the daylight from Avernus.

LIBER VIII

Ut subitus vates pallentibus incidit umbris
letiferasque domos orbisque¹ arcana sepulti
rupit et armato turbavit funere manes,
horror habet cunctos, Stygiis mirantur in oris
tela et equos corpusque movum; nec enim ignibus
artus 5
conditus aut maesta niger adventabat ab urna,
sed belli sudore calens, clipeumque cruentis
roribus et scissi respersus pulvere campi.
necdum illum aut trunca lustraverat obvia taxo
Eumenis, aut furvo² Proserpina poste notarat 10
coetibus adsumptum functis; quin comminus ipsa
Fatorum deprensa colus, visoque paventes
augure tunc demum rumpebant stamina Parcae.
illum et securi circumspexere fragorem
Elysii, et si quos procul ulteriore³ barathro 15
altera nox aliisque gravat plaga caeca tenebris.
tunc regemunt pigrique lacus ustaeque⁴ paludes,
umbriferaeque fremit sulcator pallidus undae
dissiluisse novo penitus telluris hiatu
Tartara et admissos non per sua flumina manes. 20

¹ orbisque ω : regisque *P*. ² furvo ω : fulvo *PS*.
³ ulteriore *P* : inferiore ω .
⁴ ustae *P Schol.* : vastae ω .

BOOK VIII

WHEN on a sudden the prophet fell among the pallid shades, and burst into the homes of death and the mysteries of the deep-sunken realm, and affrighted the ghosts with his armed corpse, all were filled with horror and marvelled at the weapons and horses and the body still undecayed upon the Stygian shores : for no fires had whelmed his limbs, nor came he charred from the gloomy urn, but hot with the sweat of war, and gory drops and the dust of the rent plain beflecked his shield. Not yet had the Fury met and purified him with branch of yew, not had Proserpine marked him on the dusky door-post as admitted to the company of the dead^a; nay, his presence surprised the very distaff of the Fates, and not till in terror they beheld the augur did the Parcae break the thread. At the noise of his coming the care-free Elysian folk gazed round about them, and they whom far in the remoter gulf a deeper night and a blind region of denser shades o'erwhelms. Then sluggish meres and scorched lakes resound with groaning, and the pale furrower of the ghost-bearing stream cries out that a new chasm has cloven Tartarus to its depths and spirits have been let in across a river not his own.

world, though nowhere else mentioned as such. The yew belonged specially to Furies, *cf.* xi. 94. "fervus" is an epithet suitable to the underworld, *cf.* *Silv.* v. 1. 155.

STATIUS

Forte sedens media regni infelicis in arce
 dux Erebi populos poscebat crimina vitae,
 nil hominum miserans iratusque omnibus umbris
 stant Furiae circum variacque ex ordine Mortes,
 saevaque multisonas exsertat Poena catenas ; 25
 Fata ferunt animas et eodem pollice damnant :
 vincit opus. iuxta Minos cum fratre verendo
 iura bonus meliora monet regemque cruentum
 temperat ; adsistunt lacrimis atque igne tumentes
 Cocytos Phlegethonque, et Styx periuria divum 30
 arguit. ille autem supera compage soluta
 nec solitus sentire metus expavit oborta
 sidera, iucundaque offensus luce profatur :
 “ quae superum labes inimicum impegit Averno
 aethera ? quis rupit tenebras vitaeque silentes 35
 admonet ? unde minae¹ ? uter haec mihi proelia
 fratrum ?
 congregior, pereant agedum discrimina rerum.
 nam cui dulce magis ? magno me tertia victum
 deiecit Fortuna polo, mundumque nocentem
 servo : nec iste meus dirisque en pervius astris 40
 inspicitur. tumidusne meas regnator Olympi
 explorat vires ? habeo iam quassa Gigantum
 vincula et aetherium cupidos exire sub axem
 Titanas miserumque patrem : quid me otia maesta
 saevus et implacidam prohibet perferre quietem 45

¹ minae ω : mina *P*, minas *Baehrens*. *Stattius* allows, occasionally, a short syllable at this point in the line, cf. iii. 710, also, very rarely, hiatus.

^a Literally “ thumb,” with which the crowd in the amphitheatre saved or condemned the gladiators who appealed for mercy.

^b An oath sworn by Styx was inviolable, and Styx could therefore punish perjury ; see Hesiod, *Theog.* 784, where any

By chance the lord of Erebus, enthroned in the midst of the fortress of his dolorous realm, was demanding of his subjects the misdoings of their lives, pitying nought human but wroth against all the shades. Around him stand the Furies and various Deaths in order due, and savage Vengeance thrusts forth her coils of jangling chains; the Fates bring the souls and with one gesture^a damn them; too heavy grows the work. Hard by, Minos with his dread brother in kindly mood counsels a milder justice, and restrains the bloodthirsty king; Cocytus and Phlegethon, swollen with tears and fire, aid in the judgement, and Styx accuses the gods of perjury.^b But he,^c when the frame of the world above was loosened and filled him with unwonted fears, quaked at the appearing stars, and thus did he speak, offended by the gladsome light: "What ruin of the upper world hath thrust the hateful light of day into Avernus? Who hath burst our gloom and told the silent folk of life? Whence comes this threat? Which of my brothers thus makes war on me? Well, I will meet him: confusion whelm all natural bounds! For whom would that please more? the third hazard hurled me defeated from the mighty heaven, and I guard the world of guilt; nor is even that mine, but lo! the dread stars search it from end to end, and gaze upon me. Does the proud ruler of Olympus spy out my strength? Mine is the prison-house, now broken, of the Giants, and of the Titans, eager to force their way to the world above, and his own unhappy sire: why thus cruelly doth he forbid me to enjoy my mournful leisure and this untranquil peace, god who is guilty of such perjury is debarred for nine years from the company of the gods.

^a *i. e.*, Pluto, "lord of Erebus."

STATIUS

amissumque odisse diem ? pandam omnia regna,
 si placet, et Stygio praetexam Hyperiona caelo.
 Arcada nec superis—quid enim mihi nuntius ambas
 itque reditque domos ?—emittam et utrumque tenebo
 Tyndariden. cur autem avidis Ixiona frango 50
 verticibus ? cur non exspectant Tantalum undae ?
 ane profanatum totiens chaos hospite vivo
 perpetiar ? me Pirithoi temerarius ardor
 temptat et audaci Theseus iuratus amico,
 me ferus Alcides, tunc cum custode remoto 55
 ferrea Cerbereae tacuerunt limina portae ;
 Odrysiis etiam pudet heu ! patuisse querellis
 Tartara : vidi egomet blanda inter carmina turpes
 Eumenidum lacrimas iterataque pensa Sororum ;
 me quoque—sed durae melior violentia legis. 60
 ast ego vix unum, nec celsa ad sidera, furto
 ausus iter Siculo rapui conubia campo :
 nec licuisse ferunt ; iniustaeque a Iove leges
 protinus, et sectum genetrix mihi computat annum.
 sed quid ego haec ? i, Tartareas ulciscere sedes, 65
 Tisiphone ; si quando novis asperrima monstros,
 triste, insuetum, ingens, quod nondum viderit aether,
 ede nefas, quod mirer ego inuideantque Sorores.
 atque adeo fratres—nostrique haec omnia sunt
 prima odii—, fratres alterna in vulnera laeto 70
 Marte ruant ; sit, qui rabidarum more ferarum

^a "The Arcadian" is Mercury, messenger of the gods and conductor of souls to Hades. The sons of Tyndareus, Castor and Pollux, enjoyed an alternate immortality, one being in heaven while the other was in Hades.

^b Of Orpheus ; "Odrysian" = Thracian. The task of the Sisters was repeated, for Eurydice's thread had to be spun anew if she was allowed to return to life.

^c Demeter, whose daughter Persephone was carried off by

and to hate the light I lost? I will open all my kingdoms, if such be my pleasure, and veil Hyperion with a Stygian sky. I will not send the Arcadian up to the gods—why doth he come and go on errands between realm and realm?—and I will keep both the sons of Tyndareus.^a And why do I break Ixion on the greedy whirling of the wheel? Why do the waters not wait for Tantalus? Must I so oft endure the profanation of Chaos by living strangers? The rash ardour of Pirithous provoked me, and Theseus, sworn comrade of his daring friend, and fierce Alcides, when the iron threshold of Cerberus' gate fell silent, its guardian removed. It shames me too, alas! how Tartarus opened a way to the Odrysian plaint^b; with my own eyes I saw the Eumenides shed base tears at those persuasive strains, and the Sisters repeat their allotted task; me too—, but the violence of my cruel law was stronger. Yet I have scarce ventured one stolen journey, nor was that to the stars on high, when I carried off my bride from the Sicilian mead: unlawfully, so they say, and forthwith comes an unjust decree from Jove, and her mother^c cheats me of half a year. But why do I tell all this? Go, Tisiphone, avenge the abode of Tartarus! if ever thou hast wrought monsters fierce and strange, bring forth some ghastly horror, huge and unwonted, such as the sky hath never yet beheld, such as I may marvel at and thy Sisters envy. Ay, and the brothers—let this be the first sign of my hatred—let the brothers rush to slay each other in exultant combat; let there be one who in hideous,

Pluto to the underworld. Demeter eventually bargained with him that she should stay only six months of the year in Hades.

STATIUS

mandat atrox hostile caput, quique igne supremo
 arceat exanimis et manibus aethera nudis
 commaculet : iuvet ista ferum spectare Tonantem.
 praeterea ne sola furor mea regna lacescat, 75
 quaere deis qui bella ferat, qui fulminis ignes
 infestumque Iovem clipeo fumante repellat.
 faxo haud sit cunctis levior metus atra movere
 Tartara, frondenti quam iungere Pelion Ossae.”
 dixerat ; atque illi iamdudum regia tristis 80
 attremis oranti, suaque et quae desuper urguet
 nutabat tellus : non fortius aethera vultu
 torquet et astriferos inclinat Iuppiter axes.

“At tibi quos” inquit, “manes, qui limite praeceps
 non licito per inane ruis ?” subit ille minantem 85
 iam tenuis visu, iam vanescentibus armis,
 iam pedes : extincto tamen indecerptus¹ in ore
 augurii perdurat honos, obscuraque fronti
 vitta manet, ramumque tenet morientis olivae.
 “si licet et sanctis hic ora resolvere fas est 90
 manibus, o cunctis finitor maxime rerum,
 at mihi, qui quondam causas elementaque noram,
 et sator, oro, minas stimulatque corda remulce,
 neve ira dignare hominem et tua iura timentem,
 nam nec ad Herculeos—unde haec mihi proelia² ?—
 raptus, 95
 nec Venerem inlicitam—crede his insignibus—ausi
 intramus Lethen : fugiat ne tristis in antrum

¹ indecerptus *Barth* : interceptus *Pω*.

² proelia *P* : pectora *ω*.

^a Tydeus and Creon, see Bk. VIII. (fin.) and Bk. XII.

^b Capaneus, see Bk. X. (fin.).

^c “manes,” existence in underworld, so doom, fate.

^d Pluto may be regarded as the source, as well as the

bestial savagery shall gnaw his foeman's head, and one who shall bar the dead from the funeral fire and pollute the air with naked corpses^a; let the fierce Thunderer feast his eyes on that! Moreover, lest their fury harm my realms alone, seek one who shall make war against the gods,^b and with smoking shield repel the fiery brand and Jove's own wrath. I will have all men fear to disturb black Tartarus no less than to set Pelion on top of leafy Ossa." He finished, and long since was the gloomy palace quaking at his words, and his own land and that which presses on it from above were rocking: no more mightily does Jupiter sway the heaven with his nod, and bow the starry poles.

"But what shall be thy doom,"^c he cries, "who rushest headlong through the empty realm on a path forbidden?" As he threatens, the other draws nigh, on foot now and shadowy to view, his armour growing faint, yet in his lifeless face abides the dignity of augurship inviolate, and on his brow remains the fillet dim to behold, and in his hand is a branch of dying olive. "If it be lawful and right for holy shades to make utterance here, O thou to all men the great Finisher, but to me, who once knew causes and beginnings, Creator^d also! remit, I pray, thy threatenings and thy fevered heart, nor deem worthy of thy wrath one who is but a man and fears thy laws; 'tis for no Herculean plunder^e—such wars are not for me—, nor for a forbidden bride—believe these emblems—that I dare to enter Lethe: let not

destined end, of all souls. Earth is similarly called creatress of souls, l. 304 inf.

^e Hercules descended into Hades to fetch away Cerberus, Pirithous, in order to carry off Proserpine.

STATIUS

Cerberus, aut nostros timeat Proserpina currus.
 augur Apollineis modo dilectissimus aris,
 testor inane chaos—quid enim hic iurandus Apollo?—
 crimine non ullo subeo nova fata, nec alma 101
 sic merui de luce rapi ; scit iudicis urna
 Dictaei verumque potest deprendere Minos.
 coniugis insidiis et iniquo venditus auro
 Argolicas acies—unde haec tibi turba recentum 105
 umbrarum, et nostrae veniunt quoque funera
 dextrae—
 non ignarus ini : subito me turbine mundi—
 horret adhuc animus—mediis e milibus hausit
 nox tua. quae mihi mens, dum per cava viscera terrae
 vado diu pendens et in aere volvor operto ? 110
 ei mihi ! nil ex me sociis patriaeque relictum,
 vel captum Thebis ; iam non Lernaea videbo
 tecta, nec attonito saltem cinis ibo parenti.
 non tumulo, non igne miser lacrimisque meorum
 productus, toto pariter tibi funere veni, 115
 nil istis ausurus equis ; nec deprecor umbram
 accipere et tripodum iam non meminisse meorum.
 nam tibi praesagi quis iam super auguris usus,
 cum Parcae tua iussa trahant ? sed pectora flectas
 et melior sis, quaeso, deis. si quando nefanda 120
 huc aderit coniunx, illi funesta reserva
 supplicia : illa tua, rector bone, dignior ira.”
 accipit ille preces indignaturque moveri.
 ut leo Massyli cum lux stetit obvia ferri,

^a He had not yet become a shade ; Alton suggests “ undam ” here, *i.e.* of Lethe, to explain “ iam non meminisse.” The two words are often confused.

Cerberus flee into his cave, nor Proserpine shudder at my chariot. I, once the best beloved of augurs at Apollo's shrines, call empty Chaos to bear witness—for what power to receive an oath has Apollo here?—for no crime do I suffer this unwonted fate, nor have I deserved to be thus torn from the kindly light of day; the urn of the Dictean judge doth know it, and Minos can discern the truth. Sold by the treachery of my wife for wicked gold, I joined the Argive host, not unwitting—hence this crowd of new-slain ghosts thou seest, and the victims also of this right hand; in a sudden convulsion of the earth—my mind still shrinks in horror—thy darkness swallowed me up from the midst of thousands. What were my feelings, while I made my way on and on through the hollow womb of earth, and while I was whirled along, suspended in shrouding mist? Ah, woe is me! nought of me is left to my country or my friends, nor in the power of Thebes; no more shall I behold the roofs of Lerna, nor shall I return in ashes to my stricken sire. With no pomp of tomb or pyre or kinsmen's tears, to thee am I come with all my funeral train, nor likely to venture aught with yonder steeds; content am I to receive my shade,^a nor remember my tripods any more. For what avails thee the use of prescient augury, when the Parcae spin thy commands? Nay, be thou softened, and prove more merciful than the gods. If ever my accursed wife come hither, reserve for her thy deadly torments: she is more worthy of thy wrath, O righteous lord!" He accepts his prayer, and is indignant that he yields: just as a lion, when the glittering Massylian steel confronts him, then most summons

tunc iras, tunc arma citat ; si decedit hostis, 125
 ire supra satis est vitamque relinquere victo.

Interea vittis lauruque insignis opima
 currus et egregiis modo formidatus in armis
 luce palam, fusus nulli¹ nullique fugatus,
 quaeritur : absistunt turmae, suspectaque tellus 130
 omnibus, infidi miles vestigia campi
 circuit, atque avidae tristis locus ille ruinae
 cessat et inferni vitatur honore sepulcri.
 nuntius hortanti diversa in parte maniplos
 Adrasto, vix ipse ratus vidisse, Palaemon 135
 advolat et trepidans—steterat nam forte cadenti
 proximus inspectoque miser pallebat hiatu—
 “verte gradum, fuge, rector” ait, “si Dorica saltem
 terra loco patriaeque manent, ubi liquimus, arces.
 non armis, non sanguine opus : quid inutile ferrum
 stringimus in Thebas ? currus humus impia sorbet
 armaque bellantesque viros ; fugere ecce videtur 142
 hic etiam, quo stamus, ager. vidi ipse profundae
 noctis iter ruptaque soli compage ruentem
 illum heu, praesagis quo nullus amicior astris, 145
 Oecliden, frustraue manus cum voce tetendi.²
 mira loquor, sulcos etiamnum rector equorum
 fumantemque locum et spumis madida arva³ reliquit.⁴
 nec commune malum est : tellus agnoscit alumnos,
 stat Thebana acies.” stupet haec et credere Adrastus
 cunctatur ; sed Mopsus idem trepidusque ferebat 151
 Actor idem. iam⁵ fama novis terroribus audax

¹ nulli ω : media *P*.

² tetendi *BQC* : tetendit *P* ω .

³ arva ω : ora *P*.

⁴ reliquit *P* : reliqui ω .

⁵ iam *Sandstroem* : nam *P* ω .

up his anger and his might : but if the foeman fall, to pass over him is enough, and to leave to the vanquished his life.

Meanwhile his chariot, garlanded with sacred wool and victorious bay, and feared but of late for noble feats of arms, is sought in the clear light of day in vain, though by none vanquished and by none put to flight : the troops fall back, and the ground is suspected by all, and the soldiers avoid the traces of the dangerous field ; that ill-omened spot of ravenous destruction lies idle, shunned from awe of the hellish abyss. While Adrastus in a different quarter is encouraging his men, Palaemon flies to him with tidings, scarce trusting what he has seen, and cries in terror—for it chanced that he stood nigh the falling seer, and paled, poor wretch ! to see the chasm open : “ Turn, prince, and flee, if at least the Dorian land yet remains in its place, and our native towers where we left them. No need of arms or bloodshed : why draw we against Thebes the un-availing sword ? The impious earth sucks in our chariots and our weapons and men of war ; lo ! even the field where we stand seems to flee away. With my own eyes I saw the road to deepest night, and the firm soil rent, and him, alas ! Oeclides, falling, than whom none was dearer to the prescient stars ; and in vain I stretched out my arms and cried aloud. ’Tis a miracle that I tell : only now has my charioteer left the furrowed ground and the smoking, foam-bespattered fields. Nor is the ruin shared by all : the earth knows its own children, the Theban host remains.” Adrastus, horror-struck, is slow to believe, but Mopsus and affrighted Actor were bringing the same tidings. Already rumour, bold to ply new

STATIUS

non unum cecidisse refert. sponte agmina retro
 non expectato revocantum more tubarum¹
 praecipitant : sed torpet iter, falluntque ruentes 155
 genua viros ; ipsique—putes sensisse—repugnant
 cornipedes nulloque truces hortamine parent,
 nec celerare gradum nec tollere lumina terra.
 fortius incursant Tyrii, sed Vesper opacus
 lunares iam ducit equos ; data foedere parvo 160
 maesta viris requies et nox auctura timores.

Quae tibi nunc facies, postquam permissa gemendi
 copia ? qui fletus galeis cecidere solutis ?
 nil solitum fessos iuvat ; abiecere madentes,
 sicut erant, clipeos, nec quisquam spicula tersit, 165
 nec laudavit equum, nitidae nec cassidis altam
 compsit adornavitque iubam ; vix magna lavare
 vulnera et efflantes libet internectere plagas :
 tantus ubique dolor. mensas alimentaue bello
 debita nec pugnae suasit timor : omnia laudes, 170
 Amphiarae, tuas fecundaue pectora veri
 commemorant lacrimis, et per tentoria sermo
 unus : abisse deos dilapsaque numina castris.
 “ heu ubi laurigeri currus sollemniaque arma
 et galeae vittatus apex ? hoc antra lacusque 175
 Castalii tripodumque fides ? sic gratus Apollo ?
 quis mihi sidereos lapsus mentemque sinistri
 fulguris, aut caesis saliat quod numen in extis,
 quando iter, unde morae, quae saevis utilis armis,

¹ tubarum ω : ferarum P.

^a “ tibi ” may be an ethic dative here.

terrors, reports that more than one have perished. Unbidden, not awaiting the wonted bugle-call that sounds retreat, the troops take to headlong flight; but their movement is sluggish, their knees fail their eager haste; the horn-footed steeds themselves—one would think they knew—resist them, and stubbornly defy every command, whether to hasten pace or lift their eyes from earth. More valiantly the Tyrians press on, but dark Vesper is already leading forth the horses of the moon; a scant truce brings the warriors sad repose, and night that will but increase their fears.

How looks it now, think you,^a when groans are granted their fill? How fell the tears from the loosened helms? Nought customary delights the weary warriors; they cast down their dripping shields, just as they were, none wiped his spear, or praised his charger, or dressed and decked the plume of his polished helm; scarce do they care to wash their grievous wounds, and stitch up the wide-gaping blows: so great the despair of every heart. Nor could the fear of battle persuade them to take food and due sustenance for war: all sing of thy praises, Amphiaraus, and of thy mind, unfailing oracle of truth; one speech is heard throughout the tents: that the gods have left them, and their protection is departed from the camp. "Where, alas! the laurelled chariot and the sacred arms and fillet-bearing crest? Is this the faith of Castalian lake and grotto, and holy tripod? Is this Apollo's gratitude? Who now shall explain to me the falling of stars, or the purpose of lightning on the left, or the will divine that leaps in the new-slain entrails? or when to march or tarry, what hour is profitable

STATIUS

quae pacem magis hora velit ? quis iam omne futurum
 proferet, aut cum quo volucres mea fata loquentur ?
 hos quoque bellorum casus nobisque tibi que
 praescieras, et—quanta sacro sub pectore virtus !—
 venisti tamen et miseris comes additus armis.
 et cum te tellus fatalisque hora vocaret, 185
 tu Tyrias acies adversaque signa vacasti
 sternere ; tunc etiam media de morte timendum
 hostibus infestaque abeuntem vidimus hasta.
 et nunc te quis casus habet ? poterisne reverti
 sedibus a Stygiis altaque erumpere terra ? 190
 anne sedes hilares iuxta tua numina Parcas
 et vice concordi discis ventura docesque ?
 an tibi felices lucos miseratus Avernii
 rector et Elysias dedit inservare volucres ?
 quidquid es, aeternus Phoebus dolor et nova clades 195
 semper eris mutisque diu plorabere Delphis.
 hic Tenedon Chrysenque¹ dies partuque ligatam
 Delon et intonsi cludet penetralia Branchi,
 nec Clarias hac luce fores Didymaeaque quisquam
 limina nec Lyciam supplex consultor adibit. 200
 quin et cornigeri vatis nemus atque Molosso
 quercus anhela Iovi Troianaque Thymbra tacebit.
 ipsi amnes ipsaeque volent² arescere laurus,
 ipse nihil certum sagis³ clangoribus aether

¹ chrisenque *P* : chrysamque *BQ* : cyrrhamque ω .

² ipsaeque volent ω : ipsaeque viae mallent *P* : ipsae
 malent *Postgate*.

³ sagis ω : sacis *S* : sacris *P*.

^a Here, as in the well-known passage from Milton's *Ode on the Nativity*, "the oracles are dumb." The "bringing-forth" (l. 197) is that of Apollo and Diana.

^b Tenedos and Chrysa were both sacred to Apollo ; he had an oracle at Claros and at Miletus (that of Branchus, son

for battle, or rather calls for peace? Who now shall lay bare all the future, or with whom shall birds hold converse of my destiny? The chances of this war thou knewest also, both for thyself and us, and yet—how great the courage in that inspired breast!—thou camest and didst join our ill-fated arms. And when the earth and thy fatal hour called thee, thou hadst time to lay low the Tyrian lines and hostile standards; then even in the midst of death we saw thee a terror to the foe, and thy spear still threatening as thou didst depart. And now what fate befalls thee? Wilt thou be able to return from the abodes of Styx, and break forth from the depths of earth? Or sittest thou beside the glad Parcae, thine own deities, and by harmonious interchange dost learn and teach the future? Or hath the lord of Avernus in pity granted thee to watch Elysian birds in the groves of the blest? Whatever thou art, an eternal grief to Phoebus shalt thou be, and a loss that is ever new, and long shalt thou be mourned by a Delphi that is dumb.^a This day shall silence Tenedos and Chryse, and Delos, made fast for the bringing-forth, and unshorn Branchus' shrine, nor on this day shall any suppliant draw nigh to the Clarian temple-gates, nor to the threshold of Dindymus, nor consult the Lycian god.^b Nay, the precinct also of the horned prophet and the panting oak of Molossian Jove and Trojan Thymbra shall be mute.^c The very streams and laurels shall of their own will fail and wither, the air itself shall utter no certain presage in prophetic

of Apollo), also in Lycia (Patara), and at Didyma, near Miletus.

^c Temple of Zeus Ammon in Libya, of Zeus at Dodona, of Apollo at Thymbra.

STATIUS

praecinet, et nulla ferientur ab alite nubes. 205
 iamque erit ille dies, quo te quoque conscia fatis
 templa colant reddatque tuus responsa sacerdos."'
 talia fatidico peragunt sollemnia regi,
 ceu flammis ac dona rogo tristesque rependant
 exsequias mollique animam tellure reponant. 210
 fracta dehinc eunetis aversaque pectora bello :
 sic fortes Minyas subito cum funere Tiphys
 destituit, non arma sequi, non ferre videtur
 remus aquas, ipsique minus iam ducere venti.
 iam fessi gemitu, paulatim et corda levavit 215
 exhaustus sermone dolor, nox addita curas
 obruit et facilis lacrimis inrepere somnus.

At non Sidoniam diversa in parte per urbem
 nox eadem : vario producunt sidera ludo
 ante domos intraque, ipsaeque ad moenia marcent 220
 excubiae ; gemina aera sonant Idaeaeque terga
 et moderata sonum vario spiramine buxus.
 tunc dulces superos atque omne ex ordine alumnorum
 numen ubique saeri resonant paeanes, ubique
 serta coronatumque merum. nunc funera rident 225
 auguris ignari, contraque in tempore certant
 Tiresian laudare suum ; nunc facta revolvunt
 maiorum veteresque canunt ab origine Thebas :
 hi mare Sidonium manibusque adtrita Tonantis
 cornua et ingenti sulcatum Nerea tauro, 230
 hi Cadmum lassamque bovem fetosque cruenti
 Martis agros, alii Tyriam reptantia saxa

^a *i.e.*, it is repugnant to them. By the tackling he means rudder, sails, ropes, etc.

^b Used in the worship of Cybele by Mt. Ida in Phrygia.

cries, and no wing of bird shall beat the clouds. And soon shall come the day, when thou too shalt be worshipped by truth-inspired shrines, and thy own priest impart thy oracles." Such solemn chant do they make in honour of the prophet-prince, as though they were paying the due of flame and gifts and mournful service to the pyre, and laying the soul to rest in the soft earth. Then broken were the spirits of all, with loathing for the war: even so when sudden death snatched Tiphys from the brave Minyae, no longer seems the tackling to obey, no longer the oars to endure the water,^a and even the breezes drew the vessel with less power. And now were they wearied of weeping, and having mourned their fill in converse, their hearts were lightened little by little, till sorrow was drowned in the approach of night and sleep that gently steals o'er tearful eyes.

But elsewhere, throughout the Sidonian city, far different was that night; in various sport before their houses and within they spend the hours of darkness, and even the sentinels on the walls are tipsy; cymbals and the Idaean drums^b resound, and the pipe that makes its music by varied breathing. Then in honour of their darling gods and every native deity in order sacred paeans everywhere swell high, everywhere are garlands seen and wreathed bowls of wine. Now mock they the witless augur's death, and again they vie in praising their own Tiresias; now they tell the history of their sires, and sing from its beginnings the ancient tale of Thebes: some tell of the Sidonian sea and the hands that grasped the Thunderer's horns and the mighty bull that ploughed the deep, others of Cadmus and the weary heifer and the fields pregnant with bloody war, others again of

STATIUS

ad chelyn et duras animantem Amphiona cautes,
 hi gravidam Semelen, illi Cythereia laudant
 conubia et multa deductam lampade fratrum 235
 Harmoniam : nullis iam deest¹ sua fabula mensis.
 ceu modo gemmiferum thyrso populatus Hydaspen
 Eoasque domos nigri vexilla triumphi
 Liber et ignotos populis ostenderet Indos.

Tunc primum ad coetus sociaeque ad foedera mensae
 semper in aspectum diraque in sede latentem . 241

Oedipoden exisse ferunt vultuque sereno
 canitiem nigram squalore et sordida fusis
 ora comis laxasse manu sociumque benignos
 adfatus et abacta prius solacia passum, 245

quin hausisse dapes insiccatumque cruorem
 deiecisse genis. cunctos auditque refertque,
 qui Ditem et Furias tantum et si quando regentem
 Antigonen maestis solitus pulsare querellis.
 causa latet. non hunc Tyrii fors prospera belli, 250
 tantum bella iuvant ; natum hortaturque probatque,
 nec vicisse velit ; sed primos comminus enses
 et sceleris tacito rimatur semina voto.

inde epulae dulces ignotaque gaudia vultu.
 qualis post longae Phineus ieiunia poenae, 255
 nil stridere domi volucres ut sensit abactas—
 necdum tota fides—hilaris mensasque torosque
 nec turbata feris tractavit pocula pinnis.

Cetera Graiorum curis armisque iacebat
 fessa cohors ; alto castrorum ex aggere Adrastus 260
 lactificos tenui captabat corde tumultus,

¹ iam deest *D*: deest *P*_ω: -que deest *C*: deficit, non est *edd.*: *suavis Garrod, but Statius may have lengthened the first syllable, cf. ii. 551, vi. 519, x. 236, xi. 276.*

^a He was a king in Thrace, who was plagued by Harpies, who snatched away the food from his table.

the boulders that moved to the music of the Tyrian lute and Amphion stirring rocks to life; these celebrate the travail of Semele, those the Cytherean nuptials and the train of brothers' torches that led Harmonia to her home; every table has its story. 'Tis as though Liber of late had ravaged Hydaspes rich in gems and the kingdoms of the East, and were displaying to the folk the banners of his swarthy captive-train and Indians yet unknown.

Then for the first time Oedipus, who ever lurked unseen in his dread abode, came forth, they say, to the friendly gatherings of the social banquet, and, serene of countenance, freed his grey hairs from their black filth and his face from unkempt straying locks, and enjoyed the kindly converse of his fellows and the solace denied before, nay, partook of the feast and wiped the undried blood from his eyes. To all he listens and to all he makes reply, who was wont but to assail with sad complaint Dis and the Furies and his guide Antigone. They know not the cause. 'Tis not the prosperous issue of the Tyrian war, but war alone delights him; he encourages and approves his son, yet would not have him win; but he searches for the first clash of swords and the seeds of guilt with prayers unspoken. Thence his pleasure in the feast and the strange joy upon his face. Even so did Phineus,^a after the long fast that was his punishment, when he knew the birds were driven away nor screamed any more about his house—yet believed he not wholly,—recline hilarious at the board, and handle the cups that no fierce wings upset.

The rest of the Grecian host lay fordome with care and battle; from a high mound in the camp Adrastus—frail now and old, but forced by the curse of power

STATIUS

quamquam aeger senio, sed agit miseranda potestas
 invigilare malis. illum aereus undique clamor
 Thebanique urunt sonitus, et amara lacessit
 tibia, tum nimio voces marcere superbae 265
 incertaeque faces et iam male pervigil ignis.
 sic ubi per fluctus uno ratis obruta somno
 conticuit, pacique¹ maris secura iuventus
 mandavere animas: solus stat puppe magister
 pervigil inscriptaque deus qui navigat^a alno. 270

Tempus erat, iunctos cum iam soror ignea Phoebi
 sensit equos penitusque cavam sub luce parata
 Oceani mugire domum, seseque vagantem
 colligit et leviter moto fugat astra flagello: 274
 concilium rex triste vocat, quaeruntque gementes,
 quis tripodas successor agat, quo provida² laurus
 transeat atque orbum vittae decus. haud mora,
 cuncti

insignem fama sanctoque Melampode cretum
 Thiodamanta volunt, quicum ipse arcana deorum
 partiri et visas uni sociare solebat 280
 Amphiaraus aves, tantaeque haud invidus artis
 gaudebat dici similem iuxtaque secundum.
 illum ingens confundit honos inopinaque turbat
 gloria et oblatas frondes submissus adorat,
 seque oneri negat esse parem cogique meretur: 285
 sicut Achaemenius solium gentesque paternas
 exceptit si forte puer, cui vivere patrem
 tutius, incerta formidine gaudia librat,

¹ pacique *Postgate*: tantique *Pw*, but some *dat. is needed for the verb*; it is impossible to understand *somno*, as *Klotz*.

² provida *Peyrared*: prodigia *P*: prodita *w*.

^a The image of the god stood in the stern of the ship;
cf. "pictos verberat unda deos," *Ov. Tr. i. 4. 8.*

^b Persian.

to be watchful against disaster—heard with sinking heart the shouts of the merrymakers. From all sides the clamour of bronze and Theban uproar galled him, and the pipe grates harshly on his ears, he is vexed by the insolent shouts of the drunken and the flickering torches and the fires already scarce lasting out the night. So when upon the waves a ship is whelmed in the silence of universal sleep, and the crew in careless trust commend their lives to the peace of ocean, alone upon the poop stands the vigilant helmsman and the god who sails in the bark that bears his name.^a

It was the time when Phoebus' fiery sister, hearing the sound of his yoked steeds and the roar of Ocean's cavernous abode beneath the gathering dawn, collects her straying beams and with light flick of whip chases the stars away: the king calls the doleful council, and in dismay they ask who shall take up the duty of the tripod, to whom shall pass the prescient laurel and the widowed glory of the fillet. Straightway all demand holy Melampus' son, Thiodamas of high renown, with whom alone Amphiaraus' self was wont to share the mysteries of the gods and view the flying birds, nor grudged him so much skill, but rejoiced to hear him called his like and nearest rival. Overwhelmed by the high honour and confounded by the unlooked-for glory he humbly reverences the proffered leaves, and pleads that he is unequal to the task, and must needs for his merit be constrained: even as when perchance a young Achaemenian^b prince has succeeded to the throne and all his father's realms (though safer were it for him that his sire still lived), his delight he balances with uncertain fear, whether his chiefs be

STATIUS

an fidi proceres, ne pugnet volgus habenis,
 cui latus Euphratae, cui Caspia limina mandet ; 290
 sumere tunc arcus ipsumque onerare veretur
 patris equum, visusque sibi nec sceptrā capaci
 sustentare manu nec adhuc implere tiam.

Atque is ubi intorto signatus vellere crinem
 convenitque deis, hilari per castra tumultu 295
 vadit ovans ac, prima sui documenta, sacerdos
 Tellurem placare parat : nec futile maestis
 id visum Danais. geminas ergo ilicet aras
 arboribus vivis et adulto caespite texi
 imperat, innumerosque deae, sua munera, flores 300
 et cumulos frugum et quicquid novat impiger annus
 addit et intacto spargens altaria lacte
 incipit : " o hominum divomque aeterna creatrix,
 quae fluvios silvasque animarum et semina mundo
 cuncta Prometheasque manus Pyrrhaeaeque saxa 305
 gignis, et impastis quae prima alimenta dedisti
 mutastique¹ viris,² quae pontum ambisque vehisque :
 te penes et pecudum gens mitis et ira ferarum
 et volucrum requies ; firmum atque immobile mundi
 robur inoccidui, te velox machina caeli 310
 aere pendentem vacuo, te currus uterque
 circuit, o rerum media indivisaque magnis
 fratribus ! ergo simul tot gentibus alma, tot altis
 urbibus ac populis, subterque ac desuper una

¹ mutastique ω : multastisque *P*.

² viris *P* : viros ω .

^a *i.e.*, the race of men. According to one story Prometheus created men, *cf.* *Ov. Met.* i. 82; according to another he endowed them with soul, as in *Hor. C.* i. 16. 13.

^b "Either chariot," *i.e.*, of sun and moon. "The brethren,"

loyal, whether the folk will fight against the reins, to whom he shall entrust the frontier of Euphrates or the Caspian gate; then does he feel awe to wield the bow and to mount his sire's own steed, nor can he see himself upholding the sceptre with large grasp nor as yet filling the diadem.

He therefore having set upon his locks the emblem of the twisted wool and held intercourse with the gods, proceeds in triumph through the camp amid shouts of joy, and, first evidence of his priestly office, prepares to appease the Earth: nor seemed it vain to the sorrowing Danaans. Therefore he straightway bids altars twain be wreathed with living trees and well-grown turf, and on them, in honour of the goddess, he flings countless flowers, her own bounty, and heaps of fruit and the new produce of the tireless year, and pouring untouched milk upon the altars he thus begins: "O eternal Creatress of gods and men, who bringest into being rivers and forests and seeds of life throughout the world, the handiwork of Prometheus and the stones of Pyrrha,^a thou who first didst give nourishment and varied food to famished men, who dost encompass and bear up the sea; in thy power is the gentle race of cattle and the anger of wild beasts and the repose of birds; round thee, firm, steadfast strength of the unfailing universe, as thou hangest in the empty air the rapid frame of heaven and either chariot doth wheel, O middle of the world, unshared by the mighty brethren!^b Therefore art thou bountiful to so many races, so many lofty cities and peoples, while from above and from beneath thou art all-sufficient, and with no Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto, took air, sea, and underworld as their portions, and left the earth common to all.

STATIUS

sufficis, astriferumque domos Atlanta supernas 315
 ferre laborantem nullo vehis ipsa labore :
 nos tantum portare negas, nos, diva, gravaris ?
 quod, preeor, ignari luimus seelus ? an quia plebes
 externa Inachiis huc adventamus ab oris ?
 omne homini natalc solum, nec te, optima, saevo 320
 tamque humili populos deceat distinguere fine
 undique ubique tuos ; maneas communis et arma
 hinc atque inde feras ; liceat, preeor, ordine belli
 pugnaees efflare animas et reddere caelo.
 ne rape tam subitis spirantia corpora bustis, 325
 ne propera : veniemus enim, quo limite euncti,
 qua licet ire via ; tantum exorata Pelasgis
 siste levem campum, celeres neu praecipe Pareas.
 at tu, eare deis, quem non manus ulla nec enses
 Sidonii, sed magna sinu Natura soluto, 330
 ceu te Cirrhaeo meritum tumularet hiatu,
 sic amplexa coit, hilaris des, oro, preecatus
 nosse tuos, caeloque et vera monentibus aris
 concilies, et quae populis proferre parabas,
 me doceas : tibi sacra feram praesaga, tuique 335
 numinis interpres te Phoebos absente vocabo.
 ille mihi Delo Cirrhaque potentior omni,
 quo ruis, ille adytis melior locus." haec ubi dicta,
 nigrantis terrae pecudes obscuraque mergit
 armenta, ac vivis cumulos undantis harenae 340
 aggerat et vati mortis simulacra rependit.

Talia apud Graios, cum iam Mavortia contra

^a *i.e.*, performing the ritual of a real funeral.

effort carriest thyself star-bearing Atlas who staggers under the weight of the celestial realm ; us alone, O goddess, dost thou refuse to bear ? Doth our weight vex thee ? What crime, I pray, do we unwittingly atone ? That we come hither, a stranger folk, from Inachian shores ? All soil is human birthright, nor doth it beseem thee, worthiest one, to distinguish by a test so cruel and so mean peoples who are everywhere and in every land thine own : abide thou common to all alike, and bear alike the arms of all ; grant us, I pray, in war's due course to breathe out our warrior souls and restore them to the sky. Whelm not in burial so sudden our still-breathing bodies ; haste not, for we shall come by the path all tread, by the permitted way ; hearken but to our prayer, and keep firm for the Pelasgians the fickle plain, and forestall not the swift Fates. But thou, dear to the gods, whom no violence nor Sidonian sword did slay, but mighty Nature opened her bosom to enfold in union with herself, as though for thy merits she were entombing thee in Cirrha's chasm, gladly vouchsafe, I pray, that I may learn thy supplications, conciliate me to the gods and the prophetic altars, and teach me what thou didst design to tell the peoples ; I will perform thy rites of divination, and in Phoebus' absence be the prophet of thy godhead and call upon thy name. That place whither thou speedest is mightier, I ween, than any Delos or Cirrha, and more august than any shrine." Having thus spoken he casts into the ground black sheep and dark-hued herds, and piles up heaps of billowy sand on their living bodies, duly paying to the seer the emblems of death.^a

Such things were happening among the Greeks, when already yonder the Martial horns were heard,

STATIUS

cornua, iam saevos fragor aereus excitat enses.
 addit acerba sonum Teumesi e vertice crinem
 incutiens acuitque tubas et sibila miscet 345
 Tisiphone : stupet insolito elangore Cithaeron
 marcidus et turres carmen non tale secutae.
 iam trepidas Bellona fores armataque pulsat
 limina, iam multo laxantur cardine Thebae. 349
 turbat eques pedites, currus properantibus obstant,
 ceu Danaï post terga premant : sic omnibus alae
 artantur portis septemque excursibus haerent.
 Ogygiis it sorte Creon, Eteoclea mittunt
 Neistae, celsas Homoloidas occupat Haemon,
 Hypsea Proetiae,¹ celsum fudere Dryanta 355
 Electrae, quatit Hypsistas manus Eurymedontis,
 culmina magnanimus stipat Dircaea Menoeceus.
 qualis ubi aversi secretus pabula caeli
 Nilus et Eoas magno bibit ore pruinas,
 scindit fontis opes septemque patentibus arvis 360
 in mare fert hiemes ; penitus cessere fugatae
 Nereides dulcique timent occurrere ponto.

Tristis at inde gradum tarde movet Inaeha pubes,
 praecipue Eleae Lacedaemoniaeque cohortes
 et Pylī ; subitum nam Thiodamanta secuntur 365
 augure fraudati, necdum accessere regenti.
 nec tua te, princeps tripodum, sola agmina quaerunt :
 cuneta phalanx sibi deesse putat ; minor ille per alas
 septimus exstat apex. liquido velut aethere nubes

¹ Proetiae *Pω*: Proetides et *Lachmann*: Proetiadae (-es) *edd.*

^a *i.e.*, when they were built to the music of Amphion's lyre.

^b Statius seems to think of the East as cold, very much as Scythia (S. Russia) is spoken of as a region of frost and snow ; here he is thinking vaguely, perhaps, of the Persian

and the blare of bronze drew fierce swords from their sheaths. From Teumesus' height Tisiphone sends her shrill cry, and shakes her locks, and with their hissing adds a sharpness to the trumpets' note; drunken Cithaeron and the towers that followed a far different music ^a listen in amaze to the unwonted din. Already Bellona is beating at the trembling gates and the armed portals, already by many a doorway Thebes is emptying fast. Horsemen set infantry in disarray, chariots delay the hurrying troops, as though the Danaans urged their rear: thus at the issues of all the seven gates the crowded columns are stuck fast. Creon goes out by lot from the Ogygian, the Neistae send forth Eteocles, Haemon guards the lofty Homoloian, the Proetian and Electran pour forth the men of Hypseus and tall Dryas, the troops of Eurymedon make the Hysistae shake, great-hearted Menoeceus crowds the Dircean battlements. Even so, when Nile in his secret region has drunk with mighty mouth the nurture of a distant sky and the cold snows of the East,^b he breaks up all his wealth of waters and carries his tempests to the sea in seven wide channels o'er the fields; the routed Nereids take refuge in the depths, and fear to meet the saltless main.

But sad and slow move yonder the Inachian warriors, especially the cohorts of Elis and Lacedaemon, and they of Pylos; robbed of their augur they follow the late-appointed Thiodamas, not yet assenting to his command. Nor is it only thy own ranks that miss thee, lord of the tripods: all the host feels its loss: less gloriously along the line rises that seventh crest. 'Tis as though a jealous cloud were to snatch highlands. In poetry rivers are commonly referred to as being swollen by rain and melting snow.

STATIUS

invida Parrhasiis unum si detrahat astris, 370
truncus honor Plaustri, nec idem riget¹ igne reciso
axis, et incerti numerant sua sidera nautae.

Sed iam bella vocant : alias nova suggere vires,
Calliope, maiorque chelyn mihi tendat Apollo.
fatalem populis ultro posecentibus horam 375
admovet atra dies, Stygiisque emissa tenebris
Mors fruitur caelo bellatoremque volando
campum operit nigroque viros invitat hiatu,²
nil vulgare legens, sed quae dignissima vita
funera, praecipuos annis animisque cruento 380
ungue³ notat ; iamque in miseros pensum omne

Sororum

scinditur, et Furiae rapuerunt licia Parcis.
stat medius campis etiamnum cuspede sicea
Bellipotens, iamque hos clipeum, iam vertit ad illos
arma ciens, aboletque domos, conubia, natos. 385
pellitur et patriae et, qui mente novissimus exit,
lucis amor ; tenet in capulis hastisque paratas
ira manus animusque ultra thoraeas anhelus⁴
conatur, galeaeque tremunt horrore eomarum.
quid mirum caluisse viros ? flammantur in hostem 390
cornipedes niveoque rigant sola putria nimbo,
corpora eeu mixti dominis irasque sedentum
induerint : sic frena terunt, sic proelia poscunt
hinnitu tolluntque armos equitesque supinant.

¹ riget *P* ; nitet ω .

² hiatu *P* ω : amictu *D* (hiatu *written over*), *conversely B*,
hence Wakefield conj. investit amictu.

³ ungue *Barth, Bentley* : angue *P* ω .

⁴ animus . . . anhelus ω : -os . . . -os *P*.

from the clear sky one of the Parrhasian cluster ^a—spoiled is the glory of the Wain, the axle wavers, shorn of one fire, and the seamen count their stars in doubt.

But already battle calls me : from a fresh source, Calliope, supply new vigour, and may a mightier Apollo attune my lyre ! The day of doom brings nigh to the peoples the fatal hour of their own asking, and Death let loose from Stygian darkness exults in the air of heaven, and hovers in flight over the field of battle, and with black jaws gaping wide invites the heroes ; nought vulgar doth he choose, but with bloody nail marks as victims those most worthy of life, in the prime of years or valour ; and now all the Sisters' strands are broken for the wretched men, and the Furies have snatched the threads from the Fates. In the midst of the plain stands the War-god with spear yet dry, and turns his shield now against these, now against those, stirring up the fray and blotting out home and wife and child. Love of country is driven out, and love of the light, that lingers latest in the heart ; rage holds their hands all ready on the sword-hilt and on the lance, the panting spirit strives beyond its corslet, and the helmets tremble beneath the quivering plumes. What wonder that the heroes are hot for battle ? Horn-footed steeds are inflamed against the foe and bedew the crumbling earth with a snow-white shower, as though they were made one in body with their masters, and had put on their riders' rage : so champ they the bits, and neigh to join the fight, and rearing toss the horsemen backward.

^a The Great Bear which has seven stars ; see note on vii. 8.

STATIUS

Iamque ruunt, primusque virum concurrere pulvis
 incipit, et spatiis utrimque aequalibus acti 396
 adventant mediumque vident decrescere campum.
 iam clipeus clipeis, umbone repellitur umbo,
 ense minax ensis, pede pes et cuspide cuspis :
 sic obnixa acies ; pariter suspiria fumant, 400
 admotaeque nitent aliena in casside cristae.
 pulcher adhuc belli vultus : stant vertice coni,
 plena armenta viris, nulli sine praeside currus,
 arma loco, splendent clipei pharetraeque decorae
 cingulaeque et nondum deforme cruoribus aurum. 405
 at postquam rabies et vitae prodiga virtus
 emisere animos, non tanta cadentibus Haedis
 aeriam Rhodopen solida nive verberat Arctos,
 nec fragor Ausoniae tantus, cum Iuppiter omni
 arce tonat, tanta quatitur nec grandine Syrtis, 410
 cum Libyae Boreas Italos niger attulit imbres.
 excludere diem telis, stant ferrea caelo
 nubila, nec iaculis artatus sufficit aer.
 hi pereunt missis, illi redeuntibus hastis,
 concurrunt per inane sudes et mutua perdunt 415
 volnera, concurrunt hastae, stridentia funda
 saxa pluunt, volucres imitantur fulgura glandes
 et formidandae non una morte sagittae.
 nec locus ad terram telis : in corpora ferrum
 omne cadit ; saepe ignari perimuntque caduntque.
 casus agit virtutis opus : nunc turba recedit, 421
 nunc premit, ac vicibus tellurem amittit et aufert.
 ut ventis nimbisque minax cum solvit habenas

^a A strange phrase, which seems intended to present the scene both to eye and ear.

^b *i.e.*, flung back again, as in l. 435.

^c *i.e.*, from their poison as well as their sharpness, or

And now they charge, and the first dust-clouds of the heroes begin to meet in the onset ; both sides dash forward an equal space, and see the intervening plain diminish. Then shield thrusts against shield, boss upon boss, threatening sword on sword, foot against foot and lance on lance : in such close struggle they meet ; together their groans reek,^a close-packed crests gleam over helmets not their own. The face of battle is still fair : plumes stand erect, horse-men bestride their steeds, no chariot is without its chief ; weapons are in their place, shields glitter, quivers and belts are comely, and gold as yet unsightly with blood. But when fury and valour prodigal of life give rein to passion, Arctos lashes not airy Rhodope so fiercely with hardened snow when the Kids are falling, nor does Ausonia hear so loud an uproar when Jupiter thunders from end to end of heaven, nor are the Syrtes beaten with such hail, when dark Boreas hurls Italian tempests upon Libya. Their darts shut out the day, a steely cloud hangs athwart the sky, and the crowded air has no room for all the javelins. Some perish by flung spears, others by spears returning,^b stakes meet in the void and rob each other of the wounds they carry, spears meet, and stones rain hissing from the slings, swift bullets, and dread arrows winged with a double death^c rival the lightning-stroke. No place for weapons earthward, every dart falls on a body ; often they slay and are slain unwitting. Chance does the work of valour : now the press retires and now advances, loses ground in turn and wins it. Even so when threatening Jove has loosed the reins of winds and tempests, and sends perhaps by hyperbole their power to kill two together, *cf.* ii. 637, viii. 538.

STATIUS

Iuppiter alternoque adfligit turbine mundum :
 stat caeli diversa acies, nunc fortior Austri, 425
 nunc Aquilonis hiemps, donec pugnante procella
 aut nimiis hic vicit aquis, aut ille sereno.

Principium pugnae turmas Asopius Hypseus
 Oebalias—namque hae magnum et gentile tumentes
 Euboicum duris rumpunt umbonibus agmen— 430
 reppulit erepto cunei ductore Menalca.

hic et mente Lacon, crudi torrentis alumnus—
 nec turpavit avos—hastam ultra pectus euntem,
 ne pudor in tergo, per et ossa et viscera retro
 extrahit atque hosti dextra labente remittit 435

sanguineam : dilecta genis morientis oberrant
 Taygeta et pugnac laudataque pectora¹ matri.
 Phaedimon Iasiden arcu Dircaeus Amyntas
 destinat : heu celeres Parcae ! iam palpitat arvis
 Phaedimus, et certi nondum tacet arcus Amyntae.
 abstulit ex umero dextram Calydonius Agreus 441

Phegeos : illa suum terra tenet improba ferrum
 et movet ; extimuit sparsa inter tela iacentem
 praegrediens truncamque tamen percussit Acoetes.
 Iphin atrox Acamas, Argum ferus impulit Hypseus,
 stravit Abanta Pheres, diversaque volnera flentes
 Iphis eques, pedes Argus, Abas auriga iacebant. 447

Inachidae gemini geminos e sanguine Cadmi
 occultos galeis—saeva ignorantia belli—
 perculerant ferro ; sed dum spolia omnia caesis 450
 eripiunt, videre nefas, et maestus uterque
 respicit ad fratrem pariterque errasse queruntur.

¹ pectora *P* : verbera *ω*.

alternate hurricanes to afflict the world, opposing forces meet in heaven, now Auster's storms prevail, now Aquilo's, till in the conflict of the winds one conquers, be it Auster's overwhelming rains, or Aquilo's clear air.

At the outset of the fight Asopian Hypseus repulsed the Oebalian squadrons—for these in fierce pride of race were thrusting their stout bucklers through the Euboean lines—and slew Menalcas the leader of the phalanx. He, a true-souled Spartan, child of the mountain-torrent, shamed not his ancestry, but pulled back through bones and bowels the spear that would pass beyond his breast, lest his back should show dishonour, and with failing hand hurled it back all bloody at the foe; his loved Taygetus swims before his dying eyes, and his combats, and the strong breast his mother praised. Dircean Amyntas marks out Phaedimus, son of Iasus, with his bow: ah! the swift Fates! already Phaedimus lies gasping on the field, and not yet has the bow of sure Amyntas ceased to twang. Calydonian Agreus cut the right arm of Phegeus from off its shoulder: on the ground it holds the sword in unyielding grip and shakes it: Acoetes advancing feared it as it lay amid scattered weapons, and struck at it, severed though it was. Stern Acamas pierced Iphis, fierce Hypseus Argus, Pheres laid Abas low, and groaning from their different wounds they lay, horseman Iphis, foot-soldier Argus, chariot-driver Abas. Inachian twins had smitten with the sword twin brothers of Cadmus' blood, hidden by their helmets—war's cruel ignorance!—but stripping the dead of all their spoils they saw the horror of their deed, and each in dismay looked on his brother, and cried that they

STATIUS

cultor Ion Pisae cultorem Daphnea Cirrhae
turbatis prostravit equis ; hunc laudat ab alto
Iuppiter, hunc tardus frustra miseratur Apollo. 455

Ingentes Fortuna viros inlustrat utrimque
sanguine in adverso : Danaos Cadmeius Haemon¹
sternit agitque, furens sequitur Tyria agmina Tydeus ;
Pallas huic praesens, illum Tirynthius implet.
qualiter hiberni summis duo montibus amnes 460

franguntur geminaque cadunt in plana ruina :
contendisse putes, uter arva arbustaque tollat
altius aut superet pontes ; ecce² una receptas
confundit iam vallis aquas ; sibi quisque superbus
ire cupit, pontoque negant descendere mixti. 465

Ibat fumiferam quatiens Onchestius Idas
lampada per medios turbabatque agmina Graium,
igne viam rumpens ; magno quem comminus ictu
Tydeos hasta feri dispulsa casside fixit.
ille ingens in terga iacet, stat fronte superstes 470

lancea, conlapsae veniunt in tempora flammae.
prosequitur Tydeus : " saevos ne dixeris Argos,
igne tuo, Thebane—rogum concedimus—arde ! "
inde, velut primo tigris gavisu cruore
per totum cupit ire pecus, sic Aona saxo, 475

ense Pholum, Chromin ense, duos Helicaonas hasta
transigit, Aegaeae Veneris quos Maera sacerdos
ediderat prohibente dea ; vos praeda cruenti
Tydeos, it saevas etiamnum mater ad aras.

Nec minus Herculeum contra vagus Haemona ducit

¹ Haemon *P* : heros ω .

² ecce *P* ω : et cum *Garrod*.

^a Zeus and Apollo were worshipped at Olympia and Delphi respectively.

were both at fault. Ion worshipper at Pisa overthrew Daphneus worshipper at Cirrha,^a in the confusion of his steeds : this one Jupiter praises from on high, that one Apollo vainly pities, too late to aid.

Fortune on either side of the bloody fray sheds lustre on mighty warriors : Cadmean Haemon slays and routs the Danaans, Tydeus madly pursues the ranks of Tyre ; the one has Pallas' present aid, the other the Tirynthian inspires : just as when two torrents break forth from mountain heights and fall upon the plain in twofold ruin, one would think they strove, which could overwhelm crops and trees or bury their bridges in a deeper flood ; lo ! at last one vale receives and mingles their waters, but proudly each would fain go by himself, and they refuse to flow down to ocean with united streams.

Idas of Onchestus strode through the midst shaking a smoky brand, and disarrayed the Grecian ranks, forcing his way with fire ; but a great lunge of savage Tydeus' spear from nigh at hand smote through his helm and pierced him : in huge length he falls upon his back, the lance stays upright in his forehead, the flaming torch sinks upon his temples. Tydeus pursues him with a taunt : " Call not Argos cruel ; burn, Theban, in thy own flames ; see, we grant thee a pyre ! " Then like a tigress exulting in her first blood and eager to go through all the herd, he slays Aon with a stone, Pholus and Chromis with the sword, with thrust of lance two Helicaons, whom Maera, priestess of Aegaeon Venus, bore against the goddess' pleasure : victims are ye of bloodstained Tydeus, but even now your mother visits the pitiless altars.

No less on the other side is Haemon, ward of Hercules, led on by restless vigour ; with unsated

STATIUS

sanguis : inexpleto rapitur per milia ferro, 481
 nunc tumidae Calydonis opes, nunc torva Pylenes
 agmina, nunc maestae fundens Pleuronis alumnos,
 donec in Olenium fessa iam cuspide Buten
 incidit. hunc turmis obversum et abire vetantem 485
 adgreditur ; puer ille, puer malasque comamque
 integer, ignaro cui tunc Thebana bipennis
 in galeam librata venit : finduntur¹ utroque
 tempora dividuique cadunt in bracchia crines,
 et non hoc metuens inopino limine vita 490
 exsiluit. tunc flavum Hypanin flavumque Politen—
 ille genas Phoebo, crinem hic pascebat Iaccho :
 saevus uterque deus—victis Hyperenora iungit
 conversumque fuga Damasum ; sed lapsa per armos
 hasta viri trans pectus abit parmamque tenenti 495
 excutit et summa fugiens in cuspide portat.

Sterneret adversos etiamnum Ismenius Haemon
 Inachidas—nam tela regit viresque ministrat
 Amphitryoniades—saevum sed Tydea contra
 Pallas agit. iamque adverso venere favore 500
 comminus, et placido prior haec Tirynthius ore :
 “ fida soror, quaenam hunc belli caligine nobis
 congressum fortuna tulit ? num regia Iuno
 hoc molita nefas ? citius me fulmina contra—
 infandum !—ruere et magno bellare parenti 505
 aspiciat. genus huic—sed mitto agnoscere, quando
 tu diversa foves, nec si ipsum comminus Hyllum
 Tydeos hasta tui Stygioque ex orbe remissum
 Amphitryona petat ; teneo aeternumque tenebo,

¹ finduntur *BQ* (both 2nd hand) *SN*: funduntur, scinduntur, striduntur *other MSS.*

sword he speeds through thousands, now laying low the pride of Calydon, now Pylene's grim array, now sad Pleuron's sons, until with wearied spear he happens on Olenian Butes. Him he attacks, as he turns toward his men and forbids them to retreat; a lad was he, with cheeks yet smooth and hair unshorn, and the Theban battle-axe aimed against his helmet takes him unaware; his temples are cleft asunder, and his locks divided fall upon his shoulders, and he, not fearing such a fate, passed from life unwitting on its threshold. Then he slays fair-haired Hypanis and Polites—this one was keeping his beard for Phoebus, that one his hair for Iacchus; but cruel was either god—and joins Hyperenor to his victims, and Damasus who turned to flee; but the hero's lance sped through his shoulders and passed out by his heart, and tearing his buckler from his grasp, carried it on the lance-point as it flew.

Even yet would Ismenian Haemon be laying low his Inachian adversaries—for Amphitryon's son directs his darts and gives him strength—but against him Pallas urged fierce Tydeus. And now they^a met in rivalry of favour, and first the Tirynthian thus calmly spoke: "Good sister, what chance has thus brought about our meeting in the fog of war? Has royal Juno devised this evil? Sooner may she see me—unutterable thought!—assault the thunderbolt and make war against the mighty Sire! This man's race—but I disown him, since thou dost aid his foes, ay, were it even Hyllus or Amphitryon sent back from the world of Styx that the spear of thy Tydeus sought in close combat; I remember, and shall

^a *i.e.*, Pallas and Hercules, whom Statius describes as actually present to support their rival champions.

STATIUS

quantum haec diva manus, quotiens sudaverit aegis
 ista mihi, duris famulus dum casibus omnes 511
 lustro vagus terras ; ipsa heu ! comes invia mecum
 Tartara, ni superos Acheron excluderet, isses.
 tu patriam caelumque mihi, quis tanta relatu
 aequet ? habe totas, si mens excidere,¹ Thebas. 515
 cedo equidem veniamque precor." sic orsus abibat.
 Pallada mulcet honos : rediit ardore remisso
 voltus et erecti sederunt pectoris angues.

Sensit abesse deum, levius Cadmeius Haemon
 tela rotat nulloque manum cognoscit in ictu. 520
 tunc magis atque magis vires animusque recedunt,
 nec pudor ire retro ; cedentem Acheloius heros
 impetit,² et librans uni sibi missile telum
 direxit iactus, summae qua margine parmae
 ima sedet galea et iuguli vitalia lucent. 525
 nec frustrata manus, mortemque invenerat hasta ;
 sed prohibet paulumque umeri libare sinistri
 praebuit et merito parcit Tritonia fratri.
 ille tamen nec stare loco nec comminus ire
 amplius aut voltus audet perferre cruenti 530
 Tydeos ; aegra animo vis ac fiducia cessit :
 qualis saetigeram Lucana cuspide frontem
 strictus aper, penitus cui non infossa cerebro
 volnera, nec felix dextrae tenor, in latus iras
 frangit, et expertae iam non venit obvius hastae. 535

Ecce ducem turmae certa indignatus in hostem
 spicula felici Prothoum torquere lacerto,

¹ excidere *Kohlmann* : excindere ω : excedere *P*.

² impetit ω : impedit *P*.

remember everlastingly, how much that godlike hand, how oft that aegis of thine hath laboured for me, while, a thrall to hardship, I roamed through every land; yea! thou wouldst have gone thyself to pathless Tartarus with me, did not Acheron exclude the gods. Thou gavest me my home, ay, heaven—who could name a service so great? All Thebes is thine, if thou hast a mind to destroy it. I yield and crave pardon." So he spake, and departed. Pallas is soothed by the praise; her countenance is calm again, the anger spent, and the snakes erect upon her bosom sank to rest.

Cadmean Haemon felt that the god had left him; more weakly he hurls his darts, nor recognizes his skill in any stroke. Then more and more his powers and courage fail him, nor is he ashamed to retreat; as he gives ground the Acheloian hero assails him, and poising a spear that he alone could wield aims the blow where the rim of the helmet rests on the topmost margin of the shield and the vulnerable throat gleams white. Nor erred his hand, and the spear had found a deadly spot, but Tritonia forbade, and suffered it to touch the left shoulder, sparing her brother for his merits' sake. But the warrior dares no longer hold his ground or engage or bear the sight of murderous Tydeus; his courage grows faint, and his confidence has departed: as when the bristly visage of a boar has been grazed by a Lucanian javelin-point, and the blow has not sunk deep into his brain nor has the aim been true, he lets the anger of his side-stroke weaken, nor attacks the spear he knows too well.

Lo! now, indignant that Prothous the leader of a squadron is hurling sure darts with happy aim against

STATIUS

turbidus Oenides una duo corpora pinu,
 cornipedemque equitemque, ferit : ruit ille ruentem
 in Prothoum lapsasque manu quaerentis habenas 540
 in voltus galeam clipeumque in pectora calcat,
 saucius extremo donec cum sanguine frenos
 respuit et iuncta domino cervice recumbit.
 sic ulmus vitisque, duplex iactura colenti,
 Gaurano de monte cadunt, sed maestior ulmus 545
 quaerit utrumque nemus, nec tam sua bracchia labens
 quam gemit adsuetas invitaque proterit uvas.
 sumpserat in Danaos Heliconius arma Corymbus,
 ante comes Musis, Stygii cui conscia pensi
 ipsa diu positis letum praedixerat astris 550
 Uranie. cupit ille tamen pugnasque virosque,
 forsitan ut caneret ; longa iacet ipse canendus
 laude, sed amissum mutae¹ flevere sorores.

Pactus Agenoream primis Atys ibat ab annis
 Ismenen, Tyrrii iuvenis non advena belli. 555
 quamvis Cirrha domus, soceros nec tristibus actis
 aversatus erat ; sponsam quin castus amanti
 squalor et indigni commendat gratia luctus.
 ipse quoque egregius, nec pectora virginis illi
 diversa, inque vicem, sineret fortuna, placebant. 560
 bella vetant taedas, iuvenique hinc maior in hostes
 ira ; ruit primis immixtus et agmina Lernaee
 nunc pedes ense vago, prensis nunc celsus habenis,
 ceu spectetur, agit. triplici velaverat ostro

¹ mutae ω : musae PDS.

^a *Ὀὐρανία*, the Muse of heavenly lore, and therefore, appropriately, the teacher of astrology. "Stygiu pensum" is the doom spun for him by the Fates in the underworld.

the foe, Oenides furiously strikes two bodies with one shaft of pine, horseman and horn-footed steed : Prothous falls and the horse upon him, and as he gropes for the lost reins the horse tramples the helm upon his face and the shield upon his breast, until as the last drops ebb from his wound he casts off the bridle and sinks with his head upon his master's body. Even so from Mount Gauranus fall an elm-tree and a vine together, a twofold loss to the husbandman, but the elm more sorrowful seeks also for its comrade tree, and falling grieves less for its own boughs than for the familiar grapes it crushes against its will. Corymbus of Helicon had taken arms against the Danaans, formerly the Muses' friend, to whom Uranie^a herself, knowing full well his Stygian destiny, had long foretold his death by the position of the stars. Yet seeks he battles and warriors, perchance to find theme for song ; now lies he low, worthy himself to be sung with lasting praise, but the Sisters wept his loss in silence.

Atys, betrothed from childhood to Ismene, offspring of Agenor, went his way, a youth no stranger to the wars of Thebes, though Cirrha was his home, nor had he shunned his bride's kinsmen for their evil deeds ; nay, her misery undeserved and chaste humility commend her to her lover's favour. He too was noble, nor was the maiden's heart turned from him, and they were pleasing in each other's sight, had only Fortune suffered it. But war forbids his marriage, and hence the youth's fiercer wrath against the foe ; among the foremost he rushes on, and now afoot with errant sword, now grasping the reins aloft, as though at some spectacle, he drives before him the ranks of Lerna. With threefold

STATIUS

surgentes etiamnumumeros et levia mater 565
 pectora ; nunc auro phaleras auroque sagittas
 cingulaque et manicas, ne coniuge vilior iret,
 presserat et mixtum cono crispaverat aurum.
 talibus heu ! fidens vocat ultro in proelia Graios.
 ac primum in faciles grassatus cuspide turmas 570
 arma refert sociis et in agmina fida peracta
 caede redit. sic Hyrcana leo Caspius umbra
 nudus adhuc nulloque iubae flaventis honore
 terribilis magnique etiamnum sanguinis insons,
 haud procul a stabulis captat custode remoto 575
 segne pecus teneraque famem consumit in¹ agna.
 mox ignotum armis ac solo corpore mensus
 Tydea non timuit, fragilique lacescere telo
 saepius infrendentem aliis aliosque sequentem
 ausus erat. tandem invalidos Aetolus ad ictus 580
 forte refert oculos et formidabile ridens :
 “ iamdudum video, magnum cupis, improbe, leti
 nomen ” ait ; simul audacem non ense nec hasta
 dignatus leviter digitis imbellis solutis
 abicit iaculum : latebras tamen inguinis alte 585
 missile, ceu totis intortum viribus, hausit.
 praeterit haud dubium fati et spoliare superbit
 Oenides. “ neque enim has Marti aut tibi, bellica
 Pallas,
 exuvias figemus ” ait, “ procul arceat² ipsum
 ferre pudor ; vix, si bellum comitata relictis, 590

¹ consumit in $P\omega$: depascitur N , and written over in D .

² arceat ω : habeat P : afluat conj. Garrod.

^a *i.e.*, “ procul arceat pudor me ipsum has exuvias ferre,” where “ arceat ” is given by analogy the same construction as “ prohibeat.”

robe of purple had his mother clothed his yet growing shoulders and smooth breast, and now, lest he should go in meaner raiment than his spouse, she had plated with gold his harness and with gold his arrows and his belt and armlets, and had encrusted his helm with inlay of gold. Trusting alas! in such things as these he challenges the Greeks to combat, and first assailing a weak company with his spear he brings back spoil of arms to his comrades, and the slaughter accomplished returns to the friendly lines. So a Caspian lion beneath Hyrcanian shade, still smooth nor terrible yet in the yellow glory of his mane, and guiltless of great carnage, raids the slow-moving flock not far from their fold while the shepherd is away, and sates his hunger on a tender lamb. Soon he feared not to attack Tydeus, knowing not his prowess but judging only by his stature, and dared to vex him with his frail weapon, as oft he shouted taunts at some and pursued others. At length the Aetolian turned his gaze by chance upon his feeble efforts, and with a terrible laugh: "Long since," he cries, "I have seen, insatiate one, 'tis a famous death that thou desirest!" and forthwith, deeming the bold youth worthy of neither sword nor spear, with careless fingers lightly flung an unwarlike shaft; yet the missile drained deep the recesses of the groin, as though hurled with all his might. His death assured, Oenides passes him by, and is too proud to plunder. "For not such spoils as these," says he, "will I hang up to Mars, or to thee, warlike Pallas; shame keep me far from taking them for my own pleasure; ^a scarcely had Deipyle ^b left her bower and come with

^b She was the daughter of Adrastus, and had married Tydeus, see ii. 201 *sqq.*

STATIUS

Deipyle thalamis, illi inludenda¹ tulissem.”
 sic ait, et belli maiora ad praemia mente
 ducitur : innumeris veluti leo forte potitus
 caedibus imbellis vitulos mollesque iuvenas
 transmittit : magno furor est in sanguine mergi, 595
 nec nisi regnantis cervice recumbere tauri.
 at non semianimi clamore Menoecea lapsus
 fallit Atys : praevertit equos curruque citato
 desilit : instabat pubes Tegeaea iacenti,
 nec prohibent Tyrii. “pudeat, Cadmea iuventus,
 terrigenas mentita patres! quo tenditis” inquit, 601
 “degeneres? meliusne iacet pro sanguine nostro
 hospes Atys? tantum hospes adhuc et coniugis ultor
 infelix nondum iste suae; nos pignora tanta
 prodimus?” insurgunt iusto firmata pudore 605
 agmine, cuique suae rediere in pectora curae.

Interea thalami secreta in parte sorores,
 par aliud morum miserieque innoxia proles
 Oedipodae, varias miscent sermone querellas.
 nec mala quae iuxta, sed longa ab origine fati, 610
 haec matris taedas, oculos ast illa paternos,
 altera regnantem, profugum gemit altera fratrem,
 bella ambae. gravis hinc miseri² cunctatio voti :
 nutat utroque timor, quemnam hoc certamine victum,
 quem vicisse velint : tacite praeponderat exsul. 615
 sic Pandioniae repetunt ubi fida volucres

¹ inludenda ω : inlaudanda P.

² miseri Pω : misti Barth, edd., from later MSS.

^a *i.e.*, as he sucks its blood.

^b Nightingales, from Philomela, daughter of Pandion, king of Athens, changed into a nightingale. She grieves

me to the war, would I have borne her spoils that she might mock at." So saying, he is led on to dream of nobler prizes of the fight : as when a lion by chance hath slaughter innumerable in his power, he passes by the unwarlike calves and heifers : he is mad to drench himself in some mighty victim's blood, nor to crouch ^a save on the neck of a chieftain bull. But Menoeceus fails not to hear the dying wail of fallen Atys : thither he turns his horses, and leaps down from his swift chariot ; the Tegean warriors were drawing nigh him where he lay, nor did the Tyrians hold them off. " For shame, Cadmean youth," he cries, " that belie your earthborn sires ! Whither fly ye, degenerate ones ? Hath he not fallen more nobly for our folk, the stranger Atys ? Ay, still but a stranger, nor yet, hapless one, hath he avenged his spouse ; shall *we* betray a pledge so great ? " Heartened by righteous shame they rally, and each bethinks himself of those he loves.

Meanwhile in the seclusion of their chamber the sisters—innocent pair, guiltless offspring of unhappy Oedipus—mingle their converse with varying complaint. Nor grieve they for their present ills, but starting from the far origins of their fate, one laments their mother's marriage, the other their father's eyes, this one the brother that reigns, that one him that is an exile, and both lament the war. Long do they hesitate in their unhappy prayers : fear sways them either way, in doubt whom they wish defeated in the fight, and whom victorious : but in their silent hearts the exile wins the day. So when Pandion's birds ^b seek once more trusty welcome and the homes for her son Itys, whom she slew to avenge his father, Tereus's, cruelty to her sister Procne.

STATIUS

hospitia atque larem bruma pulsante relictum,
 stantque super nidos veterisque exordia fati
 adnarrant tectis, it¹ truncum ac flebile murmur ;
 verba putant, voxque illa tamen non dissona verbis.
 atque ibi post lacrimas et longa silentia rursus 621
 incohat Ismene : “ quisnam hic mortalibus error ?
 quae decepta fides ? curam invigilare quieti
 claraque per somnos animi simulacra reverti ?
 ecce ego, quae thalamos nec si pax alta maneret,
 tractarem sensu—pudet heu !—conubia vidi 626
 nocte, soror ; sponsum unde mihi sopor attulit amens
 vix notum visu ? semel his in sedibus illum,
 dum mea nescio quo spondentur foedera pacto,
 respexi non sponte, soror. turbata repente 630
 omnia cernebam, subitusque intercidit ignis,
 meque sequebatur rabido clamore reposita
 mater Atyn. quatenam haec dubiae praesagia cladis ?
 nec timeo, dum tuta domus milesque recedat²
 Doricus et tumidos liceat componere fratres.” 635

Talia nectebant, subito cum pigra tumultu
 expavit domus, et multo sudore receptus
 fertur Atys, servans animam iam sanguine nullo,
 cui manus in plaga, dependet languida cervix
 exterior clipeo, crinesque a fronte supini. 640
 prima videt caramque tremens Iocasta vocabat
 Ismenen : namque hoc solum moribunda precatur
 vox generi, solum hoc gelidis iam nomen inerrat
 faucibus. exclamant famulae, tollebat in ora

¹ it *Markland* : et *Pw*.

² recedat *w* : superstes *P*.

^a The nightingales feel that they are expressing their grief, and, Statius adds, their notes, though not words, are yet (“tamen”) as expressive as words can be. There is real poetry in this thought.

they left when winter drove them forth, and they stand over the nest and tell to the house the old story of their woe, a broken, dolorous sound goes forth : they deem it words, nor in truth does their voice sound other than words.^a Then after tears and a long silence Ismene begins again : “ What delusion is this of mortals ? What means this trust deceived ? Is it true then that our cares are awake in time of rest, and our fancies return in sleep so clearly ? Lo ! I, who could not bear the thought of wedlock, not even in sure abiding peace, this very night, my sister—ah ! for shame !—I beheld myself a bride ; whence did my fevered slumber bring my husband before my vision, whom I scarce know by sight ? Once in this palace I caught sight of him, my sister, not of my own will—while pledges in some wise were exchanged for my betrothal. On the instant all was confusion to my view and sudden fire fell between us, and his mother followed me, demanding Atys back with loud clamour. What presage of disaster to whom I know not is this ? And yet I have no fear, so but our home be safe and the Dorian host depart, and we can reconcile our haughty brothers.”

Such was their converse, when the quiet house started at a sudden tumult, and Atys, rescued at great labour's cost, bloodless but still living, is borne in ; his hand is on his hurt, outside the shield the neck droops languid, and the tresses hang backward from his forehead. Jocasta saw him first and trembling called his beloved Ismene ; for that prayer alone do the dying accents of her son-in-law utter, that name alone hovers on his parched mouth. The women shriek, and the maiden lifts her hands to her face ;

STATIUS

virgo manus, tenuit saevus pudor ; attamen ire 645
 cogitur, indulget summum hoc Iocasta iacenti,
 ostenditque offertque. quater iam morte sub ipsa
 ad nomen visus defectaque¹ fortiter ora
 sustulit ; illam unam neglecto lumine caeli
 aspicit et vultu non exsatiatur amato. 650

tunc quia nec genetrix iuxta positusque beata
 morte pater, sponsae munus miserabile tradunt
 declinare genas ; ibi demum teste remoto
 fassa pios gemitus lacrimasque in lumina fudit.

Dumque ea per Thebas, aliis serpentibus ardens 655
 et face mutata bellum integrabat Enyo.

arma volunt, primos veluti modo comminus ictus
 sustulerint omnisque etiamnum luceat ensis.

eminet Oenides. quamvis et harundine certa
 Parthenopaeus agat, morientumque ora furenti 660

Hippomedon proculcet equo, Capaneaue pinus
 iam procul Aoniis volet agnoscenda catervis :

Tydeos illa dies, illum fugiuntque tremuntque
 clamantem : " quo terga datis ? licet ecce peremptos
 ulcisci socios maestamque rependere noctem. 665

ille ego inexpletis solus qui caedibus hausi
 quinquaginta animas : totidem, totidem heia²
 gregatim

ferte manus ! nulline patres, nulline iacentum
 unanimi fratres ? quae tanta oblivio luctus ? 669

quam pudet Inachias contentum abiisse Mycenas !
 hinc super Thebis ? haec robora regis ? ubi autem
 egregius dux ille mihi ? " simul ordine laevo
 ipsam exhortantem cuneos capitisque superbi

¹ defectaque *Heinsius* (xii. 325) : deiectaque *Pω*.

² totidem, totidem heia *Kohlmann* : totidem heia *P* :
 totidem totidemque *ω*.

^a Goddess of war.

fierce shame restrains her, yet she must needs go to him, Jocasta grants the dying man this final boon, and shows her and sets her before him. Four times at the very point of death he bravely raised his eyes and failing vision at her name ; at her alone, neglecting the light of heaven, he gazes, and cannot gaze enough on the face he loves. Then because his mother is not near and his father is laid in blissful death, they give to his betrothed the sad office of closing his eyes ; there at last unwitnessed and alone, she gave utterance to wifely grief and drowned her eyes in tears.

While these things were happening in Thebes, Enyo,^a afire with torch fresh-charged and other serpents, was restoring the fight. They yearn for battle, as though they had but lately borne the opening shock of combat hand to hand, and every sword still shone bright and clear. Oenides is pre-eminent ; though Parthenopaeus draw an unerring shaft, and Hippomedon trample the faces of the dying with furious steed, though the spear of Capaneus fly even from far with a message to Aonian troops, that day was the day of Tydeus : from him they flee and tremble, as he cries out : " Whither turn ye your backs ? Lo ! thus can ye avenge your slain comrades, and atone for that sad night. I am he who took fifty lives in unsated carnage ; bring as many, ay, as many squadrons in swarms ! Are there no fathers, no loving brothers of the fallen ? Why such forgetfulness of sorrow ? Shame on me that I departed content to Inachian Mycenae ! Are these all that stand for Thebes ? Are these your monarch's strength ? And where can I find that noble chieftain ? " Therewith he spies him on the left of the array, encouraging his columns and conspicuous by the flash

STATIUS

insignem fulgore videt ; nec segnius ardens
 occurrit, niveo quam flammiger ales olori 675
 imminet et magna trepidum circumligat umbra.
 tunc prior : " Aoniae rex o iustissime gentis,
 imus in arma palam tandemque ostendimus enses,
 an noctem et solitas placet exspectare tenebras ? "
 ille nihil contra, sed stridula cornus in hostem 680
 it referens mandata ducis, quam providus heros
 iam iam in fine viae percussam obliquat, et ipse
 telum ingens avidè et quanto non ante lacerto
 impulit : ibat atrox finem positura duello
 lancea. convertere oculos utrimque faventes 685
 Sidonii Graique dei ; crudelis Erinys
 obstat et infando differt Eteoclea fratri :
 cuspis in armigerum Phlegyan peccavit. ibi ingens
 pugna virum, stricto nam saevior inruit ense
 Aetolus, retroque datum Thebana tegebant 690
 arma ducem. sic densa lupum iam nocte sub atra
 arcet ab adpresso pastorum turba iuvenco ;
 improbus erigitur contra, nec cura vetantes
 impetere : illum, illum, semel in quem venerat, urget.
 non secus obiectas acies turbamque minorem 695
 dissimulat transitque manu ; tamen ora Thoantis,
 pectora Deilochi, Clonii latus, ilia torvi
 perforat Hippotadae ; truncis sua membra remittit
 interdum galeasque rotat per nubila plenas.
 et iam corporibus sese spoliisque cadentum 700

^a Neither Argive nor Theban deities wished the war to end in this way.

of haughty helm ; not less swiftly does he rush to meet him all afire, than the bird that wields the flame swoops on the frightened snow-white swan and enfolds him in his mighty shadow. Then he first speaks : " Most righteous king of the Aonian people, meet we in open fight, and show we our swords at last, or doth it please thee to await the night and thy wonted darkness ? " Nought spake he in reply, but the whizzing cornel-shaft comes flying against his foe, bearing the chieftain's message ; the prudent hero strikes it aside just as it reached its mark, and himself eagerly hurled a mighty weapon with strength unknown before : on was the angry lance flying, to end the war. On it the gods, Sidonian and Greek, who favoured either side, turned their eyes ;^a cruel Erinys checks its course, and preserves Eteocles for a brother's impious deed ; the erring spear-point lighted on Phlegyas the charioteer. Then a great fight arose of heroes, for the Aetolian, drawing his sword, charged more fiercely, while Theban warriors protected the retreating king. So in the murk of night a crowd of shepherds forces away a wolf from the bullock he has seized ; but he relentlessly rises up against them, nor cares to attack those who bar his way ; him, him only, whom he had once assailed, does he pursue. Just so does Tydeus ignore the lines arrayed against him and the lesser throng, and pass them by in the fight ; yet he wounds the face of Thoas, the breast of Deilochus, Clonius in the flank, stern Hippotades in the groin ; now he throws back their limbs to mutilated trunks, or whirls heads and helms together through the air. And now he had enclosed himself with the spoils and corpses of the

STATIUS

clauserat ; unum acies circum consumitur, unum
 omnia tela vovent : summis haec ossibus haerent,
 pars frustrata cadunt, partem Tritonia vellit,
 multa rigent clipeo. densis iam consitus¹ hastis
 ferratum quatit umbo nemus, tergoque fatiscit 705
 atque umeris gentilis aper ; nusquam ardua coni
 gloria, quique apicem torvae Gradivus habebat
 cassidis, haud laetum domino ruit omen : inusta²
 temporibus nuda aera sedent, circumque sonori
 vertice percusso volvuntur in arma molares. 710
 iam cruor in galea, iam saucia proluit ater
 pectora permixtus sudore et sanguine torrens.
 respicit hortantes socios et Pallada fidam,
 longius opposita celantem lumina parma :
 ibat enim magnum lacrimis inflectere patrem. 715
 Ecce secat zephyros ingentem fraxinus iram
 fortunamque ferens, teli non eminent auctor :
 Astacides Melanippus erat, nec prodidit ipse,
 et vellet latuisse manum, sed gaudia turmae
 monstrabant trepidum ; nam flexus in ilia Tydeus
 submissum latus et clipei laxaverat orbem. 721
 clamorem Aonii miscent gemitumque Pelasgi,
 obiectantque manus indignantemque tuentur.
 ille per oppositos longe rimatus amarum
 Astaciden, totis animae se cogit in ictum 725
 relliquiis telumque iacit, quod proximus Hoplaus
 praebuerat : perit expressus conamine sanguis.
 tunc tristes socii cupidum bellare—quis ardor !—
 et poscentem hastas mediaque in morte negantem
 exspirare trahunt, summique in margine campi 730

¹ consitus ω : constitit P.

² inusta ω : inulta P.

^a *i.e.*, of his helm.

fallen ; the ring of foes spends itself on him alone, at him alone all darts aspire ; some lodge within his limbs, some fall amiss, others Tritonia tears away, many stand stiffly in his shield. Thick-planted already with spears, his buckler is a quivering grove of steel, and his native boarskin is torn upon his back and shoulders ; gone is the towering glory of the crest, and the Mars that held the peak of his grim helmet falls, no happy omen to its lord. The bare bronze^a is fixed and welded in his temples, stones strike his head and fall rattling about his armour. His helm now fills with blood, and now his wounded breast is drenched by a dark mingling torrent of blood and sweat. He looks round upon his applauding comrades and on faithful Pallas, who conceals from afar her face behind her shield ; for she was on her way to soften with her tears her mighty sire.

Lo ! an ashen spear charged with mighty wrath and fate cleaves the zephyrs, its author unperceived : Melanippus it was, the son of Astacus, and he betrayed not his own work and would fain have been hidden, but the joy of his troop revealed him all affrighted ; for Tydeus bending o'er his groin had sunk upon his side and let go his round shield. Aonians and Pelasgians mingle their shouts and groans, and form a barrier, and protect the indignant hero. He spying afar through the foe the hated Astacides, summons for a stroke all the vital forces that remain, and hurls a dart that Hoplesus who stood by had given him ; the effort makes the blood spout and flow. Then his grieving comrades drag him away, eager yet to fight—what fiery zeal !—and calling for spears, and even in death's agony refusing to die, and set him on the farthest margin

STATIUS

effultum gemina latera inclinantia parma
 ponunt, ac saevi rediturum ad proelia Martis
 promittunt flentes. sed et ipse recedere caelum
 ingentesque animos extremo frigore labi
 sensit, et innixus terrae " miserescite " clamat, 735
 " Inachidae : non ossa precor referantur ut Argos
 Aetolumve larem ; nec enim mihi cura supremi
 funeris : odi artus fragilemque hunc corporis usum,
 desertorem animi. caput, o caput, o mihi si quis
 adportet, Melanippe, tuum ! nam voveris arvis, 740
 fido equidem, nec me virtus suprema fefellit.
 i, precor, Atrei¹ si quid tibi sanguinis umquam,
 Hippomedon, vade, o primis puer inclyte bellis
 Arcas, et Argolicae Capaneu iam maxime turmae."

Moti omnes, sed primus abit primusque repertum
 Astaciden medio Capaneus e pulvere tollit 746
 spirantem laevaue super cervice reportat,
 terga cruentantem concussi vulneris unda :
 qualis ab Arcadio rediit Tiryntius antro
 captivumque suem clamantibus intulit Argis. 750

Erigitur Tydeus voltuque occurrit et amens
 laetitiaque iraque, ut singultantia vidit
 ora trahique oculos seseque adgnovit in illo,
 imperat abscisum porgi, laevaue receptum
 spectat atrox hostile caput, gliscitque tepentis 755
 lumina torva videns et adhuc dubitantia figi.
 infelix contentus erat : plus exigit ultrix
 Tisiphone ; iamque inflexo Tritonia patre
 venerat et misero decus immortale ferebat,
 atque illum effracti perfusum tabe cerebri 760

¹ Atrei *Pω* : Arcadii *BQ* : Argei *Schrader*.

^a Of Erymanthus.

of the field, propped against shields on either side, and promise with tears a return to the conflicts of fierce Mars. But he too now felt the light of heaven fail him and his mighty spirit yield to the final chill, and lying on the ground he cries : " Have pity, sons of Inachus : I pray not that my bones be taken to Argos or my Aetolian home ; I care not for funeral obsequies ; I hate my limbs and my body so frail and useless, deserter of the soul within it. Thy head, thy head, O Melanippus, could one but bring me that ! for thou art grovelling on the plain, so indeed I trust, nor did my valour fail me at the last. Go, Hippomedon, I beg, if thou has aught of Atreus' blood, go thou, Arcadian, youth renowned in thy first wars, and thou, O Capaneus, mightiest now of all the Argive host ! "

All were moved, but Capaneus first darts away, and finding the son of Astacus lifts him still breathing from the dust, and returns with him on his left shoulder, staining his back with blood from the stricken wound : in such wise did the Tiryinthian return from the Arcadian lair, when he brought home to applauding Argos the captive boar.^a

Tydeus raises himself and turns his gaze upon him, then mad with joy and anger, when he saw them drag the gasping visage, and saw his handiwork therein, he bids them cut off and hand to him his foe's fierce head, and seizing it in his left hand he gazes at it, and glows to see it still warm in life and the wrathful eyes still flickering ere they closed. Content was the wretched man, but avenging Tisiphone demands yet more. And now, her sire appeased, had Tritonia come, and was bringing immortal lustre to the unhappy hero : when lo ! she sees him befouled with

STATIUS

aspicit et vivo scelerantem sanguine fauces—
nec comites auferre valent— : stetit aspera Gorgon
crinibus emissis rectique ante ora cerastae
velavere deam ; fugit aversata iacentem,
nec prius astra subit, quam mystica lampas et insons
Elisos multa purgavit lumina lympha. 766

^a This hideous scene was imitated by Dante in the *Inferno* (canto xxxii. ll. 125 *sq.*), where Count Ugolino gnaws his enemy's skull. Other parallels between the *Divina Commedia* and the *Thebaid* will be found in *Inf.* ix. 82 (*Theb.* ii. 55), *Inf.* xiv. 46 (*Theb.* x. fin.), *Inf.* xxvi. 52 (*Theb.* i. 33, xii. 429), *Purg.* ix. 34 (*Ach.* i. 228, 247).

the shattered brains' corruption and his jaws polluted with living blood^a—nor can his comrades wrest it from him—: fierce stood the Gorgon with outstretched snakes, and the horned serpents upreared before her face o'ershadowed the goddess; with averted face she flees from him where he lies, nor enters heaven ere that the mystic lamp and Elisos with plenteous water has purged her vision.^b

^b The Gorgon is the head of Medusa with snakes for hair, that Pallas carried on her breastplate. The "mystic lamp" refers to the fire which was one of the means of ceremonial purification. "Elisos" is the river Ilissus at Athens.

LIBER IX

Asperat Aonios rabies audita cruenti
 Tydeos ; ipsi etiam minus ingemuere iacentem
 Inachidac, culpantque virum et rupisse queruntur
 fas odii ; quin te, divum implacidissime, quamquam
 praecipuum tunc caedis opus, Gradive, furebas,¹ 5
 offensum virtute² ferunt, nec comminus ipsum³
 ora, sed et trepidos alio torsisse iugales.
 ergo profanatum Melanippi funus acerbo
 vulnere non aliis ultum Cadmeia pubes
 insurgunt stimulis, quam si turbata sepulcris 10
 ossa patrum monstrisque datae crudelibus urnae.
 accendit rex ipse super : “ quisquamne Pelasgis⁴
 mitis adhuc hominemque gerit ? iam morsibus uncis—
 pro furor ! usque adeo tela exsatiavimus !—artus
 dilacerant. nonne Hyrcanis bellare putatis 15
 tigribus, aut saevos Libyae contra ire leones ?
 et nunc ille iacet—pulchra o solacia leti !—
 ore tenens hostile caput, dulcique nefandus

¹ furebas ω : ferebas *P*.

² offensum virtute *P* ω : offensa *conj. Garrod*, feritate *Mueller*. For virtute *Klotz cf. Val. Flacc. ii. 647*.

³ ipsum *P* ω : isse *Koch*.

⁴ Pelasgis *P* ω : -um *Imhof* : -us *Owen*.

BOOK IX

THE news of the mad fury of blood-stained Tydeus exasperates the Aonians ; even the Inachidae themselves grieve but little for the fallen warrior, and blame him, complaining that he has transgressed the lawful bounds of hatred ; nay, thou too, O Gradivus, most violent of gods, though at that time the furious work of slaughter did most occupy thee, thou too wert offended, as they relate, by such hardihood,^a nor turned thy own gaze thereon, but drove another way thy affrighted steeds. Therefore the Cadmean youth rise up to avenge the shameful profanation of Melanippus' corpse, as much inflamed as though their father's bones had been disturbed from their sepulchres and their urns flung a prey to cruel monsters. The king himself infuriates them still further : " Who any more is merciful or humane to the Pelasgians ? Why, with hooked fangs they rend our limbs—shame on such madness ! Have we then so glutted their weapons ?—Do ye not think ye are making war on Hyrcanian tigers or facing angry Libyan lions ? And now he lies—O ! noble solace of death !—his jaws fastened in his enemy's head, and meets his unhallowed end in welcome gore

^a "virtus" in an unfavourable sense is found in Val. Flacc. ii. 647, "effera virtus" ; cf. also *Theb.* xi. 1, "iniqua virtus" ; but in both cases the epithet helps.

STATIUS

immoritur tabo ; nos ferrum immite¹ facesque,
 illis nuda odia, et feritas iam non eget armis. 20
 sic pergant rabidi claraque hac laude² fruantur,
 dum videas haec, summepater. sed enim hiscere campos
 conquesti terraeque fugam mirantur ; an istos
 vel sua portet humus ? ” magno sic fatus agebat
 procursu fremituque viros, furor omnibus idem 25
 Tydeos invisi spoliis raptoque potiri
 corpore. non aliter subtexunt astra catervae
 incestarum avium, longe quibus aura nocentem
 aera desertasque tulit sine funere mortes ;
 illo avidae cum voce ruunt, sonat arduus aether 30
 plausibus, et caelo volucres cessere minores.

Fama per Aonium rapido vaga murmure campum
 spargitur in turmas, solito perniciosior index
 cum lugenda refert, donec, cui maxima fando
 damna vehit, trepidas lapsa est Polynicis ad aures. 35
 deriguit iuvenis lacrimaeque haesere paratae,
 et cunctata fides ; nimium nam cognita virtus
 Oenidae credi letum suadetque vetatque.
 sed postquam haud dubio clades auctore reperta est,
 nox oculos mentemque rapit ; tum sanguine fixo 40
 membra simul, simul arma ruunt : madet ardua fletu
 iam galea atque ocreae clipeum exceperere cadentem.
 it maestus genua aegra trahens hastamque sequentem,
 vulneribus ccu mille gravis totosque per artus
 saucius, absistunt socii monstrantque gementes. 45

¹ immite *P* : mite ω . *Emended in various ways by edd. Supply, not, as Klotz, putamus, but pro telis habemus ; the translation makes it clear.*

² laude *P* : luce ω , *cf.* i. 319.

Our weapons are ruthless steel and brands of fire, but theirs is naked hate, and savagery that needs no arms. May they continue in their frenzy and enjoy a renown so glorious, do thou but look upon it, O Father supreme! But they complained that the battle-field gaped and they marvel that the earth fled: would even their own soil bear such as them? " So speaking, he led his men forward in a fierce onset shouting loud, and all alike furious to seize the corpse of the hated Tydeus and to gain his spoils. Not otherwise do swarms of obscene birds veil the stars, when the breezes have told them afar of tainted air and bodies left unburied; thither in clamorous greed they haste, the lofty sky is loud with flapping of wings, and lesser fowl withdraw from heaven.

Fame, travelling in swift rumours about the Aonian plain, is spread from troop to troop, a more rapid messenger than of wont when her tidings are evil, until she glides into the affrighted ears of Polynices, to whom her tale brings most grievous news of loss. The youth stiffened with horror, his ready tears stood congealed, and slow was he to give credence; for Oenides' well-known valour now prompts and now forbids him to believe his death. But when the disaster was confirmed on undoubted warrant, his mind and vision are whelmed in night; his blood stands still; together his arms, together his limbs sink down, his lofty helm is already moist with tears, and his greaves caught the shield as it fell. Sadly he goes, dragging faint knees and trailing spear, as though burdened by a thousand wounds and maimed in every limb; his comrades shrink from him and point to him with groans. At length he

STATIUS

tandem ille abiectis, vix quae portaverat, armis
 nudus in egregii vacuum iam corpus amici
 procidit et tali lacrimas cum voce profudit :
 “ hasne tibi, armorum spes o suprema meorum,
 Oenide, grates, haec praemia digna rependi, 50
 nudus ut invisâ Cadmi tellure iaceres
 sospite me ? nunc exsul ego aeternumque fugatus,
 quando alius misero ac melior mihi frater ademptus.
 nec iam sortitus veteres regnique nocentis
 periurum diadema peto : quo gaudia tanti 55
 empta mihi aut sceptrum, quod non tua dextera
 tradet ?

ite, viri, solumque¹ fero me linquite fratri :
 nil opus arma ultra temptare et perdere² mortes ;
 ite, precor ; quid iam dabitis mihi denique maius ?
 Tydea consumpsi ! quanam hoc ego morte piabo ? 60
 o socer, o Argi ! et primae bona iurgia noctis,
 alternaeque manus et longi pignus amoris
 ira brevis ; non me ense tuo tunc, maxime Tydeu,—
 et poteras—nostri mactatum in limine Adrasti !
 quin etiam Thebas me propter et impia fratris 65
 tecta libens, unde haud alius remeasset, adisti,
 ceu tibimet sceptrâ et proprios laturus honores.
 iam Telamona pium, iam Thesea fama tacebat—
 qualis et ecce iaces ! quae primum vulnere mirer ?
 quis tuus hic, quis ab hoste cruor ? quae te agmina
 quive 70
 innumerâ stravere globi ? num fallor, et ipse
 invidit pater et tota Mars impulit hasta ? ”

¹ solumque ω : totumque P.

² perdere ω : pergere P.

^a *i.e.*, than Tydeus, whom he has “wasted” by allowing him to be slain. ^b See i. 401 *sqq.*

throws away the armour he scarce has power to carry, and falling naked on the now lifeless body of his peerless friend speaks thus with streaming tears :
 “ Oenides, last hope of my emprise, is this my gratitude, is this my due reward and recompense to thee, that thou shouldst lie bare on Cadmus’ hated earth and I be unharmed? Now for ever am I an exile and for ever banished, since my other, ay and truer, brother has, alas, been taken from me. No more do I seek the old decrees of lot or the perjured diadem of a guilty throne : to what purpose are joys so dearly bought, or a sceptre that thy hand will not place in mine? Depart from me, ye warriors, and leave me to face my cruel kinsman alone : nought avails it to try further battle and be wasteful of deaths. Depart, I pray you ; what greater thing can ye give me now^a? I have squandered Tydeus. By what death can I atone for that? O father of my bride ! O Argos ! and that first night’s honest quarrel, and our mutual blows, and the short wrath that was the pledge of long affection!^b Ah ! why was I not then slain by thy sword, great Tydeus—thou wert able—on the threshold of our host Adrastus? Nay more, on my account thou didst go to Thebes, and willingly enter my brother’s impious palace, whence none other would have returned, as though to win a sceptre and honours for thyself alone. Already of devoted Telamon, already of Theseus fame ceased to tell—and lo ! in what plight thou liest here ! Which wounds shall I first marvel at? Which is thy blood, which thy foe’s? What troops, what countless bands o’erthrew thee? Nay, the Father himself, an I mistake not, envied thee, and Mars smote thee with all the force of his

STATIUS

sic ait, et maerens etiamnum lubrica tabo
 ora viri terget lacrimis dextraque reponit.
 “ tune meos hostes hucusque exosus, et ultra 75
 sospes ego ? ” exuerat vagina turbidus ensem
 aptabatque neci : comites tenuere, socerque
 castigat bellique vices ac fata revolvens
 solatur tumidum, longeque a corpore caro
 paulatim, unde dolor letique animosa voluntas, 80
 amovet ac tacite ferrum inter verba reponit.
 ducitur amisso qualis consorte laborum
 deserit inceptum media inter iugera sulcum
 taurus iners colloque iugum deforme remisso
 parte trahit, partem lacrimans sustentat arator. 85
 Ecce autem hortatus Eteoclis et arma secuti,
 lecta manus, iuvenes, quos nec Tritonia bello,
 nec prope conlata sprevisset cuspide Mavors,
 adventant ; contra conlecta ut pectora parmae
 fixerat atque hastam longe protenderat, haeret 90
 arduus Hippomedon : ceu fluctibus obvia rupes,
 cui neque de caelo metus et fracta aequora cedunt,
 stat cunctis immota minis, fugit ipse rigentem
 pontus et ex alto miserae novere carinae.
 tunc prior Aonides—validam simul eligit hastam—
 “ non pudet hos manes, haec infirmantia bellum 96
 funera dis coram et caelo inspectante¹ tueri ?
 scilicet egregius sudor memorandaque virtus
 hanc tumulare feram, ne non macrentibus Argos

¹ inspectante ω : insectante P.

^a “troubled,” because they know their danger.

spear." So he speaks and weeping cleanses with his tears the hero's face that still runs blood, and composes it with his own hand. "Didst thou then hate my foes thus far, and do I outlive thee?"—in his blind passion he had pulled the sword from its sheath, and was pointing it for death—his friends restrained him, and his father-in-law rebukes him, and calling to his mind the chances of war and the will of fate consoles his swelling heart, and from that dear body, whence comes his grief and eager will for death, little by little he drags him far away, and mid his converse silently puts back the weapon. He is led like a bull that having lost the partner of his toils deserts in numb despair the furrow he has begun among all the acres round, and on his drooping neck drags part of the unsightly yoke, while part the weeping ploughman bears.

But see! rallying to the battle-cry of Eteocles a chosen band of warriors advances, who neither Tritonia would have despised in the fray nor Mavors in the encounter with the lance: against them, when he had set his protecting shield before his breast and thrust forth his long spear tall Hippomedon stands his ground: even as a rock that fronts the waves, and hath no fear from heaven, and the waters are broken and give way before it: firm it stands, unmoved by threats; the very sea flees from its stark face, and from afar the troubled^a barks recognize it. Then first the Aonian—choosing withal a stalwart spear: "Hast thou no shame in the presence of the gods and with heaven as witness to guard this ghost, this corpse that defames our warfare? Surely 'tis a glorious task and a memorable exploit to compass burial for this wild beast, in

STATIUS

exsequiis lacrimandus eat mollique feretro 100
 infandam eiectans saniem ! dimittite curam ;
 nullae illum volucres, nulla impia monstra nec ipse,
 si demus, pius ignis edat." nec plura, sed ingens
 intorquet iaculum, duro quod in aere moratum
 transmissumque tamen clipei stetit orbe secundo.
 inde Pheres acerque Lycus ; sed cassa Pheretis 106
 hasta redit, Lycus excelso terrore comantem
 perstringit galeam ; convulsae cuspidē longe
 diffugere iubae patuitque ingloria cassis.
 ipse nec ire retro, nec in obvia concitus arma 110
 exsilit, inque eadem sese vestigia semper
 obversus cunctis¹ profert recipitque, nec umquam
 longius indulget dextrae motusque per omnes
 corpus amat, corpus servans circumque supraque
 vertitur. imbellem non sic amplexa iuvenum 115
 infestante lupo tunc primum feta tuetur
 mater et ancipiti circumfert cornua gyro ;
 ipsa nihil metuens sexusque oblita minoris
 spumat et ingentes imitatur femina tauros.
 tandem intermissa iaculantum nube potestas 120
 reddere tela fuit ; iamque et Sicyonius Alcon
 venerat auxilio, Pisaeaque praepetis Idae
 turma subit cuneumque replent. his laetus² in hostes
 Lernaeam iacit ipse trabem, volat illa sagittis
 aequa fuga mediumque nihil cunctata Politen 125
 transabit et iuncti clipeum cavat improba Mopsi.
 Phocea tum Cydona Tanagraeumque Phalanthum
 atque Erycem, hunc retro conversum et tela petentem,

¹ cunctis *P*ω : cuneis *Heinsius*.

² (h)is laetus *P* : his fretus ω.

fear he go not to Argos to win his meed of tears and obsequies, nor on the soft bier spew out his cursed gore ! Dismiss your care ; him no birds nor foul monsters will devour, not even the sacred fire itself, were we to grant it." No more he spake, but hurled a huge javelin, that, checked by the hard bronze, yet passing through, is stayed in the second layer of the shield. Then Pheres aims, and vigorous Lycus ; but the dart of Pheres falls vainly to earth, while Lycus cleaves the casque with its terrible streaming plume ; torn by the lance-point the crest is scattered far, and lays bare the inglorious helm. He himself neither retires, nor leaps out to attack the foeman, but ever turning in his own ground to every side now advances and now draws back, nor ever for long gives his right arm play, but in all his movements keeps nigh the body, keeps the body in view, hovering over and around it. Not so jealously does its mother shield and protect a helpless calf, her first-born, when a wolf is threatening, and wheel round in perplexity with lowered horns ; for herself she has no fear, but forgetful of her weaker sex foams at the mouth, and, female as she is, imitates mighty bulls. At last the cloud of darts grew less, and they could hurl weapons back again ; and by now Alcon of Sicyon had come in succour, and the Pisaeon squadron of fleet Idas arrives, and they reinforce the phalanx. Rejoicing thereat he flings a Lernaean shaft against the foe : it flies with all an arrow's speed, and tarrying not a whit pierces Polites through the middle, and still persistent passes through the shield of Mopsus his close comrade. Then he transfixes Cydon the Phocian, and Phalanthus of Tanagra, and Eryx. ^{and} latter as he turns rearward in search of ^{near to}

dum spes nulla necis, crinito a vertice figit ;
 faucibus ille cavis hastam non ore receptam 130
 miratur moriens, pariterque et murmure plenus
 sanguis et expulsi salierunt cuspide dentes.

ausus erat furto dextram eiectare¹ Leonteus,
 pone viros atque arma latens, positumque trahebat
 presso crine caput : vidit, quamquam undique
 crebrae, 135

Hippomedon, ante ora minae, saevoque protervam
 abstulit ense manum ; simul increpat : " hanc tibi
 Tydeus,

Tydeus ipse rapit ; post et confecta virorum
 fata time magnosque miser fuge tangere manes ! "
 ter Cadmea phalanx torvum abduxere cadaver, 140
 ter retrahunt Danaï : Siculi velut anxia puppis
 seditione maris nequiquam obstante magistro
 errat et averso redit in vestigia velo.

Non ibi Sidoniac valuissent pellere coepto
 Hippomedonta manus, non illum impacta moverent
 tormenta oppositum, formidatique superbis 146
 turribus impulsus temptato umbone redissent.
 sed memor Elysii regis noxasque recensens
 Tydeos in medios astu subit impia campos
 Tisiphone : sensere acies subitusque cucurrit 150
 sudor equis sudorque viris, quamquam ore remisso
 Inachium fingebat Halyn ; nusquam impius ignis
 verberaque, et iussi tenere silentia crines.
 arma gerit iuxtaque feri latus Hippomedontis

¹ eiectare *PN* : iniectare ω .

^a Pluto had given special commands to Tisiphone, *cf.*
 iii. 65 *sqq.*

^c , the Fury puts off her torch and scourge and hissing

with no thought of death, through the long tresses of his head; the other expiring marvels that he has received the lance not in his face but in his hollow throat, and therewith the blood gushes forth, full of his dying wail, and the teeth that the spear-point has dislodged. Leonteus, lurking behind the battle of the heroes, stealthily dared to put forth his right hand, and pulled at the prostrate corpse, seizing its hair: Hippomedon spied him, though faced by many a threat on every side, and with his grim blade lopped off the impudent hand, taunting him withal: " 'Tis Tydeus, Tydeus, himself who robs thee of it! Have fear of heroes even when they are slain and touch not, miserable man, the mighty dead!" Thrice did the Cadmean phalanx pull away the dreadful corpse, thrice do the Danaans drag it back again: just as an anxious vessel strays in a lawless tumult of the Sicilian sea, despite the helmsman's fruitless efforts, and then returns on her path with canvas backward-blown.

No Sidonian forces would there have availed to drive Hippomedon from his purpose, no engine-hurled missiles were like to move his stout resistance, and the blows that proud battlements dreaded had fallen baffled from the buckler they assailed. But, mindful of the Elysian monarch,^a and recounting the crimes of Tydeus, impious Tisiphone craftily draws nigh to the middle of the field: the armies felt her presence, and horses and men alike were seized by a sudden sweat, although, laying aside her own aspect, she counterfeited Halys the Inachian; absent was the unhallowed torch and the scourge, while her locks at her command held their peace.^b As warrior, and with flattering looks and voice, she comes near to

STATIUS

blanda genas vocemque venit, tamen ille loquentis
extimuit vultus admiraturque timorem. 156

illa autem lacrimans "tu nunc" ait, "incline, frustra
exanimis socios inhumataque corpora Graium—
scilicet is nobis metus, aut iam cura sepulcri?—

protegis; ipse manu Tyria tibi captus Adrastus 160
raptatur, teque ante alios, te voce manuque
invocat; heu qualem lapsare in sanguine vidi,
exutum canos lacero diademate crines!

nec procul hinc, adverte oculos; ubi plurimus ille
pulvis, ubi ille globus." paulum stetit anxius heros
librabatque metus; premit aspera virgo: "quid
haeres? 166

imus? an hi retinent manes, et vilior ille
qui superest?" miserum sociis opus et sua mandat
proelia et unanimi vadit desertor amici,
respiciens tamen et revocent si forte paratus. 170

inde legens turbata trucis vestigia divae
huc illuc frustra ruit avius, impia donec
Eumenis ex oculis reiecta caerula parma
fugit et innumeri galeam rupere cerastae.
aspicit infelix discussa nube quietos 175

Inachidas currumque nihil metuentis Adraști.

Et Tyrii iam corpus habent, iam gaudia magnae
testantur voces, victorque ululatus aderrat
auribus occultoque ferit praeccordia luctu.
ducitur hostili—pro dura potentia fati!— 180
Tydeus ille solo, modo cui Thebana sequenti
agmina, sive gradus seu frena effunderet, ingens

^a *i.e.*, is Adrastus less worth rescuing than the dead body
("manes") of Tydeus?

fierce Hippomedon, yet he feared her countenance as she spoke, and marvelled at his fear. Weeping she says: "In vain, O man of renown, thou guardest thy dead comrades and the unburied bodies of the Greeks—is that then our fear, do we yet care for a sepulchre?—Lo! Adrastus is being dragged along, the captive of a Tyrian band, and to thee before all else, to thee he cries and beckons. Alas! in what plight I saw him slip and fall in blood, his diadem torn and the white locks streaming free! Nor far from here, look! where all that cloud of dust is, all that mass of men." Awhile the hero stood perplexed, balancing his fears; the ruthless maid urges him: "Why dost thou hesitate? Shall we go forward? Or does this dead body keep us back, and is he more worthless who survives?"^a To his comrades he entrusts the forlorn task and the fight that should be his, and strides away, deserting his loyal friend, yet looking behind him, and ready, should they perchance recall him. Then following the impetuous footsteps of the relentless goddess he rushes here and there in aimless, pathless course, till the wicked Fury, casting her shield behind her, vanishes darkly from his sight, and snakes innumerable break forth from her helmet. The cloud disperses, and the unhappy man beholds the Inachidae unperturbed, and Adrastus in his chariot, fearing nought.

And now the Tyrians possess the body, and by loud cries attest their joy; the triumphant shout steals upon the ear and strikes the heart with secret dismay. He is dragged on hostile soil—alas! fate's cruel power!—that very Tydeus for whom of late a mighty space on either hand was left as he pursued the ranks of Thebes, whether on foot or shaking out

STATIUS

limes utrimque datus ; numquam arma manusque
quiescunt,

nulla viri feritas : iuvat ora rigentia leto
et formidatos impune lacescere vultus. 185

hic amor, hoc una timidi fortesque sequuntur
nobilitare manus, infectaque sanguine tela
coniugibus servant parvisque ostendere natis.

sic ubi Maura diu populatum rura leonem, 189
quem propter clausique greges vigilantque magistri,
pastorum lassae debellavere cohortes :

gaudet ager, magno subeunt clamore coloni,
praecerpuntque iubas immaniaque ora recludent
damnaque commemorant, seu iam sub culmine fixus
excubat, antiquo seu pendet gloria luco. 195

At ferus Hippomedon quamquam iam sentit inane
auxilium et seram raptō pro corpore pugnam,
it tamen et caecum rotat inrevocabilis ensem,
vix socios hostesque, nihil dum tardet euntem,
secernens ; sed caede nova iam lubrica tellus 200

armaque seminecesque viri currusque soluti¹
impediunt laevumque femur, quod cuspide fixum
regis Echionii, sed dissimulaverat ardens,

sive ibi nescierat. maestum videt Hoplea tandem ;
Tydeos hic magni fidus comes et modo frustra 205

armiger alipedem prona cervice tenebat
fatorum ignarum domini solumque frementem,
quod vacet inque acies audentior ille pedestres.

hunc aspernantem tumido nova pondera tergo—
unam quippe manum domitis expertus ab annis—
corripit adfaturque : “ quid o nova fata recusas, 211

¹ soluti ω : secuti P.

his chariot-reins ; never still are hands or weapons or any savagery of man : they delight to wound with impunity those features rigid in death and that visage that they feared. This is their passion, by this deed they strive, both brave and cowards, to gain ennoblement, and they keep the blood-stained weapons to display to their young children and their wives. So when weary troops of shepherds have warred down a lion that has long devastated Moorish fields, and caused flocks to be penned up and guardians to be watchful, the countryside exults, the husbandmen come with loud cries of joy, and pluck at the mane and open the mighty jaws and tell of all their losses, whether he now keeps vigil nailed up beneath the roof, or hangs the glory of some ancient grove.

But fierce Hippomedon, although he sees now his help is of no avail and he is too late to fight for the stolen corpse, nevertheless goes on and blindly whirls his relentless sword, scarce knowing friend from foe, so that nought delay his advance ; but the ground now slippery with recent slaughter, and arms and dying men and shattered chariots impede him, and his left thigh, which the spear-point of the Echionian monarch pierced, but in his fury he had dissembled the wound or known not of it. At length he sees Hopleus sorrowing : he, the trusty comrade of great Tydeus and lately, but all in vain, his squire, was holding the wing-footed steed, who, with bowed neck and ignorant of his master's fate, was impatient only of his idleness, and because his lord was more adventurous in the fray of infantry. Him, though he scorns a new weight on his proud back—for since his taming he knew but one hand only—the hero seizes and thus bespeaks : “ Why refuseth thou thy new destiny,

STATIUS

infelix sonipes ? numquam tibi dulce superbi
 regis onus ; non iam Aetolo satiabere campo
 gaudentemque iubam per stagna Acheloia solves.
 quod superest, caros, i, saltem ulciscere manes 215
 aut sequere, extorrem ne tu quoque laesis umbram
 captivus tumidumque equitem post Tydea portes.”
 audisse accensumque putes : hoc fulmine raptum
 abstulit et similes minus indignatur habenas.
 semifer aëria talis Centaurus ab Ossa 220
 desilit in valles, ipsum nemora alta tremiscunt,
 campus equum. trepidi cursu glomerantur anhelo
 Labdacidae, premit ille super, necopinaque ferro
 colla metens linquit truncos post terga cadentes.
 Ventum erat ad fluvium ; solito tunc plenior alveo—
 signa mali—magna se mole Ismenos agebat. 226
 illa brevis requies, illo timida agmina lassam
 de campis egere fugam ; stupet hospita belli
 unda viros claraque armorum incenditur umbra.
 insiluere vadis, magnoque fragore solutus 230
 agger et adversae latuerunt pulvere ripae.
 ille quoque hostiles saltu maiore per undas
 inruit attonitis—longum dimittere habenas—
 sicut erat, tantum viridi defixa parumper
 caespite populeo commendat spicula trunco. 235
 tunc vero exanimes tradunt rapientibus ultro
 arma vadis : alii demissa casside, quantum
 tendere conatus animae valuere sub undis,

^a “ hoc ” here = “ tali.” “ fulmen ” is occasionally used by Statius for a sudden shock or violent movement.

^b *i.e.*, at that part of the Centaur which was human.

^c The word “ umbra ” is sometimes used by Statius in the sense of “ reflection ”; here of the light reflected from a thing: see n. on viii. 116.

unhappy charger? Never more for thee is the burden of thy haughty lord; no more shalt thou sate thy hunger on the Aetolian meads, or shake free thy exultant mane about the streams of Achelous. This remains for thee—go and at least avenge thy dear master's death, or come with me, lest thou too in captivity vex his vanished shade, and after Tydeus bear some boastful rider." One would have said he heard and was enkindled: so violently ^a does he whirl him away in wild career, resenting less the similar reins. Even so the half-brute Centaur leaps down into the vale from the airy height of Ossa: at himself ^b the lofty forests quake in fear, at the horse the plain shakes. Alarmed and breathless the sons of Labdacus flock together, on them Hippomedon bears down, and shearing with the sword their unwitting necks leaves behind their falling trunks.

They had reached the river: with channel fuller than of wont Ismenos was running then in mighty spate, an omen of disaster. There a short respite was given, thither the columns urged their weary flight in terror from the field; the waves, their refuge from the fray, are spellbound at the warriors, and are lit up by the bright sheen ^c of armour. Into the water they leapt, and with a great crash the bank gave way and the opposite shores lay hid in dust. He too with mightier leap plunges through the hostile stream against his astonished foe, just as he was—no time for dismounting—, only his javelins, fixed in the green turf, he entrusts for a while to a poplar tree. Then, indeed in deadly terror, of their own accord they fling their weapons on the waves that carry them away; some doff their helms and lie basely hid, so long as they can maintain their

turpe latent ; multi fluvium transmitters nando
 adgressi, sed vincla tenent laterique repugnat 240
 balteus et madidus deducit pectora thorax.
 qualis caeruleis tumido sub gurgite terror
 piscibus, arcani quotiens devexa profundi
 scrutantem delphina vident ; fugit omnis in imos
 turba lacus viridesque metu stipantur in algas ; 245
 nec prius emersi, quam summa per aequora flexus
 emicet et visis malit certare carinis :
 talis agit sparsos mediisque in fluctibus heros
 frena manu pariter, pariter regit arma, pedum quem¹
 remigio sustentat equus² ; consuetaque campo 250
 fluctuat et mersas levis ungula quaerit harenas.
 sternit Iona Chromis, Chromin Antiphos, Antiphon
 Hypseus,
 Hypseus Astyagen evasurumque relicto
 amne Linum, ni fata vetent et stamine primo
 ablatum tellure mori. premit agmina Thebes 255
 Hippomedon, turbat Danaos Asopius Hypseus :
 amnis utrimque timet, crasso vada mutat uterque
 sanguine, et e fluvio neutri fatale reverti.
 iam laceri pronis volvuntur cursibus artus
 oraque et abscisae redeunt in pectora dextrae, 260
 spicula iam clipeosque leves arcusque remissos
 unda vehit, galeasque vetant descendere cristae :
 summa vagis late sternuntur flumina³ telis,

¹ pedum quem *Housman* : pedumque *Pω* : pedum se *Jortin*.

² equus *Housman* : equum *Pω*.

³ sternuntur flumina *ω* : spernuntur fulmina *P*.

^a Obviously not of metal, but the linen corselet (λινοθώραξ *Hom. Il. ii. 529, 830*), used sometimes by the Romans, *e.g. Suet. Galba, xix.* "loricam induit linteam."

lives beneath the waters; many tried to swim the river, but their fastenings grip them, the belts impede their breathing, and the soaked^a corslets weigh down their bodies. Even as beneath the swelling flood the dark blue fishes are afraid, when-so'er they see a dolphin probing the secret lairs of the deep; the whole swarm flees to the lowest pools and huddles frightened in the green seaweed: nor come they forth till through the surface waves he darts his curving body and prefers to race the ships that meet his sight: even so the hero drives them pell-mell before him, and in mid-stream both guides the rein and aims the shaft, upheld by his swimming horse, whose nimble hoof, accustomed to the plain, now treads the wave and seeks the deep-sunk sands. Chromis lays Ion low, Antiphos Chromis, and Hypseus Antiphos, Hypseus also Astyages, and Linus, who is about to leave the river and flee away, were it not that the Fates forbid, and early in his life's thread he is doomed to a watery death.^b Hippomedon presses hard the ranks of Thebes, Asopian Hypseus throws the Danaans into confusion; on either side the river is affrighted, each stains the waters thick with blood, from that stream each is fated never to return. And now mangled limbs are rolled down on the flowing current, and heads and severed arms rejoin their bodies, and now the wave bears lances and light targes and slackened bows, and plumes suffer not their casques to sink. Far and wide the surface of the stream is strewn with floating weapons, and its

^b It is not clear whether "ablatum" governs "stamine primo" or "illo" understood; in either case the sense is the same: "it was taken away from him," *i.e.*, forbidden him, "to die on land."

STATIUS

ima viris ; illic luctantur corpora leto,
 efflantesque animas retro premit obvius amnis. 265

Flumineam rapiente vado puer Argipus ulmum
 prenderat, insignes umeros ferus ense Menoeceus
 amputat ; ille cadens, nondum conamine adempto,
 truncus in excelsis spectat sua bracchia ramis.

Hypseos hasta Tagen ingenti vulnere mersit, 270
 ille manet fundo, rediit pro corpore sanguis.
 desiluit ripis fratrem rapturus Agenor
 heu ! miser et tenuit, sed saucius ille levantem
 degravat amplexu : poterat resolutus Agenor
 emersisse vadis, piguit sine fratre reverti. 275

surgentem dextra Capetum vulnusque minantem
 sorbebat rapidus nodato¹ gurgite vertex ;
 iam voltu, iam crine latet, iam dextera nusquam,
 ultimus abreptas ensis descendit in undas.
 mille modis leti miseros mors una fatigat. 280

induit a tergo Mycalesia cuspis Agyrten ;
 respexit : nusquam auctor erat, sed concita tractu
 gurgitis effugiens invenerat hasta cruorem.

Figitur et validos sonipes Aetolus in armos,
 exsiluitque alte vi mortis et aera pendens 285
 verberat ; haud tamen est turbatus fulmine² ductor,
 sed miseratur equum, magnoque ex volnere telum
 exiit ipse gemens et sponte remisit habenas.
 inde pedes repetit pugnas gressuque manuque
 certior, et segnem Nomium fortemque Mimanta 290
 Thisbaeumque Lichan Anthedoniumque Lycetum

¹ nodato *QN*: nudato *P*: notato, montano, vadato, *etc.*,
MSS.

² fulmine *P*: flumine ω .

^a *i.e.*, of Tydeus, now ridden by Hippomedon.

^b See note on line 218 above.

depths with men ; there bodies wrestle with death, and the confronting stream chokes back their forth-issuing breath.

The lad Argipus had grasped a river-side elm-tree in the rushing flood ; savage Menoeceus with his sword shears through those comely shoulders ; he, as he falls, still striving, gazes, a trunk, at his own arms on the high boughs. The spear of Hypseus sank Tages with a mighty wound : he remains at the bottom, and in place of his body his blood returns. To rescue his brother Agenor leapt down from the bank, and grasped him—alas ! poor wretch !—but the wounded man weighs him down in his embrace, as he tries to lift him. Agenor could have freed himself and come forth from the water, but liked not to return without his brother. Capetus rises to his right and threatens a blow, but is sucked down by the entangling eddies of the rapid current ; now his face goes under, now his hair, now his right arm is gone, last of all his sword sinks beneath the headlong waters. One death in a thousand shapes of dying torments the wretches. A Mycalesian spear-point sheathes itself in Agyrtes' back : he looks round, but there was none who hurled it ; urged by the torrent's flow the spear had sped and found his blood.

The Aetolian charger ^a too is pierced in his strong shoulders, and at the deadly shock rears up and prances, beating the air ; yet the chief is no whit upset by the plunge, ^b but pities the horse, and groaning pulls the dart from the deep wound with his own hand, and of his own accord lets go the reins. Then he rejoins the fray afoot, surer both in step and hand, and, one after the other, slays tardy Nomius and valiant Mimas and Lichas of Thebes and

STATIUS

continuat ferro geminisque e fratribus unum
 Thespiaden ; eadem poscenti fata Panemo :
 “ vive superstes ” ait, “ diraeque ad moenia Thebes
 solus abi, miseros non decepture parentes. 295
 di bene, quod pugnas rapidum deiecit in amnem
 sanguinea Bellona manu : trahit unda timentes
 gurgite gentili, nuda nec flebilis umbra
 stridebit vestros Tydeus inhumatus ad ignes ;
 ibitis aequoreis crudelia pabula monstris, 300
 illum terra vehit suaque in primordia solvet.”
 sic premit adversos et acerbat vulnera dictis
 ac nunc ense furit, nunc tela natantia captans
 ingerit : innuptae comitem Theronam Dianae,
 ruricolamque Gynen cum fluctivago Ergino, 305
 intonsumque Hersen contemptoremque profundi
 Crethea, nimbosam qui saepe Caphereos arcem
 Euboicasque hiemes parva transfugerat alno.
 quid non fata queant ? traiectus pectora ferro
 volvitur in fluctus, heu cuius naufragus undae ! 310
 te quoque sublimi tranantem flumina curru,
 dum socios, Pharsale, petis, resupinat ademptis
 Dorica cuspis equis ; illos violentia saevi
 gurgitis infelixque iugi concordia mergit.
 Nunc age, quis tumidis magnum inclinarit in undis
 Hippomedonta labor, cur ipse excitus in arma 316
 Ismenos, doctae nosse indulgete sorores :
 vestrum opus ire retro et senium depellere famae.
 gaudebat Fauno Nymphaque Ismenide natus
 maternis bellare tener Crenaeus in undis, 320

^a Who could now no longer mistake him for his brother.

Lycetus of Anthedon and Thespiades, one of twin brothers ; to Panemus begging a like fate he cries : " Live on, and to the walls of accursed Thebes depart alone, no more to deceive thy unhappy parents.^a Thanks be to Heaven that Bellona's gory hand has driven the fight into the rapid stream ; the wave sweeps away the cowards on their native flood, and the naked ghost of unburied Tydeus shall not moan and shriek around your pyres ; ye shall go down to feed the cruel monsters of the deep, but him the earth doth carry and shall resolve into her own elements." So harries he the foe, and with taunts adds bitterness to his blows ; and now he rages with the sword, now snatches up floating javelins and flings them back ; Theron he slays, the friend of chaste Diana, and Gyas, dweller in the country, and wave-wandering Erginus, and unshorn Horses, and Cretheus, contemner of the deep, who oft in a tiny craft had weathered Caphereus' stormy promontory and the Euboean squalls. Behold the power of fate ! a lance pierces his breast, and he is carried on the stream, alas on what waters shipwrecked ! Thee too Pharsalus, crossing the river in thy lofty car to join thy companions, the Doric spear-point overturns and slays thy horses : the violence of the angry flood engulfs them, and the ill-starred union of the yoke.

Come now, ye learned Sisters, grant me to know what toil laid low Hippomedon in the heaving billows, and why Ismenos himself was roused to join the fray ; for your task it is to search out the past, and let not fame grow old. Crenaeus, the youthful son of Faunus and the nymph Ismenis, rejoiced to fight in his mother's waters—Crenaeus, who first saw the

STATIUS

Crenaeus, cui prima dies in gurgite fido
 et natale vadum et virides cunabula ripae.
 ergo ratus nihil Elysias ibi posse Sorores,
 laetus adulantem nunc hoc, nunc margine ab illo
 transit avum : levat unda gradus, seu defluus ille, 325
 sive obliquus eat ; nec cum subit obvius, ulla
 stagna dedere moras pariterque revertitur amnis.
 non Anthedonii tegit hospitis inguina pontus
 blandior, aestivo nec se magis aequore Triton
 exserit, aut carae festinus ad oscula matris 330
 cum remeat tardumque ferit delphina Palaemon.
 arma decent umeros, clipeusque insignis et auro
 lucidus Aoniae caelatur origine gentis.
 Sidonis hic blandi per candida terga iuveni,
 iam secura maris, teneris iam cornua palmis 335
 non tenet, extremis adludunt aequora plantis ;
 ire putes clipeo fluctusque secare iuvenum.
 adiuvat unda fidem pelago nec discolor amnis.
 tunc audax pariter telis et voce proterva
 Hippomedonta petit : “ non haec fecunda veneno 340
 Lerna, nec Herculeis haustae serpentibus undae :
 sacrum amnem, sacrum — et miser experiere ! —
 deumque
 altrices inrumpis aquas.” nihil ille, sed ibat
 comminus ; opposuit cumulo se densior amnis
 tardavitque manum, vulnus tamen illa retentum 345
 pertulit atque animae tota in penetralia sedit.

^a Glaucus, who was turned into a fish from the waist down, *cf.* vii. 337.

^b Often referred to by Statius; he was the infant son of Leucothea, a daughter of Cadmus, who with his mother was worshipped as a deity at the isthmus of Corinth; *cf.* i. 13, 121, vii. 421.

light in the trusted stream and was cradled in the green banks of his native river. So thinking that there the Elysian Sisters had no power, merrily, now from this bank now from that, he crosses his caressing grandsire: the wave supports his footsteps, whether he go downstream or athwart the flood; nor when he goes counter does the river one whit delay him, but flows backward likewise. No more winningly does the sea cover the waist of the stranger from Anthedon,^a nor Triton rise higher from the summer waves, nor yet Palaemon,^b when he hastes back to his darling mother's kisses, and smites his tardy dolphin. Gay harness decks his shoulders, and his splendid buckler gleaming with gold is engraved with the ancient tale of the Aonian race. Here the Sidonian maid^c rides on the white back of the enticing steer; now fears she not the sea, now clings not to the horns with tender hands; around the margin of her feet the waves play sportively; one would think that the bull moved upon the shield, and cleft the billows. The river-waves, of the same colour as the sea,^d assist belief. Then bold alike with weapons and saucy speech he challenges Hippomedon: "This is no poisonous Lerna, no Herculean Hydras drink these waters, 'tis a sacred river that thou art defiling, ay, sacred,—so shalt thou find it to thy cost, thou wretch!—and gods have been nourished by its streams." Nought said the other, but advanced upon him; in a denser mass the flood resisted him, and checked his hand, but yet he drave home the wound for all his hindering, and pierced utterly life's secret chambers. The river

^c Europa.

^d Alton suggests "umbra" = reflection, for "unda": cf. note on viii. 116.

STATIUS

horruit unda nefas, silvae flevistis utraeque,
 et. graviora cavae sonuerunt murmura ripae.
 ultimus ille sonus moribundo emersit ab ore :
 “ mater ! ” in hanc miseri ceciderunt flumina vocem.

At genetrix coetu glaucarum cincta sororum 351
 protinus icta malo vitrea de valle solutis
 exsiluit furibunda comis, ac verbere crebro
 oraque pectoraque et viridem scidit horrida vestem.
 utque erupit aquis iterumque iterumque trementi
 ingeminat “ Crenaeae ” sono : nusquam ille, sed index
 desuper, a miserae nimium noscenda parenti, 357
 parma natat ; iacet ipse procul, qua mixta supremum
 Ismenon primi mutant confinia ponti.

fluctivagam sic saepe domum madidosque penates
 Aleyone deserta gemit, cum pignora saevus 361
 Auster et argentes rapuit Thetis invida nidos.
 mergitur orba iterum, penitusque occulta sub undis
 limite non uno, liquidum qua subter eunti
 lucet iter, miseri nequaquam funera nati 365
 vestigat, plangitque tamen ; saepe horridus annis
 obstat, et obducto caligant sanguine visus.
 illa tamen praeceps in tela offendit et enses
 scrutaturque manu galeas et prona reclinat
 corpora ; nec ponto submota intrabat amaram 370
 Dorida, possessum donec iam fluctibus altis
 Nereidum miserata cohors ad pectora matris
 impulit. illa manu ceu vivum amplexa reportat
 insternitque toris riparum atque umida siccatur

shuddered at the horrid deed, ye woods on either shore lamented, and deeper groans resounded from the hollow banks. From his dying lips came the last cry: "Mother!" As he uttered it, the waters choked the poor lad's voice.

But his mother, amid her company of silvery-gleaming sisters, leapt up straightway from the sea-green valley at the shock of doom, frenzied, with loosened hair, and in wild grief rent with many a blow her face and bosom and green robe. Forth from the waves she burst, and with trembling voice again and again cries out "Crenaeus": nowhere was he to be seen, but on the flood there floats his shield, a mark, alas! his unhappy parent must recognize too well; he himself lies far off, where on the bounds of mingling sea and river Ismenos suffers his last change. Often thus does Alcyone deserted make lament for her wave-wandering, spray-drenched home, when savage Auster and envious Thetis have scattered her darlings and their shivering nests. Once more the bereaved mother sinks, and hidden in the watery depths she searches in vain for her dead son by many a track, where the path shines clear before her as she goes—searches and yet bewails; oftentimes the bristling river checks her, and a bloody haze obscures her vision. Yet in mad haste she flings herself on weapons and swords, and thrusts her hand into helmets and turns over prostrate corpses; nor drawing nigh the deep did she enter the bitter brine of Doris, until a band of Nereids pitying her wafted his body, now in the keeping of the ocean-billows, to his mother's breast. Embracing him as though he lived she brings him home and lays him on the sloping bank and with soft tresses dries his wet

STATIUS

mollibus ora comis, atque haec ululatibus addit : 375
 " hoc tibi semidei munus tribuere parentes
 nec mortalis avus ? sic nostro in gurgite regnas ?
 mitior haec misero discors alienaque tellus,¹
 mitior unda maris, quae iuxta flumina corpus
 rettulit et miseram visa exspectasse parentem. 380
 hine mei vultus ? haec torvi lumina patris ?
 hi crines undantis avi ? tu nobile quondam
 undarum nemorumque decus, quo sospite maior
 diva et Nympharum longe regina ferebar.
 heu ubinam ille frequens modo circa limina matris
 ambitus orantesque tibi servire Napaeae ? 386
 cur nunc te, melius saevo mansure² profundo,
 amplexu misero tumulis, Crenaeae, reporto
 non mihi ? nec tantae pudet heu miseretque ruinae,
 dure parens ? quae te alta et ineluctabilis imo 390
 condidit amne palus, quo nec iam cruda nepotis
 funera, nec nostri valeant perrumpere planctus ?
 ecce furit iactatque tuo se in gurgite maior
 Hippomedon, illum ripaeque undaeque tremiscunt,
 illius impulsu nostrum bibit unda cruorem : 395
 tu piger et trucibus facilis servire Pelasgis.
 ad cineres saltem supremaque iusta tuorum,
 saeve, veni, non hic solum accensure nepotem."

his miscet planctus multumque indigna cruentat
 pectora, caeruleae referunt lamenta sorores : 400
 qualiter Isthmiaco nondum Nereida portu

¹ *l. 378 only in PDN.*

² *mansure Baehrens : mansura Pw.*

^a Leucothea's infant son Palaemon was drowned (*cf. Theb.* i. 14), and subsequently worshipped as Melicertes at the 280

face, and cries amid loud lament : " Is this the gift thy half-divine parents and thy immortal grandsire have given thee ? Is it thus thou reignest in our flood ? Unhappy boy ! gentler was the discordant alien earth, gentler the ocean wave, which brought back thy body to the river and seemed to await thy hapless mother's coming. Are these my lineaments ? Are these the eyes of thy fierce sire ? Are these thy billowy grandsire's tresses ? Once wert thou the pride and glory of wave and woodland, and whilst thou livedst I was held a greater goddess and the queen of Nymphs. Where alas ! is that late crowd of courtiers round thy mother's halls, where are the Maidens of the Glen that prayed to serve thee ? Why do I now bring thee home, Crenaeus, in my sad embrace, not for myself but for thy burial, who hadst better remained there in the cruel deep ? Hard-hearted father, hast thou not pity nor shame for such a death ? What lake profound and inescapable hath engulfed thee in the river's depths, so that nor thy grandson's cruel fate nor my own weeping can reach thee there ? Lo ! Hippomedon rages and boasts himself the master in thy flood, and banks and waves tremble before him ; his was the stroke that made the water drink our blood ; but thou art sluggish, and the fierce Pelasgians' acquiescent slave ! Come at least, cruel sire, to the ashes and last obsequies of thy own, for 'tis not thy grandson only whose pyre thou shalt kindle here." With her words she mingles wailing, and stains with blood her innocent bosom, while the caerulean sisters re-echo her lament ; so, men say, did Leucothea,^a not yet a

Isthmus of Corinth. Before his mother was made a Nymph, she was Ino, daughter of Cadmus.

STATIUS

Leucothean planxisse ferunt, dum pectore anhelō
frigidus in matrem saevum mare respuit infans.

At pater arcano residens Ismenos in antro,
unde aerae nubesque bibunt atque imbrifer arcus
pascitur et Tyrios melior venit annus in agros, 406
ut lamenta procul, quamquam obstrepit ipse, novos-
que

accepit natae gemitus, levat aspera musco
colla gravemque gelu crinem, ceciditque soluta
pinus adulta manu dimissaque volvitur urna. 410

illum per ripas annoso scrupea limo
ora exsertantem silvae fluviique minores
mirantur : tantus tumido de gurgite surgit,
spumosum attollens apicem lapsuque sonoro
pectora caeruleae rivis manantia barbae. 415

obvia cognatos gemitus casumque nepotis
Nympharum docet una patrem monstratque cruentum
auctorem dextramque premit : stetit arduus alto
anne, manuque genas et nexa virentibus ulvis
cornua concutiens sic turbidus ore profundo 420

incipit : “ huncne mihi, superum regnator, honorem,
quod totiens hospesque tuis et conscius actis—
nec memorare timor—falsa nunc improba fronte
cornua, nunc vetitam currus deiungere Phoeben,
dotaesque rogos deceptaque fulmina vidi 425
praecipuosque alui natorum ? an vilis et illis
gratia ? ad hunc certe repsit Tiryntius amnem,
hac tibi flagrantem Bromium restinximus unda.

^a Jupiter's amours with Europa, Alcmene, and Semele are thus alluded to ; Hercules and Bacchus were the sons of the two last-named.

Nereid, wail in Isthmus' haven, when her cold babe with gasping breast spewed out upon his mother the angry sea.

But father Ismenos, reclining in that secret cavern whence winds and clouds do drink and the rain-bringing bow is nourished, and whence comes a fuller harvest to the Tyrian fields, when from afar, spite of his own waters' roar, he caught the sound of lamentations and his daughter's earliest groans, uplifted his moss-grown neck and his ice-weighted hair; the tall pine fell from his loosened grasp, and the urn dropped and rolled away. Along the banks the woods and lesser rivers marvel at him as he thrusts forth his face encrusted with age-long mire; so majestically he rises from the flood, lifting his foamy head and his breast astream with the echoing fall of rivulets from his dark-blue beard. One of the Nymphs meets her father and tells him of his daughter's tears and his grandson's fate, and shows him the blood-stained author of the deed and seizes his right hand; high he stands in the deep river, and smiting his face and horns entwined with green sedge, thus begins sore troubled with deep-mouthed utterance: "Is this thy reward, O ruler of the gods above, for that so oft I played the accomplice-friend to thy adventures, and saw—I fear not to recall it—the shameless horns on thy false visage, then Phoebe forbidden to unyoke her car, or the dowry-gift of a funeral-pyre and the lightning's trickery^a? And that I have nurtured the foremost of thy sons? Do they too feel so mean a gratitude? Of a truth the Tirynthian crawled an infant by this river; with these waters I quenched thy Bromius as he burned.

STATIUS

aspice, quas fluvio caedes, quae funera portem,
 continuus telis alioque adopertus acervo. 430
 omne vadum belli series tenet, omnis anhelat
 unda nefas, subterque animae supraque recentes
 errant et geminas iungunt caligine ripas.
 ille ego clamatus sacris ululatibus annis,
 qui molles thyrsos Baccheaque cornua puro 435
 fonte lavare feror, stipatus caedibus artas
 in freta quaero vias ; non Strymonos impia tanto
 stagna cruore natant, non spumifer altius Hebrus
 Gradivo bellante rubet. nec te admonet altrix
 unda tuasque manus, iam pridem oblite parentum
 Liber ? an Eous melius pacatur Hydaspes ? 441
 at tu, qui tumidus spoliis et sanguine gaudes
 insontis pueri, non hoc ex amne potentem
 Inachon aut saevas victor revehere Mycenae,
 ni mortalis ego et tibi ductus ab aethere sanguis.”
 Sic ait infrendens et sponte furentibus undis 446
 signa dedit : mittit gelidus montana Cithaeron
 auxilia antiquasque nives et pabula brumae
 ire iubet ; frater tacitas Asopos eunti
 conciliat vires et hiulcis flumina venis 450
 suggerit. ipse cavae scrutatur viscera terrae
 stagnaque torpentesque lacus pigrasque paludes
 excutit, atque avidos tollens ad sidera voltus
 umentes nebulas exhaurit et aera siccant.
 iamque super ripas utroque exstantior ibat 455
 aggere, iam medium modo qui superaverat amnem

^a *i.e.*, so easily that you must needs fight here? References to the Eastern exploits of Bacchus are frequent.

^b The rivers have a common dwelling-place underground, whence they can secretly reinforce one another; “venis” refers to channels underground, “hiulcis” seems to imply

See the carnage and the corpses I carry on my stream, choked utterly with weapons as it is and hidden beneath unwonted heaps. Continuous warfare besets my channel, every wave breathes horror, and souls new-slain wander above me and beneath, and join bank to bank in darkness. Yet I, that river invoked with holy cries, I, whose praise it is to lave in my pure fount the soft wands and horns of Bacchus, am blocked with dead, and seek a difficult passage to the sea; so great a stream of gore fills not the impious meres of Strymon, and foaming Hebrus reddens not so deeply when Gradivus is at war. Does not thy fostering wave rebuke thee and thy violence, O Liber, who hast long forgotten thy parents? Is Eastern Hydaspes more easily subdued?^a But thou who boastfully exuldest in the spoils and slaughter of an innocent lad, thou shalt not return in triumph from this stream to mighty Inachus of fierce Mycenae, unless it be that I am mortal and thou of heavenly race.”

So spake he, gnashing his teeth, and gave the sign to his already raging waters: cold Cithaeron sends succour from the hills, and bids his ancient snows and stores of frost be moving; to the flood his brother Asopos unites his secret stores, and supplies streams from wide-open veins.^b He himself explores the hollow earth's recesses, and tries torpid lakes and pools and lazy fens, and lifting skyward his greedy countenance sucks down the moisture of the clouds and drains dry the air. Already he flowed with a tide that rose above either lofty bank, already Hippomedon, who of late stood higher than mid-that they are not closed but ready to connect with Ismenus's stream.

STATIUS

Hippomedon intactus aquis umerosque manusque,
 miratur crevisse vadum seseque minorem.
 hinc atque hinc tumidi fluctus animosaque surgit
 tempestas instar pelagi, cum Pliadas haurit 460
 aut nigrum trepidis impingit Oriona nautis.
 non secus aequoreo iactat Teumesius amnis¹
 Hippomedonta salo, semperque umbone sinistro
 tollitur et clipeum nigrante supervenit aestu
 spumeus adsultans, fractaque refunditur unda 465
 et cumulo maiore redit ; nec mole liquenti
 contentus carpit putres servantia ripas
 arbusta annosasque trabes eiectaque fundo
 saxa rotat. stat pugna impar amnisque virique,
 indignante deo ; nec enim dat terga nec ullis 470
 frangitur ille minis, venientesque obvius undas
 intrat et obiecta dispellit flumina parma.
 stant terra fugiente gradus, et poplite tenso
 lubrica saxa tenet, genibusque obnixus et haerens
 subruta fallaci servat vestigia limo, 475
 sic etiam increpitans : " unde haec, Ismene, repente
 ira tibi ? quove has traxisti gurgite vires,
 imbelli famulate deo solumque cruorem
 femineis experte choris, cum Bacchica mugit
 buxus et insane maculant trieterida² matres ? ' 480
 dixerat ; atque illi sese deus obtulit ultro
 turbidus imbre genas et nube³ natantis harenae,
 nec saevit dictis, trunca sed pectora quercu

¹ amnis ω : ignis *P.* ² trieterida *PBQ* : trieterica *DNS.*
³ nube *PBN* : mole ω .

^a The sea is described as (i.) draining the Pleiads, *i.e.* of their rain, *cf.* iv. 120, (ii.) hurling Orion against the sailors (by inversion, for the sailors, *i.e.* ships, against Orion), a 286

channel's depth, with unmoistened arms and shoulders, is marvelling that the stream has grown above his stature. All round him the billows swell and the angry tempest rises high, like the sea when it drains the Pleiads or flings darkened Orion against trembling mariners.^a Not otherwise does the Teumesian river batter Hippomedon with its seething flood and ever is hurled back by the shield on his left arm, and anon the dark tide in its foaming onslaught surges over his buckler, pours back with shattered wave and returns in greater volume; moreover, not content with the watery mass, it plucks at the trees that support the crumbling banks and whirls along aged boughs and stones torn from its bed. River and hero are locked in unequal combat, and furious grows the god; for the other retreats not, nor is weakened by any threats, but advancing attacks the oncoming billows, and holding out his shield divides the stream. His feet stand firm though the ground recedes, and with straining sinews he holds fast to slippery rocks, and by struggling and clinging with his knees he maintains the foothold that the treacherous mud undermines, and thus he taunts besides: "Whence, Ismenos, this sudden wrath? Or from what deeps hast thou drawn these forces, slave of an unwarlike god, who knowest nought of blood save in women's revels, when the Bacchic pipe is bleating, and frenzied matrons defile the three-yearly festival?" He spoke, and on the instant the god assailed him, his visage a welter of rain and clouded by floating sand; nor was he fierce in speech, but with an oak-common hyperbole in storm-descriptions; *cf.* Lucan, v. 625, 642. Both Orion and the Pleiades set in November, *i.e.*, the stormy season.

STATIUS

ter quater oppositi, quantum ira deusque valebat,
 impulit adsurgens : tandem vestigia flexit 485
 excussumque manu tegimen, conversaque lente
 terga refert. instant undae sequiturque labantem
 amnis ovans ; nec non saxis et grandine ferri
 desuper infestant Tyrii geminoque repellunt
 aggere. quid faciat bellis obsessus et undis ? 490
 nec fuga iam misero, nec magnae copia mortis.

Stabat gramineae producta crepidine ripae
 undarum ac terrae dubio, sed amior undis,
 fraxinus ingentique vadum possederat umbra.
 huius opem—nam qua terras invaderet ?—unca
 arripuit dextra : nec pertulit illa trahentem ; 496
 sed maiore super, quam stabat, pondere victa
 solvitur, et qua stagna subit radice quibusque
 arentem mordebat humum, demissa¹ superne
 iniecit sese trepido ripamque, nec ultra 500
 passa virum² subitae vallavit ponte ruinae.
 huc undae coeunt, et ineluctabile caeno
 verticibusque cavis sidit crescitque barathrum.
 iamque umeros, iam colla ducis sinuosa vorago
 circuit : hic demum victus suprema fateri 505
 exclamat : “ fluvione—pudet!—Mars inclyte, merges
 hanc animam, segnesque lacus et stagna subibo
 ceu pecoris custos, subiti torrentis iniquis
 interceptus aquis ? adeone occumbere ferro 509

¹ demissa ω : dimissa PL.

² passa virum *Barth* : passurum *Pω*.

^a Statius is here trying to concentrate his description into one effective phrase. He has in mind Hom. *Il.* xxi. 233 *sqq.*, the battle between Achilles and Scamander, especially 242 *sqq.* where the elm-tree that Achilles grasps falls into the river,

trunk thrice and four times smote his adversary's breast with all the might of a god's wrath, rising to the blow; he at last turned his steps, the buckler stricken from his arm, and beat a slow retreat. The waters press after him, and the river follows in triumph as he gives ground; the Tyrians too vex him from above with stones and iron hail, and drive him back from either bank. What can he do, beset by flood and battle? No flight is there now for the unhappy man, no room for a glorious death.

Rising from the grassy brim there stood an ash-tree, on the doubtful verge of land and waters but more friendly to the waters, and held the stream in the dominion of its mighty shadow. The succour of this tree—for where could he attempt the land?—he grasped with clutching fingers, nor did it endure the strain, but, overcome by a weight too great for its hold, gave way, and, torn from the roots whereby it entered the river and gripped the thirsty ground, dropped from on high and hurled itself and the bank together on the dismayed hero, nor brooking him further, bridged and dammed the stream with sudden downfall.^a Hither all the waves come surging, and an inescapable whirlpool of mud and hollow eddies rises and falls. And now the tortuous flood surrounds the shoulders, now the neck of the warrior; compelled at last to confess despair he exclaims: "For shame! great Mars! wilt thou drown this life of mine in a river? Must I then sink beneath sluggish lakes and meres like a shepherd caught in the cruel waters of a sudden torrent? Have I verily not deserved to fall by the sword?" Moved by his and "stemmed (*γεφύρωσεν*, lit. bridged) the River himself falling all within him" (Lang, Leaf, and Myers).

STATIUS

non merui ? ” tandem precibus commota Tonantem
 Iuno subit : “ quonam miseros, sator inelyte divum,
 Inachidas, quonam usque premes ? iam Pallas et odit
 Tydea, iam raptu tacuerunt augure Delphi :
 en meus Hippomedon, cui gentis origo Mycenae
 Argolicique lares numenque ante omnia Iuno— 515
 sic ego fida meis ?—pelagi crudelibus ibit
 praeda feris ? certe tumulos supremaque victis
 iusta¹ dabas ; ubi Cceropiae post proelia flammae,
 Theseos ignis ubi est ? ” non spernit coniugis aequas
 ille preces, leviterque oculos ad moenia Cadmi 520
 rettulit, et viso sederunt flumina nutu.
 illius exsanguis umeri et perfossa patescunt
 pectora : ceu ventis alte cum elata resedit
 tempestas, surgunt scopuli quaesitaque nautis 525
 terra, et ab infestis descendunt aequora saxis.
 quid ripas tenuisse iuvat ? premit undique nimbo
 telorum Phoenissa cohors, nec tegmina membris
 ulla, omnisque patet leto ; tunc vulnera manant,
 quique sub anne diu stupuit cruor, aere nudo
 solvitur et tenues venarum laxat hiatus, 530
 incertique labant undarum e frigore gressus.
 procumbit, Getico qualis procumbit in Haemo
 seu Boreae furiis putri seu robore quercus
 caelo mixta comas, ingentemque aera laxat :
 illam nutantem nemus et mons ipse tremiscit, 535
 qua tellure cadat, quas obruat ordine silvas.
 non tamen aut ensem galeamve audacia cuiquam

¹ iusta *Heinsius* : busta *Pw.*

^a Theseus, the champion of humanity, allowed his enemies to burn their dead after a battle ; in Book XII. he compels Creon to give the Argives the same right.

prayers Juno at length accosts the Thunderer : " How long, glorious sire of gods, how long wilt thou press the hapless sons of Inachus ? Already Pallas holds Tydeus in detestation, already Delphi is silent, its prophet slain ; lo ! my Hippomedon, whose home is Argos and Mycenae the cradle of his race, who worships Juno before all other gods—is it thus I am faithful to my own ?—shall my Hippomedon go to feed the cruel monsters of the deep ? Surely thou didst once allow the conquered to have the last rites of the tomb ? Where are the flames that followed the Cecropian fray ^a ? Where is Theseus' fire ? " He spurns not his consort's righteous plea, but lightly glanced towards Cadmus' walls : the waters beheld his nod and sank to rest. The shoulders and breast of the hero are revealed, those drained of blood, that pierced with wounds : as when a stormy sea, made mountainous by the winds, abates, the rocks and the land the sailors sought for rise into view, and the waters subside from the threatening crags. What avails it to have gained the bank ? The Phoenician host presses him on every side with a storm of darts, his limbs are without covering, all exposed is he to death ; then his wounds stream, and the blood that was staunch'd beneath the water flows in the open air and breaks the tender apertures of the veins, and the cold of the river makes him reel and stagger in his gait. He falls, even as on Getic Haemus, whether from Boreas' rage or its own strength's decay, an oak that blended its foliage with the sky falls forward and leaves a void in the wide air ; as it totters, the forest and the very mountain tremble, for fear where it may fall, what stretch of woodland it may shatter. Yet none dares touch his sword or

STATIUS

tangere ; vix credunt oculis ingentiaque horrent
funera, et adstrictis accedunt comminus armis.

Tandem adiit Hypseus capulumque¹ in morte
tenenti 540

extrahit et torvos laxavit casside vultus ;

itque per Aonios alte mucrone corusco
suspensam ostentans galeam et clamore superbit :

“ hic ferus Hippomedon, hic formidabilis ultor
Tydeos infandi debellatorque cruenti 545

gurgitis ! ” agnovit longe pressitque dolorem
magnanimus Capaneus, telumque immane lacerto²

hortatur librans : “ ades o mihi, dextera, tantum
tu praesens bellis et inevitabile numen,
te voco, te solam superum contemptor adoro.” 550

sic ait, et voti sese facit ipse potentem.

it tremibunda abies clipeum per et aerea texta³

loricae tandemque animam sub pectore magno
deprendit : ruit haud alio quam celsa fragore
turris, ubi innumeros penitus quassata per ictus 555

labitur effractamque aperit victoribus urbem.

cui super adsistens “ non infitiamur honorem
mortis ” ait, “ refer huc oculos, ego vulneris auctor ;
laetus abi multumque aliis iactantior umbris ! ”

tunc ensem galeamque rapit clipeumque revellit 560

Hypseos⁴ ; exanimumque tenens super Hippomedonta

“ accipe ” ait, “ simul hostiles, dux magne, tuasque
exuvias, veniet cineri decus et suus ordo

manibus ; interea iustos dum reddimus ignes,

hoc ultor Capaneus operit tua membra sepulcro.” 565

¹ capulum ω : caelum *P* : telum *Garrod*.

² lacerto : receptum *P* : (from -to) lacertum *Kohlmann*.
Klotz thinks recepto came from a false reading lacepto.

³ texta *Gronovius* : terga *P* ω .

⁴ Hypseos *Markland* : ipsius *P* ω .

helmet ; scarce believe they their eyes, but shudder at the monstrous corpse, and approach it with drawn swords.

At length Hypseus went near and wrenched the sword-hilt from his deathly grip, and freed the grim visage of its casque : then he goes through the Aonian ranks, displaying the helmet balanced aloft on his glittering blade, and crying exultantly : " Behold the fierce Hippomedon, behold the dread avenger of impious Tydeus, and the subduer of the gory flood ! " Great-hearted Capaneus^a knew him from afar, and mastered his rage, and poising a huge javelin with his arm thus prays : " Help me now, right arm of mine, my only present aid in battle and deity irresistible ! On thee I call, thee only I adore, despising the gods above." So he speaks, and himself fulfils his own prayer. The quivering fir-shaft flies through shield and corslet's brazen mail, and finds out at last the life deep in the mighty breast ; he falls with the thunderous crash of a lofty tower when pierced and shaken with innumerable blows it sinks in ruin, and opens the breached city to the conquerors. Then standing over him : " We deny thee not," says he, " thy death's renown ; look hither, 'twas I that dealt the wound. Depart in joy, and boast thee far beyond the other shades ! " Then he seizes the sword and casque of Hypseus, and tears away his shield ; and holding them over the dead Hippomedon : " Receive, O mighty chief," he cries, " thy own and thy enemy's spoils together ; thy ashes shall have their glory and thy shade its rightful rank. Meanwhile, till we pay thee the flame that is thy due, Capaneus thy avenger hides thy limbs in

^a Cf. Aesch. *Sept.* 422 *sqq.*

STATIUS

sic anceps dura belli vice mutua Grais
 Sidoniisque simul nectebat vulnera Mavors :
 hic ferox Hippomedon, illic non segnior Hypseus
 fletur, et alterni praebent solacia luctus.

Tristibus interea somnum turbata figuris 570
 torva sagittiferi mater Tegeatis ephebi,
 crine dato passim plantisque ex more solutis,
 ante diem gelidas ibat Ladonis ad undas
 purgatura malum fluvio vivente soporem.
 namque per attonitas curarum pondere noctes 575
 saepe et delapsas adytis, quas ipsa dicarat,
 exuvias, seque ignotis errare sepulcris
 extorrem nemorum Dryadumque a plebe fugatam,
 saepe novos nati bello rediisse triumphos,
 armaque et alipedem notum comitesque videbat, 580
 numquam ipsum, nunc ex umeris fluxisse pharetras,
 effigiesque suas simulacraque nota cremari.
 praecipuos sed enim illa metus portendere visa est
 nox miserae totoque erexit pectore matrem.
 nota per Arcadias felici robore silvas 585
 quercus erat, Triviae quam desacraverat ipsa
 electam turba nemorum numenque colendo
 fecerat : hic arcus et fessa reponere tela,
 armaque curva suum et vacuorum terga leonum
 figere et ingentes aequantia cornua silvas. 590
 vix ramis¹ locus, agrestes adeo omnia cingunt

¹ ramis *Pω* : radiis *Barth.*

^a Atalanta, an Arcadian maiden, vowed to chastity, until, according to one legend, she became the mother of Parthenopaeus by Ares, according to another, by Milanion, who married her after defeating her in the famous footrace; other legends again make her of Boeotian origin. Tegea is in Arcadia. Statius seems to follow the first form of the

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this sepulchre." Thus impartial Mars in the cruel vicissitudes of war gave interchange of mutual slaughter to Greeks and to Sidonians alike: here they mourn fierce Hippomedon, there Hypseus, no slower to the fray, and each gain solace from their foes' distress.

Meanwhile the stern-eyed mother of the Tegean archer-lad,^a troubled in her sleep by gloomy dreams, with flying hair and feet duly unsandalled was going before day-break to Ladon's chilly stream, that she might cleanse her from her tainted slumbers in its living waters. For throughout many a distracted, care-worn night she would often see spoils that she herself had dedicated fallen from the shrines, and herself, a fugitive from the woodlands and chased away by Dryad folk, wandering by unknown tombs, and often new-won triumphs of her son brought home from the war, his armour, his well-known steed, his comrades, but himself never; or again she would see her quiver fallen from her shoulders, and her own images and familiar likenesses aflame. But that night seemed to the unhappy woman to portend surpassing terrors, and disturbed all her mother's heart. Well-known throughout the forests of Arcadia was an oak of fertile growth, which she herself had chosen from a multitude of groves and made sacred to Diana, and by her worship endued with power divine; here she would lay by her bow and weary shafts, and fasten the curved weapons of boars and the flayed skins of lions, and antlers huge as woodland boughs. Scarce have the branches room, so closely set is it with spoils of the country-side, and the story (*cf.* l. 613 and "culpam," l. 617), but he speaks of "parents" in l. 780 without any allusion to Ares.

STATIUS

exuviae, et viridem ferri nitor impedit umbram.
 hane, ut forte iugis longo defessa redibat
 venatu, modo rapta ferox Erymanthidos ursae
 ora ferens, multo proscissam vulnere cernit 595
 deposuisse comam et rorantes sanguine ramos
 exspirare solo ; quaerenti Nympha eruentas
 Maenadas atque hostem dixit saevisse Lyaeum.
 dum gemit et planetu circumdat pectus inani,
 abruptere oculi noctem maestoque cubili 600
 exsilit et falsos quaerit per lumina fletus.
 Ergo ut in amne nefas merso ter crine piavit
 verbaque sollicitas matrum solantia curas
 addidit, armatae ruit ad delubra Dianae
 rore sub Eoo, notasque ex ordine silvas 605
 et quercum gavisa videt. tunc limina divae
 adstitit et tali nequiquam voce precatur :
 “ virgo potens nemorum, cuius non mollia signa
 militiamque trucem sexum indignata frequento
 more nihil Graio—nec te gens aspera ritu 610
 Colchis Amazoniaeve magis coluere catervae— :
 si mihi non umquam thiasi ludusve protervae
 noctis et, invisio quamvis temerata cubili,
 non tamen aut teretes thyrsos aut mollia gessi
 pensa, sed in tetricis et post conubia lustris 615
 sic quoque venatrix animumque innupta remansi :
 nec mihi secretis culpam occultare sub antris
 cura, sed ostendi prolem posuique trementem
 ante tuos confessa pedes ; nec degener ille
 sanguinis inque meos reptavit protinus arcus, 620

^a For this use of “impedit” may be compared Hor. *Od.* i. 4. 9 “viridi nitidum caput impedire myrto.”

^b Ominous of her son's fate in the Theban war.

^c *i.e.*, of Theban Bacchanals.

sheen of steel mingles ^a with the green shade. This oak-tree, when once she was returning from the uplands tired with the long chase, and carrying in proud triumph the head late-severed of an Erymanthian bear, she beheld all hacked and torn with many a wound, its foliage fallen, and its branches dripping blood and dying on the ground; in answer to her question a Nymph told of the violence of cruel Maenads and her foe Lyaeus.^b While she moaned and beat her breast with imaginary blows, her eyes cast off their darkness; from her sorrowing couch she leaps, and searches o'er her cheeks for the phantom tears.

So when by dipping thrice her hair in the river she had atoned the sacrilege, and added words that comfort a mother's troubled heart, she hastened to armed Diana's shrine while the morning dew was falling, and rejoiced to see the familiar woodland and the oak-tree all unharmed. Then standing at the threshold of the goddess she prays thus, to no avail: "Maiden Queen of the forests, whose ungentle standards and ruthless warfare I follow, scorning my sex, in no Grecian manner—nor are the barbarous-fashioned Colchians or troops of Amazons more truly thy votaries—if I have never joined revelling bands or the wanton nightly sport,^c if, although stained by a hated union, I have nevertheless handled not the smooth wands nor the soft skeins, but even after wedlock remained in the rough wilds, a huntress still and in my heart a virgin; if I took no thought to hide my fault in some secret cave, but showed my child and confessed and laid him trembling at thy feet—no puny weakling was he, but straightway crawled to my bow, and as a babe he cried for arrows

STATIUS

tela puer lacrimis et prima voce poposcit :¹
 hunc mihi—quid trepidae noctes somnusque minan-
 tur ?—

hunc, precor, audaei qui nunc ad proelia voto
 heu nimium tibi fisus abit, da visere belli
 victorem, vel, si ampla peto, da visere tantum !² 625
 hic sudet tuaque arma ferat. preme dira malorum
 signa ; quid in nostris, nemoralis Delia, silvis
 Maenades hostiles Thebanaeque numina regnant ?
 ei mihi ! cur penitus—simque augur eassa futuri !—
 cur penitus magnoque interpretor omine quercum ?
 quod si vera sopor miserae praesagia mittit, 631
 per te maternos, mitis Dictynna, labores
 fraternumque decus, cunctis³ hunc fige sagittis
 infelicem uterum ; miserae sine funera matris
 audiat ille prior !” dixit, fletuque soluto 635
 aspicit et niveae saxum maduisse Dianae.

Illam diva ferox etiamnum in limine sacro
 expositam et gelidas verrentem crinibus aras
 linquit, et in mediis frondentem Maenalon astris
 exsuperat saltu gressumque ad moenia Cadmi 640
 destinat, interior caeli qua semita lucret⁴
 dis tantum, et cunctas iuxta videt ardua terras.
 iamque fere medium Parnassi frondea praeter
 colla tenebat iter, cum fratrem in nube corusca
 aspicit haud solito visu : remeabat ab armis 645
 maestus Echioniis, demersi funera lugens

¹ *This line is not in P, and is condemned by some edd.*

² *In some late mss. after this line follows “ si non victorem, da tantum cernere victum,” “ grant me to behold him, if not victor, at least vanquished.”*

³ cunctis P : iustis ω.

⁴ lucret ω : ducit P.

^a Different regions of the sky were apportioned to
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in his first tearful accents : for him I pray—ah ! what mean these nights of terror, these threatening dreams ?—for him, who now in confident hope, trusting overmuch, alas, in thee, is gone to battle ; grant me to see him victorious in the war, or if I ask too much, grant me but to see him ! Here let him labour and bear thy arms. Make the dire signs of ill to cease ; what power, O Diana of the woods, have Maenads and Theban deities in our glades ? Woe is me ! why in my own heart—may my augury be vain !—why in my own heart do I find a dreadful omen in the oak ? But if sleep sends true presagings to my unhappy mind, I beseech thee, merciful Dictynna, by thy mother's travail and thy brother's splendour, pierce with all thine arrows this unblest womb ! Let him first hear of his wretched mother's death ! ” She spoke, and beheld even cold Diana's marble moist with falling tears.

The stern goddess leaves her still stretched upon the sacred doorway and brushing the cold altar with her tresses, and with a bound crosses the leafy summit of Maenalos in mid-air and directs her steps to Cadmus' walls, where the inner path of heaven^a shines for gods alone, and high uplifted views all the earth together. And now, near half-way on her road, she was passing the forest-clad ridges of Parnassus, when in a glittering cloud she saw her brother not as she was wont to see him : for he was returning sadly from the Echionian fray, mourning

different grades of supernatural beings ; *cf.* *Phars.* ix. 5, where Lucan speaks of demigods (“*semidei manes*”) having the space between earth and moon allotted to them (also *Silv.* ii. 7. 109). The “*interior semita*” would refer to some loftier zone.

STATIUS

auguris. inrubit caeli plaga sidere mixto,
 occursuque sacro pariter iubar arsit utrimque,
 et coiere arcus et respondere pharetrae.¹
 ille prior : "scio, Labdacias, germana, cohortes 650
 et nimium fortes ausum petis Arcada pugnas.
 fida rogat genetrix : utinam indulgere precanti
 fata darent ! en ipse mei—pudet !—inritus arma
 cultoris frondesque sacras ad inania vidi
 Tartara et in memet versos descendere vultus ; 655
 nec tenui currus terraeque abrupta coegi,
 saevus ego immeritusque coli. lugentia cernis
 antra, soror, mutasque domos : haec sola rependo
 dona pio comiti ; nec tu peritura movere
 auxilia et maestos in vanum perge labores. 660
 finis adest iuveni, non hoc mutabile fatum,
 nec te de dubiis fraterna oracula fallunt."
 "sed decus extremum certe ²" confusa vicissim
 virgo refert, "veraeque licet solacia morti
 quaerere, nec fugiet poenas, quicumque nefandam
 insontis pueri scelerarit sanguine dextram 666
 impius, et nostris fas sit saevire sagittis."
 sic effata movet gressus libandaque fratri
 parcius ora tulit, Thebasque infesta petivit.
 At pugna ereptis maior crudescit utrimque 670
 regibus, alternosque ciet vindicta furores.
 Hypseos hinc turmae desolatumque magistro
 agmen, at hinc gravius fremit Hippomedontis adempti

¹ *Lines 648-9 omitted in P.*

² *certe P : misero ω.*

^a Some commentators think that Statius means to describe an eclipse of the sun in this meeting of Diana and Apollo.

the death of the engulfed augur. The region of the sky glowed red as their rays mingled; at the divine conjunction the beams of each shone out, their bows met, and quiver rang to quiver.^a He first began: "I know, my sister, 'tis the Labdacian ranks thou seekest, and the Arcadian who dares a fight too valiant for him. His faithful mother begs thee: would that the Fates might grant her prayer! Lo! I myself have availed not—ah! for shame!—but seen my votary's arms and consecrated laurels go down to the void of Tartarus, and his face turned toward me as he went, nor did I check his car or close the chasm of the earth, heartless that I am and unworthy to be worshipped. Thou seest how my caverns mourn, O sister, and the silence of my shrine; this is my sole recompense to my loyal friend. Nor do thou continue to summon aid that can but fail, nor pursue thy sad task in vain; the youth is near his end, 'tis fate immutable, nor do thy brother's oracles deceive thee on a doubtful matter." "But I may surely obtain glory for him at the last," the maiden in dismay replies, "and find a solace for his death, if indeed it so must be, nor shall that man escape unpunished, whoever shall impiously stain his guilty hand with the blood of an innocent boy, and may my shafts wreak a dire revenge!" With these words she moved upon her way, and suffering her brother but a scant embrace sought Thebes in hostile mood.

But on either side after the slaying of the chiefs the fight waxed fiercer, and the lust of vengeance aroused mutual rage. Here the squadrons of Hypseus shout and the troop that has lost its leader, there with deeper roar the bereft cohort of the dead

STATIUS

orba cohors ; praebent obnixa corpora ferro,
 idem ardor rabidis externum haurire cruorem 675
 ac fudisse suum, nec se vestigia mutant :
 stat cuneo defixa acies, hostique cruento
 dant animas et terga negant¹ : cum lapsa per auras
 vertice Dircae velox Latonia montis
 adstitit ; adgnoscent colles notamque tremiscit 680
 silva deam, saevis ubi quondam exserta sagittis
 fecundam lasso Nioben consumpserat arcu.
 Illum acies inter coepta² iam caede superbum
 nescius armorum et primas tunc passus habenas
 venator raptabat equus, quem discolor ambit 685
 tigris et auratis adverberat unguibus armos.
 colla sedent nodis et castigata iubarum
 libertas, nemorisque notae sub pectore primo
 iactantur niveo lunata monilia dente.
 ipse bis Oebalio saturatam murice pallam 690
 lucentesque auro tunicas—hoc neverat unum
 mater opus—tenui collectus in ilia vinelo,
 cornipedis laevo clipeum demiserat armo,
 ense gravis nimio : tereti iuvat³ aurea morsu
 fibula, pendentes circum latera aspera cinctus, 695
 vaginaeque sonum tremulumque audire pharetrae
 murmur et a cono missas in terga catenas ;
 interdum cristas hilaris iactare comantis
 et pictum gemmis galeae iubar. ast ubi pugna
 cassis anhela calet, resoluta vertice nudus 700

¹ negant ω : natant *P* : vetant *Postgate*.

² coepta *Kohlmann* : coeptas *P* : medias ω .

³ iuvat ω : iubet *P* : ligat, levat, vorat *edd*.

Hippomedon ; fiercely struggling they expose their bodies to the sword, and with equal ardour drain the foe's blood and shed their own, nor do they budge a step: the lines stand locked, column against column, and they yield their lives, but will not turn their backs, to the cruel foe—when gliding through the air the swift Latonian takes her stand on the Dircaean height ; the hills know her, and the forest trembles at the well-known goddess, where once bare-breasted with cruel arrows she had slain Niobe and all her brood, out-wearying her bow.

But the lad, exultant now that the slaughter has begun, was darting between the lines on a hunter steed, untrained to war and suffering then his earliest bridle ; about him was cast a striped tiger-skin, and the gilded talons beat upon his shoulders : his knotted mane in controlled luxuriance lies close against his neck, and upon his breast tosses a crescent chain of snow-white tusks, tokens of the woodland. The boy wore a cloak twice steeped in Oebalian dye,^a and a glittering gold-embroidered tunic—only this had his mother woven—gathered about his waist by a slender girdle, and, burdened by a huge sword, he had let drop his shield on the left shoulder of his horse ; the golden buckle of the belt that hangs by his armed side delights him with its polished clasp, and he joys to hear the rattle of the scabbard and the rustling murmur of the quiver and the sound of the chains that fall behind him from his crest ; sometimes he gaily tosses his flowing plume and his glancing jewel-studded casque. But when his panting helm grows hot in the fight, he frees him of the covering

^a *i.e.*, Laconian (from Oebalus, once king of Sparta): *cf.* Hor. *Od.* ii. 18. 8. It was the purple dye from shell-fish.

exoritur¹ : tunc dulce comae radiisque trementes²
 dulce nitent visus et, quas dolet ipse morari,
 nondum mutatae rosea lanugine malae.
 nec formae sibi laude placet multumque severis
 asperat ora minis, sed frontis servat honorem 705
 ira decens. dat sponte locum Thebana iuventus,
 natorum memores, intentaque tela retorquent,
 sed premit et saevas miserantibus ingerit hastas.
 illum et Sidoniae iuga per Teumesia³ Nymphae
 bellantem atque ipso sudore et pulvere gratum 710
 laudant, et tacito ducunt suspiria voto.

Talia cernenti mitis subit alta Dianae
 corda dolor, fletuque genas violata "quod" inquit,
 "nunc tibi, quod leti quaeram dea fida propinqui
 effugium? haecne ultro properasti in proelia, saeve
 ac miserande puer? cruda heu festinaque virtus 716
 suasit et hortatrix animosi gloria leti.
 scilicet angustum iamdudum urgentibus annis
 Maenaliū tibi, parve, nemus, perque antra ferarum
 vix tutae sine matre viae, silvestria cuius 720
 nondum tela procax arcumque implere valebas.
 et nunc illa meas ingentem plangit ad aras
 invidiam surdasque fores et limina lassat:
 tu dulces lituos ululataque proelia gaudes
 felix et miserae tantum moriture parenti." 725
 ne tamen extremo frustra morientis honori
 adfuerit, venit in medios caligine furva

¹ nudus exoritur *P*ω : vultus exseritur *conj.* Garrod.

² trementes *BDQ* : frementes *P* : meantes, micantes, etc.,
MSS.

³ iuga per *T.* ω : Teumesi e vertice *P* (*from viii. 344*).

^a *i.e.*, he would die so nobly that only his mother would weep.

and appears bare-headed; then sweetly shine his locks and his countenance, all a-quiver in the sunbeams, and the cheeks whose tardiness he himself laments, not yet changed by rosy down. Nor does he find pleasure in the praise of his own fairness, but puts on a harsh severity of look; yet anger becomes him and preserves the beauty of his brow. Freely do the Theban warriors yield him place, remembering their own sons, and relax their straining bows, but he pursues and plies them with ruthless javelins, for all their pity. Even the Sidonian Nymphs along Teumesian ridges praise him as he fights; his very dust and sweat are in favour, and sighing they breathe unspoken prayers.

Tender sorrow steals to the depth of Diana's heart as she beholds this sight, and staining her cheeks with tears she cries: "What escape from approaching death can thy faithful goddess find thee now? Was it to battles such as these thou hastenedst, fierce, ill-fated lad? Alas! thy rash and untried spirit drove thee, and the love of fame that prompts to a glorious death. Too scant already, forsooth, was the Maenalian forest for thy impetuous years, and the paths that lay through lairs of beasts, scarce safe for thee, child, without thy mother, to whose bow and woodland spears, impudent boy, thy strength was yet unequal. And she now is making loud and bitter complaint about my altars, and wearies the unhearing doors and thresholds; in the well-loved clarions and the battle's outcry thou art rejoicing, happy thou, and thou shalt die making but thy mother wretched." ^a Yet lest as he dies she fail to bring him her last honour, she advances into the midst of the array, hemmed about

STATIUS

saepta globos, primumque leves furata sagittas
 audacis tergo pueri caelestibus implet
 coryton telis, quorum sine sanguine nullum 730
 decidit ; ambrosio tum spargit membra liquore,
 spargit equum, ne quo violetur¹ vulnere corpus
 ante necem, cantusque sacros et conscia miscet
 murmura, secretis quae Colchidas ipsa sub antris
 nocte docet monstratque feras quaerentibus herbas.

Tunc vero exserto circumvolat igneus arcu 736
 nec se mente regit, patriae matrisque suique
 immemor, et nimium caelestibus utitur armis :
 ut leo, cui parvo mater Gaetula cruentos
 suggerit ipsa cibos, cum primum crescere sensit 740
 colla iubis torvusque novos respexit ad unguis,
 indignatur ali, tandemque effusus apertos
 liber amat campos et nescit in antra reverti.
 quos, age, Parrhasio sternis, puer improbe, cornu ?
 prima Tanagraeum turbavit harundo Coroebum 745
 extremo galeae primoque in margine parmae
 angusta transmissa via, stat faucibus unda
 sanguinis, et sacri facies rubet igne veneni.
 saevius Eurytion, cui luminis orbe sinistro
 callida² tergeminis acies se condidit uncis. 750
 ille trahens oculo plenam labente sagittam
 ibat in auctorem : sed divum fortia quid non
 tela queant ? alio geminatum lumine volnus
 explevit tenebras ; sequitur tamen improbus hostem,
 qua meminit, fusum donec prolapsus in Idan 755
 decidit : hic saevi miser inter funera belli
 palpitat et mortem sociosque hostesque precatur.

¹ violetur *P* : temeretur ω .

² callida *PB* : aspera ω .

with dusky mist, and first stealing the light shafts from the back of the bold lad, she fill his quiver with celestial arrows, whereof none falls unstained with blood; then she sprinkles his limbs with ambrosial liquor, and his steed also, lest their bodies be profaned by any wound before his death, and murmurs many a sacred charm and conscious spell, which she herself teaches the Colchian maids at night in secret caves, and as they search shows them cruel herbs.

Then indeed uncovering his bow he darts in fiery course about the field, nor is controlled by caution, forgetful of his native land, his mother and himself, and uses overmuch his heavenly weapons: just as a lion, whose Gaetolian dam brings him herself in his infancy gory food, as soon as he feels his neck swell with muscles and grimly looks at his new talons, scorns to be fed, and at last breaks forth to freedom and loves the open plains, and can no more return to his cave. Whom now slayest thou, ruthless boy, with thy Parrhasian horn? Coroebus of Tanagra, did thy first shaft lay low, sped on a narrow path between the lowest margin of the helm and the uppermost of the shield; the blood wells up into his throat, and his face glows red with the sacred fiery venom. More cruelly Eurytion falls, in the orb of whose left eye the cunning point buries itself with triple barb. Pulling out the arrow that brings the melting eyeball with it, he dashes at his assailant; but what cannot the brave weapons of the gods perform? A second wound in the other orb makes his darkness complete; yet he yields not but pursues the foe by memory's aid, until he trips and falls o'er prostrate Idas: there wretchedly he lies gasping amid the victims of the cruel fight, and entreats friend

addit Abantiadas, insignem crinibus Argum
 et male dilectum miseræ Cydona sorori.¹ 759
 huic geminum obliqua traiecit harundine tempus, 761
 exsilit hac ferrum, velox hac pinna remansit :
 fluxit utrimque cruor. nulli tela aspera mortis
 dant veniam, non forma Lamum, non infula Lygdum,
 non pubescentes texerunt Aeolon anni : 765
 figitur ora² Lamus, flet saucius inguina Lygdus,
 perfossus³ telo niveam gemis, Aeole, frontem.
 te praeceps Euboea tulit, te candida Thisbe
 miserat, hunc virides non excipietis Erythrae.⁴ 769
 numquam cassa manus, nullum sine numine⁵ fugit
 missile, nec requies dextrae, sonitumque priori
 iungit harundo sequens. unum quis crederet arcum
 aut unam saevire manum ? modo derigit ictus,
 nunc latere alterno dubius conamina mutat,
 nunc fugit instantes et solo respicit arcu. 775

Et iam mirantes indignantesque coibant
 Labdacidae, primusque Iovis de sanguine claro
 Amphion ignarus adhuc, quae funera campis
 ille daret : “ quonam usque moram lucrabère fati,
 o multum meritos puer orbature parentes ? 780
 quin etiam menti tumor atque audacia gliscit,
 congressus dum nemo tuos pugnamque minorem
 dignatur bellis, iramque relinqueris infra.
 i, repete Arcadium mixtusque aequalibus illic,

¹ After 759 follows “ illi perfossus telo patefecerat inguen,” not found in *P* ω , only in later *MSS.*, and clearly spurious.

² ora ω : ilia *P* : ile *Garrod*. *Klotz* suggests that ilia was a gloss on inguina.

³ perfossus *Bentley* : perfossam *P* ω .

⁴ Erythrae *Koestlin* : Amyclae *P* ω , which must be wrong, as Thebans are spoken of : Hyrides . . . amicae *Phillimore*.

⁵ numine *P* : vulnere ω .

and foe to slay him. To these he adds the sons of Abas, Argus of the noble locks, and Cydon, guiltily loved by his unhappy sister. Him did he pierce through both his temples with transverse-flying shaft: from one temple the point protrudes, at the other the feathers' flight was stayed, from both the blood came flowing. None do his angry darts excuse from death, Lamus is not shielded by his beauty, nor Lygdus by his fillet, nor Aeolos by his budding manhood. Lamus is pierced in the face, Lygdus bewails a wounded groin, thou, Aeolus, dost bemoan the dart that transfixed thy snow-white brow. Thee rocky Euboea bore, thee Thisbe shining white had sent, this warrior, green Erythrae, thou wilt not receive again. No blow but tells, no missile flies unfavoured of heaven, his right hand rests not, and the next arrow's twang follows hard upon the last. Who could believe that one bow, one arm was dealing death? Now aims he forward, now shifts from side to side in bewildering change of attack, now flees when they assail and turns nought but his bow to face them.

And now in wonder and indignation the sons of Labdacus were rallying, and first Amphion, of Jove's famous seed, ignorant still what deaths the lad was dealing on the battle-field: "How long shalt thou still make profit of death's delaying, thou boy that shalt be a sore loss to thy goodly parents? Nay, even yet thy spirit swells high and thy rashness grows, while none deigns to meet thy onset and thy too feeble might, and thou art left as beneath their wrath. Go, return to thy Arcadia and mingling with thy equals

dum ferus hic vero desaevit pulvere Mavors, 785
 proelia lude domi: quodsi te maesta sepulcri
 fama movet, dabimus leto moriari¹ virorum! ”
 iamdudum hunc contra stimulis gravioribus ardet
 trux Atalantiades—needum ille quierat—et inquit:
 “ sera etiam in Thebas, quarum hic exercitus, arma
 profero; quisnam adeo puer, ut bellare recuset 791
 talibus? Arcadiae stirpem et fera semina gentis,
 non Thebana vides: non me sub nocte silenti
 Thyias Echionio genetrix famulata Lyaeo
 edidit, haud umquam deformis vertice mitras 795
 induimus turpemque² manu iactavimus hastam.
 protinus adstrictos didiei reptare per amnes
 horrendasque domos magnarum intrare ferarum
 et—quid plura loquar? ferrum mea semper et arcus
 mater habet, vestri feriunt cava tympana patres.” 800
 non tulit Amphion vultumque et in ora loquentis
 telum immane rotat; sed ferri lumine diro
 turbatus sonipes sese dominumque retorsit
 in latus atque avidam transmisit devius hastam.
 acrior hoc iuvenem stricto mucrone petebat 805
 Amphion, cum se medio Latonia campo
 iecit et ante oculos omnis stetit obvia vultu.

Haerebat iuveni devinctus amore pudico
 Maenalius Dorceus, cui bella suumque timorem
 mater et audaces pueri mandaverat annos. 810
 huius tum vultu dea dissimulata profatur:
 “ hactenus Ogygias satis infestasse catervas,
 Parthenopaeae, satis; miserae iam parce parenti,

¹ moriari *Housman*: moriere *Pw.*

² turpemque *Klotz*: turpique *Pw.*

there, while fierce Mars exhausts his fury here in the real dust of war, play thy soldier games at home ! But if the melancholy glory of the tomb doth move thee, we will grant thee to die a hero's death." Long had the truculent son of Atalanta raged with yet bitterer taunts against him, and ere yet the other had ended thus begins : " Nay, I am even late in making war on Thebes, if this is all your host ! What boy so tender as to refuse to fight with such as these ? No Theban offspring seest thou here, but the warlike stock of the Arcadian race ; no Thyiad mother, slave to Echionian Lyaeus, bore me in the silence of the night, never have we put unsightly turbans on our heads, nor brandished dishonourable spears. From childhood I learnt to crawl on frozen streams, and to enter the dread lairs of monsters, and—but why should I say more ? My mother has ever the sword and bow, your fathers beat hollow drums ! " Amphion brooked this not, but hurled a mighty spear at his face while he spoke ; but his charger, affrighted by the terrible gleam of the steel, swung round with his master to one side, and swerving sent the greedy javelin flying wide of the mark. Amphion was attacking the youth with drawn sword the more fiercely, when the Latonian^a leapt down into midplain, and stood clear to see before the eyes of all.

Dorceus of Maenalus, bound by the ties of chaste affection, was keeping close to the lad's side : to him the queen had entrusted her son's rash youth and her own fears and all the chances of war. Disguised in his features the goddess then addressed the boy : " Enough, Parthenopaeus, to have routed the Ogygian bands so far ; enough, now spare thy un-

^a *i.e.*, Diana (=Artemis, daughter of Latona).

STATIUS

parce deis, quicumque favent." nec territus ille :
 " hunc sine me—non plura petam—fidissime Dorceu,
 sternere humi, qui tela meis gerit aemula telis 816
 et similes cultus et frena sonantia iactat.
 frena regam, cultus Triviae pendebitis alto
 limine, captivis matrem donabo pharetris."
 audiit et mixto risit Latonia fletu. 820

Viderat hanc caeli iamdudum in parte remota
 Gradivum complexa Venus, dumque anxia Thebas
 commemorat Cadmumque viro caraeque nepotes
 Harmoniae, pressum tacito sub corde dolorem
 tempestiva movet : " nonne hanc, Gradive, protervam
 virginitate vides mediam se ferre virorum 826
 coetibus ? utque acies audax et Martia signa
 temperet ? en etiam donat praebetque necandos
 tot nostra de gente viros. huic tradita virtus,
 huic furor ? agrestes superest tibi figere dammas."
 desiluit iustis commotus in arma querellis 831
 Bellipotens, cui sola vagum per inane ruenti
 Ira comes, reliqui sudant ad bella Furores.
 nec mora, cum maestam monitu Letoida duro
 increpat adsistens : " non haec tibi proelia divum 835
 dat pater ; armiferum ni protinus improba campum
 deseris, huic aequam nosces nec Pallada dextrae."
 quid faciat contra ? premit hinc Mavortia cuspis,
 hinc plenae tibi, parve, colus, Iovis inde severi
 vultus : abit solo post haec evicta pudore. 840

happy mother, spare the gods who favour thee." But he unterrified: "Suffer me, faithful Dorceus—no more will I ask—to slay this man who bears weapons that rival mine, and boasts like apparel and resounding reins. These reins I will handle, the apparel shall hang on Trivia's lofty door, and his captured quiver shall be a present to my mother." The Latonian heard him, and smiled amid her tears.

Long time from a distant quarter of the sky had Venus, in the embrace of Mars, beheld her, and while she anxiously commended Thebes and Cadmus and her dear Harmonia's progeny to her lord, she stirred with timely utterance the grief that lay hidden in his silent breast: "Seest thou not, O Gradivus, yonder wanton maid who goes to and fro among the troops of warriors? And with what boldness she is ordering the lines and the Martial standards? Lo! she even presents and offers to the slaughter all these men of our own race! Hath she then valour? Hath she the rage of battle? Nought then remains for thee but to hunt the woodland deer!" Moved by these just complaints the lord of war sprang down into the fight: as he sped through the paths of air Anger alone was his companion: the other Madnesses were busy in the sweat of war. Without delay he stands by Lato's sorrowing daughter and chides her with harsh reproof: "Not such battles as these does the Father of the gods allow thee: leave forthwith the field of arms, thou shameless one, or thou shalt learn that not even Pallas is a match for this right hand." What can she do against him? On one side the spear of Mavors threatens her, on the other, child, is thy distaff, full already, yonder the stern countenance of Jove: then she departs, yielding to reverence alone.

STATIUS

At pater Ogygias Mavors circumspicit alas
 horrendumque Dryanta movet, cui sanguinis auctor
 turbidus Orion, comitesque odisse Dianae
 (inde furit) patrium. hic¹ turbatos arripit ense
 Arcadas exarmatque ducem ; cedit agmine longo
 Cyllenes populus Tegeesque habitator opacae, 846
 Aepytiique duces Telphusiacaque phalanges.
 ipsum autem et lassa fidit prosternere dextra,
 nec servat vires : etenim huc iam fessus et illuc
 mutabat turmas ; urgent praesagia mille 850
 funeris, et nigrae praecedunt nubila mortis.
 iamque miser raros comites verumque videbat
 Dorcea, iam vires paulatim abscedere sensit,
 sensit et exhaustas umero levioe pharetras ;
 iam minus atque minus fert arma puerque videtur 855
 et sibi, cum torva clipei metuendus obarsit
 luce Dryas : tremor ora repens ac viscera torsit
 Arcados ; utque feri vectorem fulminis albus
 cum supra respexit olor, cupit hiscere ripam
 Strymonos et trepidas in pectora contrahit alas : 860
 sic iuvenem saevi conspecta mole Dryantos
 iam non ira subit, sed leti nuntius horror.
 arma tamen, frustra superos Triviamque precatus,
 molitur pallens et surdos expedit arcus.
 iamque instat telis et utramque obliquus² in ulnam³
 cornua contingit mucrone et pectora nervo, 866
 cum ducis Aonii magno cita turbine cuspis

¹ patrium hic *Alton* : primum *Pω*, hic *DNS* and *Q* (*with n over*), hinc *B*.

² obliquus ω : oblitus *P* : obnixus *Phillimore*.

³ ulnam ω : urnam *P*.

^a For this use of "patrium" cf. Val. Fl. ii. 157 "adde cruentis quod patrium saevire Dahis," and *Theb.* xi. 33.

^b Diana in l. 811 is mentioned as having taken the shape of Dorceus.

But father Mavors looks round upon the Ogygian ranks, and rouses up the terrible Dryas, who had turbulent Orion as the author of his blood, and an inherited ^a hatred of Diana's followers—hence came his fury. Sword in hand he leaps upon the disheartened Arcadians, and robs their leader of his arms: in long lines fall the folk that dwell in Cyllene and shady Tegea, and the Aepytian chieftains and the Telphusian cohorts. Their prince himself he is confident to slay, though his arm be tired, nor does he husband his strength; for the other, already weary, was wheeling his squadrons here and there: a thousand presentiments of doom crowd on him, and the black clouds of death float before his eyes. And now the wretched lad could see but few companions and the true Dorceus,^b now he felt his force ebb little by little, and his shoulder lighten as the shafts diminished; already less and less can he support his armour, and even to himself he seems now but a boy, when Dryas blazed terribly before him with fiercely-flashing shield; a sudden tremor shook the countenance and the frame of the Arcadian, and, just as when a white swan sees above him the bearer of the angry thunderbolt he wishes that Strymon's bank would gape and gathers his trembling wings about his breast, so the youth, perceiving the great bulk of savage Dryas, felt wrath no longer, but a thrill that heralded death. Yet he plies his weapons, pale-faced and praying vainly to Trivia and the gods, and makes ready the bow that will not answer. Already he is on the point to shoot, and with both elbows held aslant he is touching the bow with the arrow-head and his breast with the string—when, mightily whirled, the Aonian chieftain's spear flies

STATIUS

fertur in adversum nervique obliqua sonori
vincla secat : pereunt ictus manibusque remissis
vana supinato ceciderunt spicula cornu. 870

tunc miser et frenos turbatus et arma remisit,
vulneris impatiens, umeri quod tegmine dextri
intrarat facilemque cutem : subit altera cuspis
cornipedisque fugam succiso poplite sistit.
tunc cadit ipse Dryas—mirum—nec vulneris umquam
consciis : olim auctor teli causaeque patebunt.¹ 876

At puer infusus sociis in devia campi
tollitur—heu simplex aetas !—moriensque iacentem
flebat equum ; cecidit laxata casside vultus,
aegraque per trepidos exspirat gratia visus, 880
et prensis concussa comis ter colla quaterque
stare negant, ipsisque nefas lacrimabile Thebis,
ibat purpureus niveo de pectore sanguis.

tandem haec singultu verba incidente profatur :
“ labimur, i, miseram, Dorceu, solare parentem. 885

illa quidem, si vera ferunt praesagia curae,
aut somno iam triste nefas aut omine vidit.
tu tamen arte pia trepidam suspende diuque
decipito ; neu tu subitus neve arma tenenti
veneris, et tandem, cum iam cogere fateri, 890

dic : merui, genetrix, poenas invita capesse ;
arma puer rapui, nec te retinente quievi,
nec tibi sollicitae tandem inter bella peperci.
vive igitur potiusque animis irascere nostris,
et iam pone metus. frustra de colle Lycaei 895

¹ patebunt *P* : patebant *ω* : latebant *Grotius*.

^a The word is perhaps intended to refer to the ends of the bow that sprang back when the string was cut.

^b *i e.*, in their endeavour to rouse him.

straight upon him, and cuts the slanted fastenings of the echoing bowstring : the shot is lost, his hands relax, and the arrow falls fruitless from the backward falling^a bow. Then in confusion and distress he drops both reins and weapons, reckless of the wound that had pierced the harness and the soft skin of his right shoulder ; another javelin follows and checks the charger's flight, cutting the tendons of his leg. Then Dryas himself falls—strange !—nor ever knows who wounds him ; one day the author of the deed and its cause will be revealed.

But the lad is carried from the field in his comrades' arms—alas, for his tender years !—and dying bewails his fallen steed ; relieved of the helm his head sinks back, and a sickly charm plays about his quivering eyes ; thrice and four times, grasping his hair, they shake the neck^b that refuses to stay upright, and—a horror whereat Thebes itself might weep—the purple blood came welling from the snow-white breast. At last he speaks, with sobs that break his utterance : “ I am dying, Dorceus : go, solace my poor mother. Already, if care doth bring true presage, she hath seen this calamity in dream or omen. Yet do thou with loyal craft keep her fears in suspense, and long deceive her ; nor come upon her of a sudden, nor when she holds a weapon in her hand ; and when at last thou art forced to admit the truth, say this to her : Mother, I confess my fault ; exact thy unwilling punishment ; I rushed to arms, though a mere boy, nor, though thou didst hold me back, would I be still, nor, despite thy trouble, war once begun did I spare thee at the last. Live then thou and be angry rather at my impetuous spirit and now be done with fears. In vain dost thou

STATIUS

anxia prospectas, si quis per nubila longe
 aut sonus aut nostro sublatus ab agmine pulvis :
 frigidus et nuda iaceo tellure, nec usquam
 tu prope, quae voltus efflantiaque ora teneres.
 hunc tamen, orba parens, crinem” dextraque
 secundum 900
 praebuit “ hunc toto capies pro corpore crinem,
 comere quem frustra me dedignante solebas.
 huic dabis exsequias, atque inter iusta memento,
 ne quis inexpertis hebetet mea tela lacertis
 dilectosque canes ullis agat amplius antris.¹ 905
 haec autem primis arma infelicia castris
 ure, vel ingratae crimen² suspende Dianae.”

¹ *Lines 903-5 not in P.*

² crimen *Imhof* : crinem *P* : munus crimen *B* : munus *DNS*.

look forth anxiously from Lycaeus' hill, if perchance sound or dust of my cavalcade rise to thee through the air afar; cold on the bare earth I lie, and thou art nowhere near me, to hold my face and catch my parting breath. Yet take this tress, O mother bereaved," and with his hand he offered it to be cut, "take this tress in place of my whole body; once thou wert wont to trim it in spite of my vain scorn.^a To it give burial, and amid the rites remember to let none blunt my weapons with inexperienced hands, or lead my beloved hounds to the hunting-grounds any more. But burn these ill-fated arms of my first warfare, or hang them up as a reproach to ungrateful Diana."

^a Or taking "frustra" with "comere," "which thou wert wont to trim, though I scorned it, in vain."

LIBER X

Obruit Hesperia Phoebum nox umida porta,
imperiiis properata Iovis ; nec castra Pelasgum
aut Tyrias miseratus opes, sed triste, tot extra
agmina et immeritas ferro decrescere gentes.
panditur immenso deformis sanguine campus : 5
illic arma et equos, ibant quibus ante superbi,
funeraque orba rogis neglectaque membra relinquunt.
tunc inhonora cohors laceris insignibus aegras
secernunt acies, portaeque, ineuntibus arma
angustae populis, latae cepere reversos. 10
par utrimque dolor ; sed dant solacia Thebis
quattuor errantes Danaum sine praeside turmae :
ceu mare per tumidum viduae moderantibus alni,
quas deus et casus tempestatesque gubernant.
inde animus Tyriis non iam sua castra, sed ultro 15
hostilem servare fugam, ne forte Mycenae
contenti rediisse petant : dat tessera signum
excubiis, positaeque vices ; dux noctis opertae
sorte Meges ultroque Lycus. ianque ordine iusso
arma, dapes ignemque ferunt ; rex firmat euntes : 20
“ victores Danaum—nec enim lux crastina longe,
320

BOOK X

DEWY Night overwhelmed Phoebus in the gateway of the West, hastened by the commands of Jove; nought pitied he the Pelasgian camp nor the Tyrian forces, but he grieved that beside the warriors so many innocent folk should fall by the sword. Far stretches the plain, a vast unsightly sea of blood; there they leave their arms, and the steeds whereon before they went so proudly, and the corpses deprived of their pyres and the neglected limbs. Then, an unsightly troop with tattered ensigns, they withdraw their exhausted lines, and the gates that were so narrow as they thronged to battle are all too broad as they return. Each side is alike distressed, but Thebes has solace in the four Danaan bands wandering without a chief: like alder vessels on the billowy deep that are widowed of their helmsmen and steered by God and Chance and all the storms. Therefore the Tyrians are emboldened to keep watch no more on their own camp, but rather on their foes' retreat, lest haply they seek to return with all speed to Mycenae; the watchword gives the signal to the sentinels, and posts are set; Meges by lot, and Lycus at his request are leaders of the night's enterprise. And now in marshalled ranks they bring arms and food and fire; the king cheers them as they go: "Conquerors of the Danaans—for to-

STATIUS

nec quae pro timidis intercessere tenebrae
 semper erunt—augete animos et digna secundis
 pectora ferte deis. iacet omnis gloria Lernae
 praecipuaeque manus : subiit ultricia Tydeus 25
 Tartara, Mors subitam nigri¹ stupet auguris umbram,
 Ismenos raptis tumet Hippomedontis opimis,
 Arcada belligeris pudet adnumerare tropaeis.
 in manibus merces, nusquam capita ardua belli
 monstrataeque ducum septena per agmina cristae ;
 scilicet Adrasti senium fraterque iuventa 31
 peior et insanis Capaneus metuendus in armis.
 ite age et obsessis vigilem circumdate flammam !
 nulli ex hoste metus : praedam adservatis opesque
 iam vestras.” sic ille truces hortatibus implet 35
 Labdacidas, iuvat exhaustos iterare² labores :
 sicut erant—pulvis sudorque cruorque per artus
 mixtus adhuc—vertere gradum ; vix obvia passi
 conloquia, amplexus etiam dextrasque suorum
 excussere umeris. tum frontem aversaque terga 40
 partiti laterumque sinus, vallum undique cingunt
 ignibus infestis. rabidi sic agmine multo
 sub noctem coiere lupi, quos omnibus agris
 nil non ausa fames longo tenuavit hiatu : 44
 iam stabula ipsa premunt, torquet spes inrita fauces,
 balatusque tremens pinguesque ab ovilibus aurae³ ;
 quod superest, duris adfrangunt postibus ungues,
 pectoraque et siccos minuunt in limine dentes.

¹ nigri *P*ω : *Garrod conj.* integri, and *cp.* viii. 6 and x. 204.

² iterare *P*ω : tolerare *D.*

³ aurae (agnae written over) *P* : conversely *D.*

^a Inconsistent with l. 204, but he supposes that the seer's body has been burnt, and that therefore his shade will be charred black, *cf.* viii. 6 “niger ab urna,” “black from the ashes of the urn.”

^b *i.e.*, Parthenopaeus.

morrow's dawn is near, and the darkness that saved the cowards will not last for ever—raise your spirits high and let your hearts be worthy of heaven's favour. All the glory of Lerna, all her foremost might lies low : Tydeus is gone to avenging Tartarus ; Death starts to behold the black augur's sudden shade ;^a Ismenos is swollen with the plunder of Hippomedon's spoils ; the Arcadian^b we are ashamed to count among the trophies of war. Our reward is in our hands, gone are the proud leaders of the host, and the chieftains' crests displayed along the sevenfold array ; formidable indeed is Adrastus' dotage, and my brother's more cowardly manhood, and Capaneus' frenzied arms ! Forward then, and set your wakeful fires about their beleaguered camp. Ye need not fear the foe ; 'tis booty ye watch, and wealth that at last is yours." Thus does he heap encouraging words upon the fierce Labdacidae : they rejoice to repeat the toils already endured. Just as they were, with dust and sweat and blood still caked upon their limbs, they turned to go, scarce heeding the farewells that would stay them, but shaking off the embracing arms and hand-clasps of their friends. Then sharing between them front and rear and curving flanks they ring round the rampart with hostile flame. So gathers at night-fall a herd of ravening wolves, whom over all the country-side hunger that brings reckless daring has starved with long privation : already they are near the very sheep-folds, hope unfulfilled and the feeble bleatings and juicy scents from the pens torture their throats ; at last they break their claws against the cruel stakes, and bruise their bodies and blunt their unfleshed fangs upon the doors.

STATIUS

At procul Argolici supplex in margine templi
 coetus et ad patrias fusae Pelopeides aras 50
 sceptriferae Iunonis opem reditumque suorum
 exposcunt, pictasque fores et frigida voltu
 saxa terunt parvosque docent procumbere natos.
 condiderant iam vota diem ; nox addita curas
 iungit, et ingestis vigilant altaria flammis. 55
 peplum etiam dono, cuius mirabile textum
 nulla manu sterilis nec dissociata marito
 versarat, calathis castae velamina divae
 haud spernenda ferunt, variis ubi plurima floret
 purpura picta modis mixtoque incenditur auro. 60
 ipsa illic magni thalamo desponsa Tonantis,
 expers conubii et timide positura sororem,¹
 lumine demisso pueri Iovis oscula libat
 simplex et nondum furtis offensa mariti.
 hoc tunc Argolicae sanctum velamine matres 65
 induerant ebur, et lacrimis questuque rogabant :
 “aspice sacrilegas Cadmeae paelicis arces,
 siderei regina poli, tumulumque rebellem
 disice et in Thebas aliud—potes—excute fulmen.”
 quid faciat ? scit Fata suis contraria Grais 70
 aversumque Iovem, sed nec periisse precatus
 tantaque dona velit ; tempus tamen obvia magni
 fors dedit auxilii. videt alto ex aethere clusa
 moenia et insomni vallum statione teneri :
 horruit irarum stimulis motaque verendum 75
 turbavit diadema coma : non saevius arsit

¹ sororem *P*ω : pudorem *D* : furorem (*corrected from* sororem) *B*.

^a Semele.

But far away a suppliant train of Pelopean dames, prostrate before their native altars and on the threshold of the Argolic fane, implore the help of sceptred Juno and the return of their loved ones, and press their faces to the cold stones and painted doors, and teach their little children to kneel. The day was already spent in entreaties : night comes and adds its cares, and the altars keep vigil with high-piled fires. They bear too a gift in a basket, a robe whose marvellous texture no hand of childless wife nor of any parted from her husband had wrought, a garment full worthy of the chaste goddess : thereon was much purple, gaily embroidered in manifold design and blazing with interwoven gold. She herself was there, promised in marriage to the great Thunderer, but not yet a bride and timidly putting off her sisterhood ; with downcast eyes she kisses the youthful Jupiter, a simple maid, nor yet offended by the secret loves of her husband. With this robe the Argive matrons at that time veiled the sacred ivory image, and with tears and supplications made their prayer : " Look upon the sacrilegious towers of the Cadmean harlot,^a O Queen of the starry pole, shatter that rebel hill, and hurl—for thou canst—another thunderbolt against Thebes." What can she do ? She knows the Fates are adverse to her Grecians, and Jove's favour is turned away, but she would that such prayers and gifts were not wasted ; nevertheless, a ready chance gave occasion for potent aid. From lofty heaven she sees the city-gates closed and the rampart guarded by sleepless sentinels ; the stings of anger thrilled her frame, and stirred her hair and shook the awful diadem : no more fiercely did she rage, when alone in heaven she felt

STATIUS

Herculeae cum matris onus geminosque Tonantis
 secubitus vacuis indignaretur in astris.
 ergo intempesta somni dulcedine captos
 destinat Aonios leto praebere, suamque 80
 orbibus accingi solitis iubet Irin et omne
 mandat opus. paret iussis dea clara polumque
 linquit et in terras longo suspenditur arcu.

Stat super occiduae nebulosa cubilia noctis
 Aethiopasque alios, nulli penetrabilis astro, 85
 lucus iners, subterque cavis grave rupibus antrum
 it vacuum in montem, qua desidis atria Somni
 securumque larem segnis Natura locavit.
 limen opaca Quies et pigra Oblivio servant
 et numquam vigili torpens Ignavia voltu. 90
 Otia vestibulo pressisque Silentia pinnis
 muta sedent abiguntque truces a culmine ventos
 et ramos errare vetant et murmura demunt
 alitibus. non hic pelagi, licet omnia clament
 litora, non ullus caeli fragor ; ipse profundis 95
 vallibus effugiens speluncae proximus amnis
 saxa inter scopulosque tacet¹ : nigrantia circum
 armenta, omne solo recubat pecus, et nova marcent
 germina,² terrarumque inclinat spiritus herbas.
 mille intus simulacra dei caelaverat ardens 100
 Mulciber : hic haeret lateri redimita Voluptas,
 hic comes in requiem vergens Labor, est ubi Baccho,
 est ubi Martigenae socium pulvinar Amori
 obtinet. interius tecti in penetralibus altis

¹ tacet ω : iacet *P*.

² germina *P* ω : gramina *late MSS. and edd.*

^a Because the night was prolonged to twice its length.

^b The Aethiopians of the far West ; they were usually spoken of as being in the East or South.

wrath against Alceme for her offspring and for the Thunderer's twofold^a adultery. Therefore she determines to make the Aonians, sunk in the timeless bliss of slumber, a prey to death, and bids her own Iris gird herself with her wonted circles, and commits to her all her task. Obedient to command, the bright goddess leaves the pole and wings her way down her long arc to earth.

Beyond the cloud-wrapt chambers of western gloom and Aethiopia's other realm^b there stands a motionless grove, impenetrable by any star; beneath it the hollow recesses of a deep and rocky cave run far into a mountain, where the slow hand of Nature has set the halls of lazy Sleep and his untroubled dwelling. The threshold is guarded by shady Quiet and dull Forgetfulness and torpid Sloth with ever drowsy countenance. Ease, and Silence with folded wings sit mute in the forecourt and drive the blustering winds from the roof-top, and forbid the branches to sway, and take away their warblings from the birds. No roar of the sea is here, though all the shores be sounding, nor yet of the sky; the very torrent that runs down the deep valley nigh the cave is silent among the rocks and boulders; by its side are sable herds, and sheep reclining one and all upon the ground; the fresh buds wither, and a breath from the earth makes the grasses sink and fail. Within, glowing Mulciber had carved a thousand likenesses of the god: here wreathed Pleasure clings to his side, here Labour drooping to repose bears him company, here he shares a couch with Bacchus, there with Love, the child of Mars. Further within, in the secret places of the palace he

STATIUS

et cum Morte iacet, nullique ea tristis imago¹ 105
 cernitur. hae species. ipse autem² umentia subter
 antra soporifero stipatos flore tapetas
 incubat ; exhalant vestes et corpore pigro
 strata calent, supraque torum niger efflat anhelos
 ore vapor ; manus haec fusos a tempore laevo 110
 sustentat crinis, haec cornu oblita remisit.
 adsunt innumero circum vaga Somnia vultu,³
 vera simul falsis permixtaque tristia blandis,⁴
 noctis opaca cohors, trabibusque aut postibus haerent,
 aut tellure iacent. tenuis, qua circuit aulam, 115
 invalidusque nitor, primosque hortantia somnos
 languida succiduis expirant lumina flammis.
 Huc se caeruleo libravit ab aethere virgo
 discolor : effulgent silvae, tenebrosaque Tempe
 adrisere deae, et zonis lucentibus icta 120
 evigilat domus ; ipse autem nec lampade clara
 nec sonitu nec voce deae percussus eodem
 more iacet, donec radios Thaumantias omnis
 impulit inque oculos penitus descendit inertes.
 tunc sic orsa loqui nimborum fulva creatrix : 125
 " Sidonios te Iuno duces, mitissime divum
 Somne, iubet populumque trucis defigere Cadmi,
 qui nunc eventu belli tumefactus Achaeum
 pervigil adservat vallum et tua iura recusat.
 da precibus tantis, rara est hoc posse facultas 130
 placatumque Iovem dextra Iunone mereri.⁵"

¹ *Lines 100-5 only in P and some late MSS.*

² cernitur. hae (haec *Klotz*) species. ipse autem *Vollmer* : cernitur haec species autem *P* : ipse autem vacuus curis ω .

³ *Lines 112-17 only in P, 112-15 in a MS. of Corp. Christ. Coll. Oxford.*

⁴ tristia blandis *edd.* : flumina flammis *P* (*from 117*), various conjectures by *edd.*

⁵ mereri ω : vereri *P* : merere *late MSS., Gronovius.*

lies with Death also, but that dread image is seen by none. These are but pictures : he himself beneath humid caverns rests upon coverlets heaped with slumbrous flowers, his garments reek, and the cushions are warm with his sluggish body, and above the bed a dark vapour rises from his breathing mouth. One hand holds up the locks that fall from his left temple, from the other drops his neglected horn.^a Vague dreams of countless shapes stand round about him, true mixed with false, flattering with sad, the dark brood of Night, and cling to beams and doorposts, or lie on the ground. The light about the chamber is weak and fitful, and languid gleams that woo to earliest slumbers vanish as the lamps flicker and die.

Hither from the blue sky came in balanced flight the varicoloured maid ; the forests shine out, and the shady glens smile upon the goddess, and smitten with her zones of radiance the palace starts from its sleep ; but he himself, awoken neither by the bright glow nor by the sound or voice of the goddess, lay motionless as ever, till the Thaumantian^b shot at him all her splendours and sank deep into his drowsy vision. Then thus began to speak the golden fashioner of clouds^c : " Sleep, gentlest of the gods, Juno bids thee bind fast the Sidonian leaders and the folk of ruthless Cadmus, who now, puffed up by the issue of the fight, are watching in ceaseless vigil the Achaean rampart, and refuse thy sway. Grant so solemn a request—rarely is this opportunity vouchsafed, to win the favour of Jove with Juno on thy

^a Elsewhere alluded to by Statius, ii. 145, vi. 27, never, apparently, by other poets. ^b Iris, daughter of Thaumas.

^c "fulvus" is a regular epithet of gold : Iris seems to be regarded as creating the clouds on which she shines.

STATIUS

dixit, et increpitans languentia pectora dextra,
 ne pereant voces, iterumque iterumque monebat.
 ille deae iussis vultu, quo nutat, eodem¹
 adnuit ; excedit gravior nigrantibus antris 135
 Iris et obtusum multo iubar excitat imbri.

Ipse quoque et volucrum gressum et ventosa citavit
 tempora, et obscuri sinuatam frigore caeli
 implevit chlamydem, tacitoque per aethera cursu
 fertur et Aoniis longe gravis imminet arvis. 140
 illius aura solo volucres pecudesque ferasque
 explicat, et penitus, quemcumque² supervolat orbem,
 languida de scopulis sidunt freta, pigrius haerent
 nubila, demittunt extrema cacumina silvae,
 pluraque laxato ceciderunt sidera caelo. 145
 primus adesse deum subita caligine sensit
 campus, et innumerae voces fremitusque virorum
 submittere sonum ; cum vero umentibus alis
 incubuit piceaque haud umquam densior umbra
 castra subit, errare oculi resolutaque colla, 150
 et medio adfatu verba imperfecta relinqui.
 mox et fulgentes clipeos et saeva remittunt
 pila manu, lassique cadunt in pectora voltus.
 et iam cuncta silent : ipsi iam stare recusant
 cornipedes, ipsos subitus cinis abstulit ignes. 155

At non et trepidis eadem sopor otia Grais
 suadet, et adiunctis arcet sua nubila castris
 noctivagi vis blanda dei : stant undique in armis

¹ vultu quo nutat eodem *P* : dubium mixtumque sopori ω .

² quemcumque *PD* : quamcumque ω , quacumque *N*.

^a *i.e.*, nodding as he ever does in slumber.

^b Sleep is sometimes represented with wings upon his temples, as may be seen in a well-known bronze figure of

side." She spoke, and with her hand beat upon his languid breast, and charged him again and yet again, lest her message be lost. He with his own nodding visage^a nods assent to the goddess' command; o'er-weighted with the caverns' gloom Iris goes forth, and tricks out her beams, made dim by showers of rain.

Himself too he bestirred both swift progress and his wind-torn temples,^b and filling his mantle's folds with the chill dark air is borne in silent course through heaven, and from afar swoops down in might upon the Aonian fields. The wind of his coming sets birds and beasts and cattle prostrate on the ground, and, whatsoever region of the world he passes in his flight, the waves slide languidly from the rocks, more lazily cling the clouds, the forests bow their summits, and many a star drops from the loosened vault of heaven. The plain first felt the god's presence by the sudden coming of a mist, and the countless voices and cries of men were hushed; but when he brooded with dewy wings and entered the camp, unsubstantial as a pitchy shadow, eyes wavered and heads sank, and words were left unfinished in mid-speech. Next shining bucklers and cruel spears are dropped from their hands, their faces fall in weariness upon their breasts. And now universal silence reigns: even the horn-footed steeds refuse to stand, even the fires are quenched in sudden ashes.

But slumber woos not the anxious Greeks to the same repose, and the night-wandering, persuasive deity keeps his mists from the camp hard by; on Hypnos (*Greek Bronzes*, A. S. Murray, p. 72). Cf. also *Theb.* v. 433.

STATIUS

foedam indignantes noctem vigilesque superbos.
 ecce repens superis animum lymphantibus horror
 Thiodamanta subit formidandoque tumultu 161
 pandere fata iubet, sive hanc Saturnia mentem,
 sive novum comitem bonus instigabat Apollo.
 prosilit in medios, visu audituque tremendus
 impatiensque dei, fragili quem mente receptum 165
 non capit : exundant stimuli, nudusque per ora
 stat furor, et trepidas incerto sanguine tendit
 exhaustique genas—acies huc errat et illuc—
 sartaque mixta comis sparsa cervice flagellat.
 sic Phryga terrificis genetrix Idaea cruentum 170
 elicit ex adytis consumptaque bracchia ferro
 scire vetat ; quatit ille sacras in pectora pinus
 sanguineosque rotat crines et vulnera cursu
 exanimat : pavet omnis ager respersaque cultrix¹
 arbor, et attoniti currum erexer leones. 175

Ventum ad consilii penetrale domumque verendam
 signorum, magnis ubi dudum cladibus aeger,
 rerum extrema movens, frustra consultat Adrastus.
 stant circum subiti proceres, ut quisque perempto
 proximus, et magnis loca desolata tuentur 180
 regibus haud laeti seque huc crevisse dolentes.
 non secus amisso medium cum praeside puppis
 fregit iter, subit ad vidui² moderamina clavi
 aut laterum custos, aut quem penes obvia ponto
 prora fuit : stupet ipsa ratis tardeque sequuntur 185
 arma, nec accedit domino tutela minori.

¹ cultrix *PN* : cultris ω .

² vidui ω : dubii *P*.

^a *i.e.*, Juno, daughter of Saturn.

^b *i.e.*, the pine, sacred to Cybele, and bespattered by the blood of her votaries.

every side they stand to arms, in wrath at the hateful gloom and their foes' proud sentinels. Lo ! a sudden frenzy, heaven-inspired, seizes Thiodamas, and in awful tumult bids him show forth the fates, whether Saturnia ^a fired him with this resolve, or kindly Apollo incited his new attendant. He rushes into the midst, fearful to see and to hear, and impatient of the god, whom his frail mind had received but could not contain ; his pangs overwhelm him, stark madness reigns upon his visage, and the uncertain blood now distends, now ebbs from his trembling cheeks ; his gaze darts here and there, he shakes and scatters on his shoulders the wreaths entwined in his locks. Thus does the Idaean mother summon from the terrible shrine the blood-stained Phrygian and make him unconscious of his knife-hacked arms ; he beats the holy pine-brands against his breast, and tosses his gory hair and deadens his wounds by running ; all the country-side and the bespattered votary tree ^b feels terror, and the panic-stricken lions rear the chariot high.

Now had he reached the inner council-chamber and the revered home of the standards, where Adrastus, long distressed by the dire disasters, takes fruitless counsel for their desperate plight : the new-appointed chiefs stand about him, each the next successor to the slain, and gaze at the empty places of the mighty princes, feeling no joy but rather grief that they are raised so high. Even so when a bark has lost its helmsman and stopped in mid-voyage, either the watchman of the sides or of the wave-breasting prow succeeds to the guidance of the widowed helm ; the ship herself is all aghast, and the very tackling is slow to obey the word, nor does she brook the protection of a lesser

STATIUS

ergo alacer trepidos sic erigit augur Achivos :
 “ magna deum mandata, duces, monitusque verendos
 advehimus, non hae nostro de pectore voces :
 ille canit, cui me famulari et sumere vittas 190
 vestra fides, ipso non discordante, subegit.
 nox fecunda operum pulchraeque accommoda fraudi
 panditur augurio divom ; vocat obvia Virtus,
 et poscit Fortuna manus. stupet obruta somno
 Aonidum legio : tempus nunc funera regum 195
 ulcisci miserumque diem ; rapite arma morasque
 frangite portarum : sociis hoc subdere flammis,
 hoc tunulare suos. equidem haec et Marte diurno
 dum res infractae pulsique in terga redimus—
 per tripodas iuro et rapti nova fata magistri— 200
 vidi, et me volucres circum plausere secundae.
 sed nunc certa fides. modo me sub nocte silenti
 ipse, ipse adsurgens iterum tellure soluta,
 qualis erat—solos infecerat umbra iugales—,
 Amphiaraus adit : non vanae monstra quietis, 205
 nec somno comperta loquor. ‘ tune ’ inquit, ‘ inertes
 Inachidas—redde haec Parnassia sarta meosque
 redde deos—tantam patiere amittere noctem,
 degener ? haec egomet caeli secreta vagosque
 edocui lapsus ? vade heia, ulciscere ferro 210
 nos saltem ! ’ dixit, meque haec ad limina visus
 cuspide sublata totoque impellere curru.
 quare agite, utendum superis ; non comminus hostes

lord. Therefore with spirited words the prophet rouses the hearts of the downcast Achaeans : " Chieftains, it is the high commands and awful counsels of the gods that I bring you ; these words come not from my own breast ; he gives the oracle, whom your solemn word, he too consenting, constrained me to serve and to assume his fillets. The divine augury reveals a night fruitful in achievement and well fitted for glory-winning guile ; Valour meets and beckons us, and Fortune implores our arms. The Aonian legions are sunk 'neath the spell of slumber : now is the time to avenge our princes' deaths and that unhappy day ; snatch up your weapons and break through the hindering gates ! This means the lighting of our comrade's pyres, this means their burial. This saw I during the battle of the day, when our arms were stricken and we fled defeated to the rear—I swear it by the tripods and the strange fate of my lost master—I saw it, and the birds around me sang a favouring strain. But now my belief is sure. Only now beneath the silent night he himself—himself, Amphiaraus !—rose up again from the chasm of earth, even as he was—the shades had touched his team alone—and came towards me : 'tis of no vain phantom of night, or vision of sleep that I tell. ' Wilt thou allow the idle sons of Inachus,' he cries, '—restore then those Parnassian wreaths, give me back my own gods !—to lose so favourable a night, degenerate one ? Was it thus I taught thee all the secrets of the sky and the wandering flight of birds ? Begone ! for me at least take vengeance with the sword.' He spake, and seemed to raise his lance, and to drive me with all his chariot's force unto these doors. Arouse you, then, and use heaven's favour ; this is

STATIUS

sternendi : bellum iacet, et saevire potestas.
 ecqui aderunt, quos ingenti se adtollere fama 215
 non pigeat, dum fata sinunt ? iterum ecce benignae
 noctis aves ; sequor, et comitum licet agmina cessent,
 solus eo ! atque adeo venit ille et quassat habenas.”

Talia vociferans noctem exturbabat, euntque¹
 non secus accensi proceres, quam si omnibus idem 220
 corde deus : flagrant comitari et iungere casus.
 ter denos numero, turmarum robora, iussus
 ipse legit ; circa fremit indignata iuventus
 cetera, cur maneant castris ignavaque servant
 otia : pars sublime genus, pars facta suorum, 225
 pars sua, sortem alii clamant, sortem undique poscunt.
 gaudet in adversis animoque adsurgit Adrastus.
 vertice sic Pholoes volucrum nutritor equorum,
 cum fetura gregem pecoroso vere novavit,
 laetatur cernens hos montis in ardua niti, 230
 hos innare vadis, certare parentibus illos ;
 tunc vacuo sub corde movet, qui molle domandi
 ferre iugum, qui terga boni, quis in arma tubasque
 natus, ad Eleas melior quis surgere palmas :
 talis erat turmae ductor longaevus Achivae. 235
 nec deest inceptis² : “ unde haec tam sera repente
 numina ? qui fractos superi rediistis ad Argos ?
 estne hic infelix virtus ? gentique superstes
 sanguis, et in miseris animorum semina durant ?
 laudo equidem, egregii iuvenes, pulchraque meorum

¹ euntque ω : eumque *PD*.

² deest inceptis *Ellis, Garrod* : deest coeptis *Pω* ; *cf.* viii.
 236.

no hand-to-hand slaying of the foe; his men lie prostrate, and ye may take your revenge. Will any come forward, ready to exalt themselves to mighty fame, while the Fates allow? Lo! once again the birds of night are auspicious; I follow them, and though my comrades' troops lie idle, I go alone! Ay, and there *he* too comes, shaking his reins!"

With such cries did he disturb the night: the chiefs pour forward, fired as though the same god inspired the hearts of all: they burn to accompany him, and share his fortunes. By command he chooses thirty himself, the flower of all the host; the rest of the youth demand in wrathful clamour, why remain they in the camp ingloriously at ease; some plead their noble birth, some their kinsmen's deeds, others their own, others again shout for the lot, and all take up the cry. Adrastus exults that they oppose him, and his spirits rise. Thus upon Pholoë's height a rearer of swift coursers rejoices when the breeding-time of prolific spring has renewed his stud, and he beholds some straining up steep mountain-paths, some swimming the stream, others vying with their sires; then in idle thought he ponders which he shall tame to bear a gentle yoke, which will make good riders, which are born for trumpets and arms, which best fitted to win the palm of Elis: such was the aged chieftain of the Achaean host. Nor does he fail the enterprise: "Whence of a sudden comes so late the favour of heaven? What gods are ye, who have turned again to Argos in her distress? Is this the valour born of misfortune? Does the vigour of our race still survive, and seeds of courage endure in spite of adversity? Yea, I praise you, heroic youths, and enjoy my warriors' glorious mutiny; but it is

STATIUS

seditione fruor ; sed fraudem et operta paramus 241
 proelia, celandi motus : numquam apta latenti
 turba dolo. servate animos, venit ultor in hostes
 ecce dies ; tunc arma palam, tunc ibimus omnes.”

his tandem virtus iuvenum frenata quievit : 245

non aliter moto quam si pater Aeolus antro
 portam iterum saxo premat imperiosus et omne
 claudat iter, iamiam sperantibus¹ aequora ventis.

Insuper Herculeum sibi iungit Agyllea vates
 Actoraque : hic aptus suadere, hic robore iactat 250

non cessisse patri ; comites tribus ordine deni,
 horrendum Aoniis et contra stantibus agmen.

ipse novi gradiens furta ad Mavortia belli
 ponit adoratas, Phoebea insignia, frondes,
 longaevisque ducis gremio commendat honorem 255

frontis, et oblatam Polynicis munere grato
 lorica galeamque subit. feras Actora magno
 ense gravat Capaneus, ipse haud dignatus in hostem
 ire dolo superosque sequi. permutat Agylleus
 arma trucis Nomii : quid enim fallentibus umbris
 arcus et Herculeae iuissent bella sagittae ? 261

Inde per abruptas castrorum ex aggere pinnas,
 ne gravis exclamet portae mugitus aenae,
 praecipitant saltu ; nec longum, et protinus ingens
 praeda solo ceu iam exanimes multoque peracti 265
 ense iacent. “ ite, o socii, quaecumque voluptas
 caedis inexhaustae, superisque faventibus, oro,
 sufficite ! ” hortatur clara iam voce sacerdos,

¹ sperantibus ω : spirantibus *PBLQ*.

fraud and a hidden assault that we devise, our movements must be concealed; a crowd ill fits a secret ruse. Nurse then your rage, lo! dawn will bring vengeance on our foes; then shall the fight be open, and all take the field!" These words at length restrained and allayed their ardour: even so might father Aeolus, when the cave is in a tumult and the winds are already yearning for the deep, sternly set another rock against the door, and wholly bar their passage.

Beside the rest the seer takes with him Agylleus, son of Hercules, and Actor: persuasive of speech is Actor, the other boasts strength equal to his sire's; with each go ten companions, a troop that even in open fight the Aonians would fear. He himself, since he goes to unwonted battle and a ruse of war, lays down the sacred leaves, the emblems of Phoebus, and entrusts the glory of his brow to the bosom of the aged prince, and dons helm and corslet, the welcome gift of Polynides. Fierce Capaneus fastens his heavy sword on Actor, not deigning himself to go by stealth against the foe, or to follow where heaven leads. Agylleus borrows the arms of truculent Nomius; for what would the bow and shafts of Hercules have availed him, battling amid deceiving shades?

Then, lest the brazen hinges groan too loudly, they leap down from the steep battlements of the fortress wall; nor is it long before lo! their prey lies vast upon the ground, as though already lifeless and slain by many a sword. "Forward, friends, whitherso'er delight in carnage unsated takes you, and have strength for the work I pray, since heaven shows us favour!" Now with loud voice the seer exhorts

STATIUS

“ cernitis expositas turpi marcere cohortes ?
 pro pudor ! Argolicas hinc ausi obsidere portas, 270
 hi servare viros ? ” sic fatus, et exiit ensem
 fulmineum rapidaque manu morientia transit
 agmina. quis numeret caedes, aut nomine turbam
 exanimem signare queat ? subit ordine nullo
 tergaque pectoraque et galeis inclusa relinquit 275
 murmura permiscetque vagos in sanguine manes :
 hunc temere explicitum stratis, hunc sero remissis
 gressibus inlapsum clipeo et male tela tenentem,
 coetibus hos mediis vina inter et arma iacentes,
 adclines clipeis alios, ut quemque ligatum 280
 infelix tellure sopor supremaque nubes
 obruerat. nec numen abest, armataque Iuno
 lunarem quatiens exserta lampada dextra
 pandit iter firmatque animos et corpora monstrat.
 sentit adesse deam, tacitus sed gaudia celat 285
 Thiodamas ; iam tarda manus, iam debile ferrum
 et caligantes nimiis successibus irae.
 Caspia non aliter magnorum in strage iuvenum
 tigris, ubi immenso rabies placata cruore
 lassavitque genas et crasso sordida tabo 290
 confudit maculas, spectat sua facta doletque
 defecisse famem : victus sic augur inerrat
 caedibus Aoniis ; optet nunc bracchia centum
 centenasque in bella manus ; iam taedet inanes
 exhaurire minas, hostemque adsurgere mallet. 295
 Parte alia segnes magno satus Hercule vastat
 Sidonios Actorque alia, sua quemque cruento
 limite turba subit : stagnant nigrantia tabo

^a Seems to mean a torch kindled from the lunar fires (cf. x. 370).

them, "See ye the cohorts lying in base torpor? Shame on them! Dared these beleaguer Argive gates, and keep watch on heroes?" So spake he, and drew his flashing sword, and with swift hand passed over the doomed lines. Who could reckon up the slaughter, or give names to all the crowd of corpses? At random he goes o'er backs and breasts, and leaves behind him groans stifled in their helms, and mingled all his victims in a welter of blood; one stretched carelessly upon a couch, another slipping with reeling steps upon his shield, too late, and fumbling with his arms, others lying in a throng amid wine and weapons, others propped against their shields—each one just as ill-fated slumber and the night that was their last had bound and cast them to the ground. Nor lack they divine power, but armed Juno frees her right hand and brandishing a lunar torch^a makes clear their path and strengthens their courage and displays the bodies. Thiodamas feels her presence, but conceals his joy in silence; already his hand grows slow, and his blade weak, and his fury is dimmed by too much success. Not otherwise does a Caspian tigress, amid a mighty slaughter of bullocks, when fury appeased by streams of gore has wearied out her jaws and stained her stripes in foul clotted corruption, behold her work, and grieve that her appetite fails; so wanders the augur fordone among the Aonian corpses: now would he have a hundred arms, a hundred hands to fight with; already it irks him to squander menaces in vain, and he could wish the foe would rise against him.

Here the son of mighty Hercules, there Actor destroys the sluggish Sidonians, each followed by his own band along a path of slaughter; the grass is

STATIUS

gramina, sanguineis nutant tentoria rivis ;
 fumat humus, somnique et mortis anhelitus una 300
 volvitur ; haud quisquam visus aut ora iacentum
 erexit : tali miseris deus aliger umbra
 incubat et tantum morientia lumina solvit.
 traxerat insomnis cithara ludoque suprema
 sidera iam nullos visurus Ialmenus ortus, 305
 Sidonium paeana canens ; huic languida cervix
 in laevum cogente deo mediaque iacebant
 colla replicta¹ lyra : ferrum per pectus Agylleus
 exigit aptatamque cava testudine dextram
 percutit et digitos inter sua fila trementes. 310
 proturbat mensas dirus liquor : undique manant
 sanguine permixti latices et Bacchus in altos
 crateras paterasque redit. ferus occupat Actor
 implicitum fratri Thamyrin, Tagus haurit Echethli
 terga coronati, Danaus caput amputat Hebri : 315
 nescius heu rapitur fati, hilarisque sub umbras
 vita fugit mortisque ferae lucrata dolores.
 stratus humo gelida subter iuga fida rotasque
 Calpetus Aonios gramen gentile metentes
 proflatu terrebat equos : madida ora redundant 320
 accensusque mero sopor aestuat ; ecce iacentis
 Inachus vates iugulum fodit, expulit ingens
 vina cruor fractumque perit in sanguine murmur.
 fors illi praesaga quies, nigrasque gravatus
 per somnum Thebas et Thiodamanta videbat. 325

Quarta soporiferae superabant tempora nocti,
 cum vacuae nubes et honor non omnibus astris,

¹ replicta *Heinsius* : relicta *Pω* : relapsa *N* : reclina
Gronovius.

black and stagnant with gore, the tents totter and sway in streams of blood, the earth reeks, and the breathing of sleep is mingled with the gasps of death ; none of the slumberers lifts his head or turns his gaze, so deep the shade wherewith the winged god broods over the wretched ones, and unseals their eyes but as they die. Ialmenus had spent his last night in unsleeping merriment and with the lute, never to behold to-morrow's dawn, and was singing a Sidonian paeon ; under the influence of the god his languid neck sank leftward, and his lyre pillowed his drooping head : through his breast Agylleus drives the blade, and pierces the right hand that grasps the tortoise-shell, and the fingers trembling among their well-known strings. The tables are flooded by the dreadful stream ; everywhere flow blood and water mingled, and the wine returned to the goblets and deep mixing-bowls. Fierce Actor catches Thamyris in his brother's embrace, Tagus stabs garlanded Echelus in the back, Danaus shears off the head of Hebrus : unwitting alas ! he meets his fate, and mirthfully his life passes to the shades, saving the pains of cruel death. Calpetus, lying on the cold ground beneath his trusty chariot-wheels, scared with his heavy breathing his Aonian steeds as they cropped their native grass : his mouth o'erflows with liquor, and his slumber wine-inflamed grows agitated ; lo ! the Inachian prophet pierces his throat as he lies : the wine is forced out in a great rush of blood, and his murmurs perish in the stream. Perchance his sleep foretold his doom, and in his dream he saw with dismay Thiodamas and a black ruin that was Thebes.

The fourth period of slumbrous night remained, when the clouds have shed their dew and not all the

STATIUS

adflatusque fugit curru maiore Bootes.

iamque ipsum defecit opus, cum providus Actor
Thiodamanta vocat : “ satis haec inopina Pelasgis 330
gaudia : vix ullos tanto reor agmine saevam

effugisse necem, ni quos deformis in alto
sanguine degeneres occultat vita ; secundis
pone modum : sunt et diris sua numina Thebis.
forsitan et nobis modo quae favere, recedunt.¹” 335

paruit, et madidas tollens ad sidera palmas :
“ Phoebe, tibi exuvias monstratae praemia noctis
nondum ablutus aquis—tibi enim haec ego sacra litavi—
trado ferus miles tripodum fidusque sacerdos.
si non dedecui tua iussa tulique prementem, 340
saepe veni, saepe hanc dignare intrumpere mentem.
nunc tibi crudus honos, trunca arma cruorque
virorum :

at patrias si quando domos optataque, Paeon,
templa, Lycie, dabis, tot ditia dona sacratis
postibus et totidem voti memor exige tauros.” 345
dixerat, et laetis socios revocabat ab armis.

Venerat hos inter fato Calydonius Hopleus
Maenaliusque Dymas, dilecti regibus ambo,
regum ambo comites, quorum post funera maesti
vitam indignantur. prior Arcada concitat Hopleus :
“ nullane post manes regis tibi cura perempti, 351
clare Dyma, teneant² quem iam fortasse volucres
Thebanique canes ? patriae quid deinde feretis,

¹ recedunt *P*ω, which Klotz defends by *Silv.* i. 3. 63, ii. 6. 101, v. 3. 185 (*cf. also* i. 447 *inf.*) : recedant *Jortin*.

² teneant *P*ω : temerant *Baehrens*, because only here does *Stattius* use *fortasse* with *subj.*

stars shine bright, and Bootes flies before the pantings of a mightier car. And now, the task itself failing them, prudent Actor calls Thiodamas : " Sufficient for the Pelasgians is this unhopèd-for triumph ; scarce any, methinks, of so large a company have escaped cruel death, save the base cowards whom the gory flood conceals, polluted but alive ; set a limit to success : dread Thebes too hath her deities. Perchance we too may lose those who late have favoured us." He consented, and raising his dripping hands to the stars : " These spoils, O Phoebus, the trophies of the night thou didst reveal, I present to thee, I, the bold champion of thy tripods and thy faithful priest, not yet cleansed with water, for this is my sacrifice to thee. If I have not disgraced thy commands and have borne thy instancy, come often to me, often deign to take possession of my mind. Rude is thy guerdon now, maimed limbs and human blood, but if ever, O Paeon, thou wilt bestow on me my native home and the temples that I long for, O Lycian god, forget not my vow, but demand as many sumptuous gifts and as many bulls for thy sacred portals." He spoke, and recalled his comrades from the glad work of arms.

Among these by the will of Fate had come Calydonian Hopleus and Maenalian Dymas, both favourites and close companions of their princes, after whose deaths they grieve and think scorn of living. First Hopleus incites the Arcadian : " Renowned Dymas, hast thou no care for thy hapless prince once slain, though perchance already birds and Theban dogs possess him ? What then will ye bring home to your country, ye Arcadians ? Lo ! his

STATIUS

Arcades ? en reduces contra venit aspera mater :
 funus ubi ? at nostro semper sub pectore Tydeus 355
 saevit inops tumuli, quamvis patientior artus
 ille nec abruptis adeo lacrimabilis annis.
 ire tamen saevumque libet nullo ordine passim
 scrutari campum, mediasve inrumpere Thebas."
 excipit orsa Dymas ; " per ego haec vaga sidera iuro,
 per ducis errantes instar mihi numinis umbras, 361
 idem animus misero ; comitem circumspicit olim
 mens humilis luctu, sed nunc prior ibo"—viamque
 incohat et maesto conversus ad aethera voltu
 sic ait : " arcanae moderatrix Cynthia noctis, 365
 si te tergemini perhibent variare figuris
 numen et in silvas alio descendere voltu,
 ille comes nuper nemorumque insignis alumnus,
 ille tuus, Diana, puer—nunc respice saltem—
 quaeritur." incendit¹ pronis dea cornibus² almun
 sidus et admoto monstravit funera curru.³ 371
 apparent campi Thebaeque altusque Cithaeron :
 sic ubi nocturnum tonitru malus aethera frangit
 Iuppiter, absiliunt nubes et fulgure claro
 astra patent, subitusque oculis ostenditur orbis. 375
 accepit radios et eadem percitus Hopleus
 Tydea luce videt ; longe dant signa per umbras
 mutua laetantes, et amicum pondus uterque,
 ceu reduces vitae sacvaque a morte remissos,
 subiecta cervice levant ; nec verba, nec ausi 380
 flere diu : prope saeva dies indexque minatur

¹ incendit *P*_ω : intendit *Barth and late mss.*

² cornibus *Markland* : curribus *P*_ω.

³ curru *P* : cornu *ω*, and *N* (curru written over), conversely *D*.

stern mother meets you returning, and asks "Where is his body?" But in my heart unburied Tydeus gives me no rest, though more enduring of limb nor so worthy of lament for an untimely death. Yet fain would I go and search everywhere, high and low, over the ruthless plain, or break into the midst of Thebes." Dymas makes reply: "I swear by these moving stars, by my chieftain's wandering shade, to me a power divine, my grief inspires a like resolve; my downcast mind hath long looked for a companion, but now I will lead the way"—and straight he starts upon the road, and turning his sad face to heaven thus speaks: "Cynthia, queen of the mysteries of night, if as they say thou dost vary in threefold wise the aspect of thy godhead, and in different shape comest down into the woodland, 'tis he who was lately thy companion and the glorious nursling of thy groves, 'tis thine own boy, Diana—now at least look upon us!—'tis he we search for." The goddess stooped her horns and made bright her kindly star, and illumined the battle-field with near-approaching chariot. The plain appears and Thebes and lofty Cithaeron: so when fell Jupiter cleaves the sky at night with thunder, the clouds divide and the bright flash reveals the stars, and the world is suddenly shown to watching eyes. He caught the rays, and by the same piercing light Hopleus sees Tydeus; from afar they joyfully beckon to each other through the darkness, and each lifts his beloved burden on his bowed shoulders, as though it were restored to life and rescued from cruel death; no word do they utter, nor for a long while dare to weep; unfriendly day is nigh at hand, and the sunrise that threatens to

STATIUS

ortus. eunt taciti per maesta silentia magnis
passibus exhaustasque dolent pallere tenebras.

Invida fata piis et fors ingentibus ausis
rara comes. iam castra vident animisque propinquant,
et decrescit onus, subiti cum pulveris umbra 386

et sonus a tergo. monitu ducis acer agebat
Amphion equites, noctem vigilataque castra
explorare datus, primusque per avia campi
usque procul—necdum totas lux solverat umbras—
nescio quid visu dubium incertumque moveri 391

corporaque ire videt; subitus mox fraude reperta
exclamat: “cohibete gradum quicumque!” sed hostes
esse patet: miseri pergunt anteire timentque
non sibi; tunc mortem trepidis minitatur et hastam
expulit, ac vanos alte levat eminus ictus, 396

adfectans errare manum. stetit illa Dymantis
ante oculos, qui forte prior gressumque repressit.
at non magnanimus curavit perdere iactus
Aepytus, et fixo transverberat Hoplea tergo 400

pendentisque etiam perstrinxit Tydeos armos.
labitur egregii nondum ducis immemor Hopleus,
expiratque tenens—felix, si corpus ademptum
nesciat—et sacvas talis descendit ad umbras.

Viderat hoc retro conversus et agmina sentit 405
iuncta Dymas, dubius precibusne subiret an armis
instantes; arma ira dabat, fortuna precari,
non audere iubet: neutri fiducia coepto.
distulit ira preces; ponit miserabile corpus
ante pedes, tergoque graves, quas forte ferebat, 410

betray. Mute they go with long strides through the sad silences and grieve that the exhausted gloom is paling to the dawn.

Fate is envious of devoted souls, and good luck goes rarely with great ventures. Already they see the camp and in thought are at the gates, and lighter grows the burden, when there is a sudden cloud of dust and a sound behind them. It was bold Amphion at the head of his troop, bidden by his chief to explore the night and the guarded camp; he is the first to see far away on the pathless plain—not yet had the light dispersed all the shadows—something stirring faint and doubtful to the sight and bodies moving; then on a sudden he discovers the fraud and cries: “Halt, whoe’er ye be!” but ’tis plain they are the foe; on go the hapless ones, and fear, though not for themselves; then he threatens the anxious pair with death, and flings his spear, but, aiming in purposed error, sends it high and far beyond them. Before the eyes of Dymas it fell, who by chance was in front: he halted; but Aepytus, proud of soul, cared not to lose his throw, and transfixing the back of Hopleur, grazing thereby the shoulder of Tydeus as he hung. Hopleur falls, not yet forgetful of his peerless chieftain, and dies still clutching him—happy were he ignorant that the corpse was lost—and in such wise descends to the cruel shades.

Dymas had turned and seen, and knew that battle was joined, and doubted whether to use arms or prayers against the oncoming foe: wrath urges arms, fortune bids him try prayer not daring; neither resource brings confidence. Anger forbade entreaty; before his feet he places the hapless body, and flings on his left arm a heavy tiger’s hide that

STATIUS

tigridis exuvias, in laevam torquet et obstat
 exsertum obiectans mucronem, inque omnia tela
 versus et ad caedem iuxta mortemque paratus :
 ut lea, quam saevo fetam pressere cubili
 venantes Numidae, natos erecta superstat 415
 mente sed¹ incerta, torvum ac miserabile frendens ;
 illa quidem turbare globos et frangere morsu
 tela queat, sed prolis amor crudelia vincit
 pectora, et a media catulos circumspicit ira.
 et iam laeva viro, quamvis saevire vetaret 420
 Amphion, erepta manus, puerique trahuntur
 ora supina comis. serus tunc denique supplex
 demisso mucrone rogat : “ moderatius, oro,
 ducite, fulminei per vos cunabula Bacchi
 Inoamque fugam vestrique Palaemonis annos ! 425
 si cui forte domi natorum gaudia, si quis
 hic pater, angusti puero date pulveris haustus
 exiguamque facem ! rogat, en rogat ipse tacentis²
 voltus : ego infandas potior satiare volucres,
 me praebete feris, ego bella audere coegi.” 430
 “ immo ” ait Amphion, “ regem si tanta cupido
 condere, quae timidis belli mens, ede, Pelasgis,
 quid fracti exsanguisque parent ; cuncta ocius effer,
 et vita tumuloque ducis donatus abito.”
 horruit et toto praecordia protinus Arcas 435
 implevit capulo. “ summumne hoc cladibus ” inquit,
 “ deerat, ut adflictos turparem ego proditor Argos ?
 nil emimus tanti, nec sic velit ipse³ cremari.”

¹ sed *Garrod* : sub *Pω* : sui *Heinsius*.

² tacentis *Markland* : iacentis *Pω*.

³ sic . . . ipse *ω* : si . . . iste *P*.

he wore by chance upon his back, and holding out his bared blade he stands on guard, and turns to face every dart, prepared both to slay and to be slain : as a lioness lately whelped, beset by Numidian hunters in her savage lair, stands above her young, erect but doubting in her mind, and utters a wild and melancholy roar ; full well could she scatter their array and snap their weapons in her jaws, but love of her offspring overcomes the fierceness of her heart, and from the midst of her rage she looks round upon her cubs. And now the hero's left hand has been cut away, though Amphion bade them use no violence, and the boy is dragged along by his hair with face upturned. Then at last, too late a suppliant, he lets fall his blade and makes entreaty : " Carry him less roughly, I pray you, by the cradle of lightning-born Bacchus and the flight of Ino and your own Palae-mon's tender years ; if any of you know at home the joy of children, if any here is a father, grant the lad some few handfuls of dust, and a little fire : lo ! he implores, he implores you with mute countenance ; better that I should sate the accursed fowls, cast me to the wild beasts, 'twas I that made him dare the fight." " If so great be thy desire to bury thy prince," Amphion cried, " tell us, what plan of war have the scared Pelasgians, what purpose they in their broken, heartless state ? Quick, out with it all, and we grant thee to depart alive and give burial to thy chief ! " The Arcadian shuddered, and on the instant plunged his sword up to the hilt in his own breast. " Was this then lacking," he cried, " to crown our woes, that I should dishonour and betray Argos in her hour of need ? That were too dearly bought, nor would he himself wish for the pyre at

STATIUS

sic ait, et magno proscissum volnere pectus
 iniecit puero, supremaque murmura volvens : 440
 “ hoc tamen interea mecum¹ potiare² sepulcro.”
 tales optatis regum in complexibus ambo,
 par insigne animis, Aetolus et inclytus Arcas,
 egregias efflant animas letoque fruuntur.
 vos quoque sacrati, quamvis mea carmina surgant
 inferiore lyra, memores superabitis annos. 446
 forsitan et comites non aspernabitur umbras
 Euryalus Phrygiique admittet gloria Nisi.

At ferus Amphion, regi qui facta reportent
 edoceantque dolum captivaque corpora reddant, 450
 mittit ovans ; clusis ipse insultare Pelasgis
 tendit et abscisos sociorum ostendere voltus.
 interea reducem murorum e culmine Grai
 Thiodamanta vident nec iam erumpentia celant
 gaudia. ut exsertos enses et caede recenti 455
 arma rubere notant, novus adsilit aethera magnum
 clamor, et e summo pendent cupida agmina vallo
 noscere quisque suos. volucrum sic turba recentum,
 cum reducem longo prospexit in aere matrem,
 ire cupit contra summique e margine nidi 460
 exstat hians, iamiamque cadat, ni pectore toto
 obstet aperta parens et amantibus increpet alis.
 dumque opus arcanum et taciti compendia Martis
 enumerant laetisque suos complexibus implent
 Hopleaque exquirunt tardumque Dymanta queruntur :
 ecce et Dircaeae iuxta dux concitus alae 466

¹ mecum *Garrod* : et tu *P* : claro ω : saltem *conj.* *Klotz* : sed tu *Vollmer* : dederō *conj.* *Alton*.

² potiare ω : potiere *D* : potiore *P* (*with a written over*).

such a cost." So speaking, he tore a mighty gash in his breast, and casting him down upon the lad with his last breath murmured: "Yet receive meanwhile this burial with me!" Thus in the longed-for embraces of their chiefs do both the noble-minded pair, Aetolian alike and famed Arcadian, breathe out their peerless souls and taste of death. Ye too are consecrate, though my songs soar for a less lofty lyre, and will go down the unforgetful years. Perchance too Euryalus will not spurn his comrade shades, and the glory of Phrygian Nisus will not say them nay.

But fierce Amphion sends in triumph heralds to report his doings to the king, and inform him of the crafty attack, and deliver back the captured bodies; he himself proceeds to insult the beleaguered Pelasgians, and to display their comrades' severed heads. Meanwhile from the summit of the walls the Greeks perceive Thiodamas returning, nor conceal any more their joyous outbursts. But when they saw their naked swords and arms all red with recent carnage, a fresh shout leaps upward to the broad sky, and eager throngs hang from the rampart's top, while each one looks for his own. Even so a crowd of nestlings, seeing their mother returning through the air afar, would fain go to meet her, and lean gaping from the edge of the nest, and would even now be falling, did she not spread all her motherly bosom to save them, and chide them with loving wings. And while they recount their hidden deeds and the swift work of silent war, and clasp their friends in a long embrace, they look for Hopleus and complain of Dymas' slowness: and lo! Amphion, the commander of the Theban band, had drawn nigh in

STATIUS

venerat Amphion ; non longum caede recenti
 laetatus videt innumeris fervere catervis
 tellurem atque una gentem expirare ruina.
 qui tremor elicita¹ caeli de lampade tactis, 470
 hic fixit iuvenem, pariterque horrore sub uno
 vox, acies sanguisque perit, gemitusque parantem
 ipse ultro convertit equus ; fugit ala retorto
 pulvere. nondum illi Thebarum claustra subibant,
 et iam Argiva cohors nocturno freta triumpho 475
 prosilit in campos ; per et arma et membra iacentum
 taetraque congerie sola semianimumque cruorem
 cornipedes ipsique ruunt : gravis exterit artus
 ungula, sanguineus lavat imber et impedit axes.
 dulce viris hac ire via, ceu tecta superbi 480
 Sidonia atque ipsas calcent in sanguine Thebas.
 hortatur Capaneus : “ satis occultata, Pelasgi,
 delituit virtus : nunc, nunc mihi vincere pulchrum
 teste die ; mecum clamore et pulvere aperto
 ite palam, iuvenes : sunt et mihi provida dextrae
 omina² et horrendi stricto mucrone furores.” 486
 sic ait ; ardentis alacer succendit Adrastus
 Argolicusque gener, sequitur iam tristior augur.
 iamque premunt muros—et adhuc nova funera narrat
 Amphion—miseramque intrarant protinus urbem,
 ni Megareus specula citus exclamasset ab alta : 491
 “ claude, vigil, subeunt hostes, claude undique portas ! ”

Est ubi dat vires nimius timor : ocius omnis
 porta coit ; solas dum tardius artat Echion

¹ elicita late mss., Peyrared : inlicita Pω : inicitur conj.
 Garrod : ilicibus Phillimore.

² omina ω : omnia P : Menke conj. numina (iii. 615).

haste ; no long delight had he of his late bloodshed, when he saw the ground a heap of countless bodies, and a whole race in the death-throes of one universal doom. Such a tremor as falls on those whom the brand called forth from heaven has smitten, seized now the warrior, and in one spasm voice, sight, and blood all fail, and as he still attempts a groan his charger unbidden wheels him round ; 'mid a whirl of dust the troop flees back, Not yet had they entered the barred gates of Thebes, when the Argive band, flushed with their nocturnal triumph, leapt forth into the plain ; over weapons and prostrate bodies and earth befouled by heaps of slain, and blood still warm with life men and horn-footed steeds go rushing : the heavy hoof crushes the limbs, and a rain of gore bathes and clogs the axles. Sweet is it to the heroes to go by such a road, as if they proudly trampled Sidonian homes and Thebes herself in blood. Capaneus cheers them on : " Long enough, Pelasgians, has our valour lain in hiding ; now, now is victory fair in my eyes, in the full blaze of day ! On, men, with me to open conflict ! Raise the dust and shout your battle-cry ! Sure is the omen of my right hand, terrible the fury of my drawn sword ! " So he speaks ; Adrastus and the Argive prince with eagerness inflame their ire, and the augur follows in sadder mood. Already they are nigh the walls—and still Amphion is telling of the new disaster—and would straight have entered the hapless city, had not Megareus from a high watch-tower exclaimed in haste : " Shut the gates, sentry, everywhere ! the enemy comes."

Overmastering fear sometimes gives strength : quick closes every gate ; only while Echion is slow

STATIUS

Ogygias, audax animis Spartana iuventus 495
 inrupit, caesique ruunt in limine primo
 incola Taygeti Panopeus rigidique natator
 Oebalus Eurotae ; tuque, o spectate palaestris
 omnibus et nuper Nemeaeo in pulvere felix,
 Alcidama, primis quem caestibus ipse ligarat 500
 Tyndarides, nitidi moriens convexa magistri
 respicis : averso pariter deus occidit astro.
 te nemus Oebalium, te lubrica ripa Lacaenae
 virginis et falso gurges cantatus oleri
 flebit, Amyclaeis Triviae lugebere Nymphis, 505
 et quae te leges praeceptaque fortia belli
 crudiit genetrix, nimium didicisse queretur.
 talis Echionio Mavors in limine saevit.

Tandem umeris obnixus Acron et pectore toto
 pronus Ialmenides aeratae¹ robora portae 510
 torserunt : quanta pariter cervice gementes
 profringunt inarata diu Pangaea iuvenci.
 par operis iactura lucro, quippe hoste retento
 exclusere suos ; cadit intra moenia Graius
 Ormenus, et pronas tendentis Amyntoris ulnas 515
 fundentisque preces penitus cervice remissa
 verba solo voltusque cadunt, colloque decorus
 torques in hostiles cecidit per vulnus harenas.
 solvitur interea vallum, primaeque recusant
 stare morae ; iam se peditum iunxere catervae 520
 moenibus : at patulas saltu transmittersse fossas
 horror equis, haerent trepidi atque immane paventes
 abruptum mirantur agi² ; nunc impetus ire

¹ aeratae *Klotz* : ferratae ω.

² agi ω : iter *P.*

^a *i.e.*, the Eurotas, where Jupiter feigned to be a swan (proverbially tuneful) and deceived Leda.

to bar the Ogygian, courageous Spartan warriors break in, and fall in the threshold slain, Panopeus, dweller upon Taygetus, and Oebalus, swimmer of rough Eurotas; thou too, Alcidas, who didst prove thy worth in every wrestling-ground, and of late win victory in Nemean dust, thou for whom the son of Tyndareus himself fastened thy first gloves: dying thou lookest toward the vault where thy master shines; straightway the god sinks with averted star. Thee the Oebalian woodland, thee the Laconian maiden's deceitful river-bank shall mourn, and the flood^a that the feigned swan once sang of; thou shalt be wept by Trivia's Amyclaeon Nymphs, and thy mother who taught thee the laws and valiant rules of war shall lament that thou wert too apt a scholar. Thus does Mavors wreak his fury on the threshold of Echion's town.

At length Acron, heaving with his shoulders, and Ialmenides, leaning all his body's weight, forced to the bronze-clad doors: with such strength do groaning bullocks cleave side by side the long-unploughed fields of Pangaeum. Yet equal is the loss to their labour's gain, for they have kept the foe within, and shut out their own countrymen. Ormenus the Grecian is slain within the walls, and while Amyntor stretches imploring arms and pours out prayers, his head is severed, and words and face alike fall to earth, and at the blow a shapely necklace drops from his neck into the hostile dust. Meanwhile the rampart is breached, the first lines give way, and already troops of infantry are at the walls; but the horses fear to leap the wide trenches and shrink back in alarm, and panic-struck at the vast abyss marvel that they are driven on; now they start forward from the

margine ab extremo, nunc sponte in frena recedunt.
 hi praefixa solo vellunt munimina, at illi 525
 portarum obiectus minuunt et ferrea sudant
 claustra remoliri, trabibusque atque aere¹ sonoro
 pellunt saxa loco ; pars ad fastigia missas
 exsultant haesisse faces, pars ima lacesunt
 scrutanturque cavas caeca testudine turres. 530

At Tyrii, quae sola salus, caput omne coronant
 murorum, nigrasque sudes et lucida ferro
 spicula et arsuras caeli per inania glandes
 saxaque in adversos ipsis avolsa rotabant 535
 moenibus: exundant saevo fastigia nimbo,
 armataeque vomunt stridentia tela fenestrae.
 qualiter aut Malean aut alta Ceraunia supra
 cessantes in nube sedent nigrisque locantur²
 collibus et subitae saliunt in vela procellae :
 talis Agenoreis Argivom exercitus armis³ 540
 obruitur ; non ora virum, non pectora flectit
 imber atrox, rectosque tenent in moenia voltus
 immemores leti et tantum sua tela videntes.
 Anthea falcato lustrantem moenia curru
 desuper Ogygiae pepulit gravis impetus hastae ; 545
 lora excussa manu, retroque in terga volutus
 semianimos artus ocreis retinentibus haeret ;
 mirandum visu belli scelus : arma trahuntur,
 fumantesque rotae tellurem et tertius hastae
 sulcus arat ; longo sequitur vaga pulvere cervix, 550
 et resupinarum patet orbita lata comarum.

¹ trabibusque atque aere *Postgate* : trabibusque artata ω ,
 trabibus et ariete *P* : trabibusque aut aere *Kohlmann*, tr.
 atque assere duro *Owen* : fidibusque artata sonoris *conj.*
Garrod.

² locantur *Bury* : locuntur *P* : legantur *S* : leguntur ω :
 teguntur *D* (*with le-written over*).

³ armis ω : orans *P*.

edge, now of their own accord recoil upon the reins. Some tear from the ground the planted palisades, others hack at the defences of the gates and sweat to force away the iron barriers, and with beams and sounding bronze drive stones from their places; some hurl torches roofwards and exult when they stick fast, others assail the foundations and with the blind tortoise sap the base of hollow towers.

But the Tyrians—their only means of safety—crown the summit of the battlements, and hurl charred stakes and shining darts of steel against the foe, and stones torn from their own walls, and missiles that catch fire as they go through the void of air; a fierce deluge streams from the roof-tops, and the barred windows spew forth hissing javelins. As when the tempests sit motionless in the clouds over Malea or tall Ceraunia's mount and are ranged about the darkened hills, then suddenly swoop upon the sails beneath: so is the Argive host overwhelmed by the Agenorean arms; yet the relentless rain turns aside neither face nor breast, the warriors keep their gaze steady upon the walls, forgetful of death and seeing nought but their own weapons. While Antheus drives his scythed car round the Theban walls the violent impact of an Ogygian spear strikes him from above; the reins are torn from his grasp, and, scarce alive, he is hurled to the rear upon his back, but stays caught by his greaves; strange sight and horrible fate of war! his arms are dragged along, the smoking wheels and the spear with third furrow ploughing the earth; tossed to and fro the head follows in a long wake of dust, and the broad track of the outspread locks shows clear.

STATIUS

At tuba luctificis pulsat clangoribus urbem
 obsaetasque fores sonitu perfringit amaro.
 divisere aditus, omnique in limine saevus
 signifer, ante omnes sua damna et gaudia portans.
 dira intus facies, vix Mavors ipse videndo 556
 gaudeat ; insanis lymphatam horroribus urbem
 scindunt dissensu vario Luctusque Furorque
 et Pavor et caecis Fuga circumfusa tenebris.
 bellum intrasse putes : fervent discursibus arces,
 miscentur clamore viae, ferrum undique et ignes 561
 mente vident, saevas mente acceperere catenas.
 consumpsit ventura timor : iam tecta replerunt
 templaque et ingratae vallantur planctibus arae.
 una omnes eademque subit formido per annos : 565
 poseunt fata senes, ardet palletque iuventus,
 atria femineis trepidant ululata querellis.
 flent pueri et flendi nequeunt cognoscere causas
 attoniti et tantum matrum lamenta trementes.
 illas cogit amor, nec habent extrema pudorem : 570
 ipsae tela viris, ipsae iram animosque ministrant,
 hortanturque unaque ruunt, nec avita gementes
 limina nec parvos cessant ostendere natos :
 sic ubi pumiceo pastor rapturus ab antro
 armatas erexit apes, fremit aspera nubes, 575
 inque vicem sese stridore hortantur et omnes
 hostis in ora volant, mox deficientibus alis
 amplexae flavamque domum captivaque plangunt
 mella laboratasque premunt ad pectora ceras.

^a *i.e.*, the standard, emblem of each one's fate, whether sad or glorious.

^b "shame," *i.e.*, of appearing in public.

But now the trumpet's clangour smites the city with dismay, and its harsh sound penetrates the barricaded doors. They divide the approaches, and in every gate there stands a fierce ensign-bearer, raising high for all to see their sufferings or their joys.^a Dreadful is the sight within, scarce Mars himself would rejoice to behold it; Grief and Fury and Panic, and Rout enwrapped in blinding gloom rend with many-voiced discord the frenzied, horror-stricken town. One would think the battle was within; men are hurrying to and fro about the citadel, the streets are full of clamour, everywhere they see in imagination sword and fire, everywhere cruel chains. Fear anticipates the future; already houses and temples are thronged, and the ungrateful shrines are ringed with lamentation. Old and young alike are in the grip of one universal terror; the old men pray for death, the young flush with ardour and grow pale by turns, the houses rock with the shriek of women's wailing. Children weep, nor know the cause of their weeping, but stand aghast and tremble at their mothers' sobs. Them love constrains, nor does utmost need admit of shame^b; with their own hands they give weapons to the men, with their own voices they fire them to wrath and valour, and exhort them, and rush with them to battle, nor cease amid their tears to show them their ancestral homes and helpless babes. So when a husbandman, on plunder bent, has aroused the armed bees from their rocky cavern, the angry swarm is in an uproar, inciting each other with loud buzzing, and all fly in the enemy's faces; but soon with failing wings they clasp their waxen home, and bewail the rifled store of honey, and press to their bosoms the laboured combs.

Nec non ancipitis pugnat sententia volgi 580
 discordesque serit motus : hi reddere fratrem¹—
 nec mussant, sed voce palam claroque tumultu—,
 reddere regna iubent ; periit reverentia regis
 sollicitis : “ veniat pactumque hic computet annum,
 Cadmeosque lares exsul patriasque salutet 585
 infelix tenebras ; cur autem ego sanguine fraudes
 et periura luam regalis crimina noxae ? ”
 inde alii : “ sera ista fides, iam vincere mavult.”
 Tiresian alii lacrimis et supplice coetu
 orant, quodque unum rebus solamen in artis, 590
 nosse futura rogant. tenet ille inclusa premitque
 fata deum : “ quiane ante duci bene credita nostro
 consilia et monitus, cum perfida bella vetarem ?
 te tamen, infelix,” inquit, “ perituraque Thebe,
 si taceam, nequeo miser exaudire cadentem 595
 Argolicumque oculis haurire vacantibus ignem.
 vincamur, Pietas ; pone heia altaria, virgo,
 quaeramus superos.” facit illa, acieque sagaci
 sanguineos flammaram apices geminumque per aras
 ignem et clara tamen mediae fastigia lucis 600
 orta docet ; tunc in speciem serpentis inanem
 ancipiti gyro volvi frangique ruborem
 demonstrat dubio, patriasque inluminat umbras.
 ille coronatos iamdudum amplectitur ignes,
 fatidicum sorbens vultu flagrante vaporem. 605
 stant tristes horrore comae, vittasque prementes
 caesaries insana levat : diducta putares

¹ fratrem *Pω* : fratri *late mss.*, *Sandstroem.*

^a *i.e.*, “ do ye ask my counsel now because . . . ”

^b *i.e.*, lit by Argives.

^c The goddess of devotion to country, etc. ; see n. on l. 780.

^d “ ancipiti ” here may mean “ doubtful,” *i.e.* not clear to the sight, or “ two-headed,” literally. “ frangi ” is to be broken or moulded into a shape.

The crowd also is filled with the strife of opposing tongues, and spreads discordant passions; some, with no muttered voice, but outspokenly and in open tumult, bid the brother restore the kingdom; in their distress all reverence for their prince is lost: "Let him come, and here make up the count of his bargained year, and salute—unhappy exile!—his Cadmean home and his father's blindness; why should my blood atone the fraud and the royal miscreant's traitorous crime?" Then others: "Too late is good faith now, he would rather conquer." Others in a tearful suppliant throng implore Tiresias, and ask—the only solace in adversity—to learn the future. But he withholds and keeps hidden the destinies of heaven: "Is it because^a our monarch so trusted my warning counsels before, when I forbade perfidious warfare? Yet, unhappy Thebes," he cries, "that art doomed to destruction should I be dumb, I cannot endure miserably to hear of thy fall and with these empty eyes to drink in Argolic^b flames. Let me yield, O Piety^c! ho! maiden, set the altars, let us inquire of the gods above." She obeys, and keenly gazing informs him of blood-red points of flame and a twofold fire upon the altar, and how the middle blaze yet rises high and clear; then she teaches her doubting sire that the ruddy flame is rolled and shaped with double coil into the ghostly likeness of a serpent^d and illuminates her father's gloom. He straightway spreads his arms about the garlanded fire, and absorbs the prophetic vapours with glowing countenance. His hair rises in horror and dismay, and the grey locks madly lift high the covering fillets: one would think his eyes were open,

lumina consumptumque genis rediisse nitorem.
 tandem exundanti permisit verba furori :
 “ audite, o sontes, extrema litamina divum, 610
 Labdacidae : venit alma salus, sed limite duro.
 Martius inferias et saeva efflagitat anguis
 sacra : cadat generis quicumque novissimus exstat
 viperei, datur hoc tantum victoria pacto.
 felix, qui tanta lucem mercede relinquet.” 615

Stabat fatidici prope saeva altaria vatis
 maestus, adhuc patriae et tantum communia lugens
 fata, Creon : grandem subiti cum fulminis ictum,
 non secus ac torta traiectus cuspide pectus,
 accipit exanimis sentitque Menoecea posci. 620
 monstrat enim suadetque timor ; stupet anxius alto
 corda metu glaciante pater : Trinacria qualis
 ora repercussum Libyco mare sumit ab aestu.
 mox plenum Phoebos vatem et celerare iubentem
 nunc humilis genua amplectens, nunc ora canentis
 nequiquam reticere rogat ; iam fama sacratam 626
 vocem amplexa volat, clamantque oracula Thebae.

Nunc, age, quis stimulos et pulchrae gaudia mortis
 addiderit iuveni—neque enim haec absentibus
 unquam

mens homini transmissa deis—memor incipe Clio,
 saecula te quoniam penes et digesta vetustas. 631

Diva Iovis solio iuxta comes, unde per orbem
 rara dari terrisque solet contingere, Virtus,
 seu pater omnipotens tribuit, sive ipsa capacis
 elegit penetrare viros, caelestibus ut tunc 635

^a Sicilian.

and the lost glow had returned again to his cheeks. At length he gave vent in words to the flood of his frenzy: "Listen, ye guilty sons of Labdacus, and hear the last sacrifice of all! Kindly salvation cometh, but by a hard path. The snake of Mars demands a victim and a cruel offering: the latest born of the serpent-brood must fall, at this price alone can victory come. Happy is he whose death shall win so great a guerdon!"

Creon, sad at heart and mourning as yet only for his country and the common fate, stood by the stern altar of the prophetic seer: when with the shock of a sudden blow, as if a flung lance had pierced his breast, he heard, near dead with horror, and knew Menoeceus was demanded. Fear points the truth, nor suffers doubt: he is benumbed by anguish, and an icy dread assails the father's heart; even so does the Trinacrian^a coast sustain the sea hurled back from the Libyan surge. Then humbly clasping the knees of the seer, who, full of Phoebus, bids him make speed, and touching the lips that chant the oracle, he entreats him to be silent, all in vain; already rumour has seized the word and flies abroad, and Thebes proclaims the oracle.

Come, now, tell who fired the youth with joy in a noble death—for never without heaven's aid is this mind given to men—begin thou, unforgetting Clio, for the ages are in thy keeping, and all the storied annals of the past.

The goddess Virtue, close companion of the throne of Jove, whence rarely she is wont to be vouchsafed to the world and to bless the earth, whether the almighty Father hath sent her, or she herself hath chosen to dwell in men worthy of her—how gladly

desiluit gavisâ plagis ! dant clara meanti
 astra locum quosque ipsa polis adfixerat ignes.
 iamque premit terras, nec vultus ab aethere longe ;
 sed placuit mutare genas, fit provida Manto,
 responsis ut plena¹ fides, et fraude priores 640
 exuitur voltus. abiit horrorque vigorque
 ex oculis, paulum decoris permansit honosque
 mollior, et posito vatum gestamina ferro
 subdita ; descendunt vestes, torvisque ligatur
 vitta comis—nam laurus erat—tamen aspera produnt
 ora deam nimique gradus. sic Lydia coniunx 646
 Amphitryoniaden exutum horrentia terga
 perdere Sidonios umeris ridebat² amictus
 et turbare colus et tympana rumpere dextra.

Sed neque te indecorem sacris dignumque iuberi
 talia Dircaea stantem pro turre, Menoeceu, 651
 invenit ; immensae reserato limine portae
 sternebas Danaos, pariter Mavortius Haemon.
 sed consanguinei quamvis atque omnia fratres,
 tu prior : exanimes circum cumulantur acervi ; 655
 omne sedet telum, nulli sine caedibus ictus—
 necdum aderat Virtus—non mens, non dextra quiescit,
 non avida arma vacant, ipsa insanire videtur
 Sphinx galeae custos, visoque animata cruore
 emicat effigies et sparsa orichalca reident : 660

¹ plena *P*ω : plana *L Gronovius*.

² ridebat ω : redimibat *P*.

^a *i.e.*, the spirits who for their virtue had been made divine. The stars were supposed to be the abode of such, or even the spirits themselves.

^b Apparently a rendering of Homer's description of Eris, *Il.* iv. 443 οὐρανῶ ἐστήριξε κάρη καὶ ἐπὶ χθονὶ βαίνει.

then did she leap down from the heavenly places ! The shining stars gave way before her, and those fires that she herself had fixed in heaven ^a ; already she treads the earth, nor is her countenance far distant from the sky ^b ; but it pleased her to change her aspect, and she becomes sagacious Manto, that her speech might have full credence, and by deceit puts off her former mien. The look of awe, the austerity were gone, something of charm remained, and a softer beauty ; the sword was laid aside, and she took instead the prophet's wand ; her robe falls to her feet, and on her stern brow the wool is bound, where before was laurel ; yet her grave aspect and more than mortal strides betray the goddess. Even so at Amphitryon's son did his Lydian mistress ^c laugh, when putting off the bristling hide he marred the Sidonian raiment with his vast shoulders, and wrought confusion in the distaff and smashed the timbrels with his hand.

Nor does she find thee, O Menoeceus, an unworthy victim, nor unfit to receive so solemn a behest, as thou standest before the Dircaean tower ; the huge gate unbarrèd, thou wert slaying the Danaans, and Martian Haemon ^d in like manner. But though ye were of one blood, and in everything brothers, thou hadst first place : heaps of dead are piled around thee, every dart finds its mark, no stroke but a victim falls—nor yet had Virtue come to aid—neither mind nor hand is idle, the eager weapons are never still, even the Sphinx, the guardian of his casque, appears to rage, the image, animated by the sight of blood, flashes out, and the bespattered brass gleams :

^c *i.e.*, Omphale.

^d His brother.

cum dea pugnantis capulum dextramque repressit :
 “ magnanime o iuvenis, quo non agnoverit ullum
 certius armifero Cadmi de semine Mavors,
 linque humiles pugnas, non haec tibi debita virtus :
 astra vocant, caeloque animam, plus concipe, mittes.
 iamdudum hoc hilares genitor bacchatur ad aras, 666
 hoc ignes fibraeque volunt, hoc urget Apollo :
 terrigenam cuncto patriae pro sanguine poscunt.
 fama canit monitus, gaudet Cadmeia plebes
 certa tui¹ ; rape mente deos, rape nobile fatum. 670
 i, precor, accelera, ne proximus occupet Haemon.”
 sic ait, et magna cunctantis pectora dextra
 permulsit tacite seseque in corde reliquit.
 fulminis haud citius radiis adflata cupressus
 combibit infestas et stirpe et vertice flammās, 675
 quam iuvenis multo possessus numine pectus
 erexit sensus letique invasit amorem.
 ut vero aversae gressumque habitumque notavit
 et subitam a terris in nubila crescere Manto,
 obstipuit. “ sequimur, divum quaecumque vocasti,
 nec tarde paremus,” ait ; iamiamque recedens 681
 instantem vallo Pylum tamen Agrea fixit.
 armigeri fessum excipiunt ; tum vulgus euntem
 auctorem pacis servatoremque deumque
 conelamat gaudens atque ignibus implet honestis.
 iamque iter ad muros cursu festinus anhelo 686
 obtinet et miseros gaudet vitasse parentes,
 cum genitor—steteruntque ambo et vox haesit
 utrique,²

¹ certa tui ω : certatim P.

² utrique KQ : utrimque Pω.

when the goddess stays the warrior's hand upon the sword-hilt: "Great-hearted youth, than whom none were more surely known of Mars to be of Cadmus' fighting seed, leave these mean affrays, such is not the prowess reserved for thee: the stars are calling thee, thou shalt send thy soul to heaven—conceive a nobler destiny! This it is that inspires my father's frenzy at the joyful altars, this the flames and the fibres demand, this doth Apollo urge: they call for an earth-born one on behalf of our country's common life. Rumour repeats the counsel, the folk of Cadmus, certain of thee, rejoice; take the gods' word to heart, and snatch a glorious fate. Go, I pray thee, and hasten, lest Haemon by thy side forestall thee." So speaking she assured his wavering mind with the silent touch of her mighty hand, and left herself within his heart. No more swiftly does the cypress blasted by the lightning flash drink up the deadly flame from stem to summit than did the youth, possessed by the mighty deity, raise high his spirit and fall straight in love with death. But when he marked her gait and habit as she turned, and beheld Manto on a sudden rise from earth into the clouds, he was astounded. "I follow thee," he cries, "whoever of the gods hast called me, nor am I slow to obey:" yet even as he retired he pierced Agreus of Pylos, who was threatening the rampart. His squires receive him, weary from the battle; then, as he proceeds, the mob in joy hails him as peace-bringer, preserver and god, and kindles within him a noble flame.

And now he is making his way to the city in breathless haste, rejoicing to have avoided his unhappy parents, when his father—both stopped, with

deiectaeque genae. tandem pater ante profatus :
 “ quis novus inceptis rapuit te casus ab armis ? 690
 quae bello graviora paras ? dic, nate, precanti,
 cur tibi torva acies ? cur hic truculentus in ore
 pallor, et ad patrios non stant tua lumina voltus ?
 audisti responsa, palam est. per ego oro tuosque,
 nate, meosque annos miseraeque per ubera matris,
 ne vati, ne crede, puer ! superine profanum 696
 dignantur stimulare senem, cui vultus inanis
 exstinctique orbis et poena simillima diro
 Oedipodae ? quid si insidiis et fraude dolosa
 rex agit, extrema est cui nostra in sorte timori 700
 nobilitas tuaque ante duces notissima virtus ?
 illius haec fors, remur quae verba deorum ;
 ille monet ! ne frena animo permitte calenti,
 da spatium tenuemque moram, male cuncta ministrat
 impetus ; hoc, oro, munus concede parenti. 705
 sic tua maturis signentur tempora canis,
 et sis ipse parens et ad hunc, animose, timorem
 pervenias : ne perge meos orbare penates.
 externi te nempe patres alienaque tangunt
 pignora ? si pudor est, primum miserere tuorum. 710
 haec pietas, hic verus honos ; ibi gloria tantum
 ventosumque decus tituli in morte latentes.
 nec timidus te flecto parens : i, proelia misce,
 i Danaas acies mediosque per obvius enses ;
 non teneo : liceat misero tremibunda lavare 715
 vulnera et undantem lacrimis siccare cruorem,
 teque iterum saevis iterumque remittere bellis.
 hoc malunt Thebae.” sic colla manusque tenebat

speech cut short and eyes downcast. At length his sire began : " What new chance has taken thee from a battle lately joined ? What design hast thou, that is weightier than war ? Tell me, my son, I entreat thee, why is thy look so fierce ? Why this angry pallor in thy face, why do thy eyes meet not thy father's gaze ? 'Tis plain, thou hast heard the oracle. By thy years and mine, my son, and by thy wretched mother's breast, I pray thee, lad, listen not to the seer ! Do the gods deign to inspire an impious dotard, with sightless face and blinded eyes, stricken even as dread Oedipus ? What if the king be using treachery and deceitful fraud, fearing in his desperate case our noble blood and thy valour that is renowned above our chieftains ? Perchance they are his words, which we deem to be the gods' ; 'tis he that gives this counsel ! Suffer not thy hot blood to carry thee away, but delay a trifling space, passion is ever a bad guide ; grant this boon, I entreat thee, to thy father. So may thy temples be marked with the grey hairs of age, and thyself be a parent, and come, rash boy, to fear like me : lay not my home desolate. Do other sires and the babes of strangers move thee ? If thou hast any shame, pity first thine own. This is duty, this is true honour ; there lies but empty glory and wind-blown renown and a name that will be lost in death. Nor is it from a father's fears that I urge thee : go, join in the fray, go, force thy way through the Danaan lines where swords are thickest : I do not hold thee back ; let me but cleanse thy quivering wounds and stanch with my tears thy welling blood, and send thee back again and yet again to the cruel battle. This does Thebes rather choose." So spake he, with his arms in close

implicitus ; sed nec lacrimae nec verba movebant
 dis votum iuvenem ; quin et monstrantibus illis 720
 fraude patrem tacita subit avertitque timorem :
 “ falleris heu verosque metus, pater optime, nescis.
 non me ulli monitus, nec vatum exorsa furentum
 sollicitant vanisque¹ movent : sibi callidus ista
 Tiresias nataeque canat ; non si ipse reclusis 725
 comminus ex adytis in me insaniret Apollo.
 sed gravis unanimi casus me fratris ad urbem
 sponte refert : gemit Inachia mihi saucius Haemon
 cuspide ; vix illum medio de pulvere belli
 inter utrasque acies, iamiamque tenentibus Argis—
 sed moror ; i, refove dubium turbaeve ferenti² 731
 dic, parcant leviterque vehant ; ego vulnera doctum
 iungere supremique fugam revocare cruoris
 Aetiona petam.” sic imperfecta locutus
 effugit ; illi atra mersum caligine pectus 735
 confudit sensus ; pietas incerta vagatur
 discordantque metus, impellunt credere Parcae.
 Turbidus interea ruptis venientia portis
 agmina belligeri Capaneus agit aequore campi,
 cornua nunc equitum, cuneos nunc ille pedestres,
 et proculcantes moderantum funera currus ; 741
 idem altas turres saxis et turbine crebro
 laxat, agit turmas idem atque in sanguine fumat.
 nunc spargit torquens volucris nova vulnera plumbo,
 nunc iaculum excusso rotat in sublime lacerto, 745
 nullaque tectorum subit ad fastigia, quae non
 deferat hasta virum perfusaque caede recurrat.

¹ vanisque *P* : manesque ω .

² ferenti *P* : furenti *BLD*.

embrace about his son's neck, but the youth, once vowed to the gods, was moved by neither tears nor words ; nay, at their prompting he met his sire with secret fraud and turned his fears : " Good father, thou art mistaken, thy fears are vain. No warning or speech of frenzied seers disturbs me, or troubles me with empty terrors ; let crafty Tiresias keep his chantings for himself and his own daughter ; nought should I care, if Apollo himself were to open his shrine and confront me with his ravings. No, 'tis the sore hurt of my loved brother that takes me back of my own will to the city ; my Haemon groans from the wound of an Inachian spear ; scarce out of the dust of battle, from between the lines—the Argives had already seized him—but I waste time ; go, cheer his distress, and tell his bearers to spare him and carry him gently ; I go to find Aëtion who is skilled to join up wounds and recall the life-blood's ebbing stream." He breaks off and speeds away ; in the other's breast confusion reigns and a dark cloud of woe ; he wavers uncertainly between devoted love and harsh, discordant fears ; but Fate impels him to believe.

Meanwhile impetuous Capaneus drives o'er the battle-plain the troops that issue from the breached gates, now squadrons of horse, now regiments of foot, now chariots that trample the corpses of their own charioteers ; he it is that rends high towers with stones and many a whizzing dart, he it is that routs the cohorts and reeks in gore. Now he whirls the winged bullet and scatters strange wounds all around, now he swings his arm aloft and sends the javelin flying, nor ever a lance mounts the roof-top, that brings not down its man, and falls back streaming with blood.

STATIUS

nec iam aut Oeniden aut Hippomedonta peremptos
 aut vatem Pelopea phalanx aut Areada eredunt :
 quin soeium eoiisse animas et corpore in uno 750
 stare omnes, ita cuncta replet. non ullius aetas,
 non eultus, non forma movet ; pugnantibus idem
 supplicibusque furit ; non quisquam obsistere contra,
 non belli temptare vices : proeul arma furentis
 terribilesque iubas et frontem eassidis horrent. 755

At pius electa murorum in parte Menoeeus
 iam saeer aspectu solitoeque augustior ore,
 eeu subito in terras supero demissus ab axe,
 constitit, exempta manifestus casside nosei,
 despexitque acies hominum et elamore profundo 760
 convertit eampum iussitque silentia bello.

“ armorum superi, tuque o qui funere tanto
 indulges mihi, Phoebae, mori, date gaudia Thebis,
 quae pepigi et toto quae sanguine prodigus emi.
 ferte retro bellum captaeque impingite Lernae 765
 reliquias turpes, confixaque terga foventes
 Inachus indecores pater aversetur alumnos.
 at Tyriis templa, arva, domos, conubia, natos
 reddite morte mea : si vos placita hostia iuvi,
 si non attonitis vatis consulta recepi 770
 auribus et Thebis nondum credentibus hausi,
 haec Amphionis pro me persolvite tectis
 ac mihi deceptum, preeor, exorate parentem.”
 sie ait, insignemque animam mucrone eorusco
 dedignantem artus pridem maestamque teneri 775
 arripit atque uno quaesitam vulnere rumpit.
 sanguine tunc spargit turree et moenia lustrat,

No longer does the Pelopean phalanx believe Oenides or Hippomedon slain, or the bard or yet the Arcadian, but rather that their comrades' souls are all rejoined in his one frame, so fills he all the battle-field. Nor age, nor dress, nor beauty moves him ; alike on those that fight and those that entreat he pours his fury ; none dare resist, or try the chances of war ; afar as he rages they shudder at his armour and terrible crest and helmet's front.

But the devoted Menoeceus stood on a chosen part of the wall, sacred already to behold, and majestic in mien beyond his wont, as though suddenly descended to earth from heaven above, bareheaded and manifest to view ; he gazed down upon the lines of warriors, and stilled the clamours of the field and bade the war be silent. " Ye gods of battle, and thou, O Phoebus, who grantest me a death so glorious, vouchsafe to Thebes the joys which I have covenanted for and bought with all my lavish life-blood. Roll back the tide of war, and hurl against captive Lerna her base remnants ; let father Inachus turn away from his dishonoured sons as they nurse the spear-wound in their backs. But restore to the Tyrians by my death their temples, fields and homes, children and wives ; if I, your chosen victim, have pleased you, if I heard the prophet's oracle with no panic-stricken ear, and took it to my heart ere ever Thebes believed it, reward Amphion's town in my stead, and reconcile, I pray, the sire whom I deceived." So he speaks, and with his glittering blade tears at the noble soul that long has disdained its body and grieved to be held fast, and probes for the life and rends it with one wound. Then with his blood he sprinkled the towers and purified the walls, and

STATIUS

seque super medias acies, nondum ense remisso,
 iecit et in saevos cadere est conatus Achivos.
 ast illum amplexae Pietas Virtusque ferebant 780
 leniter ad terras corpus ; nam spiritus olim
 ante Iovem et summis apicem sibi poscit in astris.

Iamque intra muros nullo sudore receptum
 gaudentes heroa ferunt : abscesserat ultro
 Tantalidum venerata cohors ; subit agmine longo
 colla inter iuvenum, laetisque favoribus omni 786
 concinitur vulgo Cadmum atque Amphiona supra
 conditor ; hi sertis, hi veris honore solutos¹
 adcumulant artus patriaque in sede reponunt
 corpus adoratum. repetunt mox bella peractis 790
 laudibus ; hic victa genitor lacrimabilis ira
 congemit, et tandem matri data flere potestas :
 “ lustralemne feris ego te, puer inclyte, Thebis
 devotumque caput vilis ceu mater alebam ?
 quod molita nefas, cui tantum invisata deorum ? 795
 non ego monstriifero coitu revoluta novavi²
 pignora, nec nato pepererunt funesta nepotes.
 quid refert ? potitur natis³ Iocasta ducesque
 regnantesque videt : nos saeva piacula bello
 demus, ut alterni—placet hoc tibi, fulminis auctor—
 Oedipodionii mutent diademata fratres ! 801
 quid superos hominesve queror ? tu, saeve Menoeceu,
 tu miseram ante omnes properasti extinguere
 matrem.

¹ solutos *late MSS., Peyrared* : soluto ω : solito *P.*

² novavi *DQ, Heinsius* : notavi ω , natavi *P.*

³ potitur natis *P* : habet ecce suos ω .

^a The Latin “ Pietas ” has a somewhat wider significance, including the ideas of Loyalty, Devotion, Affection, which it is impossible to express in one English word.

grasping still his sword hurled himself into the midst of the lines and strove to fall upon the fierce Achaeans. But Piety^a and Virtue clasped and bore his body lightly to the earth; for his spirit long since is at the throne of Jove, and demands for itself a crown 'mid highest stars.

And now rejoicing they bear the hero within the walls, recovering his body with no labour: of its own accord the Tantalid host in reverence withdrew; he is borne on the necks of youths in a long train, and is acclaimed by the glad praise of all the populace as patron of the town above Cadmus and Amphion; with garlands and all the honour of the spring they heap his lifeless limbs, and lay his venerated body in his forefathers' tomb. Then when their lauds are finished they resume the fight, and his sire, his wrath appeased, sheds tears and joins in the lament, and his mother can weep her fill at last: "Was it then to make atonement and devote thy life for cruel Thebes that I nourished thee, illustrious boy, as though I were some worthless mother? What crime then had I wrought, what god so hated me? No incestuous offspring have I borne in unnatural intercourse, nor given unhallowed progeny to my own son. What matters that? Jocasta hath her sons, and sees them leaders and kings: but we must make cruel expiation for the war, that the brothers, sons of Oedipus, may exchange their diadems—doth this please thee, O author of the blow^b? But why complain I of men and gods? Thou, cruel Menoeceus, thou before all didst haste to slay thy unhappy

^b For the use of "fulmen" see note on ix. 218; for the phrase *cf.* Ovid, *Met.* viii. 349 "auctor teli." Jupiter is presumably meant.

unde hic mortis amor ? quae sacra insania menti ?
 quosve ego conceptus aut quae male pignora fudi
 tam diversa mihi ? nimirum Martius anguis, 806
 quaeque novis proavum tellus effloruit armis —
 hinc animi tristes nimiusque in pectore Mavors,
 et de matre nihil. sponte en ultroque peremptus
 inrumpis maestas Fatis nolentibus umbras. 810
 ast egomet Danaos Capaneaue tela verebar :
 haec erat, haec metuenda manus ferrumque, quod
 amens

ipsa dedi. viden ut iugulo consumpserit ense ?
 altius haud quisquam Danaum mucrone subisset.”

Diceret infelix etiamnum et cuncta repleret 815
 questibus : abducunt comites famulaeque perosam
 solantes thalamoque tenent, sedet eruta multo
 ungue genas ; non illa dicm, non verba precantum
 respicit aut visus flectit tellure relictos,
 iam vocis, iam mentis inops. sic aspera tigris 820
 fetibus abreptis Scythico deserta sub antro
 accubat et tepidi lambit vestigia saxi ;
 nusquam irae, sedit¹ rabidi² feritasque famesque
 oris, eunt praeter secura armenta gregesque :
 aspicit illa iacens ; ubi enim, quibus ubera pascat
 aut quos ingenti premat exspectata rapina ? 826

Hactenus arma, tubae, ferrumque et vulnera : sed
 nunc

comminus astrigeros Capaneus tollendus in axis.
 non mihi iam solito vatium de more canendum³ ;

¹ sedit *P*ω : cedit *Q*.

² rabidi *Vollmer* : rapidi *P* : rabies ω.

³ canendum ω : canentum *P*.

mother ! Whence came this love of death ? What cursed madness seized thy mind ? What did I conceive, what misbegotten child did I bear, so different from myself ? Verily 'tis the snake of Mars, and the ground that burgeoned fresh with our armed sires—thence comes that desperate valour, that o'er-mastering love of war : nought comes of his mother. Lo ! of thine own will and pleasure slain, ay, even against the will of Fate, thou forcest an entrance to the gloomy shades. I was fearing the Danaans and the shafts of Capaneus : 'twas this hand, this hand of thine I should have feared, and the sword I myself once gave thee in my folly. See how the blade is wholly buried in his throat ! None of the Danaans could have made a deeper thrust."

Even yet would the unhappy woman be speaking and making her sorrow known on every side ; but her companions and her handmaids bear her away, hating those who would console her, and keep her in her chamber ; there she sits, her cheeks deep ploughed by her nails, nor looks towards the light, nor listens to entreaties, nor turns her face that is ever fixed on the ground—her voice, her reason lost. So a fierce tigress robbed of her cubs lies desolate in her Scythian lair and licks the traces on the warm stone ; her fury is gone, the savagery and hunger of her ravenous jaws are abated, and the flocks and herds go careless by : she sees them and lies still, for where are they for whom she should feed her dug, or, long-awaited, heap up the abundant prey ?

So far of arms and trumpets, of swords and wounds I tell ; but now Capaneus must be raised high to do battle with the star-bearing vault. No more may I sing after the wonted way of bards ; a mightier

STATIUS

maior ab Aoniis poscenda amentia lucis : 830
 mecum omnes audete deae ! sive ille profunda
 missus nocte furor, Capaneaue signa secutae
 arma Iovem contra Stygiae rapuere sorores,
 seu virtus egressa modum, seu gloria praeceps,
 seu magnae data fata¹ neci, seu laeta malorum 835
 principia et blandae superum mortalibus irae.

Iam sordent terrena viro taedetque profundae
 caedis, et exhaustis olim Graiumque suisque
 missilibus lassa respexit in aethera dextra.
 ardua mox torvo metitur culmina visu, 840
 innumerosque gradus, gemina latus arbore clusos,
 aerium sibi portat iter, longeque timendus
 multifidam quercum flagranti lumine vibrat ;
 arma rubent una clipeoque incenditur ignis.

“ hac ” ait, “ in Thebas, hac me iubet ardua virtus 845
 ire, Menoeceo qua lubrica sanguine turris.

experiar, quid sacra iuvent, an falsus Apollo.”
 dicit, et alterno captiva in moenia gressu
 surgit ovans : qualis mediis in nubibus aether 850
 vidit Aloidas, cum cresceret impia tellus
 despectura deos nec adhuc immane veniret
 Pelion et trepidum iam tangeret Ossa Tonantem.

Tunc vero attoniti fatorum in cardine summo,
 ceu suprema lues urbi facibusque cruentis
 aequatura solo turres Bellona subiret, 855

¹ fata *Pω* : fama *late MSS.*

^a “ magnae data fata neci ” seems hardly Latin, but I have kept the *ms.* reading ; “ fama ” merely repeats the idea of “ gloria praeceps ” ; “ necis,” Klotz’s suggestion, may be right.

^b A strange expression by which Statius means a ladder (the *κλίμακος προσαμβάσεις* of Aeschylus, *Sept.* 466).

frenzy must be summoned from the Aonian groves. Dare with me, goddesses all : whether that madness of his was sent from deepest night and the Stygian sisters dogged the banner of Capaneus and forced him to the assault against Jove, or whether 'twas valour that brooked no bounds, or headlong love of glory, or utter destruction's appointed doom,^a or success that goes before disaster and heaven luring to ruin in its wrath.

Now earthly battles grow mean in the hero's eyes, he is tired of the endless slaughter ; long ago have his own weapons and those of the Greeks been spent, his right arm grows weary, he looks up to the sky. Soon with frowning gaze he measures the lofty battlements, and gets him a skyward leading path of steps innumerable, a tree guarding its either flank,^b and terribly from afar he brandishes a flaring torch of oaken faggots : his armour glows red, and a blaze is kindled on his shield. " By this road," he cries, " by this road my lofty valour bids me go to Thebes, where yonder tower is slippery with Menoeceus' blood. I shall try what sacrifice avails, and whether Apollo be false." He speaks, and climbs with alternate step exultant against the captured wall : even as the vault beheld the Aloidæ^c amid the clouds, when impious earth rose high and was like to look down upon the gods ; not yet had mighty Pelion been added and Ossa already touched the affrighted Thunderer.

Then indeed aghast, upon the utmost verge of doom, as though the last destruction threatened, or Bellona with blood-stained brand drew nigh to raze their towers to the ground, from every roof in

^c Otus and Ephialtes, Giants who tried to storm heaven.

omnibus e tectis certatim ingentia saxa
 roboraque et validas fundae Balearis habenas—
 nam iaculis caeloque vagis spes unde sagittis ?—
 verum avidi et tormenta rotant et molibus urgent.
 ille nec ingestis nec terga sequentibus umquam 860
 detrahitur telis, vacuoque sub aere pendens
 plana velut terra certus vestigia figat,
 tendit et ingenti subit occurrente ruina :
 amnis ut incumbens longaevi robora pontis
 adsiduis oppugnat aquis, iam saxa fatiseunt 865
 emotaeque trabes ; tanto violentior ille—
 sentit enim—maiore salo quassatque trahitque
 molem aegram, nexus donec eeler alveus omnis
 abseidit et cursu victor respirat aperto.
 utque petita diu celsus fastigia supra 870
 eminuit trepidamque adsurgens desuper urbem
 vidit et ingenti Thebas exterruit umbra,
 increpat attonitos : “ humilesne¹ Amphionis arees,
 pro pudor ! hi faciles carmenque imbelle secuti,
 hi, mentita diu Thebarum fabula, muri ? 875
 et quidnam egregium prosternere moenia molli
 structa lyra ? ” simul insultans gressuque manuque
 molibus obstantes euneos tabulataque saevus
 restruit² : absiliunt pontes, tectique prementis
 saxea frena labant, dissaepoque aggere rursus 880
 utitur et truncas rupes in templa domosque
 praecipitat frangitque suis iam moenibus urbem.

Iamque Iovem circa studiis diversa fremebant

¹ humilesne *Pω* : haene illae *N2*, *Barth*, *Bentley*.

² restruit *PQSB* : destruit *K*, detrahit *N*. *Garrod cf.*
x. 527, claustra remoliri.

emulous haste they hurl huge stones and stakes, and whirl the strong lash of the Balearic sling—what hope is there in javelins and the vague flight of arrows?—nay, they eagerly ply their engines and impel great rocks against him. But he, unmoved by missiles assailing him in front or rear, hovers aloft in empty air, yet sure as though he planted his steps on the flat earth, and strives onward, and draws nigh in the teeth of fell destruction: just as a river pressing upon the timbers of an ancient bridge assaults it with unresting waters, and now the stones gape and the beams are loosened; with the more violence—for he knows it—and greater surge he shakes and drags at the weakening mass, till the swift current has burst all the fastenings, and triumphantly draws breath again, and flows on with unhampered course. And when he stood out high above the long-attempted summit, and in towering height looked down upon the trembling city, and terrified Thebes with his huge shadow, he taunted the astounded folk: “Are these Amphion’s insignificant towers—for shame!—are these the compliant walls that followed an unwarlike song?—that ancient, lying tale of Thebes? And what glory is there in overthrowing a fortress built by a feeble lyre?” Therewith he falls with foot and hand upon the masonry, and fiercely destroys the jointing and the flooring that would stay him; connecting bridges fall, the stone curbs of the covering roof give way, and again he uses the dismembered mass, and hurls down rocky fragments on temples and on houses, and now he is shattering the city with its own fortress-walls.

Meanwhile about Jove’s throne the Argive and

STATIUS

Argolici Tyriique dei ; pater aequus utrisque
aspicit ingentes ardentum comminus iras 885
scque obstare videt. gemit inservante¹ noverca

Liber et obliquo respectans lumine patrem :
“ nunc ubi saeva manus, meaque heu cunabula
flammae,

fulmen, io ubi fulmen ? ” ait. gemit auctor Apollo,
quas dedit ipse, domos ; Lernam Thebasque rependit
maestus et intento dubitat Tiryntius arcu ; 891

maternos plangit volucer Danaeus Argos ;
flet Venus Harmoniae populos metuensque mariti
stat procul et tacita Gradivum respicit ira.
increpat Aonios audax Tritonia divos, 895

Iunonem tacitam furibunda silentia torquent.
non tamen haec turbant pacem Iovis : ecce quierunt
iurgia, cum mediis Capaneus auditus in astris.

“ nullane pro trepidis ” clamabat, “ numina Thebis
statis ? ubi infandae segnes telluris alumni, 900
Bacchus et Alcides ? pudet instigare minores.

tu potius venias—quis enim concurrere nobis
dignior ? en cineres Semcleaque busta tenentur—,
nunc age, nunc totis in me conitere flammis,
Iuppiter ! an pavidas tonitru turbare puellas 905
fortior et soceri tures excindere Cadmi ? ”

Ingemuit dictis superum dolor ; ipse furentem
risit et incussa sanctarum mole comarum,
“ quaeenam spes hominum tumidae post proelia
Phlegrae !

¹ inservante *PN* : infestante *KQ marg. of B*.

^a *i.e.*, Juno.

^b The references here are to the oracle given by Apollo at Delphi to Cadmus, which led to the founding of Thebes, *cf.* vii. 664, and to the fact that Hercules was connected

the Tyrian deities were clamouring in diverse factions: the impartial sire beholds their wrath blaze high around him, and marks that he restrains it. Beneath his stepmother's ^a gaze Liber regards his sire askance, and makes lament: "Where now is that ruthless hand?" he cries, "where alas! is my cradle of fire, the thunderbolt, ay, where the thunderbolt?" Apollo ^b too laments the homes which once his command appointed; the Tirynthian weighs Lerna ^b against Thebes, and hesitates with ready-strung bow; the winged Danaan ^b grieves for his mother's Argos; Venus weeps for Harmonia's folk, and fearing her husband stands apart and gazes at Gradivus in silent anger. Bold Tritonia blames the Tyrian gods, while speechless rage tortures the heart of silent Juno. Yet undisturbed is the peace of Jove; and lo! their quarrels ceased when in mid-heaven Capaneus was heard: "Are there no gods among you," he cries, "who stand for panic-stricken Thebes? Where are the sluggard sons of this accursed land, Bacchus and Alcides? Any of lesser name I am ashamed to challenge. Rather come thou—what worthier antagonist? For lo! Semele's ashes and her tomb are in my power!—come thou, and strive with all thy flames against me, thou, Jupiter! Or art thou braver at frightening timid maidens with thy thunder, and razing the towers of thy father-in-law Cadmus?"

Loud rose the gods' indignant clamour at his words; Jove himself laughed at the madman, and shaking the thick mass of his sacred locks: "What hope has man after Phlegra's arrogant assault?" he says, both with Thebes and Argos (Lerna) by descent. The Danaan is Perseus, son of Danaë.

STATIUS

tunc etiam feriendus?" ait. premit undique lentum
 turba deum frendens et tela ultricia poscit, 911
 nec iam audet fatis turbata obsistere coniunx.
 ipsa dato nondum caelestis regia signo
 sponte tonat, coeunt ipsae sine flamine nubès
 adcurruntque imbres: Stygias rupisse catenas 915
 Iapetum aut vinctam¹ supera ad convexa levare
 Inarimen Aetnaeve putes. pudet ista timere
 caelicolas; sed cum in media vertigine mundi
 stare virum insanasque vident deposcere pugnas,
 mirantur taciti et dubio pro fulmine pallent. 920
 coeperat Ogygiae supra fastigia turris
 arcanum mugire polus caelumque tenebris
 auferri: tenet ille tamen, quas non videt, arces,
 fulguraque attritis quotiens micuere procellis,
 "his" ait, "in Thebas, his iam decet ignibus uti, 925
 hinc renovare faces lassamque accendere quercum."
 talia dicentem toto Iove fulmen adactum
 corripuit: primae fugere in nubila cristae,
 et clipei niger umbo cadit, iamque omnia lucent
 membra viri. cedunt acies, et terror utrimque, 930
 quo ruat, ardenti feriat quas corpore turmas.
 intra se stridere facem galeamque comasque
 sentit,² et urentem thoraca repellere dextra
 conatus ferri cinerem sub pectore tractat.³
 stat tamen, extremumque in sidera versus anhelat,⁴

¹ vinctam *K2*, *Peyrared*: victam *BDNQK*: victum *PS*.
 aut *after* victum *Kohlmann*.

² sentit *Imhof*: quaerit *MSS.*: questus *Garrod*: saevit *Klotz*.

³ *Lines 932-4 only in DS (between lines) B (in marg.) and late MSS.*

⁴ anhelat ω : adhaesit *PN2*.

^a Iapetus was a Titan, imprisoned below the earth; volcanoes such as Aetna were thought to contain fettered giants and Titans.

“and must thou too be struck down?” As he hesitates the gods throng round him, gnashing their teeth and crying for the avenging weapons, nor any longer dares his anxious consort resist the Fates. The heavenly palace itself thunders, though no sign is given, the clouds themselves gather and the storms collect without the blast of any wind: one would think Iapetus had burst his Stygian chains, and that fettered Inarime or Aetna had been lifted to the heights above.^a Such things the denizens of heaven feel shame to fear; but when they see the hero stand midway in the dizzy height of air, and summon them to insane battle, they marvel in silence, and grow pale, doubting the thunderbolt’s power. Then above the summit of the Ogygian tower the vault began to bellow strangely, and the sky to be lost in darkness; yet still he grasps the battlements he no longer sees, and as often as the lightnings flashed through the rent storm-clouds: “Ay here,” he shouts, “here at last are the fires ’tis right to use against Thebes! From them I may renew my torch, and awaken my smouldering oaken brand.” Even as he spoke, the thunderbolt struck him, hurled with the whole might of Jove: his crest first vanished into the clouds, the blackened shield-boss dropped, and all the hero’s limbs are now illumined. The armies both give way, in terror where he may fall, what squadrons he may strike with his burning body. He feels the flame hissing within him and his helmet and hair afire, and trying to push away the galling cuirass with his hand, touches the scorched steel beneath his breast. He stands nevertheless, and turning towards heaven

STATIUS

pectoraque invisis obicit fumantia muris, 936
ne caderet: sed membra virum terrena relinquunt,
exuiturque animus; paulum si tardius artus
cessissent, potuit fulmen sperare¹ secundum.

¹ sperare *PDN*2: meruisse ω .

pants out his life and leans his smoking breast on the hated battlements, lest he should fall; but his earthly frame deserts the hero, and his spirit is released; yet had his limbs been consumed a whit more slowly, he might have expected a second thunderbolt.

LIBER XI

Postquam magnanimus furias virtutis iniquae
consumpsit Capaneus exspiravitque receptum
fulmen, et ad terras longe comitata cadentem
signavit muros ultricis semita flammae :
componit dextra victor concussa plagarum 5
Iuppiter et vultu caelumque diemque reducit.
gratantur superi, Phlegrae ceu fessus anhelet
proelia et Encelado fumantem impresserit Aetnen.
ille iacet lacerae complexus fragmina turris,
torvus adhuc visu memorandaque facta relinquens 10
gentibus atque ipsi non inlaudata Tonanti.
quantus Apollineae temerator matris Averno
tenditur ; ipsae horrent, si quando pectore ab alto
emergunt, volucres immensaque membra iacentis
spectant, dum miserae crescunt in pabula fibrae : 15
sic gravat iniectus terras hostiliaque urit
arva et anhelantem caelesti sulphure campum.
respirant Thebae, templisque iacentia surgunt
agmina ; iam finis votis finisque supremis
planctibus, et natos ausae deponere matres. 20

At vaga palantes¹ campo fuga volvit Achivos.
nec iam hostes turmae aut ferrum mortale timetur :

¹ palantes ω : pallentes PQ.

^a Tityos.

BOOK XI

WHEN great-souled Capaneus had spent the fury of his unrighteous valour and gasped forth the levin-fire that lodged within him, and when the long track of avenging flame that marked his fall to earth had left its brand upon the walls : victorious Jove with his right hand composed the shaken vault, and with his countenance restored the light of heaven. The gods welcome him, as though he were breathless and weary after Phlegra's fight, or had piled smoking Aetna upon Enceladus. Grasping the fragment of a shattered tower the hero lies, with a scowl yet upon his face, and leaving deeds for all the world to tell of, deeds that even the Thunderer might praise. As vast as in Avernus lies outstretched the defiler of Apollo's mother,^a whom even the birds behold aghast when they emerge from his cavernous breast and view his huge extended limbs, while the wretched fibres grow again to feed them : so burdens he the earth, flung prostrate, and scars the hostile fields and the plain that gasps with the heavenly sulphur. Thebes draws breath once more, and the bowed suppliants rise in the temples ; vows and desperate wailing have an end, and the mothers dare to put down their little ones.

But the Achaeans are swept over the plain in scattered, aimless rout. No more do they fear the

STATIUS

omnibus ante oculos irae Iovis, omnibus ardent
 arma metu galeaeque tonant,¹ visusque paventes 25
 ipse sequi et profugis opponere Iuppiter ignes.
 instat Agenoreus miles caelique tumultu
 utitur: indomitos ut cum Massyla per arva
 armenti reges magno leo fregit hiatu
 et contentus abit; rauci tunc comminus ursi, 30
 tunc avidi venere lupi, rabieque remissa
 lambunt degeneres alienae vulnera praedae.
 hinc premit Eurymedon, cui rusticus horror in armis,
 rustica tela manu, patriumque agitare tumultus:
 Pan illi genitor; tener hinc conatibus annos
 egreditur iuvenemque patrem puer aequat Alatreus:
 felices ambo, sed fortunatior ille, 36
 quem genuisse iuvat; nec iam dignoscere promptum,
 quae magis arma sonent, quo plus eat hasta lacerto.
 Artatur denso fugientum examine vallum.
 quas volvis, Gradive, vices? modo moenia Cadmi 40
 scandebant: sua nunc defendunt tecta Pelasgi!
 ceu redeunt nubes, ceu circumflantibus austris
 alternus procumbit ager, ceu gurgite cano
 nunc retegat bibulas, nunc induit aestus harenas.
 exspirat² late pubes Tiryntia, alumni 45
 exuvias imitata dei; trux maeret ab astris
 Amphitryoniades Nemeaea in sanguine terga
 et similes ramos similesque videre pharetras.
 stabat in Argolicae ferrato culmine turris
 egregius lituo dextri Mavortis Enyeus³ 50

¹ tonant *P*ω: tremunt *Q*: tonant *D* (with tremunt written over).

² exspirat *P*: procumbit ω: exspirat (cumbit written over) *D*.

³ Enyeus *P*: enipeus ω.

squadrons of the foe or mortal steel: all have the anger of Jove before their eyes, all in their terror see their armour blazing and hear his thunder ringing in their helmets; Jove himself seemed to pursue and to oppose his fires to their flight. The warriors of Agenor press hard upon them, and use the tumult of the sky: as when upon Massylian meads a lion has crushed within his mighty jaws the untamed monarchs of the herd, and departs, his hunger sated; then growling bears draw nigh and greedy wolves, and with abated rage cowardly lap the blood of an alien prey. Here Eurymedon pursues, with armour rustic and uncouth and rustic weapons in his hand and native skill to arouse panic terrors—his sire was Pan; there goes Alatreus forth, tender in years for such emprise, and though a boy, matching his youthful father: fortunate both, but happier he who delights in such progeny; nor is it easy to discern whose weapons ring the louder, from whose arm more mightily flies the spear.

The ramparts are thronged with a dense mass of fugitives. What changes dost thou bring, Gradivus! But lately the Pelasgians were climbing Cadmus' walls, now they defend their own! Even so the clouds return, so when the south winds are blowing field after field is swept by the blast, so the surge now uncovers, now clothes with its white foam the thirsty sand. Far and wide perish the Tirynthian soldiery, that counterfeit the spoils of their native god; the stern son of Amphitryon mourns from the stars above to see the Nemean skins and the clubs and quivers like his own all drenched in blood. Upon the iron-clad summit of the Argive tower stood Enyeus, foremost to cheer to prosperous battle with the

STATIUS

hortator ; sed tunc miseris dabat utile signum
 suadebatque fugam et tutos in castra receptus :
 cum subitum obliquo descendit ab aere vulnus,
 urgentisque sonum laeva manus aure retenta est,¹
 sicut erat ; fugit in vacuas iam spiritus auras, 55
 iam gelida ora tacent, carmen tuba sola peregit.

Iamque potens scelerum geminaeque exercita gentis
 sanguine Tisiphone fraterna cludere quaerit
 bella acie² : nec se tanta in certamina fudit
 sufficere, inferna comitem ni sede Megaeram 60
 et consanguineos in proelia suscitet angues.
 ergo procul vacua concedit³ valle solumque
 ense fodit Stygio terraeque immurmurat absens
 nomen et—Elysiis signum indubitabile regnis—
 crinalem attollit longo stridore cerasten : 65
 caeruleae dux ille comae, quo protinus omnis
 horruit audito tellus pontusque polusque,
 et pater Aetnaeos iterum respexit ad ignes.
 accipit illa sonum ; stabat tunc forte parenti
 proxima, dum coetu Capaneus laudatur ab omni 70
 Ditis et insignem Stygiis fovet amnibus umbram.
 protinus abrupta terrarum mole sub astris
 constitit, exsultant manes, quantumque profundae
 rarescunt tenebrae, tantum de luce recessit.
 excipit atra soror dextraeque innexa profatur : 75
 “ hac, germana, tenus Stygii metuenda parentis
 imperia et iussos potui tolerare furores,

¹ *Line 54 omitted by P.*

² *acie conj. Klotz : tuba P, certainly corrupt and probably from l. 56 : pyra Postgate : manu Imhof.*

³ *concedit PBL : consedit ω, which is unsuitable in sense ; vacua concedit valle may be paralleled by ibam via sacra.*

trumpet, but then he was giving welcome signal to the distressed, and urging their flight and safe retirement to the camp : when suddenly through the air fell a sidelong blow, and as he sped the sound his hand, just as it was, was fixed to his left ear ; already his spirit flies forth upon the empty breeze, already his frozen lips are silent, the trumpet completed its call alone.

And now Tisiphone, having wrought her crimes and weary of the bloodshed of two peoples, seeks to conclude the fight with the brothers' conflict ; nor trusts she her own strength for so dire a fray, unless she can rouse from her infernal abode her companion Megaera and her kindred snakes to battle. Therefore she withdrew to an empty vale afar, and dug into the ground her Stygian blade, and muttered into the earth the name of the absent one, and—a sign indubitable to the Elysian realm—raised aloft a horned serpent from her hair with long-drawn hisses : he was the prince of her caerulean tresses, and straightway hearing him earth shuddered and sea and sky, and the Father glanced again at his Actnaean fires.^a The other heard the sound : by chance she was standing near her sire, while Capaneus was belauded by the whole train of Dis, and refreshed his glorious shade in the Stygian streams. Forthwith she broke through the massive earth, and stood beneath the stars ; the ghosts rejoice, and as the nether darkness grows less thick, so wanes the light above. Her fell sister receives her, and clasps her hand and speaks : “ Thus far, my sister, have I been able to sustain our Stygian father's dread commands and

^a *i.e.*, he looks again for his thunderbolts, after using one against Capaneus.

STATIUS

sola super terras hostilique obvia mundo,
 dum vos Elysium et faciles compescitis umbras.
 nec pretium deforme morae cassique labores : 80
 hoc quodcumque madent campi, quod sanguine
 fumant

stagna, quod innumero Lethaea examine gaudet
 ripa, meae vires, mea laeta insignia. sed quid
 haec ego ? Mars habeat, volgataque iactet Enyo.
 vidisti—Stygiis certe manifestus in umbris— 85
 sanguine foedatum rictus atroque madentem
 ora ducem tabo : miseri insatiabilis edit
 me tradente caput. modo nempe horrendus ab astris
 descendit vos usque fragor : me sacra premebat
 tempestas, ego mixta viri furialibus armis 90
 bella deum et magnas ridebam fulminis iras.
 sed iam—effabor enim—longo sudore fatiscunt
 corda, soror, tardaeque manus ; hebet infera caelo
 taxus et insuetos angues nimia astra soporant.
 tu, cui totus adhuc furor exsultantque recentes 95
 Cocyti de fonte comae, da iungere vires.
 non solitas acies nec Martia bella paramus,
 sed fratrum—licet alma Fides Pietasque repugnent,
 vincentur—fratrum stringendi comminus enses.
 grande opus ! ipsae odiis, ipsae discordibus armis 100
 aptemur. quid lenta venis ? agedum elige, cuius
 signa feras. ambo faciles nostrique ; sed anceps
 volgus et adfatus matris blandamque precatu
 Antigenon timeo, paulum ne nostra retardent

^a She despises such mean triumphs, and proceeds to compare her own. ^b From which her torch was made

the frenzy laid upon me, alone upon the earth and exposed to a hostile world, while ye in Elysium constrain the unresisting ghosts. No mean reward is mine for my pains, my labours are not vain: this deep-drenched battle-field, these waters that reek with blood, the countless swarms that gladden Lethe's bank—these are the tokens of my power, my signs of triumph. But what care I for these? Let Mars enjoy them, let Enyo boast and spread the story.^a Thou sawest—manifest surely was he in the Stygian shades—the chief whose jaws were fouled with blood, whose face dripped back corruption; insatiable, he ate the head of his hapless foe, which I did give him. Just now—was it not so?—the sound of a terrible din came down to you from the stars: me did that awful storm assail, 'twas I who mingling with the hero's fury-stricken arms laughed at the warring gods and the levin's mighty wrath. But now, sister, long toil—I confess it—has wearied out my spirit, and my arm is slow; the infernal yew^b languishes in the air of heaven, and the too strong influence of the stars drowns my unaccustomed snakes. Thou who still hast all thy rage, whose tresses are still riotous and fresh from Cocytus' fount, join thou thy strength to mine. 'Tis no common fray or Martian battle that we prepare, but brothers—though kindly Faith and Duty resist, they will be o'ercome—ay, brothers shall draw the sword in combat hand-to-hand. A noble work! Gird we ourselves with deadly hate, with armed discord. Dost thou hesitate? Nay, choose which banner thou wilt bear. Both are compliant and will do our will; but the mob is double-minded, and I fear his mother's words and Antigone's persuasive tongue, lest they

consilia. ipse etiam, qui nos lassare precando 105
 suetus et ultrices oculorum exposcere Diras,
 iam pater est : coetu fertur iam solus ab omni
 flere sibi. atque adeo moror ipsa inrumpere Thebas
 adsuetumque larem. tibi pareat impius exsul,
 Argolicumque impelle nefas ; neu mitis Adrastus 110
 praevaleat plebesque, cave, Lernaea moretur.
 vade, et in alternas inimica revertere pugnas.”

Talia partitae diversum abiere sorores :
 ut Notus et Boreas gemino de cardine mundi,
 hic nive Rhipaea, Libycis hic pastus harenis, 115
 bella cient : clamant amnes, freta, nubila, silvae,
 iamque patent strages ; plangunt sua damna coloni,
 et tamen oppressos miserantur in aequore nautas.
 illas ut summo vidit pater altus Olympo
 incestare diem, trepidumque Hyperionis orbem 120
 subfundi maculis, torvo sic incohat ore :
 “ vidimus armiferos, quo fas erat usque, furores,
 caelicolae, licitasque acies, etsi impia bella
 unus init aususque¹ mea procumbere dextra.
 nunc par infandum miserisque incognita terris 125
 pugna subest : auferte oculos ! absentibus ausint
 ista deis lateantque Iovem ; sat funera mensae
 Tantaleae et sontes vidisse Lycaonis aras
 et festina polo ducentes astra Mycenae.
 nunc etiam turbanda dies : mala nubila, tellus, 130

¹ aususque *Pω* : dignusque *QC* and (*written over*
aususque) *D*.

^a An imaginary mountain range at the N. limit of the world.

^b Tantalus cut up and boiled Pelops his son, and set him before the gods as a meal ; Lycaon, father of Callisto, offered human meat to Jove ; the sun turned away from

somewhat hinder our design. Ay, even he, who is wont to weary us with his entreaties and call on the Furies to avenge his eyes, already feels his fatherhood; already they say he weeps alone, far from the haunts of men; ay, verily, I like not to invade Thebes and the abode I know so well without thy succour. Command thou the impious exile, incite the Argive to the crime; see that the mild Adrastus prevail not, nor the Lernean host delay thee. Go, and return to the mutual fray—my foe!”

Their duties thus assigned, the sisters went their different ways: as from the two poles of the world South wind and North make war, one nurtured on Rhipæan^a snows, the other on Libyan sands: rivers, seas, clouds and woods resound, and soon is the ruin seen, the husbandmen lament their losses, yet pity the sailors whelmed upon the deep. When from Olympus' top the exalted Sire beheld them pollute the air, and saw Hyperion's frightened orb beflecked and tainted, with stern utterance he thus began: “Ye heavenly ones, we have seen armed fury pushed to the uttermost bound of right, and a war that yet was lawful, though one man engaged in impious conflict and dared to fall by my right hand. But now a duel unspeakable approaches, a combat yet unknown to miserable earth: look not upon it! Let no gods countenance such a crime, let it be hid from Jove; enough is it to have seen the deadly feast of Tantalus and the guilty altars of Lycaon, and Mycenæ bringing the stars in hurried train upon the sky.^b Now once again must day be troubled; accept, O Earth, these baleful clouds, and let the sky Mycenæ when Atreus set the flesh of Thyestes' sons before their father; hence the sudden appearance of the stars.

accipe, secedantque poli : stat parcere mundo
caelitibusque¹ meis ; saltem ne virginis almae
sidera, Ledaei videant neu talia fratres.”

sie pater omnipotens, visusque nocentibus arvis
abstulit, et dulci terrae caruere sereno. 135

Iamque per Argolicas Erebo sata virgo cohortis
vestigat Polynicis iter portisque sub ipsis
invenit, incertum leto tot iniqua fugane
exeat. et dubios turbarant omina sensus :
viderat, obscura vallum dum nocte pererrat 140

aeger consilii eurisque novissima volvens,
coniugis Argiae laeram cum lampade maesta
effigiem—sunt monstra deum, sie ire parabat,
has latura viro taedas erat !—: ergo roganti,
quae via quisve dolor, cur maesta insignia, tantum 145
fleverat atque manu tacitos averterat ignes.

scit mentem vidisse nefas ; etenim unde Mycenis
adforet et vallum coniunx inopina subiret ?
sed fati monitus vicinaque funera sentit,
ac sentire timet. eum vero Acherontis aperti 150

Dira ter admoto tetigit thoraca flagello,
ardet inops animi, nec tam considerare regno,
quam seelus et caedem et perfossi² in sanguine fratris³
expirare cupit, subitusque adfatur Adrastum :
“ sera quidem, extremus socium gentisque superstes
Argolicae, consulta, pater, iam rebus in artis 156

¹ caelitibusque *P* ω : sideribusque *B* and *D* (with caelestibusque *written over*).

² perfossi *in P* ω : perfossum (fusus *written over*) *D* : perfusus *conj. Housman*.

³ fratris *P* ω : *D* has fratrem *written over*.

be veiled ; it is my will to spare heaven and my own deities ; let not at least the star of the kindly maid ^a behold such deeds, nor the Ledaean brethren." So spake the omnipotent Sire and turned his gaze away from the guilty fields, and the earth lacked its joyous light serene.

Meanwhile the daughter of Erebus hastes on the track of Polynices through the Argolic cohorts, and finds him even at the gate, uncertain whether to avoid so many horrors by death or flight. Omens too had troubled his doubting mind : wandering by the rampart in the hours of darkness, distressed at heart and brooding in deep despair, he had seen the phantom of his wife Argia, with tresses torn and a doleful torch in her hand—a sign from heaven ! ay, that was her intent, such were the torches she was to bring her spouse !—so, when he asked why she was come and what her grief, what meant these emblems of woe, she did but weep and hide the flame in silence. He knows 'twas but a mental vision of ill, for how could his spouse have come from Mycenae and draw nigh the wall, nor any know ? But he is aware of Fate's admonishing and his approaching doom, and fears to be aware. But when the Fury of yawning Acheron thrice smote her lash against his corslet, he raged without restraint, and yearned not to be seated on his throne, but for crime and carnage and to expire in his slaughtered kinsman's blood, and suddenly he accosts Adrastus : " Late though it be, O father, and in our extremity, I am at length resolved, who am the last survivor of my comrades and the folk of Argos : then had been the

^a Astraea, *cf. Silv.* i. 4. 2 " videt alma pios Astraea," and note *ad loc.* She was frequently identified with Justice.

STATIUS

adgredior ; tunc tempus erat, cum sanguis Achivum
 integer, ire ultro propriamque capessere pugnam,
 non plebis Danaae florem regumque verendas
 obiectare animas, ut lamentabile tantis 160
 urbibus induerem capiti decus. aspera quando
 praeteriit virtus, nunc saltem exsolvere fas sit,
 quae merui. scis namque, socer, licet alta recondas
 volnera et adflictum generi vereare pudorem :
 ille ego sum, qui te pacem et pia iura regentem—
 infelix utinamque aliis datus urbibus hospes !— 166
 extorrem patria regnoque—sed exige tandem
 supplicium : fratrem suprema in bella—quid horres ?
 decretum est fixumque—voco ; desiste morari,
 nec poteris. non si atra parens miseraeque sorores
 in media arma cadant, non si ipse ad bella ruenti 171
 obstet et extinctos galeae pater ingerat orbes,
 deficiam. ane bibam superest quodcumque cruoris
 Inachii et vestris etiamnum mortibus utar ?
 vidi ego me propter ruptos telluris hiatus, 175
 nec subii ; vidi exanimum fecique nocentem
 Tydea ; me Tegea regem indefensa reposit,

orbaque Parrhasiis ululat mihi mater in antris.
 ipse nec Ismeni ripas, dum stagna cruentat
 Hippomedon, Tyrias potui nec scandere tures, 180
 dum tonat, et tecum, Capaneu, miscere furores.
 quis tantus pro luce timor ? sed digna rependam.
 convenient ubi quaeque¹ nurus matresque Pelasgae
 longaevique patres, quorum tot gaudia carpsi
 orbavique domos : fratri concurro, quid ultra est ?

¹ ubi quaeque *Heinsius* : ubicumque *Pw*, see *Aen.* vii. 400, *Theb.* xii. 23.

^a The construction (*i.e.*, “now behold thee exiled,” etc., or some such word) is deliberately broken off to mark his excitement.

time, when the Achaean blood was yet unshed, to step boldly forth and venture single combat, nor expose the Danaan flower and the sacred lives of princes, that I might crown me with a glory that was the woe of mighty cities. But now since the stern hour of valour is past, now at least let me be allowed to pay what I deserve. For well thou knowest, father, though deep thou dost hide thy wounds and dost revere thy son-in-law's misery and shame: I am he, who, while thou wert ruling in peace and justice—ah! wretch that I am, would some other city had been my host!—exiled from country and throne^a—but exact thy punishment at last: I challenge my brother—why dost thou start? I am resolved—to the death! nay, hinder me not, nor wilt thou be able. Not if my sad mother and unhappy sisters were to fling themselves between our weapons, not even if my sire were to oppose me as I rushed to battle and cast his sightless orbs upon my helm, should I give way. Shall I drink all that remains of Inachian blood, and even yet draw profit from your deaths? I saw the earth yawn and gape on my account, nor went I to the rescue; I saw Tydeus dead and caused his guilt; defenceless Tegea demands of me her prince, and his bereaved mother cries out against me in Parrhasian caves. I had not the spirit to scale Ismenos' banks while Hippomedon stained its streams with gore, nor the Tyrian towers amid the thunder and join my rage to thine, O Capaneus. Why such craven fear for my own life? But I will make due recompense. Let all the Pelasgian brides and mothers and aged sires assemble, all whom I have robbed of so many joys, and whose homes I have despoiled—I fight my brother!

STATIUS

spectent et votis victorem Eteoclea poscant. 186
 iamque vale, coniunx, dulcesque valetè Mycenae!
 at tu, care socer—nec enim omnis culpa malorum
 me penes, et superi mecum Parcaeque nocentes—
 sis lenis cineri, meque haec post proelia raptum 190
 alitibus fratrique tegas¹ urnamque reportes—
 hoc tantum—et natae melius conubia iungas.”

Ibant in lacrimas, veluti cum vere reverso
 Bistoniae tepuere nives, submittitur ingens
 Haemus et angustus Rhodope descendit in amnes.
 coeperat et leni senior mulcere furentem 196
 adloquio : scidit orsa novo terrore cruenta
 Eumenis, alipedemque citum fataliaque arma
 protinus, Inachii voltus expressa Pherecli,
 obtulit ac fidas exclusit casside voces. 200
 ac super haec : “ abrumpe moras, celeremus ! et illum
 adventare ferunt portis.” sic omnia vicit,
 conreptumque iniecit equo ; volat aequore aperto
 pallidus instantemque deae circumspicit umbram.

Sacra Iovi merito Tyrius pro fulmine ductor 205
 nequiquam Danaos ratus exarmasse ferebát.
 nec pater aetherius divomque has ullus ad aras,
 sed mala Tisiphone trepidis inserta ministris
 adstat et inferno praevertit vota Tonanti.
 “summe deum, tibi namque meae primordia Thebae—
 liveat infandum licet Argos et aspera Iuno— 211
 debent, Sidonios ex quo per litora raptor
 turbasti thiasos, dignatus virgine nostra

¹ tegas *P*ω: negas *Q*: neges *N* (both written over tegas).

^a The dative after “tegas” may be explained by the same use of analogy that we have seen before (here = dat. after verbs of rescuing from).

^b *i.e.*, Pluto.

what more remains to do? Let them look on, and pray for Eteocles' victory. And now farewell, my wife, and farewell, sweet Mycenæ! But thou, beloved sire—for mine is not all the blame for these ills, but Fate and the gods share the guilt with me—be gentle to my ashes, rescue my body after the battle and shield it from the birds and from my brother,^a and bring home my urn, 'tis all I ask, and, for thy daughter, unite her in worthier wedlock."

They fell to weeping, as when with returning spring the Bistonian snows are warmed and mighty Haemus melts and Rhodope is all dissolved into the straitened rivers. And the aged king had begun to soothe his rage with gentle words: but the cruel Fury broke off his speech with new terrors, and straightway, in the shape of Inachian Phereclus, brought his swift wing-footed steed and fatal arms, and with his helmet closed his ears to trusty counsels. Then "Haste!" she cried, "delay not! He too, so they say, is marching on the gates!" Thus, all scruples overcome, she seizes him and sets him upon his steed; ashen pale, he scours the open plain, and glances back to descry the looming shadow of the goddess.

The Tyrian chieftain was offering in vain to Jove the sacrifice that his lightning stroke had won, thinking that the Danaans were disarmed. But neither the celestial sire nor any of the gods were at his altars, but baneful Tisiphone mingling with the affrighted attendants stands near, and to the infernal Thunderer^b turned aside his prayers. "Supreme of gods, to whom my Thebes owes its origin—though accursed Argos and angry Juno be jealous—since thou as a ravisher didst break up the revels on the Sidonian shore, and deign to bear on thy back a maiden of

STATIUS

terga premi et placidas falsum mugire per undas !
 nec te vana fides iterum Cadmeia adeptum 215
 conubia et Tyrios nimium inrupisse penates :
 tandem, inquam, soceros dilectaque moenia gratus
 respicis adsertorque tonas ; ceu regia caeli
 adtemptata tui, sic te pro turribus altis
 vidimus urgentem nubes, laetique benignum 220
 fulmen et auditos proavis adgnosimus ignes.
 accipe nunc pecudes et magni turis acervos
 votivumque marem ; dignas sed pendere grates
 haud mortale opus est ; certent tibi reddere Bacchus
 noster et Alcides, illis haec moenia servas." 225
 dixerat : ast illi niger ignis in ora genasque
 prosiluit raptumque comis diadema cremavit.
 tunc ferus ante ictum spumis delubra cruentat
 taurus et obstantum mediis e coetibus exit
 turbidus insanoque ferens¹ altaria cornu. 230
 diffugiunt famuli, et regem solatur haruspex.
 ipse instaurari sacrum male fortis agique
 imperat, et magnos ficto premit ore timores.
 qualis ubi implicitum Tirynthius ossibus ignem
 sensit et Oetaeas membris accedere vestes, 235
 vota incepta tamen libataque tura ferebat
 durus adhuc patiensque mali ; mox grande coactus
 ingemuit, victorque furit per viscera Nessus.
 Nuntius exanimi suspensus pectora cursu

¹ -que ferens *PB* : feriens ω .

^a With Semele ; the same reference in i. 220-221.

^b *i.e.*, the poison of Nessus's shirt, given by him in treachery to Deianira, and by her as a love-charm to Hercules. Nessus

our race and to utter feigned lowings over the tranquil seas! Nor vainly do we believe that thou a second time didst enjoy Cadmean wedlock^a and invade the Tyrian dwellings in overpowering might: at length, at length thou dost gratefully regard thy kinsmen and the walls thou lovest, and sendest thy thunder to avenge; as though the heavenly palace had suffered assault, we saw thee rolling cloud on cloud to succour our lofty towers, and gladly we recognize thy kindly brand, and the lightnings that our sires once heard of old. Receive now our flocks and high-piled incense and our votive bull; worthy recompense is not in mortal power; let our own Bacchus and Alcides strive to repay thee, for them thou dost preserve these walls." He spoke, but the murky flame leapt forth against his face and cheeks, and seized and burnt the diadem on his locks. Then still unsmitten the angry bull beflecked the shrine with bloody foam, and dashed wildly through the opposing concourse, bearing the altar upon his frenzied horns. The ministers scatter, and the soothsayer strives to console the king. Faint-heartedly he commands the rite to be renewed and carried through, and with feigned countenance screens his anxious fears. As when the Tiryntian felt the fire enwrap his bones and the Oetaean robe cling to his limbs, he continued the offering he had begun and poured the incense, still resolute and enduring the agony; soon beneath the stress he groaned aloud, while triumphant Nessus^b raged throughout his vitals.

Aeputyus, in excited breathless haste, comes run- was a centaur slain by Hercules' poisoned arrows, and here he takes his revenge.

STATIUS

Aepytus ad regem portae statione relicta 240
 tendit et haec trepido vix intellectus anhelat :
 “ rumpe pios cultus intempestivaque, rector,
 sacra deum : frater muris circum omnibus instat
 portarumque moras frenis adsultat et hastis,
 nomine te crebro, te solum in proelia poscens.” 245
 flent maesti retro comites, et uterque loquenti
 adgemit et pulsus exercitus obstrepit armis.
 ille vocat : “ nunc tempus erat, sator optime divom !
 quid meruit Capaneus ? ” turbatus inhorruit altis
 rex odiis, mediaque tamen gavisus in ira est. 250
 sic ubi regnator post exsulis otia tauri
 mugitum hostilem summa tulit aure iuvenus
 adgnovitque minas, magna stat fervidus ira
 ante gregem spumisque animos ardentibus efflat, 254
 nunc pede torvus humum, nunc cornibus aera findens ;
 horret ager, trepidaeque expectant proelia valles.
 Nec desunt regni comites : “ sine, moenia pulset
 inritus.” “ ille autem fractis huc audeat usque
 viribus ? ” “ hic miseris furor est instare periclo,
 nec librare metus et tuta odisse.” “ resiste 260
 hic fretus solio, nos propulsabimus hostem,
 nos bellare iube.” sic proxima turba, sed ardens
 ecce aderat luctu dicturusque omnia belli
 libertate Creon : urit fera corda Menoecus ;
 nulla patri requies, illum quaeritque tenetque ; 265
 illum sanguineos proflantem pectore rivos
 aspicit et saeva semper de turre cadentem.
 ut dubium et pugnas cunctantem Eteoclea vidit :

^a *i.e.*, to hurl the thunderbolt. It should have been kept for Polyneices, in comparison with whom Capaneus had done nothing.

ning with news to the king, his post by the gate abandoned, and scarcely understood pants out these words to the anxious prince: "Break off thy pious worship and the untimely sacrifice, O king! Thy brother rides threatening round thy walls, and with spear and bridle assails thy hindering gates, and flinging many a challenge calls thee, thee alone to battle." Behind him his sorrowing comrades weep, each echoing the speaker with their groans, while the host clash arms and rage against the foe. The monarch prays: "Now was the time,^a most righteous sire of the gods! What did Capaneus deserve?" A thrill of profound hatred shook the king, yet he rejoices in mid rage: as when a chieftain-bull after the repose of his rival's exile hears with ear alert the bellow of his enemy, and knows his challenge, he stands consumed with mighty wrath before the herd, and pants forth his valour in hot foam, now fiercely tearing the ground with his hoof, now the air with his horns; the meadows quake, and the affrighted vales await the conflict.

Nor are his friends less moved: "Let him batter the walls in vain!" "Can he dare so far with shattered forces?" "'Tis madness prompts the wretches to court danger, weigh no fears and detest safety." "Stay thou assured upon thy throne, we will repulse the foe, bid us make war!" So speak those near him, but lo! Creon was at hand, aflame with grief and claiming for his tongue a warrior's licence; Menoceus galls his heart to fierceness, no peace does the father know; him he seeks and clutches, him he beholds panting the bloody stream from his breast, and ever falling from the cruel tower. And when he saw Eteocles in doubt and shrinking

STATIUS

"ibis," ait, "neque te ulterius fratremque ducemque,
 pessime, funeribus patriae lacrimisque potentem,
 Eumenidum bellique reum, patiemur inulti. 271
 sat tua non aquis luimus periuria divis.
 urbem armis opibusque gravem et modocivibus artam,
 ceu caelo deiecta¹ lues inimicave tellus,²
 hausisti vacuumque tamen sublimis obumbras? 275
 deest tibi³ servitio plebes: hos ignis egentes
 fert humus, hos pelago patrius iam detulit amnis;
 hi quaerunt artus, illi anxia vulnera curant.
 redde agedum miseris fratres natosque patresque,
 redde arvis domibusque viros! ubi maximus Hypseus
 finitimusque Dryas, ubi Phocidos arma sonorae 281
 Euboicique duces? illos tamen aequa duelli
 fors tulit ad manes: at tu, pudet! hostia regni,
 hostia, nate, iaces, ceu mutus et e grege sanguis,
 ei mihi! primitiis ararum⁴ et rite nefasto 285
 libatus iussusque mori: et cunctabitur ultra
 iste nec adverso nunc saltem Marte vocatus
 stabit? an in pugnas alium iubet ire profanus
 Tiresias iterumque meos oracula nectit 289
 in gemitus? quid enim misero super unicus Haemon?
 ille iube subeat, tuque hinc spectator ab alta
 turre sede! quid saeva fremis famulamque cohortem
 respectas? hi te ire volunt, hi pendere poenas;
 ipsa etiam genetrix ipsaeque odere sorores.

¹ deiecta *P*: demissa ω : deiecta (demissa *written over*) *D*,
cf. *Silv.* i. 2. 154.

² tellus *P* ω : labes, tabes *edd.* *Garrod conj.* inhiulcave t.
unnecessarily.

³ deest tibi *Owen*: deest *P* ω : iam deest *Weber.*

⁴ ararum *PB*: armorum, annorum ω .

from the fight : " Thou shalt go," he cries, " not, villain, shall we unavenged endure thee longer, thee the brother and the prince, made powerful by thy country's tears and sufferings, guilty of Heaven's Furies and the war. Long enough have we atoned thy perjuries to the angry gods. This city, once full of arms and wealth, and thronged with citizens, hast thou like a heaven-sent pestilence or plague of earth drained to nothing, yet castest thy tall shadow o'er its emptiness? Folk are lacking to be thy slaves : some lie on earth unburnt, others their native stream has already borne down to the sea ; some seek their limbs, others tend anxious wounds. Come, restore to our wretched people their brothers, fathers, sons, restore husbands to their homes and farmsteads ! Where now is mighty Hypseus, where is our neighbour Dryas, where are the arms of echoing Phocis and the Euboean chiefs ? Yet them the impartial fate of war hath slain, but thou, my son—O shame !—liest the victim, ay, the victim of the throne, like some mute beast of the herd, alas ! sprinkled with the first-fruits at the altar's unhallowed rite and bidden die : and doth he still waver, and now at least when summoned refuse the challenge ? or does the wicked Tiresias bid another go to battle, and devise a second oracle to bring me woe ? Yes, why is Haemon alone left to his unhappy sire ? Command him to go, and sit thou on a lofty tower to watch the spectacle ! Why dost thou rage and look round upon thy retinue ? These would have thee go, ay, and pay the penalty ; even thy mother and thy sisters hate thee. Thy brother

STATIUS

in te ardens frater ferrum mortemque minatur 295
 saevaque portarum convellit claustra, nec audis¹ ? ”

Sic pater infrendens, miseraque¹ exaestuat ira.
 ille sub haec “ non fallis,” ait, “ nec te inclyta nati
 fata movent : canere illa patrem et iactare decebat.
 sed spes sub lacrimis, spes atque occulta cupido 300
 his latet : insano praetendis funera voto,
 meque premis frustra vacuae ceu proximus aulae.
 non ita Sidoniam Fortuna reliquerit urbem,
 in te ut sceptrum cadant, tanto indignissime nato.
 nec mihi difficilis praesens vindicta ; sed arma, 305
 arma prius, famuli ! coeant in proelia fratres.
 vult gemitus lenire Creon : lucrare furorem ;
 victori mihi cuncta lues.” sic iurgia paulum
 distulit atque ense, quem iam dabat ira, repressit.
 ictus ut incerto pastoris vulnere serpens 310
 erigitur gyro longumque e corpore toto
 virus in ora legit ; paulum si devius hostis
 torsit iter, cecidere minae tumefactaque frustra
 colla sedent, irasque sui bibit ipse veneni.

At genetrix primam funestae sortis ut amens 315
 expavit famam—nec tarde credidit—ibat
 scissa comam voltusque et pectore nuda cruento,
 non sexus decorisve memor : Pentheia qualis
 mater ad insani scandeat culmina montis,
 promissum saevo caput adlatura Lyaeo. 320

¹ audis *Pω* : audes *BLK*.

^a Agave, who tore her son, the king of Thebes, in pieces for trying to suppress the Bacchic worship.

hotly threatens thee with the sword and death, and rends the stern barriers of thy gates—dost thou not hearken ? ”

Thus spoke the father, gnashing his teeth, in transports of misery and rage. The other in reply : “ Thou dost not fool me, nor art thou moved by thy son’s renowned death : that song of woe, those vaunts did but befit a father. But ambition lurks beneath those tears, ambition and concealed desire : thou art making his death a mask for thy mad hopes, and dost press me hard, as though succeeding to the vacant throne. Not so utterly has Fortune left the Sidonian city that the sceptre should fall to thee, O most unworthy of so brave a son ! Nor would revenge be difficult even now, but first—arms, arms, my servants ! Let the brothers meet in battle. Creon would have some balm for his sorrow : take advantage of my rage ; when I am victorious thou shalt pay me all.” Thus for a while he put off the quarrel, and thrust back the sword that wrath had put into his hand. As a serpent, struck at a venture and wounded by a shepherd, lifts up its coils erect, and from all its length of body draws the poison to its mouth : but should the foe bend his course but a little, the threats abate, the vainly swollen neck subsides, and it swallows back the venom of its own anger.

But when his mother heard the first news of the calamity in appalled dismay—nor was she slow to believe it—she went with face and tresses torn, and naked, blood-stained breast, reckless of sex and dignity : just as the mother of Pentheus^a climbed the heights of the frenzied mount to bring the promised head to fierce Lyaeus. Neither her

STATIUS

non comites, non ferre piae¹ vestigia natae
 aequae valent: tantum miserae dolor ultimus addit
 robur, et exsanguis crudescunt luctibus anni.
 iamque decus galeae, iam spicula saeva ligabat
 ductor et ad lituos hilarem intrepidumque tubarum
 prospiciebat equum, subito cum apparuit ingens 326
 mater, et ipse metu famulumque expalluit omnis
 coetus, et oblatam retro dedit armiger hastam.
 "quis furor? unde iterum regni integrata resurgit
 Eumenis? ipsi etiam post omnia, cominus ipsi 330
 stabitis? usque adeo geminas duxisse cohortes
 et facinus mandasse parum est? quo deinde redibit
 victor? in hosne sinus? o diri coniugis olim
 felices tenebrae! datis, improba lumina, poenas.
 haec spectanda dies? quo, saeve, minantia flectis
 ora? quid alternus voltus pallorque ruborque 336
 mutat, et obnixa frangunt mala murmura dentes?
 me miseram, vinces! prius haec tamen arma necesse est
 experiare domi: stabo ipso in limine portae
 auspiciam infelix scelerumque immanis imago. 340
 haec tibi canities, haec sunt calcanda, nefande,
 ubera, perque uterum sonipes hic matris agendus.
 parce: quid oppositam capulo parmaque repellis?
 non ego te contra Stygiis feralia sanxi
 vota deis, caeco nec Erinyas ore rogavi. 345
 exaudi miseram: genetrix te, saeve, precatur,
 non pater; adde moram sceleri et metire, quod audes.
 sed pulsat muros germanus et impia contra

¹ piae *P*: ipsae ω : piae *D* (*with ipsae written over*).

maidens nor her devoted daughters can keep pace with her, such strength does despair lend to the unhappy woman, her enfeebled years grow vigorous with grief. And already the chief was fastening on him the glory of his helm, and taking his sharp javelins, and regarding his steed that rejoiced at the trumpets nor feared the bugle's blast, when on a sudden his mother appeared, mighty to behold, and he and all his company grew pale with fear, and his squire took back the spear he was proffering. "What madness is this? Whence hath returned the Evil Spirit of this realm, restored again to life? Must ye then fight each other at the last? Is it too little to have led rival hosts and given the word for slaughter? And afterwards, what home awaits the victor? these arms of mine? O my dread spouse, blest hereafter in thy blindness! now pay ye the penalty, my guilty eyes! Must I then see this day? Whither, ruthless one, turnest thou thy threatening gaze? Why do flush and pallor alternate on thy countenance, and thy clenched teeth stifle angry mutterings? Ah, woe is me! thou wilt prevail! yet first must thou test thy arms at home: I will stand in the threshold of the gate, a baneful omen and dread image of calamity. These hoary locks, these breasts must needs be trampled by thee, accursed one, and o'er thy mother's womb this steed be driven. Ah! spare! why dost thou repel me from thy path with shield and sword? No solemn curses have I uttered against thee to the Stygian gods, nor invoked the Furies with sightless prayer. Hear me in my distress! 'tis thy mother, not thy sire entreats thee, cruel one! Stay thy guilt, and take the measure of such madness. But thy brother—dost thou say?

STATIUS

bella ciet. non mater enim, non obstat eunti
 ulla soror ; te cuncta rogant, hic plangimus omnes.
 ast ibi vix unus pugnas dissuadet Adrastus, 351
 aut fortasse iubet : tu limina avita deosque
 linquis et a nostris in fratrem amplexibus exis ? ”

At parte ex alia tacitos obstante tumultu
 Antigone furata gradus—nec easta retardat 355
 virginitas—volat Ogygii fastigia muri
 exsuperare furens ; senior comes haeret eunti
 Actor, et hic summas non duraturus ad arces.
 utque procul visis paulum dubitavit in armis,
 adgnovitque—nefas !—iaculis et voce superba 360
 tecta incessentem, magno prius omnia planetu
 implet et ex muris ceu descensura profatur :
 “ comprime tela manu paulumque hanc respice turrem,
 frater, et horrentes refer in mea lumina cristas !
 agnoscisne hostes ? sic annua pacta fidemque 365
 poscimus ? hi questus, haec est bona causa modesti
 exulis ? Argolicos per te, germane, penates—
 nam Tyriis iam nullus honos—per si quid in illa
 dulce domo, submitte animos : en utraque gentis
 turba rogant ambaeque acies ; rogat illa suorum 370
 Antigone devota malis suspectaque regi,
 et tantum tua, dure, soror. saltem ora trucesque
 solve genas ; liceat voltus fortasse supremum
 noscere¹ dilectos et ad haec lamenta videre,
 anne fleas. illum genitu iam supplice mater 375
 frangit et exsertum dimittere dicitur ensem :
 tu mihi fortis adhuc ? mihi, quae tua nocte dieque

¹ noscere ω : nosce (i written over) P : nosci Housman.

—beats at the walls, and raises impious war against thee. Ay, for no mother, no sister doth prevent him; but thee all beseech, here all make lament. Yonder scarce Adrastus alone dissuades from battle, or perchance doth urge it; wilt thou leave thy ancestral gate and the gods, and from my very embrace go forth against thy brother?"

But in another region Antigone glides silently by stealth through all the tumult—nor does maidenly chastity delay her—and hastes in eagerness to climb to the summit of the Ogygian wall; old Actor follows close behind, though his strength avails not to reach the tower's height. Awhile she hesitated at the sight of the host afar, then recognized him, alas! as with proud taunt and javelin he assailed the city; first her wailings fill the air, then, as though about to leap down from the wall, she cries: "Put up thy weapons and look but a moment at this tower, my brother, and turn thy bristling crest to face my eyes! Is it enemies thou findest? Is it thus we demand good faith and yearly pact? Is this an innocent exile's just complaint and righteous cause? By thy Argive home, O brother—for thy Tyrian home thou slightest—by any joy thou hast therein, be softened: lo! both the armies, either folk entreat thee! Antigone, faithful to her kinsmen's sufferings and suspected by the king, and sister but to thee, hard-hearted one, entreats thee! Remit at least thy frowning looks; let me perchance for the last time behold the face I love, and see whether thou dost weep at my lament. Him even now doth our mother urge with suppliant tears, and doth put back, they say, his naked blade: art thou still stubborn to me, to me who night and day weep for

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exsilia erroresque fleo, iamiamque tumentem
 placavi tibi saepe patrem? quid crimine solvis
 germanum? nempe ille fidem et stata foedera rupit,
 ille nocens saevusque suis; tamen ecce vocatus 381
 non venit." his paulum furor elanguescere dictis
 coeperat, obstreperet quamquam atque obstaret
 Erinys;

iam submissa manus, lente iam flectit habenas,
 iam tacet; erumpunt gemitus, lacrimasque fatetur
 cassis; hebet irae, pariterque et abire nocentem 386
 et venisse pudet: subito cum matre repulsa
 Eumenis eiecit fractis Eteoclea portis
 clamantem: "venio solumque, quod ante vocasti,
 invideo; ne incesse moras, gravis arma tenebat 390
 mater; io patria, o regum incertissima tellus,
 nunc certe victoris eris!" nec mitior ille
 "tandem" inquit, "scis, saeve, fidem et descendis in
 aequum?"

o mihi nunc primum longo post tempore, frater,
 congregere: hae leges, haec foedera sola supersunt."
 sic hostile tuens fratrem; namque uritur alto 396
 corde, quod innumeri comites, quod regia cassis
 instratusque ostro sonipes, quod fulva metallo
 parma micet, quamquam haud armis inhonoris et ipse
 nec palla volgare nitens: opus ipsa novarat 400
 Maeoniis Argia modis ac pollice docto
 stamina purpureae sociaverat aurea telae.

Iamque in pulvereum Furiis hortantibus aequor
 prosiliunt, sua quemque comes stimulatque monetque.
 frena tenent ipsae phalerasque et lucida comunt 405

^a *i.e.*, by one of the Furies.

thy wandering exile, and have ofttimes appeased thy father's wrath even as it rose against thee? Why dost thou free thy brother of guilt? Verily he broke faith and his sworn word, guilty is he and cruel to his own; yet lo! he comes not to thy challenge." At these words his rage began somewhat to grow faint though the Fury upbraided and resisted; already he has relaxed his arm, now he wheels his horse less sharply, now he falls silent; groans burst from him, his casque confesses tears, his ire is blunted, and he feels shame both to depart and to have come in guilt: when suddenly the Fiend, thrusting his mother aside, shatters the gate and hurls forth Eteocles crying: "I come, and only grudge thee thou wert the first to challenge; chide not my delay, my mother hung upon my arms and stayed me; what ho! my country, land of thy monarchs most unsure, now assuredly thou shalt be the victor's!" The other in no milder strain: "At last, ruffian, dost thou keep faith, and come down into fair field? O once again after many a day my brother, engage! no law, no treaty but this remains." So spoke he, scowling at his kinsman in hostile mood; for in his heart he chafes at the other's numerous train, and his royal helm and the purple trappings of his charger, and his buckler's glancing gold—though he himself was not meanly armed, and his cloak shone with no common lustre: Argia herself had wrought it in Maeonian fashion, and with skilled finger had woven strands of gold in the purple web.

And now at the Furies' impulse, they dash forward to the dusty plain, each goaded and inspired by his companion.^a These guide the reins themselves, and arrange the trappings and the shining arms, and

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arma manu mixtisque iubas serpentibus augent.
 stat consanguineum campo scelus, unius ingens
 bellum uteri, coeuntque pares sub casside voltus.
 signa pavent, siluere tubae, stupefactaque Martis
 cornua ; ter nigris avidus regnator ab oris 410
 intonuit terque ima soli concussit, et ipsi
 armorum fugere dei : nusquam inclyta Virtus,
 restinxit Bellona faces, longeque paventes
 Mars rapuit currus, et Gorgone cruda virago
 abstinit,¹ inque vicem Stygiae subiere² sorores. 415
 prominet excelsis volgus miserabile tectis,
 cuncta madent lacrimis et ab omni plangitur arce.
 hinc questi vixisse senes, hinc pectore nudo
 stant matres parvosque vetant adtendere natos.
 ipse quoque Ogygios monstra ad gentilia manes 420
 Tartareus rector porta iubet ire reclusa.
 montibus insidunt patriis tristisque corona
 infecere diem et vinci sua crimina gaudent.

Illos ut stimulis ire in discrimen apertis
 audiit et sceleri nullum iam obstare pudorem, 425
 advolat et medias immittit Adrastus habenas,
 ipse quidem et regnis multum et venerabilis aevo.
 sed quid apud tales, quis nec sua pignora curae,
 exter honos³? tamen ille rogat : " spectabimus ergo
 hoc,
 Inachidae Tyriique, nefas ? ubi iura deique, 430
 bella ubi ? ne perstate animis. te deprecor, hostis—

¹ abstinit ω : obstitit *PBNK*.

² subiere *Bentley* : rubuere *P* ω : rediere *Schrader*.

³ exter honos *PNK late mss.* : externos ω .

entwine their snakes amid the horses' manes. Set there upon the field is the crime of kindred blood, the dread conflict of one womb, beneath their helms the faces of brothers meet in battle. The banners quake, the trumpets are silent, and the Martian horns are struck dumb; thrice from the regions of gloom thundered their impatient monarch and shook the depths of earth, and even the deities of battle fled; renowned Virtue was nowhere seen, Bellona put out her torches, Mars drove afar his affrighted chariot, and the Maid^a shrank away with her fierce Gorgon-head, and into their places came the Stygian sisters. The wretched common folk stand high upon the house-tops, no place but is wet with tears, no tower but sounds with lamentations. Here old men complain that they have lived so long, there mothers stand with bosoms bare, and forbid their little ones to view the fray. The king of Tartarus himself orders the gates to be set open, and the Ogygian ghosts to attend their kindred's monstrous deeds. Seated upon their native hills they pollute the day with grisly band, and rejoice that their own crimes should be surpassed.

When Adrastus heard that the princes were rushing to the perilous fight with open taunts, and that shame could no longer hinder the ghastly deed, he hastens to the spot and himself drove between them, himself full-reverend both in monarchy and years. But what could a stranger's influence avail with those who recked not even of their loved ones? Yet he entreats: "Shall we then behold this horror, sons of Inachus and Tyre? In the name of justice and the gods, in the name of war—persist not in your

^a Pallas.

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quamquam, haec ira sinat, nec tu mihi sanguine
longe—,

te, gener, et iubeo ; sceptri si tanta cupido est,
exuo regales habitus, i, Lerman et Argos
solus habe !” non verba magis suadentia frangunt
accensos, sumptisque semel conatibus obstant, 436
quam Scytha curvatis erectus fluctibus umquam
Pontus Cyaneos vetuit concurrere montes.
ut periisse preces geminoque ad proelia fusos
pulvere cornipedes explorarique furentum 440
in digitis amenta videt, fugit omnia linquens,
castra, viros, generum, Thebas, ac fata monentem
conversumque iugo propellit Ariona : qualis
demissus curru laevae post praemia sortis
umbrarum custos mundique novissimus heres 445
palluit, amisso veniens in Tartara caelo.

Non tamen indulsit pugnae cunctataque primo
substitit in scelere et paulum Fortuna morata est.
bis cassae periere viae, bis comminus actos¹
avertit bonus error equos, puraeque nefandi 450
sanguinis obliquis ceciderunt ictibus hastae.
tendunt frena manu, saevis calcaribus urgent
immeritos ; movet et geminas venerabile divom
prodigium turmas, alternaque murmura volvont
mussantes : iterare acies, procurrere saepe 455
impetus et totum miseris opponere bellum.

Iamdudum terris coetuque offensa deorum
aversa caeli Pietas in parte sedebat,
non habitu, quo nota prius, non ore sereno,²

¹ actos ω : ictos *P.*

² *l. 459 omitted in some MSS.*

^a To prevent the horses from swerving.

^b For the translation of this word see note on x. 780.
Here it has reference to the ties of natural affection (hence
her appeal to Nature), which the brothers are breaking.

fury! Thee, foeman, I beseech—although, did thy rage suffer thee, thou too art not far from me in blood—thee, son-in-law, I command as well; if thy lust of power is so great, I put off this royal robe, go take Lerna and Argos for thyself alone!” But his persuasion no more abates their kindled rage, or checks their once-determined purpose, than did the Scythian Pontus ever stay the Cyanean rocks from clashing, though it rose high with arching waves. When he sees his prayers are fruitless, and the teams galloping in twofold dust to battle, and the frenzied princes feeling their hold on the javelin-strap, he flees away leaving all, camp, army, son-in-law and Thebes, and drives Arion forward, though he turn him in the yoke and give fateful warning: even as the warden of the shades and the third heir of the world, after the lot’s unkind apportioning, leapt down from his chariot and grew pale, for he was come to Tartarus and heaven was lost for ever.

Yet would not Fortune suffer the fray, but halted at the opening of the crime, and delayed awhile. Twice were their onslaughts wasted, twice did a kindly mischance divert their charging steeds, and their flung darts fell aside pure of unnatural blood. They strain at the reins,^a with savage goads they incite their innocent teams; then too an awful prodigy of heaven stirs the armies, and from this side and that roll murmurs through the muttering hosts; often do they burn to renew the fight, to dash forward and to set their whole array in the wretches’ path.

Long time, offended alike by earth and the company of the gods, had Piety^b been sitting in a remote region of the heavens, with unwonted

sed vittis exuta comam, fraternaue bella, 460
 ceu soror infelix pignantum aut anxia mater,
 deflebat, saevumque Iovem Parcasque nocentes
 vociferans, seseque polis et luce relicta
 descensuram Erebo et Stygios iam malle penates.
 "quid me," ait, "ut saevis animantum ac saepe deorum
 obstaturam animis, princeps Natura, creabas? 466
 nil iam ego per populos, nusquam reverentia nostri.
 o furor, o homines diraeque Prometheos artes!
 quam bene post Pyrrham tellus pontusque vacabant¹!
 en mortale genus!" dixit, speculataque tempus 470
 auxilio "temptemus," ait, "licet inrita coner."
 desiluitque polo, niveus sub nubibus atris²
 quamquam maesta deae sequitur vestigia limes.
 vix steterat campo, subita mansuescere pace
 agmina sentirique nefas; tunc ora madescunt 475
 pectoraque, et tacitus subrepsit fratribus horror.
 arma etiam simulata gerens cultusque viriles,
 nunc his, nunc illis "agite, ite, obsistite," clamat,
 "quis nati fratresque domi, quis pignora tanta!
 hic quoque—nonne palam est ultro miserescere
 divos?— 480
 tela cadunt, cunctantur equi, Fors ipsa repugnat."
 Nonnihil impulerat dubios, ni torva notasset
 Tisiphone fraudes caelestique ocior igne
 adforet increpitans: "quid belli obverteris ausis,

¹ vacabant *ω*: vocabat *P*: vacarent *DN*.

² atris *Schrader*: altis *Pω*.

dress and troubled countenance, and fillets stripped from off her hair: she bewailed the fraternal strife, as though a hapless sister or anxious mother of the fighters, and loudly chiding cruel Jove and the guilty Fates protested she would leave heaven and the light of day, and descend to Erebus, for already she preferred the abodes of Styx. "Why, sovereign Nature, didst thou create me to oppose the passions of living folk and often of the gods? Nought am I any more among men, nowhere am I revered. Ah! what fury! alas! mankind, alas! dread Promethean skill! How blessed was the vacancy of earth and sea after Pyrrha's time! Behold the race of mortals!" She spoke, and watching an occasion for her aid: "Let me but try," she cried, "though my attempt be fruitless." Down from the pole she leapt, and beneath the darkened clouds a snow-white track followed the footsteps of the goddess, sad though she was. Scarce had she set foot upon the plain, when a sudden peace stilled the fury of the warriors, and they were conscious of their crime; then tears bedewed faces and breasts, and a silent horror stole upon the brethren. Clad in feigned armour also and manly dress she cries now to these, now to those: "Forward! be moving! withstand them! ye who have sons at home or brothers, or pledges held so dear. Even here—is it not plain, the gods unmasked are pitiful?—weapons are falling, steeds wavering, and Chance herself resists."

She had somewhat stirred the doubting lines, had not grim Tisiphone marked her deceit, and swifter than fire from heaven darted to her side, reproaching her: "Why hinderest thou the bold deeds of war, O

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numen iners pacique datum? cede, improba: noster
 hic campus nosterque dies; nunc sera nocentes 486
 defendis Thebas. ubi tunc, cum bella ciceret
 Bacchus et armatas furiarent orgia matres?
 aut ubi segnis eras, dum Martius impia serpens
 stagna bibit, dum Cadmus arat, dum victa cadit
 Sphinx,¹ 490

dum rogat Oedipoden genitor, dum lampade nostra
 in thalamos Iocasta venit? ” sic urget, et ultro
 vitantem aspectus etiam pudibundaque longe
 ora reducentem premit adstridentibus hydris
 intentatque faces; deiectam in lumina pallam 495
 diva trahit magnoque fugit questura Tonanti.

Tunc vero accensae stimulis maioribus irae:
 arma placent, versaeque volunt spectare cohortes.
 instaurant crudele nefas; rex impius aptat
 tela et funestae casum prior occupat hastae. 500
 illa viam medium clipei conata per orbem
 non perfert ictus atque alto vincitur auro.
 tunc exsul subit et clare funesta precatur:
 “ di, quos effosso non inritus ore rogavit
 Oedipodes flammare² nefas, non improba posco³ 505
 vota: piabo manus et eodem pectora ferro
 rescindam, dum me moriens hic sceptrum tenentem
 linquat et hunc secum portet minor umbra dolorem.”
 hasta subit velox equitis femur inter equique
 ilia, letum utrique volens⁴; sed plaga sedentis 510
 laxato vitata genu, tamen inrita voti

¹ dum victa cadit Sphinx ω : dum victa cadit *P1*: dum semina surgunt *P2*.

² flammare *late MSS., Heinsius*: flammate ω .

³ posco ω : poscet *P*.

⁴ letum utrique volens ω : lentum utrimque volans *P*.

sluggard, peace-devoted deity? Hence, shameless one! this battle-field, this day is mine; too late now defendest thou guilty Thebes. Where wert thou then when Bacchus made war and the orgies drove the matrons to arms and madness? Where wert thou idling, while the snake of Mars drank the unhallowed flood, while Cadmus ploughed, while the Sphinx fell defeated, while Oedipus was questioned by his sire,^a while by my torch's light Jocasta was entering the marriage-chamber?" So she upbraids, and threatens her with hissing hydras and brandished torch, as she shrinks from her gaze and far withdraws her shamefast face; down over her eyes the goddess draws her mantle and flees to lay her complaint before the mighty Thunderer.

Then verily are they kindled to yet more fiery wrath; battle pleases, and the armies, changed once more, are willing to look on. They begin anew the savage work: the impious monarch aims his dart, and first dares the fortune of the deadly spear; but striving to find a way through the middle of the shield it strikes not home, but is baffled by the solid gold. Then the exile advances, and utters loud a deadly prayer: "Ye gods, whom blinded Oedipus besought not vainly to blow the blaze of crime, I make no wrongful plea; with this same steel will I atone my deed and rend my breast, so that my rival die and leave me with the sceptre in my grasp, and, my vassal in the shades, take that sorrow with him to the tomb." The swift javelin flies between horseman's thigh and horse's flank, willing death for both, but the blow was foiled by the rider's bent

^a When they met at the cross-roads. The serpent of Mars was slain by Cadmus after it had killed some of his men.

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cuspis in obliquis invenit volnera costis.
 it praeceps sonipes strictae contemptor habenae
 arvaque sanguineo scribit rutilantia gyro.
 exsultat fratris credens hunc ille cruorem : 515
 credit et ipse metu ; totis iamque exsul habenis
 indulget, caecusque avidos inludit in aegrum
 cornipedem cursus. miscentur frena manusque
 telaque, et ad terram turbatis gressibus ambo
 praecipitant. ut nocte rates, quas nubilus auster 520
 implicuit, frangunt tonsas mutantque¹ rudentes,
 luctataeque diu tenebris hiemique sibi que,
 sicut erant, imo pariter sedere profundo :
 haec pugnae facies. coeunt sine more, sine arte,
 tantum animis iraque, atque ignescentia cernunt 525
 per galeas odia et voltus rimantur acerbo
 lumine : nil adeo mediae telluris, et enses
 impliciti innexaeque manus, alternaque saevi
 murmura ceu lituos rapiunt aut signa tubarum.
 fulmineos veluti praeceps cum comminus egit 530
 ira sues strictisque erexit tergora² saetis :
 igne tremunt oculi, lunataque dentibus uncis
 ora sonant ; spectat pugnas de rupe propinqua
 venator pallens canibusque silentia suadet :
 sic avidi incurrunt ; necdum letalia miscent 535
 volnera, sed coeptus sanguis, facinusque peractum est.
 nec iam opus est Furiis ; tantum mirantur et adstant
 laudantes, hominumque dolent plus posse furores.
 fratris uterque furens cupit adfectatque cruorem
 et nescit manare suum ; tandem inruit exsul, 540

¹ mutantque *P* : nectuntque *Wilkins* : miscentque *Slater*.

² tergora *Heinsius* : pectora *Pω*.

knee, yet the spear-point baffled of its vow found a wound slantwise in the horse's ribs. Scorning the tightened rein the steed darts headlong away, and traces a bloody curve along the reddened field. The other exults, thinking it his brother's gore, and so thinks he himself in fear; and now the exile shakes free all his rein, and dashes in blind, impetuous onslaught against the wounded charger. Arms, bridles, weapons are all mingled in confusion, both horses lose their footing and are thrown to earth. Even as at night two ships that the cloudy South wind has locked together break oars, entangle ropes, and, struggling with each other and the storm through the long darkness, sink even as they are together to the depths: such was the appearance of the fight. Without skill or fashion, only in wrath and fury they engage, and see through their helms the flames of hate, and search with fiery glance each other's countenance: no interval of ground divides them, swords are entangled, arms interlocked, and they catch the sound of each other's cries like bugle or trumpet-call. As when rage has set lightning-swift boars rushing headlong to the fight, and raised the bristles erect upon their backs, fire quivers in their eyes, and the curved tusks of crescent shape ring loud; from a neighbouring height the anxious hunter watches the fray, and bids his hounds be silent: so bloodthirstily do they attack, nor yet do they deal mortal wounds, but the blood flows, the crime is accomplished. No more need is there of Furies: they only marvel and praise as they watch, and grieve that human rage exceeds their own. Each in furious lust seeks his brother's life-blood, nor knows his own is flowing; at last the exile rushes

hortatusque manum, cui fortior ira nefasque
 iustius, alte ensem germani in corpore pressit,
 qua male iam plumis imus tegit inguina thorax.
 ille dolens nondum, sed ferri frigore primo
 territus in clipeum turbatos colligit artus ; 545
 mox intellecto magis ac magis aeger anhelat
 vulnere. nec parcit cedenti atque increpat hostis :
 “ quo retrahis, germane, gradus? hoc languida somno,
 hoc regnis effeta quies, hoc longa¹ sub umbra
 imperia ! exsilio rebusque exercita egenis 550
 membra vides ; disce arma pati nec fidere laetis.”

Sic pugnant miseri ; restabat lassa nefando
 vita duci summusque cruor, poterantque parumper
 stare gradus ; sed sponte ruit fraudemque supremam
 in media iam morte parat. clamore Cithaeron 555
 erigitur, fraterque ratus vicisse levavit
 ad caelum palmas : “ bene habet ! non inrita vovi,
 cerno graves oculos atque ora natantia leto.
 huc aliquis propere sceptrum atque insigne comarum,
 dum videt.” haec dicens gressus admovit et arma,
 ceu templis decus et patriae laturus ovanti, 561
 arma etiam spoliare cupit ; nondum ille peractis
 manibus ultrices animam servabat in iras.
 utque superstantem pronumque in pectora sensit,
 erigit occulte ferrum vitaeque labantis 565
 reliquias tenues odio supplevit, et ensem
 iam laetus fati² fraterno in³ corde reliquit.

¹ hoc . . . hoc . . . hoc longa *P* : o . . . et . . . longaque ω .

² fati *PS* : fratri ω .

³ fraterno in *PNSQ2* : frater non *K1Q1* : frater sub *BD* : gelido sub *K2*.

^a “Feathers” was the name given to small pieces of metal arranged scale-wise on the piece of skin or linen forming the basis of the cuirass ; cf. Virg. *Aen.* xi. 770.

^b *i.e.*, of the onlookers.

in, and calling on his right arm, whose ire is more valiant and which has the greater justice in his crime, drove his sword deep into his kinsman's body, where the corslet's lowest rim now gives with feathers^a but ill protection to the groin. The other, not yet in pain, but frightened by the first cold of the steel, withdraws his shaken limbs behind his buckler, but soon more and more conscious of the wound he gasps and labours; nor does his foe spare him as he gives way, but taunts him: "Whither art thou retreating, brother? Behold the somnolent languor, the exhausted sleep of kings! See there long years of sheltered rule! But here thou seest limbs hardened by want and exile! Learn to be schooled in arms, nor trust to fortune!"

So fight the hapless ones; life yet remained, though feeble, in the wicked king, and his last drops of blood, and awhile he could have stayed upright; but purposely he falls, and even in the moment of death devises his last fraud. Cithaeron is startled by a shout,^b and his brother thinking he has conquered raises his hands to heaven: "'Tis well, my vow is heard; his eyes are heavy, and his face swims in death. Come, somebody, quick, away with the sceptre and the ornament of his locks, while he yet sees!" So speaking he drew nigh, and would fain also take his arms, as though to bear them to grace the shrines of his victorious land; but the other's life was not yet spent, and he retained still breath enough to wreak his avenging wrath; and when he knew that he was standing over him and stooping to his body, he raises his weapon unperceived and calling up his hatred to strengthen the weak remnants of his failing life, now glad to die, he left the sword

STATIUS

ille autem : “ vivisne an adhuc manet ira superstes,
 perfide, nec sedes umquam meriture quietas ?
 huc mecum ad manes ! illic quoque pacta¹ reposcam,
 si modo Agenorei stat Gnosia iudicis urna, 571
 qua reges punire datur.” nec plura locutus
 concidit et totis fratrem gravis obruit armis.

Ite truces animae funestaque Tartara leto
 polluite et cunctas Erebi consumite poenas ! 575
 vosque malis hominum, Stygiae, iam parcite, divae :
 omnibus in terris scelus hoc omnique sub aevo
 viderit una dies, monstrumque infame futuris
 excidat, et soli memorent haec proelia reges.

At genitor sceleris comperto fine profundis 580
 erupit tenebris, saevoque in limine profert
 mortem imperfectam : veteri stat sordida tabo
 utraque² canities, et durus sanguine crinis
 obnubit furiale caput ; procul ora genaeque
 intus et effossae squalent vestigia lucis. 585
 virgo autem impositae sustentat pondera laevae,
 dextra sedet baculo. qualis si puppe relicta
 exosus manes pigri sulcator Averni
 exeat ad superos solemque et pallida turbet
 astra, nec ipse diu fortis patiensque superni 590
 aeris ; interea longum cessante magistro
 crescat opus, totisque³ expectent saecula ripis :
 talis init campum, comitique extrema gementi

¹ pacta *ω* : parta *P*.

² utraque *ω*, *Priscian* : hirtaque *Heinsius* : atraque,
 tetraque *edd*.

³ totisque *P* : tostisque, solisque, tota atque *edd*.

in his brother's heart. But he : " Livest thou still, and doth thy malice yet survive, thou treacherous one, who wilt never merit an abode of peace ? This way with me to the shades ! There too will I demand my rights, if but the Gnosian urn of the Agenorean judge ^a still stands, whereby kings may be punished." No more he spake, but fell, and crushed his brother beneath all his armed weight.

Go, savage souls, and pollute baleful Tartarus by your death, and exhaust all the punishments of Erebus ! And O ye Stygian goddesses, spare now the afflictions of mankind ; in every land and throughout all ages let one day only have seen so dread a crime ; let posterity forget the infamous horror, and kings alone recount that combat.

But the sire, when he knew the horrid deed was over, burst out from his gloom profound, and in the dread gateway displays his living corpse ; his grey hair and beard are filthy and matted with ancient gore, and locks congealed with blood veil his fury-haunted head ; deep-sunken are his cheeks and eyes, and foul the traces of the sight's uprooting. The maid ^b sustains his left arm that leans its weight upon her ; his right is supported by a staff. 'Tis even as though the furrower of sluggish Avernus through loathing of the shades should leave his bark and come up to the world above and affright the sun and the pale stars, though himself unable long to endure the air of heaven ; meanwhile the long tale grows as the ferryman dallies, and all along the banks the ages await him : in such wise does he come forth upon the plain, and to his comrade 'mid her utter woe : " Lead

king of Tyre. Gnosus or Cnossus was a city of Crete, where Minos ruled. ^b Antigone.

STATIUS

“duc,” ait, “ad natos patremque recentibus, oro,
 inice funeribus!” cunctatur nescia virgo, 595
 quid paret; impediunt iter implicitosque morantur
 arma, viri, currus, altaque in strage seniles
 deficiunt gressus et dux miseranda laborat.
 ut quaesita diu monstravit corpora clamor
 virginis, insternit totos frigentibus artus. 600
 nec vox ulla seni: iacet immugitque cruentis
 vulneribus, nec verba diu temptata sequuntur.
 dum tractat galeas atque ora latentia quaerit,
 tandem muta diu¹ genitor suspiria solvit:
 “tarda meam, pietas, longo post tempore mentem 605
 percutis? estne sub hoc hominis clementia corde?
 vincis io miserum, vincis, Natura, parentem!
 en habeo gemitus lacrimaeque per arida serpunt
 volnera et in molles sequitur manus impia planctus.
 accipite infandae iusta exsequialia mortis, 610
 crudeles, nimiumque mei! nec noscere natos
 adloquiumque aptare licet; dic, virgo, precanti,
 quem teneo? quo nunc vestras ego saevus honore
 prosequar inferias? o si fodienda redirent
 lumina et in voltus saevire ex more potestas! 615
 heu dolor, heu iusto magis exaudita parentis
 vota malaeque preces! quisnam fuit ille deorum,
 qui stetit orantem iuxta praereptaque verba
 dictavit Fatis? furor illa et movit Erinys
 et pater et genetrix et regna oculique cadentes; 620
 nil ego: per Ditem iuro dulcesque tenebras
 immeritamque ducem, subeam sic Tartara digna

¹ muta diu *PDN*: multa furens *ω*.

me," he cries, "to my sons, I pray, and set their father on the new-slain corpses." The maiden hesitates, not knowing what he purposes; arms, men, and chariots block their way, and entangle and delay them, and the old man's steps falter in the high-piled carnage, and his hapless guide hath sore ado. But when the virgin's shriek betrayed the long-sought bodies, he flung his full length on the cold limbs. No word the old man spake: he lies and moans upon their bloody wounds, nor do the long-attempted words follow. At length while he gropes and searches for the faces hidden within their helms the father found utterance for his long-silent grief: "Late after so long time art thou come, affection, to sway my heart? Doth mercy dwell in this human breast? Ah! thou hast conquered, Nature, conquered this unhappy father! Behold, I weep, and my tears steal over these dry wounds, this sinful hand follows with womanly beating of my breast. Receive these fitting obsequies of your unhallowed deaths, O cruel ones, too truly mine! I cannot recognize my sons, nor suit my words—tell me, daughter, I beg, which am I holding? With what honours now can one so cruel as I perform your rites? Oh, if my eyes could be restored for me to rend them! Oh, if I could wreak my rage upon my countenance as once I did! Ah, woe! alas, for a parent's prayers and curses granted too faithfully! What god was it stood by when I prayed, and caught my words and told them to the Fates? 'Twas madness caused those ills, and the Fury, and my father and my mother and my kingdom and my falling eyes—not I! By Dis I swear it, and by the darkness that I loved and this my innocent guide, so may I go to Tartarus by a

STATIUS

morte, nec irata fugiat me Laius umbra.
 ei mihi, quos nexus fratrum, quae volnera tracto !
 solvite quaeso manus infestaque vincula tandem 625
 dividite, et medium nunc saltem admittite patrem.”
 talia dequestus paulatim insumperat iras
 mortis, et occulte telum, ni nata vetaret,
 quaerebat ; sed cauta manu subtraxerat enses
 Antigone. furit inde senex : “ ubi noxia tela ? 630
 heu Furiae ! num totum abiit in corpora ferrum ? ”
 dicentem comes aegra levat mutumque dolorem
 ipsa premit, saevum gaudens planxisse parentem.

Olim autem inceptae clamore exterrita pugnae
 regina extulerat notum penetralibus ensem, 635
 ensem sceptriferi spolium lacrimabile Lai.
 multaque cum superis et diro questa cubili
 et nati furiis et primi coniugis umbris,
 luctata est dextra, et prono vix pectore ferrum
 intravit tandem : venas perrumpit aniles 640
 volnus et infelix lustratur sanguine lectus.
 illius exili stridentem in pectore plagam
 Ismene conlapsa super lacrimisque comisque
 siccabat plangens : qualis Marathonide silva
 flebilis Erigone caesi prope funera patris 645
 questibus absumptis tristem iam solvere¹ nodum
 coeperat et fortes ramos moritura ligabat.

Et iam laeta ducum spes elusisse duorum
 res Amphionias alio sceptrumque maligna
 transtulerat Fortuna manu, Cadmique tenebat 650

¹ solvere ω : vulnere P, volvere, involvere, iungere *edd.*
But Lemaire's laxare ut se strangularet is clearly right.

worthy death, and Laius' shade not angrily shun my presence! Woe is me, what brotherly embraces are these, what are these wounds I feel? Loose your hands, I entreat, and relax at last these deadly bonds, now at least let your sire come between you." Amid such laments he little by little had become in mood for death, and secretly, lest his daughter should prevent him, sought a weapon; but prudent Antigone had withdrawn their swords from his reach. Then the old man in wrath: "Where are the weapons of death? Alas! ye Furies! has the blade sunk all its length into their bodies?" His feeble comrade lifts him as he speaks, and hides her own mute sorrow, rejoicing that grief has touched her savage sire.

But the queen, terrified by the shout that marked the fight begun, had then brought forth from her chamber the famous sword, the sword that was the lamentable spoil of sceptred Laius. And with much complaining of the gods above and her dire couch and her son's madness and the shade of her first lord she strove with her right hand, yet scarce at length as she leaned forward did the steel make entrance to her breast; the wound rent her aged veins, and the ill-fated couch is purged in blood. As the blade grated upon her skinny bosom Ismene fell upon her and weeping stanch'd the wound with her hair and tears: as when in the Marathonian glade sorrowful Erigone wept her fill for her slain sire, and already was untying the fatal girdle, and bent on death was fastening it to the sturdy boughs.

And now, rejoicing to have foiled the hopes of both the princes, Fortune with spiteful hand had transferred elsewhere the sceptre of Amphion's realm,

STATIUS

iura Creon. miser heu bellorum terminus ! illi
 pugnarant fratres. hunc et Mavortia clamant
 semina, et impensus patriae paulo ante Menoeceus
 conciliat populis. scandit fatale tyrannis
 flebilis Aoniae solium : pro blanda potestas 655
 et sceptri malesuadus amor ! numquamne priorum
 haerebunt documenta novis ? iuvat ecce nefasto
 stare loco regimenque manu tractare cruentum !
 quid, melior Fortuna, potes ? iam flectere patrem
 incipit atque datis abolere Menoecea regnis. 660
 primum adeo saevis imbutus moribus¹ aulae
 indicium specimenque sui iubet igne supremo
 arceri Danaos, nudoque sub axe relinqui
 infelix bellum et tristes sine sedibus umbras.
 mox reducem Ogygiae congressus limine portae 665
 Oedipodem extimuit paulum, seseque minorem
 confessus tacite, promptamque coercuit iram ;
 sed redit in regem caecumque audentius hostem
 increpitans "procul," inquit, "abi, victoribus omen
 invisum, et Furias averte ac moenia lustra 670
 discessu Thebana tuo ! spes longa peracta est :
 vade, iacent nati. quae iam tibi vota supersunt ? "

Horruit instinctu rabido, steteruntque trementes
 ceu visu squalore² genae,³ seniumque recessit.
 tunc natam baculumque manu dimisit, et irae 675
 innixus tumido vocem de pectore rumpit :
 " iamne vacat saevire, Creon ? modo perfida regna
 fortunaeque locum nostrae, miserande, subisti,

¹ imbutus moribus *late mss.*, *Barth* : imbutum moribus *P* : imbutus amoribus ω .

² squalore *P* : praesente ω . ³ genae ω : comae *P*.

and Creon held the power of Cadmus. Ah, miserable end of war ! for him had the brothers fought. Him does the seed of Mars proclaim, and Menoeceus lately offered to save the state endears him to the people. He climbs the throne of distressful Aonia, that brings death to tyrants : ah, flattering power ! ill-counselling ambition ! Will new rulers ne'er take heed by the examples of the old ? Lo ! he delights to stand in the accursed spot, and exert a bloody sway. What availest thou, kindlier Fortune ? Already he begins to blunt the feelings of a sire, and once upon the throne to wipe Menoeceus from his heart. First, imbued with the savage customs of the palace, as proof and sample of his rule, he bids the Danaans be debarred from funeral fire, and the unhappy host he left under the bare vault, and their sad shades without a resting-place. Next, meeting the returning Oedipus in the entrance of the Ogygian gate, he quailed for a moment, and owned his lesser rank in silence, and checked his ready ire ; but soon he resumes the king, and more boldly chiding his blind foe : "Avaunt," he cried, "hateful omen to the conquerors, keep far hence thy Furies, and purify the Theban walls by thy departure ! Fulfilled is thy long-enduring hope : go, for thy sons lie dead ; what wishes hast thou left ?"

A thrill of frenzy shook him, his squalid cheeks stood quivering as though he saw, and his old age fell from him. Then thrusting away his daughter and his staff, sustained by wrath alone, he utters a cry in the indignation of his heart : "Hast thou already time to be cruel, Creon ? Camest thou but lately by treachery to my throne and place of rank, miserable wretch, and art so soon permitted to

STATIUS

et tibi iam fas est regum calcare ruinas ?
 iam tumulis victos, socios iam moenibus arces ? 680
 macte, potes digne Thebarum sceptrata tueri.
 haec tua prima dies, sed cur nova contrahis amens
 iura ? quid anguste tantos metiris honores ?
 exsilium intendis. timida inclementia regum
 ista ! feros avidus quin protinus imbuis enses ? 685
 crede, licet, veniat cupidus parere satelles
 intrepidusque secet non evitantia colla.
 incipe ! an exspectas, ut pronus supplice dextra
 sternar et immitis domini vestigia quaeram ?
 finge autem temptare, sines ? mihine ulla minaris
 supplicia, aut ullos reris superesse timores ? 691
 linquere tecta iubes ? caelum terramque reliqui
 sponte, atque ultricem crudelis in ora retorsi
 non ullo cogente manum : quid tale iubere,
 rex inimice, potes ? fugio excedoque nefandis 695
 sedibus ; an refert, quo funera longa measque
 transportem tenebras ? ne non gens cuncta precanti
 concedat, patriae quantum miser incubo terrae ?
 sed dulces Thebae. nimirum hic clarior ortus,
 et meliora meos permulcent sidera voltus, 700
 hic genetrix natiue. habeas Thebana regasque
 moenia, quo Cadmus, quo Laius omine rexit
 quoque ego ; sic thalamos, sic pignora fida capessas,
 nec tibi sit virtus fortunam evadere dextra,
 sed lucem deprensus ames. satis omina sanxi, 705
 duc, age, nata procul. quid te autem luctibus addo ?

^a Literally " I have hallowed good omens for you enough,"
 ironically, of course; for the phrase *cf.* l. 344 "vota sanxi."

trample on the ruin of kings? Already dost thou debar the conquered from burial, our kinsmen from their city? Well done! thou canst worthily defend the sceptre of Thebes! This is thy first day of power, but why dost thou foolishly restrict thy new authority? Why grudgingly measure out so great an office? Thou threatenest exile: that is but timorous harshness in a monarch! Why dost thou not forthwith imbue thy greedy blade? Thou hast the power, believe me! some minion would come eager to obey, and fearlessly sever my unresisting neck. Begin then! or dost thou expect me to fall prostrate and with suppliant hand grope for my stern master's feet? But did I try, wouldst thou allow me? Canst thou threaten me with any punishments, or think that any terrors yet remain for me? Dost thou bid me leave the palace? Heaven and earth I have left of my own will, and uncompelled turned my fierce avenging hand on my own eyes: what canst thou command to equal that, malicious monarch? I take my flight, and leave an unhallowed land; what matters it whither I convey my blindness and my lingering death? Do I fear lest any people refuse to grant my prayer for as much of their soil as my miserable corpse will cover? But Thebes is sweet: ay, verily, here my birth is more renowned, here kindlier stars delight my vision, here are my mother and my sons! Nay, keep thou Thebes and rule it, with Cadmus' fortune and Laius' and mine; in such wise marry, and beget loyal sons! and lack the courage to escape by thy own hand the blows of Fortune, but when thou art in the toils, then hold life dear. There, 'tis enough of blessings^a! come, daughter, lead me far away; yet why do I make thee

STATIUS

da, rex magne, ducem." timuit miseranda relinqui
 Antigone mutatque preces : " felicia per te
 regna, verende Creon, sanctasque Menoeceos umbras :
 da veniam adfflicto dictisque ignosce superbis. 710
 hunc morem fandi longae fecere querellae ;
 nec soli ferus iste tibi : sic fata deosque
 adloquitur, durus luctu, facilisque nec ipsi
 saepe mihi ; pridem indomito sub pectore vivit
 libertas misera et saevae spes aspera mortis. 715
 et nunc ecce tuas inritat callidus iras
 suppliciumque cupit ; sed tu maioribus, oro,
 imperii potiare bonis, altusque iacentes
 praetereas, et magna ducum vereare priorum
 funera. et hic quondam solio sublimis et armis 720
 saeptus opem miseris et iura, potentibus¹ aequus
 supplicibusque, dabat, cui nunc ex agmine tanto
 una comes, necdum exsul erat. felicibus hicne
 obstat ? in hunc odiis et regni viribus exis,
 hunc abigis tectis ? an ne prope limina clarum 725
 ingemat et votis intempestivus oberret ?
 pone metum, procul usque tua submotus ab aula
 flebit ; ego erectum subigam et servire docebo,
 coetibus abducam solaque in sede recondam.
 exsul erit. nam quae migranti externa patebunt
 moenia ? vis Argos eat hostilesque Mycenae 731
 squalidus inreptet, victique ad limen Adra-
 stias referat clades, tenuemque precetur

¹ potentibus *PBDNS* : petentibus *KQ*.

share my sorrows? Give me a guide, great sovereign!" Hapless Antigone fears to be left behind, and pleads in different wise: "By thy heaven-blest throne, revered Creon, and Menoeceus' sacred shade, pardon him in his affliction, forgive his proud words. Long grievance hath given him this style of speech; nor is he thus harsh to thee alone, even so addresses he the gods and Fate; his distress hath hardened him, even to me he is often discourteous; in his untameable heart there long hath dwelt a stifled freedom and a savage longing for pitiless death. And now behold in his cunning he rouses up thy anger and desires thee to punish him; but do thou, I pray, enjoy the greater blessings of thy realm, and in thy lofty state o'erlook the fallen, and have reverence for the mighty ruins of former kings. He too was once lifted high upon a throne and hedged with arms, and, impartial alike to great and humble, gave succour and justice to the wretched—who now has but one companion maid out of all his armies; not yet did he know exile. Can he oppose thy happiness? Dost thou proceed against him with hatred and thy kingdom's might? Dost thou drive him from thy house? Is it lest he groan too loudly at thy gate and meet thee with importunate prayers? Fear not that: far removed from thy hall will he lament; I will subdue his proud spirit and teach him submission, I will take him from the gatherings of men and hide him in a place of solitude. An outlaw will he be; for e'en should he wander, what foreign walls will open to him? Wouldst thou have him go to Argos and crawl a beggar into hostile Mycenae, or tell of the slaughter of the Aonians at the gate of conquered Adrastus, and entreat some scrap of succour

STATIUS

rex Thebanus opem ? miserae quid crimina gentis
 pandere, quid casus iuvat ostentare pudendos ? 735
 conde, precor, quodcumque sumus, nec longa precamur
 dona, Creon : miserere senis, maestosque parentis
 hic, precor, hic manes indulge ponere : certe
 Thebanos sepelire licet." sic orat humique
 volvitur ; abducit genitor saevumque minatur 740
 indignans veniam. qualis leo rupe sub alta,
 quem viridem quondam silvae montesque¹ tremebant,
 iam piger et longo iacet exarmatus ab aevo,
 magna tamen facies et non adeunda senectus ;
 et si demissas veniat mugitus ad aures, 745
 erigitur meminitque sui, viresque solutas²
 ingemit et campis alios regnare leones.

Flectitur adfatu, sed non tamen omnia rector
 supplicis indulget lacrimis partemque recidit 749
 muneris. "haud," inquit, "patriis prohibebere longe
 finibus, occursu dum non pia templa domosque
 commacules. habeant te lustra tuusque Cithaeron ;
 atque haec ecce tuis tellus habitabilis umbris,
 qua bellum geminaeque iacent in sanguine gentes."
 sic ait, et ficto comitum volgique gementis 755
 adsensu limen tumidus regale petebat.

Interea pulsi vallum exitiale Pelasgi
 destituunt furto ; nulli sua signa suusque
 ductor : eunt taciti passim et pro funere pulchro
 dedecorem amplexi vitam reditusque pudendos. 760
 nox favet et grata profugos amplectitur umbra.

¹ silvae montesque ω : -que amnesque *PBQK*.

² solutas *PBDN2Q*, *D* (with peractas written over) :
 peractas *KNS*.

for a Theban king? Doth it please thee that he should recount the crimes of our unhappy race, and show forth all his shameful plight? Conceal us, I pray, whate'er we are—no lengthy boon, O Creon: pity his old age, and grant me here, ay, here, I beg, to lay to rest my sire's unhappy spirit. Surely Thebans may have burial!" So prays she, prostrate on the ground; her father leads her away, with angry words and scorning pardon. Even as a lion, whom once in his youth the woods and mountains trembled at, now lies sluggish beneath a lofty rock and disarmed by length of years: yet even in age is he terrible of aspect and not to be approached, and should the noise of lowing come to his languid ears, he springs up and remembers himself, and groans that his strength is broken, and that other lions lord it upon the plains.

The monarch is moved by her plea, yet grants not everything to the suppliant's tears, but cuts short a part of his bounty. "Thou shalt not," he cries, "be kept far from the boundaries of thy land, so be it thou defile not with thy presence its sacred shrines and homes. Let the wilds of thy Cithaeron hold thee; and lo! this land is a fit dwelling for thy darkness, where the fight was fought and two races lie in blood." So he speaks, and in haughty pride, amid the feigned applauding of his train and the weeping folk, sought the palace gate.

Meanwhile the routed Pelasgians steal away from their fatal camp; none has his own ensigns or chief to follow; silently in scattered rout they go, and instead of a glorious death they cherish dishonoured life and a shameful home-coming. Night favours the fugitives and shrouds them in welcome gloom

LIBER XII

Nondum cuncta polo vigil inclinaverat astra
ortus et instantem cornu tenuiore videbat
Luna diem, trepidas ubi iam Tithonia nubes
discutit ac reduci magnum parat aethera Phoebō :
agmina iam raris Dircaea penatibus errant, 5
noctis quæta moras ; quamvis tunc otia tandem
et primus post bella sopor, tamen ægra quietem
pax fugat et sævi meminit victoria belli.
vix primo proferre gradum et munimina valli
solvere, vix totas reserare audacia portas ; 10
stant veteres ante ora metus campique vacantis
horror : ut adsiduo iactatis æquore tellus
prima labat, sic attoniti nil comminus ire
mirantur fusasque putant adsurgere turmas.
sic ubi perspicuæ scandentem limina turris 15
Idaliae volucres fulvum aspexere draconem,
intus agunt natos et feta cubilia vallant
unguibus imbellesque citant ad proelia pinnas ;
mox ruerit licet ille retro, tamen æra nudum
candida turba timet, tandemque ingressa volatus 20
horret et a mediis etiamnum respicit astris.
Itur in exsanguem populum bellique iacentis

^a The Dawn (Aurora), husband of Tithonus.

^b Doves, sacred to Venus.

BOOK XII

Not yet had the wakeful dawn put all the stars to flight from heaven, and the moon was beholding the approach of day with fading horn, what time Tithonia^a scatters the clouds in hurrying rout, and prepares the wide firmament for the return of Phoebus : already Dircean bands stray forth from their scanty dwellings, complaining of the tardy night ; although not till then had they rested, or gained their first sleep after battle, yet a troubled peace forbids repose, and victory still remembers the horrors of war. Scarce at first dare they to step forth and destroy the rampart works, scarce wholly to unbar the gates ; the old fears rise before them, and the dread of the deserted plain : just as to men long tossed on ocean earth heaves at first, so are they spellbound and amazed that nought assails them, and fancy that the slain hosts rise up again. So when Idalian birds^b have seen a tawny snake climbing the threshold of a conspicuous tower, they drive their little ones within and wall the nestling brood behind their talons, and stir their unwarlike wings to battle ; and though he soon retreat, yet the white flock fears the empty air, and when at last they venture flight they thrill with terror and still look back from the mid-vault of heaven.

Forth they go to the bloodless multitude and the

STATIUS

reliquias, quacumque¹ dolor luctusque cruenti
 exegere duces ; hi tela, hi corpora, at illi
 caesorum tantum ora vident alienaque iuxta 25
 pectora ; pars currus deflent viduisque loquuntur,
 hoc solum quia restat, equis ; pars oscula figunt
 vulneribus magnis et de virtute queruntur..
 frigida digeritur strages : patuere recisae
 cum capulis hastisque manus mediisque sagittae 30
 luminibus stantes ; multis vestigia caedis
 nulla, ruunt planctu pendente et ubique parato.
 at circum informes truncos miserabile surgit
 certamen, qui iusta ferant, qui funera ducant.
 saepe etiam hostiles—lusit Fortuna parumper— 35
 decepti flevere viros ; nec certa facultas
 noscere, quem miseri vitent calcentve cruorem.
 at quibus est inlaesa domus vacuique doloris,²
 aut deserta vagi Danaum tentoria lustrant
 immittuntque faces, aut—quae post bella facultas³—
 quaerunt, dispersus iaceat quo pulvere Tydeus, 41
 an rapti pateat specus auguris, aut ubi divum
 hostis, an aetheriae vivant per membra favillae.
 iam lacrimis exempta dies, nec serus abegit
 Vesper : amant miseri lamenta malisque fruuntur. 45
 nec subiere domos, sed circum funera pernox
 turba sedet, vicibusque datis alterna gementes
 igne feras planctuque fugant ; nec dulcibus astris
 victa, nec adsiduo coierunt lumina fletu.
 tertius Aurorae pugnabat Lucifer, et iam 50
 montibus orbatis, lucorum gloria, magnae

¹ quacumque *PD late mss.* : qua quemque ω .

² doloris *Gronovius* (*sc.* et qui) : dolores *P ω* : dolore *Heinsius*.

³ facultas *PDN* : voluptas ω .

remnants of the fallen host, wherever grief and indignation, blood-stained guides, impel them ; some behold the weapons, some the bodies, others but the faces of the slain, with strangers' limbs near by ; some mourn their chariots, and address—all they can do—the widowed steeds ; others imprint kisses on gaping wounds, and bewail the valour of the dead. They sort out the cold heaps of slain : severed hands appear with lances and sword-hilts in their grip, and arrows fixed in eyes ; many find no traces of their dead, and rush about, with grief ever ready and on the verge. But around the unsightly corpses a pitiable strife arises, who shall perform the rites and make their funeral. Often too were they deceived—Fortune mocking them awhile—and wept for foes ; nor was it easy to tell what carnage to avoid and what to trample. But those whose homes have suffered not, and who are spared all anguish, either stray around the deserted tents of the Danaans and set them afire, or—so far as they can after battle—search where lies the dust-bespattered Tydeus, whether the chasm of the ravished augur still be gaping, where is the enemy of the gods, and whether the heavenly embers still glow among his limbs. Already the daylight faded upon their tears, nor did late Vesper drive them away ; in their misery they love their lamentation and feast upon their sorrow. Nor return they to their homes, but sit all night about the corpses, and bewailing them by turns ward off the beasts by fires and sounds of woe ; nor did their eyes close yielding to the sweet influence of the stars, nor through constant weeping. For the third time Aurora strove with the Morning Star, and already the mountains are despoiled, and mighty trunks of

STATIUS

Teumesi venere trabes et amica Cithaeron
 silva rogis ; ardent excisae viscera gentis
 molibus exstructis : supremo munere gaudent
 Ogygii manes ; queritur miserabile Graium 55
 nuda cohors vetitumque gemens circumvolat ignem.
 accipit et saevi manes Eteoclis iniquos
 haudquaquam regalis honos, Argivus haberi
 frater iussus adhuc atque exsul¹ pellitur umbra.
 At non plebeio fumare Menoecea busto 60
 rex genitor Thebaeque sinunt, nec robora vilem
 struxerunt de more rogam ; sed bellicus agger
 curribus et clipeis Graiorumque omnibus armis
 sternitur ; hostiles super ipse, ut victor, acervos,
 pacifera lauro crinem vittisque decorus 65
 accubat : haud aliter, quam cum poscentibus astris
 laetus in accensa iacuit Tiryntius Oeta.
 spirantes super inferias captiva Pelasgum
 corpora frenatosque pater, solacia forti²
 bellorum, mactabat equos ; his arduus ignis 70
 palpitat, et gemitus tandem erupere paterni :
 “ o nisi magnanimae nimius te laudis inisset
 ardor, Echionios mecum venerande penates
 atque ultra recture puer, venientia qui nunc
 gaudia et ingratum regni mihi munus acerbas ! 75
 tu superum convexa licet coetusque perenni—
 credo equidem—virtute colas, mihi flebile semper
 numen eris : ponant aras excelsaque Thebae
 templa dicent ; uni fas sit lugere parenti.
 et nunc heu quae digna tibi sollemnia quasve 80
 largiar exsequias ? nec si fatale potestas

¹ exsul a *Heidelberg commentator* : exsule *Pω*.

² forti *PBDQ1* : fortes *KQS* : fortis *N* : sorti *late mss.*

Teumesus, the glory of the groves, and the timber of Cithaeron, friend of the funeral pyre, is come ; on high-wrought piles blaze the bodies of the ruined race : the Ogygian ghosts rejoice at the last tribute ; but the unburied troop of Greeks raise pitiable lament, and moaning flit about the forbidden fires. Nor does the cruel spirit of fierce Eteocles receive the honours of a prince ; his brother by command is held an Argive still, and his outlawed shade is driven away.

But Menoeceus is not suffered by Thebes or the king his father to burn upon a vulgar pyre, no heap of logs forms a common, customary mound, but a warlike pile of chariots and shields and all the weapons of the Greeks is raised ; on the massed trophies of the foe he himself like a conqueror is laid, his locks adorned with peace-bringing laurel and woollen fillets : just as when the Tiryinthian, summoned by the stars, laid him down with joy on kindled Oeta. Thereon did his sire sacrifice yet living victims, Pelasgian captives and bridled steeds, a solace to his warlike valour ; upon them the towering flames quiver, and at last his father's groans burst forth : " Ah ! had not overmastering desire of noble praise possessed thee, my son, thou hadst been revered alike with me, ay, even ruled Echion's city, but now thou embitterest my coming joys and the ungrateful burden of a realm. Though thy un-failing virtue dwell in heaven amid the companies of the gods—as I verily believe—yet, I shall ever mourn thee, deity as thou art : let Thebes build altars and dedicate lofty fanes ; suffer thy sire alone to lament thee. And now, alas, what worthy rites, what funeral pomp can I lavish on thy tomb ? I

STATIUS

Argos et impulsas cineri miscere Mycenas,
 meque super, cui vita—nefas!—et sanguine nati
 partus honos. eademne dies, eadem impia bella
 te, puer, et diros misere in Tartara fratres? 85
 et nunc Oedipodi par est fortuna doloris
 ac mihi? quam similes gemimus, bone Iuppiter,
 umbras!

accipe, nate, tui nova libamenta triumphi,
 accipe et hoc regimen dextrae frontisque superbae
 vincula, quae patri minimum laetanda¹ dedisti. 90
 regem te, regem tristes Eteocleos umbrae
 aspiciant.” simul haec dicens crinemque manumque
 destruit, accensaque iterat violentius ira:

“ saevum agedum immitemque vocent, si funera
 Lernae

tecum ardere veto; longos utinam addere sensus 95
 corporibus caeloque animas Ereboque nocentes
 pellere fas, ipsumque feras, ipsum unca volucrum
 ora sequi atque artus regum² monstrare nefandos!
 ei mihi, quod positos humus alma diesque resolvet.
 quare iterum repetens iterumque edico: suprema
 ne quis ope et flammis ausit iuvisse Pelasgos; 101
 aut nece facta luet numeroque explebit adempta
 corpora; per superos magnumque Menoecea iuro.”
 dixit, et abreptum comites in tecta ferebant.

Flebilis interea vacuis comitatus ab Argis— 105
 fama trahit miseras—orbae viduaeque ruebant
 Inachides ceu capta manus; sua volnera cuique,

¹ minimum laetanda *P*: nimium gestanda *ω*.

² regum *ω*: ferrum *P*: *Garrod conj.* fratrum . . . vorandos.

could not, even had I power to mingle baneful Argos and stricken Mycenæ with thy ashes, and fling myself upon them, who have gained life—ah! horror!—and royal state by the blood of my son! Hath one day, one same unhallowed war sent thee, boy, and those dread brothers to Tartarus together? Are Oedipus now and I in equal plight of sorrow? Like indeed are the shades we mourn, O righteous Jove! Receive, my son, new offerings to grace thy triumph, receive this ruling sceptre of my right hand and this haughty crown that binds my brow, thy gifts unto thy sire—small joy indeed to him! As king, ay, king let the sullen shade of Eteocles behold thee!” So speaking he strips head and hand, and with wrath inflamed continues in more violent strain: “Come then, let them call me fierce and heartless, if I forbid the Lernaean dead to burn with thee; would I could put lingering life within their bodies and drive their guilty souls from heaven and Erebus, and myself, ay myself go search for wild beasts and birds with hooked mouths, and show them the accursed limbs of the princes! Woe is me, that the kindly earth and the lapse of time will resolve them where they lie! Wherefore again and again I repeat my stern decree: let none venture to give the aid of final fire to the Pelasgians, or he will atone his deed by death, and fill up the tale of corpses: by the gods above and by great Menoeceus I swear it!” He spoke, and his companions dragged him away and bore him to the palace.

Meanwhile a sorrowful band of Inachian women, widowed and bereaved—drawn, hapless ones, by the sad tidings—were hastening, like a captive throng, from desolated Argos; each had her own

STATIUS

par habitus cunctis, deiecti in pectora crines
 accinctique sinus ; manant lacera ora cruentis
 unguibus, et molles planctu crevere lacerti. 110
 prima per attonitas nigrae regina catervae,
 tristibus inlabens famulis iterumque resurgens,
 quaerit inops Argia vias ; non regia cordi,
 non pater : una fides, unum Polynicis amati
 nomen in ore sedet ; Dircen infaustaque Cadmi 115
 moenia posthabitis velit incoluisse Mycenis.
 proxima Lernaeo Calydonidas agmine mixtas
 Tydeos exsequiis trahit haud cessura sorori
 Deipyle ; scelus illa quidem morsusque profanos
 audierat miseranda viri, sed cuncta iacenti 120
 infelix ignoscit amor. post aspera visu,
 ac deflenda tamen, digno plangore Nealce
 Hippomedonta ciens. vatis mox impia coniunx
 heu vacuos positura rogos. postrema gementum
 agmina Maenaliae ducit comes orba Dianae, 125
 et gravis Euadne : dolet haec queriturque labores
 audacis pueri, magni memor illa mariti
 it torvum lacrimans summisque irascitur astris.
 illas et lucis Hecate speculata Lycaeis
 prosequitur gemitu, duplexque ad litus euntes 130
 planxit ab Isthmiaco genetrix Thebana sepulcro,
 noctivagumque gregem, quamvis sibi luget, Eleusin
 flevit et arcanos errantibus extulit ignes.
 ipsa per aversos ducit Saturnia calles
 occultatque vias, ne plebs congressa suorum 135

^a Statius seems to mean Demeter here, though "Eleusin" in vii. 411 above means the town of Eleusis.

^b Juno.

wounds, all were in similar plight, with hair hanging down upon their bosoms and high-girt raiment ; their faces torn by their cruel nails were streaming, their tender arms were swollen with beating. First of her stricken sisters, helpless Argia, queen of the sable-clad company, seeks her path, sinking upon her sorrowing maidens and anon struggling to her feet ; no thought has she of her sire or royal home ; one devotion fills her heart, one name, that of her beloved Polynices, is on her lips ; she would fain forget Mycenae and make Dirce and Cadmus' ill-starred city her abode. Next Deipyle, as eager as her sister, brings Calydonian women mingling with the train of Lerna to Tydeus' obsequies ; she had heard, unhappy one ! of her husband's crime and impious gnawing, but love in affliction forgives the slain one all. After her Nealce, wild of aspect, yet rousing tearful compassion, bewails Hippomedon with the grief that is his due. Then comes the seer's unrighteous spouse, doomed alas ! to build an empty pyre. The bereft comrade of Maenalian Diana leads the rearmost companies of the mourners, and Evadne, bitter at heart : the one in querulous sorrow for the exploits of her daring boy, the other mindful of her mighty lord goes fiercely weeping and in wrath against high heaven. Hecate beheld them from her Lycean groves and bore them tearful company, and as they approached the double shore the Theban mother lamented from her Isthmian tomb ; the Fleusinian,^a though sorrowing for herself, wept for the night-wandering multitude, and showed her mystic fires to guide their errant course. The Saturnian^b herself leads them through hidden paths and conceals their going, lest her own folk should

STATIUS

ire vetet pereatque ingentis gloria coepti.
 nec non functa ducum refovendi corpora curam
 Iris habet, putresque arcanis roribus artus
 ambrosiaeque rigat sucis, ut longius obstent 139
 exspectentque rogam et flammam non ante fatiscant.

Squalidus ecce genas et inani vulnere pallens
 Ornytus—hic socio desertus ab agmine, tardat
 plaga recens—timido secreta per avia furto
 debile carpit iter fractaeque innititur hastae.
 isque ubi mota novo stupuit loca sola tumultu 145

femineumque gregem, quae iam super agmina Lerna
 sola videt, non ille viam causasve requirit,
 quippe patent, maesto sed sic prior occupat ore :
 “ quo, miserae, quo fertis iter ? funusne peremptis
 speratis cineremque viris ? stat pervigil illic 150

umbrarum custos inhumataque corpora regi
 adnumerat. nusquam lacrimae, procul usque fugati
 accessus hominum : solis avibusque ferisque
 ire licet. vestrisne Creon dabit aequus honorem
 luctibus ? immitis citius Busiridos aras 155

Odrysiique famem stabuli Siculosque licebit
 exorare deos ; rapiet fortasse precantes,
 si mens nota mihi, nec coniugialia supra
 funera, sed caris longe mactabit ab umbris. 159

quin fugitis, dum tuta via est, Lernamque reversae
 nomina, quod superest, vacuis datis orba sepulcris
 absentesque animas ad inania busta vocatis ?
 aut vos Cecropiam—prope namque et Thesea fama est

* Busiris, king of Egypt, sacrificed strangers to the gods, till slain by Hercules ; the Odrysian (Thracian) horses of Diomedes ate human flesh ; the Sirens, who ate unwary seamen, were supposed to have lived on the coast of Sicily (*cf. Silv. ii. 1. 10*).

meet them and forbid them passage, and the glory of their great enterprise be lost. Moreover, Iris is bidden cherish the dead bodies of the princes, and laves their decaying limbs with mysterious dews and ambrosial juices, that they may resist the longer and await the pyre, nor perish before the flames have seized them.

Lo! Ornytus, haggard of face and pale from a gaping wound—he had lost his friends and was hampered by a recent blow—feebly picks his way in timid stealth through pathless deserts, leaning upon a broken spear. When in amaze he beheld the solitudes stirred by strange tumult and the train of women, all that he sees surviving of the host of Lerna, he inquires not of their journey or its cause—'tis clear enough—but in mournful accents thus accosts them: “Whither, hapless ones, whither are ye journeying? Do ye hope for funeral fires for your dead heroes? A sentinel of the slain stands there unsleeping, and keeps count of the unburied corpses for the king. Tears are there nowhere, all men that venture nigh are driven far away; only beasts and birds are suffered to approach. Will the just Creon pay respect to your grief? Sooner may one prevail upon the merciless altars of Busiris or the ravening Odrysian stall or the Sicilian deities^a; perchance he will carry off the suppliants, if I know his mind, nor will he slay you upon the bodies of your lords, but far from the spirits ye love. Nay, flee, while your road is safe, return to Lerna and carve—this ye yet can do—the names of your lost ones on empty sepulchres, and call the absent ghosts to untenanted tombs. Or implore Cecropian succour—they say that Theseus draws nigh, returning in

Thermodontiaco laetum remeare triumpho—
 imploratis opem? bello cogendus et armis 165
 in mores hominemque Creon." sic fatus, at illis
 horruerunt lacrimae, stupuitque immanis eundi
 impetus, atque uno voltus pallore gelati.¹
 non secus adflavit molles si quando iuvencae
 tigridis Hyrcanae ieiunum murmur, et ipse 170
 auditu turbatus ager, timor omnibus ingens,
 quae placeat, quos illa fames escendat in armos.

Continuo discors vario sententia motu
 scinditur: his Thebas tumidumque ambire Creonta,
 his placet Actaeae si quid clementia gentis 175
 adnuat; extremum curarum ac turpe reverti.
 hic non femineae subitum virtutis amorem
 colligit Argia, sexuque immane relicto
 tractat opus: placet—egregii spes dura periculi!—
 comminus infandi leges accedere regni, 180
 quo Rhodopes non ulla nurus nec alumna nivosi
 Phasidis innuptis vallata cohortibus iret.
 tunc movet arte dolum, quo semet ab agmine fido
 degreget, immitesque deos regemque cruentum
 contemptrix animae et magno temeraria luctu 185
 provocet; hortantur pietas ignesque pudici.
 ipse etiam ante oculos omni manifestus in actu,
 nunc hospes miserae, primas nunc sponsus ad aras,
 nunc mitis coniunx, nunc iam sub casside torva
 maestus in amplexu multumque a limine summo 190
 respiciens: sed nulla animo versatur imago
 crebrior, Aonii quam quae de sanguine campi

¹ gelati *PBQ*: notati *D* (gelati *written over*) *B marg. K*.

^a *i.e.*, over the Amazons.

^b "illa fames," that hunger, *i.e.* hungry beast; *cf.* "timor," vii. 746.

^c *i.e.*, no Amazon and no Medea.

triumph from victory on Thermodon's banks.^a By force of arms alone will Creon learn humanity." So he spoke, but they were horrified amid their tears, and their great zest of going was struck with dismay, and all their faces were frozen in one pallor. Even so when the hungry roar of a Hyrcanian tigress comes wafted on the wind to gentle heifers, at the sound terror seizes the countryside, and all are filled with mighty fear, which shall please her, whose shoulders shall feel the ravening beast ^b upon them.

Straightway opinion is divided by many a discordant impulse: some wish to supplicate Thebes and haughty Creon, others to see if the clemency of the Attic folk will grant them aught; return seems cowardly and is last in their thoughts. Hereupon Argia conceives a sudden passion for more than womanly valour, and neglecting her sex designs a mighty emprise: she purposes—cruel expectation of unequalled peril!—to come to grips with the law of the impious realm, whither no maid of Rhodope, no child of snowy Phasis ringed round by virgin cohorts would go.^c Then she devises a cunning ruse whereby to separate herself from her faithful train, and in contempt of her life and in the rashness of overpowering grief to challenge the merciless gods and the cruel king; devotion and chaste passion urge her on. He himself too appears before her eyes, manifest in every act, now as her guest, unhappy girl! now pledging his hand at the first holy rites, now her kindly spouse, and now grimly helmed and mournful in her embrace and oft looking back from the outer threshold of the gate: but no image more frequently haunts her mind than that which comes, stripped of its armour, from the blood of the

STATIUS

nuda venit poscitque rogos. his anxia mentem
 aegrescit furiis et, qui castissimus ardor,
 funus amat; tunc ad comites conversa Pelasgas: 195
 “vos,” ait, “Actaeas acies Marathonique arma
 elicite, adspiretque pio Fortuna labori:
 me sinite Ogygias, tantae quae sola ruinae
 causa fui, penetrare domos et fulmina regni
 prima pati; nec surda ferae pulsabimus urbis 200
 limina: sunt illic soceri mihi suntque sorores
 coniugis, et Thebas haud ignoranda subibo.
 ne tantum revocate gradus: illo impetus ingens
 auguriumque animi.” nec plura, unumque Menoeten—
 olim hic virginei custos monitorque pudoris— 205
 eligit et, quamquam rudis atque ignara locorum,
 praecipites gressus, qua venerat Ornytus, aufert.
 atque ubi visa procul socias liquisse malorum,
 “anne,” ait, “hostiles ego te tabente¹ per agros—
 heu dolor!—expectem, quaenam sententia lenti
 Theseos? an bello proceres, an dexter haruspex 211
 adnuat? interea funus decrescit. et uncis
 alitibus non hos potius supponimus artus?
 et nunc me duram, si quis tibi sensus ad umbras,
 me tardam Stygiis quereris, fidissime, divis. 215
 heu si nudus adhuc, heu si iam forte sepultus:
 nostrum utrumque nefas; adeo vis nulla dolenti,
 Mors nusquam saevusve² Creon? hortaris euntem,
 Ornyte!” sic dicens magno Megareia praeceps
 arva rapit passu, demonstrat proxima quisque 220

¹ tabente *P*: labente *ω*.

² saevusve *Kohlmann*: saevusne *P*: saevusque *ω*.

^a Marathon is a village of Attica; the epithet probably has reference to Theseus, who performed an exploit there.

Aonian battle-field and cries for burial. Her soul fretted with such frenzy she sickens, and with purest passion woos the grave; then, turning to her Pelasgian comrades, "Do you," she says, "call forth the Attic hosts and Marathonian^a arms, and may Fortune favour your devoted toil: suffer me to penetrate the Ogygian abodes, who was the sole cause of ruin, and endure the first terrors of the monarch; nor shall I beat at the city's doors in vain; the parents and the sisters of my lord are there: not as a stranger shall I enter Thebes. Only call me not back: my keen desire urges me thither, and gives me good omen." Without more words she selects Menoetes alone—once the guardian and counsellor of her maiden modesty—and though without experience or knowledge of the country, hurries on with headlong speed by the way that Ornytus had come. And when she seemed to have left afar the comrades of her woes, "Could I wait," she cried, "for the pleasure of tardy Theseus, while thou—ah, sorrow!—art mouldering on the enemy's fields? Would his chieftains, would his cunning soothsayer assent to war? Meanwhile thy body doth decay. Rather than that shall I not give my own limbs for the taloned birds to tear? Even now, if thou hast any feeling in the world of shades, thou art complaining, faithful spouse, to the deities of Styx that I am hard-hearted, that I am slow in coming. Alas! if thou still art bare, alas! if perchance already buried: mine is the crime in either case; hath sorrow then no power? Is death, or fierce Creon, all a dream? Ornytus, thou dost cheer me on my way!" So speaking, she hastens with rapid pace over the fields of Megara; folk that she meets point out her path,

STATIUS

obvius horrescitque habitus miseramque veretur.
 vadit atrox visu, nil corde nec aure¹ pavescens,
 et nimiis confisa² malis propiorque timeri :
 nocte velut Phrygia cum lamentata resultant
 Dindyma, pinigeri rapitur Simoentis ad amnem 225
 dux vesana chori, cuius dea sanguine lecto
 ipsa dedit ferrum et vittata fronde notavit.

Iam pater Hesperio flagrantem gurgite curram
 abdiderat Titan, aliis rediturus ab undis,
 cum tamen illa gravem luctu fallente laborem 230
 nescit abisse diem : nec caligantibus arvis
 terretur, nec³ frangit iter per et invia saxa
 lapsurasque trabes nemorumque arcana, sereno
 nigra die, caecisque incisa novalia fossis,
 per fluvios secura vadi somnosque ferarum 235
 praeter et horrendis infesta cubilia monstris.
 tantum animi luctusque valent ! pudet ire Menoeten
 tardius, invalidaeque gradum miratur alumnae.
 quas non illa domos pecudumque hominumque
 molesto⁴

pulsavit gemitu ! quotiens amissus eunti 240
 limes, et errantem comitis solacia flammae
 destituunt gelidaequa facem vicere tenebrae !
 iamque supinantur fessis lateque fatiscunt
 Penthei devexa iugi, cum pectore anhelato
 iam prope deficiens sic incipit orsa Menoetes : 245
 " haud procul, exacti si spes non blanda laboris,

¹ aure *P*ω : ore *Lachmann*.

² confisa ω : confixa *P* (*Klotz* cf. ii. 572).

³ nec *P*ω : *Garrod* conj. sed ; frangere *here* = to break off, to check.

⁴ molesto *Heinsius* : modesto *P*ω.

^a The votaries of Cybele cut themselves with knives in honour of the goddess.

awe-struck at her miserable plight. With grim countenance she strides onward, terrified by no sound without or panic within, with all the confidence of utter despair, and rather feared than fearing: as when upon a night in Phrygia Dindymus resounds with wailing, and the crazy leader of the women's revel speeds to the waters of pine-rearing Simois—she to whom the goddess herself gave the knife, selecting her for bloodshed, and marked her with the wool-bound wreath.^a

Already had father Titan hidden his flaming chariot in the Hesperian flood, to emerge again from other waves, yet she, her weary toil beguiled by grief, knows not that the day is ended; nor does the gathering gloom of the fields affray her, but unchecked she fares o'er pathless rocks, past boughs that threaten to fall, through mysterious forests, pitch-dark even in cloudless day, over plough-lands scarred with hidden dykes, plunging heedless through rivers, past sleeping beasts and dangerous lairs of fearful monsters. So great is the strength of passion and of grief! Menoetes is ashamed of his slower pace, and marvels at the gait of his frail ward. What abodes of beasts or men echoed not to her grievous plaint? How often did she lose the track as she went, how often did the solace of the companion flame desert her straying steps, and the cold darkness swallow up the torchlight? And now the slopes of Pentheus' ridge^b lie beside their weary path, and broaden into plain, when Menoetes nigh failing and with panting breast thus begins to speak: "Not far away, Argia, if the hope inspired by the toils

^b *i.e.*, the slopes of Cithaeron; *cf.* "Tibur supinum," Hor. C. iii. 4. 23.

STATIUS

Ogygias, Argia, domos et egena sepulcri
 busta iacere reor ; grave comminus aestuat aer
 sordidus, et magnae redeunt per inane volucres.
 haec illa est crudelis humus, nec moenia longe. 250
 cernis, ut ingentes murorum porrigat umbras
 campus, et e speculis moriens intermicet ignis ?
 moenia sunt iuxta ; modo nox magis ipsa tacebat,
 solaque nigrantes laxabant astra tenebras.”
 horruit Argia, dextramque ad moenia tendens : 255
 “ urbs optata prius, nunc tecta hostilia Thebae,
 et tamen, inlaesas si reddis coniugis umbras,
 sic quoque dulce solum, cernis, quo praedita cultu,
 qua stipata manu, iuxta tua limina primum 259
 Oedipodis magni venio nurus ? improba non sunt
 vota : rogos hospes planctumque et funera posco.
 illum, oro, extorrem regni belloque fugatum,
 illum, quem solio non es dignata paterno,
 redde mihi ! tuque, oro, veni, si manibus ulla
 effigies errantque animae post membra solutae,¹ 265
 tu mihi pande vias, tuaque ipse ad funera deduc,
 si merui ! ” dixit, tectumque adgressa propinquae
 pastorale casae reficit spiramina fessi
 ignis, et horrendos inrumpit turbida campos.
 qualis ab Aetnaeis accensa lampade saxis 270
 orba Ceres magnae variabat imagine flammae
 Ausonium Siculumque latus, vestigia nigri
 raptoris vastosque legens in pulvere sulcos ;
 illius insanis ululatibus ipse remugit

¹ solutae *Pω* : soluta *Baehrens* : *Garrod conj.* prope m. solutae.

^a One of the Giants, imprisoned by Jupiter under Aetna.

we have endured deceive not, lie, methinks, the Ogygian dwellings and the bodies that lack sepulture; from close at hand come waves of heavily-tainted air, and mighty birds are returning through the void. 'Tis indeed that cruel battle-field, nor is the city far distant. Seest thou how the plain outstretches the vast shadow of the walls, and how the dying fires flicker from the watch-towers? The city is hard by; night herself was more silent but a moment past, and only the stars broke through the pitchy gloom." Argia shuddered, and stretched out her right hand toward the walls: "O city of Thebes, once longed-for, but now the dwelling of our foes, yet, if thou givest back my dead spouse uninjured, even so a soil beloved: seest thou in what garb arrayed, by what a train accompanied, I, the daughter-in-law of mighty Oedipus, for the first time approach thy gates? No unhallowed wish have I; a stranger, I beg but for a pyre, a corpse, and leave to mourn. Him restore to me, I pray, who was exiled from his realm and conquered in the fight, him, whom thou deemedst not worthy of his father's throne! And come thou too, I beg, if spirits have any shape, and souls can wander freed from their bodies, show me the way, and lead me thyself to thy own corpse, if I have so deserved!" She spoke, and entering the pastoral shelter of a neighbouring cottage kindles anew the breath of the dying brand, and impetuously rushes forth upon the awful plain. Even so did the bereaved Ceres light her torch and from Aetna's rocks cast the shifting glare of the mighty flame here over Sicily, there over Ausonia, as she followed the traces of the dark ravisher and the great wheel-furrows in the dust; Enceladus^a himself re-echoes her wild wailings,

Enceladus ruptoque vias inluminat igni : 275
 Persephonen amnes silvae freta nubila clamant,
 Persephonen tantum Stygii tacet aula mariti.

Admonet adtonitam fidus meminisse Creontis
 altor et occulto submittere lampada furto. 280
 regina Argolicas modo formidata per urbes,
 votum immane procis spesque augustissima gentis,
 nocte sub infesta, nullo duce et hoste propinquo,
 sola per offensus armorum et lubrica tabo
 gramina, non tenebras, non circumfusa tremiscens
 concilia umbrarum atque animas sua membra
 gementes 285

saepe gradu caeco ferrum calcataque tela
 dissimulat, solusque labor vitasse iacentes,
 dum funus putat omne suum, visuque sagaci
 rimatur positos et corpora prona supinat
 incumbens, queriturque parum lucentibus astris. 290

Forte soporiferas caeli secreta per umbras
 Iuno, sinu magni semet furata mariti,
 Theseos ad muros, ut Pallada flecteret, ibat,
 supplicibusque piis faciles aperiret Athenas.
 atque ubi per campos errore fatiscere vano 295
 immeritam Argian supero respexit ab axe,
 indoluit visu, et lunaribus obvia bigis
 advertit vultum¹ placidaque ita voce locuta est :
 “ da mihi poscenti munus breve, Cynthia, si quis
 est Iunonis honos²; certe Iovis improba iussu 300
 ter noctem Herculeam—veteres sed mitto querellas :
 en locus officio. cultrix placitissima³ nostri
 Inachis Argia cernis qua nocte vagetur

¹ vultum *P* : currum *ω*.

² Iunonis honos *ω* : iuvenis *P*.

³ placitissima *Gronovius* : placidissima *Pω*.

and illumines her path with bursting fire ; “ Persephone ” cry woods and rivers, seas and clouds : only the palace of her Stygian lord calls not “ Persephone ”.

Her faithful supporter warns the distracted dame to remember Creon and keep low her torch in stealthy hiding. She who of late was feared as queen throughout Argive cities, the ambitious hope of suitors and sacred promise of her race, through all the terrors of the night, without a guide and in the presence of the foe, goes on alone, o'er obstacles of arms, o'er grass all slippery with gore, trembling not at the gloom nor at troops of spirits hovering around or ghosts bewailing their own limbs, oft treading blindly but unheeding on swords and weapons ; she labours but to avoid the fallen, and thinks every corpse the one she seeks, while with keen glance she searches the slain, and bending down turns bodies on their backs, and complains to the stars that they give not light enough.

By chance Juno, stealing herself from the bosom of her mighty lord, was faring through the slumbrous darkness of the sky to Theseus' walls, that she might move Pallas to yield and Athens to give gracious welcome to the pious suppliants ; and when from the height of heaven she beheld the innocent Argia exhausted by fruitless wandering o'er the plain, she was grieved at the sight, and encountering the lunar team she faced them and spoke thus with calm accents : “ Grant me a little boon, O Cynthia, if Juno can command respect ; 'tis true that at Jove's bidding, thou shameless one, that threefold night when Hercules—but I will let old quarrels be ; now canst thou do me a service. Argia, daughter of Inachus, my favourite votary—seest thou in what a

STATIUS

nec reperire virum densis queat aegra tenebris ?
 et tibi nimbosum languet iubar : exsere quaeso 305
 cornua, et adsueto propior premat orbita terras.
 hunc quoque, qui curru madidas tibi pronus habenas
 ducit, in Aonios vigiles demitte Soporem.”
 vix ea, cum scissis magnum dea nubibus orbem
 protulit ; expavere umbrae, fulgorque recisus 310
 sideribus ; vix ipsa tulit Saturnia flammæ.

Primum per campos infuso lumine pallam
 coniugis ipsa suos nescit miseranda labores,
 quamquam texta latent suffusaque sanguine maeret
 purpura ; dumque deos vocat et de funere caro 315
 hoc superesse putat, videt ipsum in pulvere paene
 calcatum. fugere animus visusque sonusque,
 inclusitque dolor lacrimas ; tum corpore toto
 sternitur in voltus animamque per oscula quaerit
 absentem, pressumque comis ac veste cruorem 320
 servatura legit. mox tandem voce reversa :
 “ hunc ego te, coniunx, ad debita regna profectum
 ductorem belli generumque potentis Adrasti
 aspicio, talisque tuis occurro triumphis ?
 huc adtolle genas defectaque lumina : venit 325
 ad Thebas Argia tuas ; age, moenibus induc
 et patrios ostende lares et mutua redde
 hospitia. heu quid ago ? proiectus caespite nudo
 hoc patriae telluris habes. quæ iurgia ? certe

^a *i.e.*, as the soul is fled (“absentem”), she gathers up some of his blood.

night she roams, nor with failing strength can find her spouse in the thick darkness? Thy beams too are faint with shrouding vapour; show forth thy horns, I pray thee, and let thy orbit approach the earth nearer than is thy wont. This Sleep, too, who leaning forward plies for thee thy humid chariot-reins, send him upon the Aonian watchmen." Scarce had she spoken, when the goddess cleft the clouds and displayed her mighty orb; the shadows started in terror, and the stars were shorn of their radiance; scarce did Saturnia herself endure the brightness.

First by the light that floods the plain she recognizes her husband's cloak, her own handiwork, poor woman! though the texture is hidden and the purple mourns to be suffused with blood; and while she calls upon the gods, and thinks that this is all that is left of the beloved corpse, she catches sight of himself, nigh trampled into the dust. Her spirit quailed, and vision and speech fled, and grief thrust back her tears; then she falls prostrate about his face, and seeks with kisses for his departed soul, and pressing the blood from his hair and raiment gathers it up to treasure.^a At last as her voice returns: "My husband, is it he who once marched captain of the war to the realm that was his due, is it the son-in-law of powerful Adrastus whom I now behold? Is this the manner in which I go to meet thy triumph? Raise hither thy countenance and thy sightless eyes: Argia has come to thy Thebes; lead me then inside thy city, show me thy father's halls and make me welcome in thy turn. Alas! what am I doing? thou liest on the naked earth, and this is all that thou dost own of thy native land. What were those quarrels? 'Tis sure thy brother

STATIUS

imperium non frater habet. nullasne tuorum 330
 movisti lacrimas? ubi mater, ubi inclyta fama
 Antigone? mihi nempe iaces, mihi victus es uni!
 dicebam: quo tendis iter? quid scepra negata
 pascis? habes Argos, soceri regnabis in aula;
 hic tibi longus honos, hic indivisa potestas. 335
 quid queror? ipsa dedi bellum maestumque rogavi
 ipsa patrem, ut talem nunc te complexa tenerem.
 sed bene habet, superi, gratum est, Fortuna; peracta
 spes longinqua viae: totos invenimus artus.
 ei mihi, sed quanto descendit vulnus hiatu! 340
 hoc frater? qua parte, precor, iacet ille nefandus
 praedator? vincam volucres—sit adire potestas—
 excludamque feras; an habet funestus et ignes?
 sed nec te flammis inopem tua terra videbit:
 ardebis lacrimasque feres, quas ferre negatum 345
 regibus, aeternumque tuo famulata sepulcro
 durabit deserta fides, testisque dolorum
 natus erit, parvoque torum Polynice fovebo.”
 Ecce alios gemitus aliamque ad busta ferebat
 Antigone miseranda facem, vix nacta petitos 350
 moenibus egressus; illam nam tempore in omni
 adtendunt vigiles et rex iubet ipse teneri,
 contractaeque vices et crebrior excubat ignis.
 ergo deis fratrique moras excusat et amens,
 ut paulum immisso cessit statio horrida somno, 355
 erumpit muris: fremitu quo territat agros
 virginis ira laeae, rabies cui libera tandem

^a *i.e.*, the guards succeed each other at shorter intervals and the watchfires are kindled more frequently.

holds not dominion here. Didst thou move none of thine own to tears? Where is thy mother? Where the famed Antigone? Verily 'tis for me thou liest dead, for me alone thou didst suffer defeat! I asked thee: Whither marchest thou? Why demandest thou the sceptre denied thee? Thou hast Argos and wilt reign in my father's hall; long honours await thee here, and undivided power. But why do I complain? Myself I gave thee war, and with my own lips begged it of my sorrowing sire—that now I might hold thee thus in my embrace. But it is well, ye gods; I thank thee, Fortune; the distant hope of my wandering is fulfilled: I have found his body whole. Ah! what a deep and gaping wound! Was this his brother's work? Were lies, I pray, that infamous robber? I would outdo the birds, might I but approach him, and keep the beasts away! Hath the fell villain fire as well? But thee thy land shall not behold undowered of flame; burn thou shalt, and tears that may not weep for kings shall rain on thee, and desolate love shall endure and aye tend thy sepulchre; thy son shall be the witness of my sorrow, a little Polynices shall cherish thy couch for me."

Lo! with another torch and other sounds of woe hapless Antigone drew nigh the dead, having scarce won from the town the escape she longed for; for ever do guards attend her, and the king himself bids her be held fast; the times of watching are shortened and more frequent glow the fires.^a Therefore she makes excuse for her delaying to the gods and her brother, and frantically, so soon as the rough sentinels relaxed one whit their vigilance, burst from out the walls: with such a cry does the virgin lioness terrify the countryside, her fury free at last, when

STATIUS

et primus sine matre furor. nec longa morata est,
 quippe trucem campum et, positus quo pulvere frater,
 noverat : atque illam contra videt ire Menoetes, 360
 cui vacat, et carae gemitus compescit alumnae.
 cum tamen erectas extremus virginis aures
 accessit sonus, utque atra sub veste comisque
 squalentem et crasso foedatam sanguine vultus
 astrorum radiis et utraque a lampade vidit : 365
 “ cuius,” ait, “ manes, aut quae temeraria quaeris
 nocte mea ? ” nihil illa diu, sed in ora mariti
 deicit inque suos pariter velamina vultus,
 capta metu subito paulumque oblita doloris.
 hoc magis increpitans suspecta silentia perstat 370
 Antigone, comitemque premens ipsamque ; sed ambo
 deficient fixique silent. tandem ora retexit
 Argia, corpusque tamen complexa profatur :
 “ si quid in hoc veteri bellorum sanguine mecum
 quaesitura venis, si tu quoque dura Creontis 375
 iussa times, possum tibi me confisa fateri.
 si misera es—certe lacrimas lamentaque cerno—,
 iunge, age, iunge fidem : proles ego regia Adrasti—
 ei mihi ! num quis adest ?—cari Polynicis ad ignes,
 etsi regna vetant—.” stupuit Cadmeia virgo 380
 intremuitque simul, dicentemque occupat ultro :
 “ mene igitur sociam—pro fors ignara !—malorum,
 mene times ? mea membra tenes, mea funera plangis.
 cedo, tene, pudet heu ! pietas ignava sororis !
 haec prior—!” hic pariter lapsae iunctoque per
 ipsum 385

^a *i.e.*, Antigone's.

for the first time her mother shares not in her rage. Not long did she tarry, for she knew the cruel plain and where her brother lay in the dust: Menoetes, as he stands unbusied, marks her as she comes, and hushes the groans of his dear ward. But when the latest sob reached the maiden's^a uplifted ears, and when she saw by the stars' rays and the light of either torch her mourning raiment and dishevelled hair and face all foul with congealed gore, she cried: "Whose body seekest thou in this night that is mine? Who art thou, daring woman?" Nought answered the other a long while, but cast her raiment about her husband's face and likewise her own, a prey to sudden fear and awhile forgetful of her sorrow. Antigone, chiding her suspected silence, persists the more, and urges her comrade and herself; but both are lost in utter silence. At last Argia unveiled her face and spoke, yet still clasped the body: "If thou comest to seek aught with me in this stale blood of battle, if thou also fearest Creon's harsh commands, I can with confidence reveal myself to thee. If thou art wretched—and surely I behold tears and signs of grief—come join with me in friendship; Adrastus' royal seed am I—ah! is any near?—at the pyre of my beloved Polynices, though kingdoms set their ban—" the Cadmean maiden started in amaze and trembled, and broke in upon her speech: "Is it I then whom thou dost fear?—how blind is chance!—I, the partner of thy woes? Mine are the limbs thou holdest, mine the corpse thou dost bewail. Take him, he is thine! Ah, shame! Ah, for the cowardly devotion of a sister! She came before me—" Side by side they fall, and together embracing the same body

STATIUS

amplexu miscent avidae lacrimasque comasque,
 partitaeque artus redeunt alterna gementes
 ad vultum et cara vicibus cervice fruuntur.
 dumque modo haec fratrem memorat, nunc illa
 maritum,

mutuaque exorsae Thebas Argosque renarrant, 390

longius Argia miseros reminiscitur actus :

“ per tibi furtivi sacrum commune doloris,

per socios manes et conscia sidera iuro :

non hic amissos, quamquam vagus exsul, honores,

non gentile solum, carae non pectora matris, 395

te cupiit unam noctesque diesque locutus

Antigonen ; ego cura minor facilisque relinqui.

tu tamen ex celsa sublimem forsitan arce

ante nefas Grais dantem vexilla maniplis

vidisti, teque ille acie respexit ab ipsa 400

ense salutatam et nutantis vertice coni :

nos procul. extremas sed quis deus egit in iras ?

nil vestrae valuere preces ? tibine iste negavit

oranti ? ” causas ac tristia reddere fata

coeperat Antigone ; fidus comes admonet ambas : 405

“ heia agite inceptum potius ! iam sidera pallent

vicino turbata die, perferte laborem,

tempus erit lacrimis, accenso flebitis igne.”

Haud procul Ismeni monstrabant murmura ripas,

qua turbatus adhuc et sanguine decolor ibat. 410

huc laceros artus socio conamine portant

invalidae, iungitque comes non fortior ulnas.

sic Hyperionium tepido Phaethonta sorores

mingle greedily their tears and tresses, and share his limbs between them, and anon return with united lament to his face and glut themselves by turns upon his well-loved breast. And while they recall the one her brother and the other her spouse, and each tells to each the tale of Argos and of Thebes, Argia in longer strain brings to mind her own sad story: "By the sacred communion of our stolen mourning, by our common dead and the witnessing stars I swear to thee: not his lost crown, nor his native soil, nor his dear mother's breast did he desire, wandering exile though he was, but thee alone; of thee, Antigone, he spake by night and day; I was a lesser care and easily relinquished. Yet didst thou perchance before the horrid deed from a lofty turret behold him towering high and giving the Grecian companies their banners, and he looked back at thee from the very line of battle, and saluted thee with his sword and the nodding summit of his helm: but I was far away. But what god drove them to the extremity of wrath? Did your prayers nought avail? Did the other refuse thy own entreaty?" Antigone had begun to set forth the causes and the cruelty of fate, but the faithful comrade warned them: "Nay finish rather your task! Already the stars are paling in rout before the approaching day; complete your toil, the time for tears will come; kindle the fire, then weep your fill."

Not far away a roar betrayed the channel of Ismenos where he was flowing still discoloured and befouled by gore. Hither with united effort they feebly bear the mangled limbs, while their companion as weak as they adds his arm to theirs. So did his sisters lave the smoking Phaëthon, Hyperion's son,

STATIUS

fumantem lavere Pado ; vixdum ille sepulcro
 conditus, et flentes stabant ad flumina silvae. 415
 ut sanies purgata vado membrisque reversus
 mortis honos, ignem miserae post ultima quaerunt
 oscula ; sed gelidae circum exanimesque favillae
 putribus in foveis, atque omnia busta quiescunt.
 stabat adhuc seu forte rogos, seu numine divum, 420
 cui torrere datum saevos Eteocleos artus,
 sive locum monstris iterum Fortuna parabat,
 seu dissensuros servaverat Eumenis ignes.
 hic tenuem nigris etiamnum advivere lucem
 roboribus pariter cupidae videre, simulque 425
 flebile gavisae ; nec adhuc, quae busta, repertum,
 sed placidus quemcumque¹ rogant mitisque supremi
 admittat cineris consortem et misceat umbras.

Ecce iterum fratres : primos ut contigit artus
 ignis edax, tremuere rogi et novus advena busto 430
 pellitur ; exundant diviso vertice flammae
 alternosque apices abrupta luce coruscant.
 pallidus Eumenidum veluti commiserit ignes
 Orcus, uterque minax globus et conatur uterque
 longius ; ipsae etiam commoto pondere paulum 435
 secessere trabes. conclamat territa virgo :
 “ occidimus, functasque manu stimulavimus iras.
 frater erat : quis enim accessus ferus hospitis umbrae
 pelleret ? en clipei fragmen semiustaque nosco
 cingula, frater erat ! cernisne, ut flamma recedat 440
 concurratque tamen ? vivunt odia improba, vivunt.
 nil actum bello ; miseri, sic, dum arma movetis,

¹ quemcumque *P*: quicumque ω .

^a His sisters were turned into poplars.

in the heated Padus: scarce was he interred, when a weeping grove rose by the river-side.^a When the filth was purged in the stream and the body was once more beautiful in death, the wretched women after the last kisses searched for fire, but dead and cold were the ashes in the mouldering pits, and all the pyres were silent. Still there remained one funeral pile, whether by chance or heaven's will, that had been fated to burn the limbs of fierce Eteocles—whether Fortune once more gave opportunity for portents, or the Fury had spared the fires for mutual strife. Here both in their eagerness beheld a feeble glow still alive among the blackened timbers, and together wept tears of joy; nor yet knew they whose the pyre, but prayed, whosesoe'er it be, that he be favourable and graciously admit a partner to his latest ashes and unite their ghosts.

Once more behold the brothers: as soon as the devouring fire touched the body, the pile shook, and the newcomer is driven from the pyre; a flame streams up with double head, each darting tongues of flashing light. As though pale Orcus had set in conflict the torches of the Eumenides, each ball of fire threatens and strives to outreach the other; the very timbers, with all their massive weight, were moved and gave way a space. The maiden cries out in terror: "We are undone; ourselves we have stirred his wrath in death. It was his brother; who else would be so cruel as to spurn the approach of a stranger ghost? Lo! I recognize the broken buckler and the charred sword-belt, ay, it was his brother! Seest thou how the flame shrinks away and yet rushes to the fight? Alive, ay, alive is that impious hatred. The war was in vain: while thus

STATIUS

vicit nempe Creon! nusquam iam regna, quis ardor?
 cui furitis? sedate minas; tuque exsul ubique
 semper inops aequi, iam cede: hoc nupta precatur,
 hoc soror, aut saevos mediae veniemus in ignes." 446

Vix ea, cum subitus campos tremor altaque tecta
 impulit adiuvitque rogi discordis hiatus,
 et vigilum turbata quies, quibus ipse malorum
 fingebat simulacra sopor: ruit illicet, omnem 450
 prospectum lustrans armata indagine miles.
 illos instantes senior timet unus; at ipsae
 ante rogam saevique palam sprevisse Creontis
 imperia et furtum claro plangore fatentur
 securae, quippe omne vident fluxisse cadaver. 455
 ambitur saeva de morte animosaque leti
 spes furit: haec fratris rapuisse, haec coniugis artus
 contendunt vicibusque probant: "ego corpus," "ego
 ignes,"

"me pietas," "me duxit amor." deprecere saeva
 supplicia et dextras iuvat insertare catenis. 460
 nusquam illa alternis modo quae reverentia verbis,
 iram odiumque putes; tantus discordat utrimque
 clamor, et ad regem, qui deprendere, trahuntur.

At procul Actaeis dextra iam Pallade muris
 Iuno Phoroneas inducit praevia matres 465
 attonitas, non ipsa minus, coetumque gementem
 conciliat populis et fletibus addit honorem.

ye strive, unhappy ones, Creon has conquered after all! Gone is your realm, why then such fury? For whom do ye rage? Appease your anger. And thou, everywhere an exile, ever debarred from justice, yield at last; this is thy wife's and thy sister's prayer, else shall we leap into the fierce flame to part you."

Scarce had she spoken, when a sudden tremor shook the plain and the lofty roofs, and increased the chasm of the discordant pyre, while the watchmen, whose very sleep shaped images of woe, started from repose: straightway the soldiers rush forth, and with a ring of arms search the whole countryside. As they draw nigh, the old man alone has fear; but the women openly before the pyre confess to have spurned fierce Creon's command, and with loud cry admit their secret deed, careless, for they see that already the whole body is consumed. Ambitious are they for cruel destruction, and a spirited hope of death is aflame within them: they contend that they stole, the one her consort's, the other her kinsman's limbs, and prove their case by turns: "I brought the body," "but I the fire," "I was led by affection," "I by love." They delight to ask for cruel punishment and to thrust their arms into the chains. Gone is the reverence that but now was in the words of each; wrath and hatred one would deem it, so loud on either side rise the cries of discord; they even drag their captors before the king.

But far away Juno leads the distraught Phoronean dames—herself no less distraught—to the walls of Athens, having gained at last the goodwill of Pallas, and goes before them on the road; she gives the train of mourners favour in the people's sight and inspires reverence for their tears. With her own

STATIUS

ipsa manu ramosque oleae vittasque precantes
 tradit, et obtenta submittere lumina palla
 et praeferre docet vacuas sine manibus urnas. 470
 omnis Erechtheis¹ effusa penatibus aetas
 tecta viasque replent : unde hoc examen et una
 tot miserae ? necdum causas novere malorum,
 iamque gemunt. dea conciliis se miscet utrisque
 cuncta docens, qua gente satae, quae funera plangent
 quidve petant ; variis nec non adfatibus ipsae 476
 Ogygias leges immansuetumque Creonta
 multum et ubique fremunt. Geticae non plura
 queruntur
 hospitibus tectis trunco sermone volucres,
 cum duplices thalamos et iniquum Terea clamant.
 Urbe fuit media nulli concessa potentum 481
 ara deum ; mitis posuit Clementia sedem,
 et miseri fecere sacram ; sine supplice numquam
 illa novo, nulla damnavit vota repulsa.
 auditi quicumque rogant, noctesque diesque 485
 ire datum et solis numen placare querellis.
 parca superstitio : non turea flamma, nec altus
 accipitur sanguis : lacrimis altaria sudant,
 maestarumque super libamina secta comarum
 pendent et vestes mutata sorte relictæ. 490
 mite nemus circa, cultuque insigne verendo
 vittatae laurus et supplicis arbor olivæ.
 nulla autem effigies, nulli commissa metallo
 forma dei, mentes habitare et pectora gaudet.
 semper habet trepidos, semper locus horret egenis

¹ Erechtheis *late mss.*, *Heinsius* : et Acteis ω.

^a Nightingales, see note on viii. 616. Tereus, king of Thrace, ravished Philomela, sister of his wife Procne ; "trunco," because she cut out her own tongue.

hand she gives them boughs of olive and supplicating fillets, and teaches them to hide their faces in their robes and bear before them urns untenanted by the dead. A multitude of every age streams forth from the Erechthean homes and fills the housetops and the streets; whence comes this swarm? Whence so many mourners together? Not yet do they know the cause of their distress, yet are already weeping. With either concourse the goddess mingles and tells them of all: of what race they are sprung, what deaths they are bewailing, and what they seek; they themselves too in various converse make everywhere loud outcry against the Ogygian laws and inhuman Creon. No lengthier plaint do the Getic birds^a utter upon the foreign housetops in mutilated speech, when they exclaim against the treachery of the wedding bower and Tereus' cruel deed.

There was in the midst of the city an altar belonging to no god of power^b; gentle Clemency had there her seat, and the wretched made it sacred; never lacked she a new suppliant, none did she condemn or refuse their prayers. All that ask are heard, night and day may one approach and win the heart of the goddess by complaints alone. No costly rites are hers; she accepts no incense flame, no blood deep-welling; tears flow upon her altar, sad offerings of severed tresses hang above it, and raiment left when Fortune changed. Around is a grove of gentle trees, marked by the cult of the venerable, wool-entwined laurel and the suppliant olive. No image is there, to no metal is the divine form entrusted, in hearts and minds does the goddess delight to dwell. The distressed are ever nigh her, her precinct ever swarms

^b For this passage see vol. i. Introduction, pp. xvi, xxvi.

coetibus, ignotae tantum felicibus arae. 496
 fama est, defensos acie post busta paterni
 numinis Herculeos sedem fundasse nepotes.
 fama minor factis : ipsos nam credere dignum
 caelicolas, tellus quibus hospita semper Athenae, 500
 ceu leges hominemque novum ritusque sacrorum
 seminaque in vacuas hinc descendentia terras,
 sic sacrasse loco commune animantibus aegris
 confugium, unde procul starent iraeque minaeque
 regnaque, et a iustis Fortuna recederet aris. 505
 iam tunc innumerae norant altaria gentes :
 huc victi bellis patriaque a sede fugati,
 regnorumque inopes scelerumque errore nocentes
 conveniunt pacemque rogant ; mox hospita sedes
 vicit et Oedipodae Furias et funus Olynthi¹ 510
 textit et a misero matrem submovit Oreste.
 huc volgo monstrante locum manus anxia Lerna
 deveniunt, cedunt² miserorum turba priorum.
 vix ibi, sedatis requierunt pectora curis :
 ceu patrio super alta grues Aquilone fugatae 515
 cum videre Pharon ; tunc aethera latius implent,
 tunc hilari clangore sonant ; iuvat orbe³ sereno
 contempsisse nives et frigora solvere Nilo.

Iamque domos patrias Scythicae post aspera gentis
 proelia laurigero subeuntem Thesea curru 520

¹ et funus Olynthi *Pω* : funusque Coloni *Imhof* : et funus Onitae tersit *Unger*, quod patrem suum occidit *Schol. D.*

² cedunt *Kohlmann* : caedunt *P1* : caedit or cedit *ω*.

³ orbe *ω* : ore *P*.

^a He refers to the gift of the knowledge of agriculture, which Triptolemus brought to Attica, and the worship of Demeter which he instituted there. The "new man" ap-
 482

with needy folk, only to the prosperous is her shrine unknown. Fame says that the sons of Hercules, saved in battle after the death of their divine sire, set up this altar; but Fame comes short of truth: 'tis right to believe that the heavenly ones themselves, to whom Athens was ever a welcoming land, as once they gave laws and a new man and sacred ceremonies and the seeds that here descended upon the empty earth,^a so now sanctified in this spot a common refuge for travailing souls, whence the wrath and threatenings of monarchs might be far removed, and Fortune depart from a shrine of righteousness. Already to countless races were those altars known; hither came flocking those defeated in war and exiled from their country, kings who had lost their realms and those guilty of grievous crime, and sought for peace; and later this abode of kindness o'ercame the rage of Oedipus and sheltered the murder of Olynthus and defended hapless Orestes from his mother. Hither guided by the common folk comes the distressful band of Lerna, and the crowd of previous votaries give way before them. Scarce were they arrived, when their troubles were soothed and their hearts had rest: even as cranes chased o'er the deep by their native North wind, beholding Pharos, spread in denser array over the sky and raise a joyful clamour; they delight beneath a cloudless heaven to think scorn of snows, and to loose the grip of winter by the banks of Nile.

And now Theseus, drawing nigh his native land in laurelled car after fierce battling with the Scythian

pears to be Triptolemus himself. Athens boasted to have always been a refuge for the distressed, *e.g.* for Orestes and Oedipus; Olynthus is not otherwise known.

STATIUS

laetifici plausus missusque ad sidera vulgi
 clamor et emeritis hilaris tuba nuntiat armis.
 ante ducem spolia et, duri Mavortis imago,
 virginei currus cumulataque fercula cristis
 et tristes ducuntur equi truncaequae bipennes, 525
 quis nemora et solidam Maeotida caedere suetae,
 corytique leves portantur et ignea gemmis
 cingula et informes dominarum sanguine peltae.
 ipsae autem nondum trepidae sexumve fatentur,
 nec vulgare gemunt aspernanturque precari, 530
 et tantum innuptae quaerunt delubra Minervae.
 primus amor niveis victorem cernere vectum
 quadriugis; nec non populos in semet agebat
 Hippolyte, iam blanda genas patiensque mariti
 foederis. hanc patriae ritus fregisse severos 535
 Atthides oblique secum mirantur operto
 murmure, quod nitidi crines, quod pectora palla
 tota latent, magnis quod barbara semet Athenis
 misceat atque hosti veniat paritura¹ marito.

Paulum et ab insessis maestae Pelopeides aris 540
 promovere gradum seriemque et dona triumphii
 mirantur, victique animo rediere mariti.
 atque ubi tardavit currus et ab axe superbo
 explorat causas victor poscitque benigna
 aure preces, ausa ante alias Capaneia coniunx : 545
 "belliger Aegide, subitae cui maxima laudis
 semina de nostris aperit Fortuna ruinis,
 non externa genus, dirae nec conscia noxae
 turba sumus : domus Argos erat regesque mariti,

¹ paritura ω : placitura P.

^a *i.e.*, of the Amazons, the tribe of warrior-maids of Scythia, *cf.* v. 144; the Maeotis is the Sea of Azov.

folk, is heralded by glad applause and the heaven-flung shout of the populace and the merry trump of warfare ended. Before the chief are borne his spoils, and virgin chariots^a that recall the grim War-God, and wagons heaped with crests and downcast steeds and broken axes, wherewith the foe were wont to cleave the forests and frozen Maeotis, light quivers too are borne and baldricks fiery with gems and targes stained with the blood of the warrior-maids. They themselves, still unafraid, admit no thought of sex, and scorn to entreat nor utter mean lament, only they seek the shrine of unwedded Minerva. The first passion of the folk is to behold the conqueror, drawn by his four snow-white steeds; Hippolyte too drew all toward her, friendly now in look and patient of the marriage-bond. With hushed whispers and sidelong gaze the Attic dames marvel that she has broken her country's austere laws, that her locks are trim, and all her bosom hidden beneath her robe, that though a barbarian she mingles with mighty Athens, and comes to bear offspring to her foeman-lord.

The sorrowful daughters of Pelops moved a short space from the altars where they sat, and marvelled at the triumph with its train of spoils, and their vanquished lords came once more to their minds. And when the conqueror halted the chariots and from his proud car inquired the causes that had brought them and with kind attention bade them make their request, the wife of Capaneus dared speak before the others: "Warlike son of Aegeus, for whom Fortune opens up vast fields of unexpected glory through our ruin, no strangers by race are we, nor guilty of any heinous crime; our home was

STATIUS

non utinam et fortes ! quid enim septena movere
 castra et Agenoreos opus emendare penates ? 551
 nec querimur caesos : haec bellica iura vicesque
 armorum ; sed non Siculis exorta sub antris
 monstra nec Ossaei bello cecidere bimembres.
 mitto genus clarosque patres : hominum, inclyte
 Theseu, 555
 sanguis erant, homines, eademque in sidera, eosdem
 sortitus animarum alimentaque vestra creati,
 quos vetat igne Creon Stygiaeque a limine portae,
 ceu sator Eumenidum aut Lethaei portitor amnis,
 submovet ac dubio caelique Erebique sub axe 560
 detinet. heu princeps Natura ! ubi numina, ubi illest
 fulminis iniusti iaculator ? ubi estis, Athenae ?
 septima iam surgens trepidis Aurora iacentes
 aversatur equis ; radios declinat et horret
 stelligeri iubar omne poli ; iam comminus ipsae 565
 pabula dira ferae campumque odere volucres
 spirantem tabo et caelum ventosque gravantem.
 quantum etenim superesse rear ? nuda ossa putremque
 verrere permittat saniem. properate, verendi
 Cecropidae ; vos ista decet vindicta, priusquam 570
 Emathii Thracesque dolent,¹ quaeque exstat ubique
 gens arsura rogis manesque habitura supremos.
 nam quis erit saevire modus ? bellavimus, esto ;
 sed cecidere odia et tristes mors obruit iras.
 tu quoque, ut egregios fama cognovimus actus, 575
 non trucibus monstris Sinin infandumque dedisti

¹ dolent *Pω* : adolent *Baehrens* : volent *Lemaire*.

^a *i.e.*, Cyclopes or Centaurs.

Argos, and our husbands princes, would they had not been brave also! What need was there to arouse a sevenfold host, and chastise the city of Agenor? We complain not that they were slain: that is the law of war and the fortune of the fight; but they were no monsters risen from Sicilian dens or twyformed creatures of Ossa^a who fell in the battle. Of their race and famous sires I speak not; they were men, renowned Theseus, and of the seed of men, born to the selfsame stars to the same human lot, the same food and drink as ye are; yet Creon denies them fire, and like the father of the Furies or the ferryman of Lethe's stream debars them from the Stygian gate and keeps them hovering doubtfully between the worlds of heaven and hell. Alas! sovereign Nature! Where are the gods? Where is the hurler of the unrighteous brand? Where art thou, Athens? Already the seventh dawn shrinks with frightened steeds from their corpses; the starry pole shudders in all its splendours and withdraws its rays; already the very birds and prowling beasts loathe the horrid carrion and the battle-field that reeks of corruption and heavily taints the breezes and the air. How much indeed remains? let him but permit me to sweep up bare bones and putrid gore! Make haste, ye worthy sons of Cecrops! such a vengeance becomes you, before the Emathians and Thracians suffer, and every race of men that would fain be burnt on pyres and be given the last rites of death. For what limit will he set to his fury? We made war, I grant it; but hatred is assuaged, and death has put an end to sullen wrath. Thou also, for so Fame hath taught us of thy noble deeds, didst not give Sinis and the

STATIUS

Cercyona, et saevum velles Scirona crematum.
 credo et Amazoniis Tanain fumasse sepulcris,
 unde haec arma refers, sed et hunc dignare triumphum.
 da terris unum caeloque Ereboque laborem, 580
 si patrium Marathona metu, si tecta levasti
 Cressia, nec fudit vanos anus hospita fletus.
 sic tibi non ullae socia sine Pallade pugnae,
 nec sacer invideat paribus Tirynthius actis,
 semper et in curru, semper te mater ovantem 585
 cernat, et invictae nil tale precentur Athenae.”

Dixerat; excipiunt cunctae tenduntque precantes
 cum clamore manus; rubuit Neptunius heros
 permotus lacrimis; iusta mox concitus ira
 exclamat: “quaenam ista novos induxit Erinys 590
 regnorum mores? non haec ego pectora liqui
 Graiorum abscedens, Scythiam Pontumque nivalem
 cum peterem; novus unde furor? victumne putasti
 Thesea, dire Creon? adsum, nec sanguine fessum
 crede; sitit meritos etiamnum haec hasta cruores.
 nulla mora est; verte hunc adeo, fidissime Phegeu,
 cornipedem, et Tyrias invectus protinus arces 597
 aut Danais edice rogos aut proelia Thebis.”
 sic ait oblitus bellique viaeque laborum,
 hortaturque suos viresque instaurat anhelas: 600
 ut modo conubiis taurus saltuque recepto
 cum posuit pugnas, alio si forte remugit
 bellatore nemus, quamquam ora et colla cruento
 imbre madent, novus arma parat campumque lacesens

^a Hecale, who entertained Theseus when he went out to slay the Marathonian bull.

^b Theseus was a son of Neptune, according to some legends.

unutterable Cercyon to cruel monsters, and wert willing to let fierce Sciron burn. I ween too that Tanais smoked with Amazonian pyres, whence thou hast brought this host: deem then this triumph also worthy of thee. Devote one exploit to earth and heaven and hell alike, if thou didst save thy native Marathon from fear, and the halls of Crète, and if the aged dame ^a that welcomed thee shed not her tears in vain. So may no battles of thine lack Pallas' aid, nor the divine Tirynthian envy thy equal exploits, may thy mother ever behold thee triumphant in thy car, and Athens know not defeat nor ever make a prayer like mine!"

She spoke: they all with hands outstretched make clamorous echo to her words; the Neptunian hero ^b flushed, deeply stirred by their tears; soon fired by righteous anger he cries: "What Fury has inspired this strange unkingly conduct? Not so minded were the Greeks at my departure, when I sought Scythia and the Pontic snows; whence this new madness? Thoughtest thou Theseus conquered, fell Creon? I am near at hand, think me not blood-weary; even yet my spear thirsts for righteous slaughter. I make no delay; turn on the instant thy galloping steed, most trusty Phegeus, speed to the Tyrian towers and proclaim that the Danai must burn or Thebes must fight." So speaks he, forgetful of the labours of warfare and the march, and encourages his men and inspires their exhausted strength anew: as when a bull has lately won back his brides and pasture and ceased from battle, if by chance another glade resound with a warrior's lowing, then, though his neck and breast be dripping with the bloody rain, he prepares afresh for war and pawing the plain

STATIUS

dissimulat gemitus et vulnera pulvere celat. 605
 ipsa metus Libycos servatricemque Medusam
 pectoris incussa movit Tritonia parma.
 protinus erecti toto simul agmine Thebas
 respexere angues ; necdum Atticus ire parabat
 miles, et infelix expavit classica Dirce. 610

Continuo in pugnas haud solum accensa iuventus,
 qui modo Caucasei comites rediere triumphi :
 omnis ad arma rudes ager exstimulavit alumnos.
 conveniunt ultroque ducis vexilla sequuntur,
 qui gelidum Braurona viri, qui rura lacesunt 615
 Monychia et trepidis stabilem Piraea nautis
 et nondum Eoo clarum Marathona triumpho.
 mittit in arma manus gentilibus hospita divis
 Icarii Celeique domus viridesque Melaenae,
 dives et Aegaleos nemorum Parnesque benignus 620
 vitibus et pinguis melior Lycabessos olivae.
 venit atrox Alaeus et olentis arator Hymetti,
 quaeque rudes thyrsos hederis vestistis, Acharnae.
 linquitur Eois longe speculabile proris
 Sunion, unde vagi casurum in nomina ponti 625
 Cressia decepit falso ratis Aegea velo.
 hos Salamin populos, illos Cerealis Eleusin
 horrida suspensis ad proelia misit aratris,
 et quos Callirhoe noviens errantibus undis
 implicat, et raptae qui conscius Orithyiae 630
 celavit ripis Geticos Elisos amores.
 ipse quoque in pugnas vacuatur collis, ubi ingens
 lis superum, dubiis donec nova surgeret arbor

^a Medusa and the Gorgons lived in Libya.

^b Bacchus and Demeter.

^c Acharnae was famous for the ivy that decked the thyrsi, or wands of the Bacchanals.

^d Aegeus, father of Theseus, threw himself into the sea

hides his groaning and conceals his wounds in dust. Tritonia herself smote upon her buckler and shook the Libyan terror,^a the Medusa that guards her bosom. Straightway all the serpents rose erect together, and in a mass looked towards Thebes; not yet were the Attic warriors on the march, and already ill-fated Dirce trembled at the trumpets' sound.

At once not only are they inflamed to war who were returned from sharing the Caucasian victory: all the countryside stirred up its untrained sons to war. They flock together and of their own accord follow their prince's standard: the men who spare not chilly Brauron and the Monychian fields and Piraeus, firm ground for frightened sailors, and Marathon, not yet famous for her Eastern triumph. The homesteads of Icarus and of Celeus that entertained their native gods^b send troops to battle, green Melaenae too, and Aegaleos, rich in forests, and Parnes, friend of vines, and Lycabessos, richer in the juicy olive. Violent Alaeus came, and the ploughman of fragrant Hymettus, thou, too, Acharnae, who didst clothe the bare wands in ivy.^c Sunion, far seen of Eastern prows, is left behind, whence Aegeus fell,^d deceived by the lying sails of the Cretan bark, and gave a name to the wandering main. These folk from Salamis, those from Eleusis, Ceres' town, were sent, their ploughs hung up, to the dreadful fray, and they whom Callirhoë enfolds with her nine errant streams, and Elisos who privy to Orithyia's rape concealed beneath his banks the Thracian lover.^e That hill too is emptied for the fight, where gods strove mightily, until a new tree rose from the doubting (whence called Aegean), thinking that his son had perished in Crete.

^e Boreas, the north wind.

STATIUS

rupibus et longa refugum mare frangeret umbra.
 isset et Arctos Cadmea ad moenia ducens 635
 Hippolyte turmas : retinet iam certa tumentis
 spes uteri, coniunxque rogat dimittere curas
 Martis et emeritas thalamo sacrare pharetras.

Hos ubi velle acies et dulci gliscere ferro
 dux videt, utque piis raptim dent oscula natis 640
 amplexusque breves, curru sic fatur ab alto :

“ terrarum leges et mundi foedera mecum
 defensura cohors, dignas insumite mentes¹
 coeptibus: hac omnem divumque hominumque favorem
 Naturamque ducem coetusque silentis Averni 645
 stare palam est ; illic Poenarum exercita Thebis
 agmina et anguicomae ducunt vexilla sorores.
 ite alacres tantaeque, precor, confidite causae.”
 dixit, et emissa praeceps iter incohat hasta :

qualis Hyperboreos ubi nubilus institit axes 650
 Iuppiter et prima tremefecit sidera bruma,
 rumpitur Aeolia et longam indignata quietem
 tollit hiemps animos ventosaque sibilat Arctos ;
 tunc montes undaeque fremunt, tunc proelia caecis²
 nubibus et tonitrus insanaque fulmina gaudent. 655

Icta gemit tellus, virides gravis ungula campos
 mutat, et³ innumeris peditumque equitumque catervis
 exspirat protritit ager, nec pulvere crasso
 armorum lux victa perit, sed in aethera longum
 frangitur, et mediis ardent in nubibus hastae. 660

¹ insumite mentes ω : consumite amantes *P*.

² caecis *P* : caesis ω : quassis *Koch*.

³ mutat et *P* ω : atterit *N*.

^a The Acropolis of Athens, scene of the strife between Athene and Poseidon (god of the sea); Athene gained the victory by her gift of the olive-tree.

^b Veterans on their discharge (“emeriti”) were accustomed to dedicate their arms in a temple

rocks and cast its long shadow on the retreating sea.^a Hippolyte too would have led her Northern squadrons to the Cadmean walls, but the already certain hope of her swelling womb restrains her, and her spouse entreats her to dismiss the thoughts of battle and in the marriage-bower to dedicate her war-spent quiver.^b

When the chief perceives them in warlike mood and ablaze with joyous steel, how they give hurried kisses and brief embraces to their loving children, he speaks thus from his lofty chariot: "Soldiers, who will defend with me the laws of nations and the covenants of heaven, take courage worthy of our emprise! For us, 'tis clear, stands the favour of all gods and men, Nature our guide and the silent multitudes of Avernus: for them the troops of the Furies, that Thebes has marshalled, and the snake-haired Sisters bring forth their banners. Onward in warlike spirit, and trust, I pray you, in a cause so noble!" He spake, and hurling his spear dashed forth upon the road: as when Jupiter plants his cloudy footsteps upon the Hyperborean pole and makes the stars tremble at the oncoming of winter, Aeolia^c is riven, and the storm, indignant at its long idleness, takes heart, and the North whistles with the hurricane; then roar the mountains and the waves, clouds battle in the blind gloom, and thunders and crazed lightnings revel.

The smitten earth groans, the heavy hoof changes the aspect of the verdant plains, and the crushed fields expire beneath countless troops of horse and foot, nor is the gleam of armour lost in the thick dust, but flashes far into the air, and the spears burn amid

^c The abode of Aeolus, king of the winds.

STATIUS

noctem adeo placidasque operi iunxere tenebras,
 certamenque immane viris, quo concita tendant
 agmina, quis visas proclamet ab aggere Thebas,
 cuius in Ogygio stet princeps lancea muro.
 at procul ingenti Neptunius agmina Theseus 665
 angustat clipeo, propriaeque exordia laudis
 centum urbes umbone gerit centenaque Cretae
 moenia, seque ipsum monstrosi ambagibus antri
 hispida torquentem luctantis colla iuvenei
 alternasque manus circum et nodosa ligantem 670
 brachia et abdueto vitantem cornua vultu.
 terror habet populos, cum saeptus imagine torva¹
 ingreditur pugnas : bis Thesea bisque cruentas
 caede videre manus ; veteres reminiscitur actus
 ipse tuens sociumque gregem metuendaque quondam
 limina, et absumpto pallentem Gnosida filo. 676

Saevus at interea ferro post terga revinetas
 Antigenon viduamque Creon Adrastida leto
 admovet ; ambae hilares et mortis amore superbae
 ensibus intentant iugulos regemque cruentum 680
 destituunt : eum dicta ferens Theseia Phegeus
 adstitit. ille quidem ramis insontis olivae
 pacificus, sed bella ciet bellumque minatur,
 grande fremens, nimiumque memormandantis et ipsum
 iam prope, iam medios operire cohortibus agros 685
 ingeminans. stetit ambiguo Thebanus in aestu
 eurarum, nutantque minae et prior ira tepescit.
 tune firmat sese, fietumque ac triste renidens :

¹ imagine torva ω : in agmine torvo *P.*

^a Theseus's exploits in Crete (slaying of the Minotaur) were the prelude to his still greater subsequent fame.

the clouds. Night too and the quiet shades they add to their toil, and the warriors mightily strive how they may speed the army's march, who may proclaim from a hillock the first sight of Thebes, whose lance will first stand fixed in the Ogygian rampart. But from afar Theseus, son of Neptune, dwarfs the ranks with his huge shield, and bears upon its boss the hundred cities and hundred walls of Crete, the prelude to his own renown,^a and himself in the windings of the monstrous cave twisting the shaggy neck of the struggling bull, and binding him fast with sinewy arms and grip of either hand, and avoiding the horns with head drawn back. Terrified are the folk when he goes to battle 'neath the shelter of that grim device, to behold Theseus in double shape and his hands twice drenched in gore; he himself recalls his deeds of old, the band of comrades and the once-dreaded doorway and the pale face of the Gnosian maid as she followed out the clue.

But meanwhile the ruthless Creon leads onward to death Antigone and the widowed daughter of Adrastus, their hands fettered behind them; both cheerful and proudly eager for death, they hold out their necks to the swords and baffle the cruel king, when lo! bearing Theseus' message Phegeus stood there. All peaceful he with innocent olive-branch, but war is his intent, and war he threatens in loud and angry tones, and well remembering his lord's commands repeats that he will soon be nigh at hand in person, soon covering the countryside as he passes with all his cohorts. The Theban stood in doubt amid surging cares, his anger wavers and his first wrath grows cool. Then steeling his heart, and with a feigned and sullen smile he answered: "Too

STATIUS

“ parvane prostratis ” inquit, “ documenta Mycenis
 sanximus? en iterum, qui moenia nostra lacesant. 690
 accipimus, veniant ; sed ne post bella querantur :
 lex eadem victis.” dicit ; sed pulvere crasso
 caligare diem et Tyrios iuga perdere montes
 aspicit ; armari populos tamen armaque ferri
 ipse iubet pallens, mediaeque in sedibus aulae 695
 Eumenidas subitas flentemque Menoecea cernit
 turbidus impositosque rogis gaudere Pelasgos.
 quis fuit ille dies ? tanto cum sanguine Thebis
 pax inventa perit ? patriis modo fixa revellunt
 arma deis, clipeisque obducunt pectora fractis, 700
 et galeas humiles et adhuc sordentia tabo
 spicula : non pharetris quisquam, non ense decorus,
 non spectandus equo ; cessat fiducia valli,
 murorum patet omne latus, munimina portae
 exposcunt : prior hostis habet ; fastigia desunt : 705
 deiecit Capaneus ; exsanguis et aegra iuventus
 iam nec coniugibus suprema nec oscula natis
 iungit, et attoniti nil optavere parentes.

Atticus interea, iubar ut clarescere ruptis
 nubibus et solem primis aspexit in armis, 710
 desilit in campum, qui subter moenia nudos
 adservat manes, dirisque vaporibus aegrum
 aera pulverea penitus sub casside ducens
 ingemit et iustas belli flammatur in iras.
 hunc saltem miseris ductor Thebanus honorem 715
 largitus Danais, quod non super ipsa iacentum
 corpora belligeras acies Martemque secundum
 miscuit ; aut¹ lacera ne quid de strage nefandus

¹ aut *Pω* : at *Grotius*.

slight assurance then did we give of Mycenae's ruin? Lo! here come others to vex our walls! Let them come! We take the challenge! But let them not whine when they are beaten; one law awaits the conquered." He speaks, but sees the daylight wane in thickening dust, and the sharp outlines fade from the Tyrian hills; yet in pale anxiety he bids his people arm and go to war, and suddenly beholds in his palace-hall the Furies, and Menoeceus weeping, and the Pelasgians exultant on their pyres. Ah! fatal day! when peace gained for Thebes at such a price of blood is lost again! They tear down the arms lately hung in their native shrines, and shield their bodies with pierced bucklers, don mutilated helms and take up gore-encrusted spears; none is gay with quiver or sword, none is glorious to behold upon his charger; no trust is there in the palisade, the city walls are all agape, the gates cry for defences; the former foe hath them in possession; the battlements are gone: Capaneus hath o'erthrown them; strengthless and faint, the warriors no more give the last kisses to wives or children, nor do their dazed parents utter any prayer.

Meanwhile the Attic chief, beholding the rays burst through the clouds in growing splendour and the sun first glint upon the arms, leaps down into the plain where by the walls the dead still lie unburied, and breathing beneath his dusty helm the dread vapours of the tainted air he groans and is inflamed to righteous rage for war. This honour at least did the Theban chieftain pay to the hapless Danaans, that he engaged not the warring hosts in a second battle o'er the very bodies of the fallen; or else, that his impious lust might lose naught of

STATIUS

perderet, eligitur saevos potura cruores
 terra rudis? iamque alternas in proelia gentes 720
 dissimilis Bellona ciet; non clamor utrimque,
 non utrimque tubae: stat debilis altera pubes
 submissos enses nequiquam amentaque dextris
 laxa tenens; cedunt tellure, armisque reductis
 ostentant veteres etiamnum in sanguine plagas. 725
 iam nec Cecropiis idem ductoribus ardor,
 languescuntque minae et virtus secura residit:
 ventorum velut ira minor, nisi silva furentes
 impedit, insani que tacent sine litore fluctus.

Ut vero aequoreus quercum Marathonida Theseus
 extulit, erectae cuius crudelis in hostes 731
 umbra cadit campumque trucem lux cuspidis implet:
 ceu pater Edonos Haemi de vertice Mavors
 impulerit currus, rapido mortemque fugamque
 axe vehens, sic exanimis in terga reducit 735
 pallor Agenoridas; taedet fugientibus uti
 Thesea, nec facilem dignatur dextra cruorem.
 cetera plebeio desaevit sanguine virtus.
 sic iuvat exanimis proiectaque praeda canesque
 degeneresque lupos: magnos alit ira leones. 740
 attamen Olenium Lamyrumque, hunc tela pharetra
 prominentem, hunc saevi tollentem pondera saxi
 deicit, et triplici confisos robore gentis
 Alcetidas fratres, totidem quos eminus hastis
 continuat; ferrum consumpsit pectore Phyleus, 745
 ore momordit Helops, umero transmisit Iapyx.
 iamque et quadriugo celsum petit Haemona curru,

^a *i.e.*, that the carnage might be greater on a fresh field.

mangled carnage,^a does he choose a virgin field to drink up the streams of gore? Already in far different wise Bellona summons the armies to mutual fight: here only is heard the battle-cry, here only the trumpet-blast; there frail warriors stand, with drooping ineffectual swords and loosened slings; they give way, and drawing back their armour display old wounds yet bleeding. Already even the Cecropian chiefs have lost their ardour for the fray, their temper wanes and confident valour flames less high; just as the wrath of the winds is weakened, if no forest impede their raging blasts, and the furious billows are silent where there is no shore.

But when Theseus, born of the main, held aloft his Marathonian oaken shaft, whose cruel shadow as he lifted it fell upon the foe, and the spear-point flashed o'er the battle-field afar—as though father Mavors were driving his Edonian chariot down from Haemus' summit, with Death and Panic riding upon his hurrying axle, even so does pale fear drive the sons of Agenor in terror-stricken rout; but Theseus disdains to do battle with the fugitives, his right hand thinks scorn of easy victims. The rest of the gallant host sate their rage in common slaughter. Even so dogs and coward wolves delight in prey that lies cowering at their feet, while anger is the strength of mighty lions. Yet he slays Olenius and Lamyrus, the one as he takes arrows from his quiver, the other as he raises a great stone aloft, and the sons of Alcetus, trusting in their threefold might, whom he pierces at long range with as many spears. Phyleus received the spear-point in his breast, Helops bit the iron with his teeth, the missile sped through the shoulder of Iapyx. And now he makes for Haemon

STATIUS

horrendumque manu telum rotat : ille paventes
 obliquavit equos ; longo perlata tenore
 transiit hasta duos, sitiebat vulnera nec non 750
 tertia, sed medio cuspis temone retenta est.

Sed solum votis, solum clamore tremendo¹
 omnibus in turmis optat vocitatque Creonta.
 atque hunc diversa bellorum in fronte maniplos
 hortantem dictis frustra que extrema minantem 755
 conspicit ; abscedunt comites : sed Thesea iussi
 linquebant fretique deis atque ipsius armis ;
 ille tenet revocatque suos ; utque aequa notavit
 hinc atque hinc odia, extrema se colligit ira,
 iam letale furens, atque audax morte futura : 760
 “ non cum peltiferis,” ait, “ haec tibi pugna puellis,
 virgineas ne crede manus : hic cruda virorum
 proelia, nos magnum qui Tydea quique furentem
 Hippomedonta neci Capanea que misimus umbris
 pectora. quae bellum praeceps amentia suasit, 765
 improbe ? nonne vides, quos ulciscare, iacentes ? ”
 sic ait, et frustra periturum missile summo
 adfixit clipeo. risit vocesque manumque
 horridus Aegides, ferrata que arbore magnos
 molitur iactus, nec non prius ore superbo 770
 intonat : “ Argolici, quibus haec datur hostia, manes,
 pandite Tartareum chaos ultrices que parate
 Eumenidas, venit ecce Creon ! ” sic fatus, et auras
 dissipat hasta tremens ; tunc qua subtemine duro
 multiplicem tenues iterant thoraca catenae, 775
 incidit : emicuit per mille foramina sanguis

¹ tremendo *late MSS., Heinsius* : premando *P* : fremendo *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, Amazons.

riding aloft in four-horsed car, and whirls the terrible javelin with his arm ; the other swerved his frightened steeds, but the spear, far-flung, struck home, and piercing two of them thirsted for yet a third wound, but the point was stayed by the intervening pole.

But Creon alone is the object of his hopes and prayers, him alone he summons with terrible challenge amid all the squadrons of the field ; he perceives him on a battle-front afar, exhorting his troops and uttering desperate threats in vain. His comrades flee away, but those of Theseus leave him at his bidding, relying on the gods and the prowess of their chief ; Creon restrains his men and calls them back, but seeing that he is hated by either side alike, he nerves himself to a last outburst of rage, inspired now by the frenzy of doom and emboldened by inevitable death : “ ’Tis with no targe-bearing girls ^a thou doest battle here ; no maiden’s hands are ours, be sure ; here is the stern strife of men who have sent great Tydeus and furious Hippomedon to death, and the vast bulk of Capaneus to the shades. What headlong madness drove thee to fight, thou reckless fool ? Seest thou not their corpses whom thou wouldst avenge ? ” So he spoke, and lodged his missile fruitlessly in the buckler’s edge. But the terrible son of Aegeus laughed at his words and deed alike, and poising his iron-clad shaft for a mighty blow first proudly cried in thunderous accents : “ Ye Argive spirits, to whom I offer this victim, open wide the void of Tartarus, bring forth the Avenging Furies, lo ! Creon comes ! ” He spoke, and the quivering spear rends the air ; then, where with iron weft the slender chains combine to form the manifold cuirass, it falls ; through a thousand meshes spirts upward

STATIUS

impious ; ille oculis extremo errore solutis
 labitur. adsistit Theseus gravis armaque tollens :
 " iamne dare extinctis iustos," ait, " hostibus ignes,
 iam victos operire placet ? vade atra dature 780
 supplicia extremique tamen secure sepulcri."

Accedunt utrimque pio vexilla tumultu
 permiscentque manus ; medio iam foedera bello,
 iamque hospes Theseus ; orant succedere muris
 dignarique domos. nec tecta hostilia victor 785
 aspernatus init ; gaudent matresque nurusque
 Ogygiae, qualis thyrso bellante subactus
 mollia laudabat iam marcidus orgia Ganges.
 ecce per adversas Dircaei verticis umbras
 femineus quatit astra fragor, matresque Pelasgae
 decurrunt : quales Bacchea ad bella vocatae 791
 Thyiades amentes, magnum quas poscere credas
 aut fecisse nefas ; gaudent lamenta novaeque
 exsultant lacrimae ; rapit huc, rapit impetus illuc,
 Thesea magnanimum quaerant prius, anne Creonta,
 anne suos : vidui ducunt ad corpora luctus. 796

Non ego, centena si quis mea pectora laxet
 voce deus, tot busta simul vulgique ducumque,
 tot pariter gemitus dignis conatibus aequem :
 turbine quo sese caris impleverit¹ audax 800
 ignibus² Euadne fulmenque in pectore magno
 quaesierit ; quo more iacens super oscula saevi
 corporis infelix excuset Tydea coniunx ;
 ut saevos narret vigiles Argia sorori ;

¹ impleverit *P* : instraverit ω .

² ignibus ω : ictibus *P*.

^a *i.e.*, of Bacchus, warring in the East.

the accursed blood; he sinks, his eyes open in the last spasm of death. Theseus stands over him in stern wrath, and spoiling him of his armour speaks: "Now art thou pleased to give dead foes the fire that is their due? Now wilt thou bury the vanquished? Go to thy dreadful reckoning, yet be assured of thy own burial."

From either side the banners meet and mingle in friendly tumult; on the very field of war a treaty is made, and Theseus is now a welcome guest; they beg him to approach their walls and to deem their homes worthy of his presence. The victor disdains not to set foot in the dwellings of his foes; the Ogygian dames and maidens rejoice: even as, o'ercome by the warring thyrsus,^a Ganges by now drunken applauded womanly revels. Lo! yonder on the shady heights of Dirce a shout of women shakes the vault, and the Pelasgian matrons come running down: like raving Thyiads are they, summoned to Bacchus' wars, demanding, thou mightest deem, or having done some deed of horror; their wailing is of joy, fresh tears gush forth; they dart now here, now there, doubting whether first to seek great-hearted Theseus, or Creon, or their own kinsmen; their widowed grief leads them to the dead.

I could not, even if some god gave hundredfold utterance to my heart, recount in worthy strains so vast a funeral of chieftains alike and common folk, so many lamentations united: how fearless Evadne with impetuous bound had her fill of the fires she loved and sought the thunderbolt in that mighty breast, how as she lay and showered kisses on his terrible form his unhappy spouse made excuse for Tydeus; how Argia tells her sister the story of the

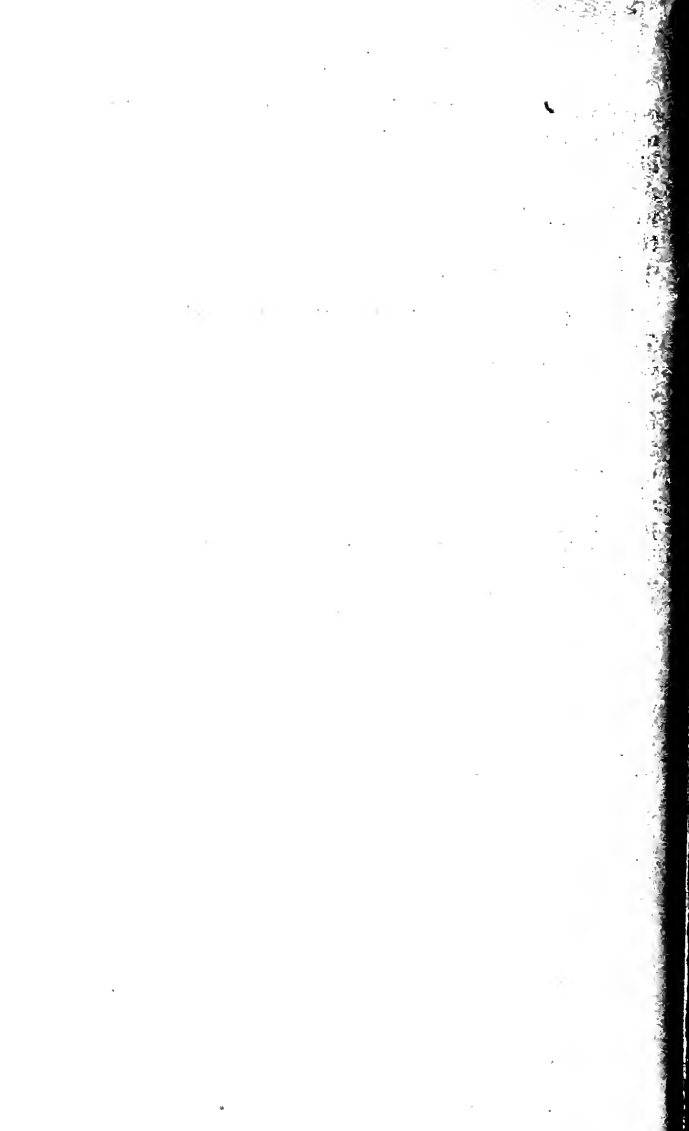
STATIUS

Arcada quo planctu genetrix Erymanthia clamet,
Arcada, consumpto servantem sanguine vultus, 806
Arcada, quem geminae pariter flevere cohortes.
vix novus ista furor veniensque implesset Apollo,
et mea iam longo meruit ratis aequore portum.

Durabisne procul dominoque legere superstes, 810
o mihi bisenos multum vigilata per annos
Thebai ? iam certe praesens tibi Fama benignum
stravit iter coepitque novam monstrare futuris.
iam te magnanimus dignatur noscere Caesar,
Itala iam studio discit memoratque iuventus. 815
vive, precor ; nec tu divinam Aeneida tempta,
sed longe sequere et vestigia semper adora.
mox, tibi si quis adhuc praetendit nubila livor,
occidet, et meriti post me referentur honores.

cruel watchmen, with what lament the Erymanthian mother bewails the Arcadian, the Arcadian, who keeps his beauty though all his blood be spent, the Arcadian, wept for by either host alike. Scarce would new inspiration or Apollo's presence sustain the task, and my little bark has voyaged far and deserves her haven.

Wilt thou endure in the time to come, O my *Thebaid*, for twelve years object of my wakeful toil, wilt thou survive thy master and be read? Of a truth already present Fame hath paved thee a friendly road, and begun to hold thee up, young as thou art, to future ages. Already great-hearted Caesar deigns to know thee, and the youth of Italy eagerly learns and recounts thy verse. O live, I pray! nor rival the divine *Aeneid*, but follow afar and ever venerate its footsteps. Soon, if any envy as yet o'erclouds thee, it shall pass away, and, after I am gone, thy well-won honours shall be duly paid.



ACHILLEID

ACHILLEIDOS

LIBER I

Magnanimum Aeaciden formidatamque Tonanti
progeniem et patrio vetitam succedere caelo,
diva, refer. quamquam acta viri multum inclita cantu
Maeonio, sed plura vacant: nos ire per omnem
—sic amor est—heroa velis Scyroque latentem 5
Dulichia proferre tuba nec in Hectore tracto
sistere, sed tota iuvenem deducere Troia.
tu modo, si veterem digno deplevimus haustu,
da fontes mihi, Phoebæ, novos ac fronde secunda
necte comas: neque enim Aonium nemus advena pulso
nec mea nunc primis augescunt tempora vittis. 11
scit Dircaeus ager meque inter prisca parentum
nomina cumque suo numerant Amphione Thebae.

At tu, quem longe primum stupet Itala virtus
Graiaque, cui geminae florent vatumque ducumque 15
certatim laurus—olim dolet altera vinci—,
da veniam ac trepidum patere hoc sudare parumper

^a Zeus would have married Thetis, had it not been declared that their son would be mightier than Zeus himself.

^b *i.e.*, the *Iliad* of Homer.

^c *i.e.*, of Ulysses (see line 873). Dulichium was part of his kingdom.

^d Of the Muses.

^e A fountain at Thebes.

^f “altera,” that of poetry; Domitian fancied himself both

ACHILLEID

BOOK I

TELL, O goddess, of great-hearted Aeacides and of the progeny that the Thunderer feared and forbade to inherit his father's heaven.^a Highly renowned are the warrior's deeds in Maeonian song,^b but more remains untold: suffer me—for such is my desire—to recount the whole story of the hero, to summon him forth from his hiding-place in Scyros with the Dulichian trumpet,^c and not to stop short at the dragging of Hector, but to lead the youth through the whole tale of Troy. Only do thou, O Phoebus, if with a worthy draught I drained the former fount, vouchsafe new springs and weave my hair with propitious chaplets; for not as a newcomer do I seek entrance to the Aonian^d grove, nor are these the first fillets that magnify my brow. The fields of Dirce^e know it, and Thebes counts my name among her forefathers of old time and with her own Amphion.

But thou whom far before all others the pride of Italy and Greece regards with reverent awe, for whom the laurels twain of poet and warrior-chief flourish in mutual rivalry—already one of them grieves to be surpassed^f—grant pardon, and allow me anxiously to toil in this dust awhile. Thine is as a poet and a general, but would be better flattered by being called more brilliant in the latter capacity.

STATIUS

pulvere. te longo necdum fidente paratu
molimur magnusque tibi praeludit Achilles.

Solverat Oebalio classem de litore pastor 20
Dardanus incautas blande populatus Amyclas
plenaque materni referens praesagia somni
culpatum relegerat iter, qua condita ponto
fluctibus invisus iam Nereis imperat Helle :
cum Thetis Idaeos—heu numquam vana parentum
auguria !—expavit vitreo sub gurgite remos. 26
nec mora, et undosis turba comitante sororum
prosiluit thalamis : fervent coeuntia Phrixi
litora et angustum dominas non explicat aequor.

Illa ubi¹ discusso primum subit aëra ponto : 30
“ me petit haec, mihi classis,” ait, “ funesta minatur,
agnosco monitus et Protea vera locutum.
ecce novam Priamo facibus de puppe levatis
fert Bellona nurum : video iam mille carinis
Ionium Aegaeumque premi ; nec sufficit, omnis 35
quod plaga Graiugenum tumidis coniurat Atridis :
iam pelago terrisque meus quaeretur Achilles.
et volet ipse sequi. quid enim cunabula parvo
Pelion et torvi commisimus antra magistri ?
illic, ni fallor, Lapitharum proelia ludit 40

¹ illa ubi ω : illa P.

^a Part of the usual prologue to an epic, *cf.* *Theb.* i. 17.

^b *i.e.*, of Laconia.

^c Hecuba, before she bore Paris, dreamed that she was bearing a burning torch which set fire to Troy.

^d The Hellespont was so called after Helle, who was drowned there while fleeing with her brother Phrixus upon the ram with fleece of gold.

the theme whereat with long nor yet confident preparation I am labouring, and great Achilles plays the prelude unto thee.^a

The Dardan shepherd had set sail from the Oebalian shore,^b having wrought sweet havoc in thoughtless Amyclae, and fulfilling the presage of his mother's^c dream was retracing his guilty way, where Helle^d deep sunk below the sea and now a Nereid holds sway over the detested waves: when Thetis—ah! never vain are a parent's auguries!—started with terror beneath the glassy flood at the Idaean oars.^e Without delay she sprang forth from her watery bower, accompanied by her train of sisters: the narrowing shores of Phrixus swarm, and the straitened sea has not room for its mistresses.

As soon as she had shaken the brine from off her, and entered the air of heaven: "There is danger to me," said she, "in yonder fleet, and threat of deadly harm; I recognize the truth of Proteus' warnings. Lo! Bellona brings from the vessel amid uplifted torches a new daughter-in-law to Priam; already I see the Ionian and Aegean seas pressed by a thousand keels; nor does it suffice that all the country of the Grecians conspires with the proud sons of Atreus, soon will my Achilles be sought for by land and sea, ay, and himself will wish to follow them. Why indeed did I suffer Pelion and the stern master's cave^f to cradle his infant years? There, if I mistake not, he plays, the rogue, at the battle of the Lapiths,

^a Because his fleet was built of wood of Mt. Ida. So "Rhoeteae" (line 44) from the promontory near Troy.

^f Chiron's.

STATIUS

improbus et patria iam se metitur in hasta.
 o dolor, o seri materno in corde timores !
 non potui infelix, cum primum gurgite nostro
 Rhoeteae cecidere trabes, attollere magnum
 aequor et incesti praedonis vela profunda 45
 tempestate sequi cunctasque inferre sorores ?
 nunc quoque—sed tardum, iam plena iniuria raptae.
 ibo tamen pelagique deos dextramque secundi,
 quod superest, complexa Iovis per Tethyos annos
 grandaevumque patrem supplex miseranda rogabo 50
 unam hiemem.” dixit magnumque in tempore regem
 aspicit. Oceano veniebat ab hospite, mensis
 laetus et aequoreo diffusus nectare vultus—
 unde hiemes ventique silent cantuque quieto
 armigeri Tritones eunt scopulosaque cete 55
 Tyrrhenique greges circumque infraque rotantur
 rege salutato ; placidis ipse arduus undis
 eminent et triplici telo iubet ire iugales.
 illi spumiferos glomerant a pectore cursus,¹
 pone natant delentque pedum vestigia cauda— 60
 cum Thetis : “ o magni genitor rectorque profundi,
 aspicias in quales miserum patefeceris usus
 aequor ? eunt tutis terrarum crimina velis,
 ex quo iura freti maiestatemque repostam
 rupit Iasonia puppis Pagasaea rapina. 65
 en aliud furto scelus et spolia hospita portans
 navigat iniustae temerarius arbiter Idae,
 eheu quos gemitus terris caeloque daturus,

¹ cursus *P* : fluctus ω .

^a *i.e.*, Neptune.
512

^b *i.e.*, of the Tyrrhenian sea.

and already takes his measure with his father's spear. O sorrow! O fears that came too late to a mother's heart! Could I not, unhappy that I am, when first the timber of Rhoeteum was launched upon my flood, have raised a mighty sea and pursued with a tempest on the deep the adulterous robber's sails and led on all my sisters against him? Even now—but 'tis too late, the outrage hath been wrought in full. Yet will I go, and clinging to the gods of ocean and the right hand of second Jove^a—nought else remains—entreat him in piteous supplication by the years of Tethys and his aged sire for one single storm." She spoke, and opportunely beheld the mighty monarch; he was coming from Oceanus his host, gladdened by the banquet, and his countenance suffused with the nectar of the deep: wherefore the winds and tempests are silent and with tranquil song proceed the Tritons who bear his armour and the rock-like sea-monsters and the Tyrrhenian herds,^b and gambol around and below him, saluting their king; he towers on high above the peaceful waves, urging on his team with his three-pronged spear: frontwise they run at furious speed amid showers of foam, behind they swim and blot out their footprints with their tails:—when Thetis: "O sire and ruler of the mighty deep, seest thou to what uses thou hast made a way o'er the hapless ocean? The crimes of the nations pass by with unmolested sails, since the Pagasaean bark broke through the sanctions of the waters and profaned their hallowed majesty on Jason's quest of plunder. Lo! ^c weighted with another wicked theft, the spoils ^d pitality, sails the daring arbiter of unjust Ida, ^e ordained to cause what sorrow alas! to heaven and

STATIUS

quos mihi ! sic Phrygiae pensamus gaudia palmae,
 hi Veneris mores, hoc gratæ munus alumnae ? 70
 has saltem—num semideos nostrumque reportant
 Thesea ?—si quis adhuc undis honor, obrue puppes,
 aut permitte fretum ! nulla inclementia : fas sit
 pro nato timuisse mihi. da pellere luctus,¹
 nec tibi de tantis placeat me fluctibus unum² 75
 litus et Iliaci scopulos habitare sepulcri.”

Orabat laniata genas et pectore nudo
 caeruleis obstabat equis. sed rector aquarum
 invitat curru dictisque ita mulcet amicis :
 “ ne pete Dardanium frustra, Theti, mergere classem :
 fata vetant, ratus ordo deis miscere cruentas 81
 Europamque Asiamque manus, consultaque belli
 Iuppiter et tristes edixit caedibus annos.
 quem tu illic natum Sigeo in pulvere, quanta
 aspicias victrix Phrygiarum funera matrum, 85
 cum tuus Aeacides tepido modo sanguine Teucros
 undabit³ campos, modo crassa exire vetabit
 flumina et Hectoreo tardabit funere currus
 impelletque manu nostros, opera inrita, muros !
 Pelea iam desiste queri thalamosque minores : 90
 crederis peperisse Iovi ; nec inulta dolebis
 cognatisque utere fretis : dabo tollere fluctus,

¹ pellere luctus *P* : tollere fluctus ω .

² fluctibus unum ω : fluctibus unam *P* : fletibus udam,
 neptibus unam, fluctibus imum *edd*.

³ undabit ω : undavit *P* : *Garrod conj.* turpabit.

^a Is this the way we are paying for the victory of Venus
 on Ida ? “ alumnae,” *i.e.* Helen. sea.

earth, and what to me! Is it thus we requite the joy of the Phrygian triumph,^a is this the way of Venus, is this her gift to her dear ward? These ships at least—no demigods nor our own Theseus do they carry home^b—o'erwhelm, if thou still hast any regard for the waters, or give the sea into my power; no cruelty do I purpose; suffer me to fear for my own son. Grant me to drive away my sorrow, nor let it be thy pleasure that out of all the seas I find a home in but a single coast and the rocks of an Ilian tomb.^c

With torn cheeks she made her prayer, and with bare bosom would fain hinder the cerulean steeds. But the ruler of the seas invites her into his chariot, and soothes her thus with friendly words: "Seek not in vain, Thetis, to sink the Dardanian fleet: the fates forbid it, 'tis the sure ordinance of heaven that Europe and Asia should join in bloody conflict, and Jupiter hath issued his decree of war and appointed years of dreary carnage. What prowess of thy son in the Sigean dust, what vast funeral trains of Phrygian matrons shalt thou victoriously behold, when thy Aeacides shall flood the Trojan fields with streaming blood, and anon forbid the choked rivers to flow and check his chariot's speed with Hector's corpse and mightily o'erthrow my walls,^d my useless toil! Cease now to complain of Peleus and thy inferior wedlock: thy child shall be deemed begotten of Jove; nor shalt thou suffer unavenged, but shalt use thy kindred seas: I will grant thee to raise the

^b They are no Argonauts, nor Theseus, who, according to one legend, was the son of Neptune.

^c *i.e.*, haunt a rocky shore by the tomb of my son Achilles.

^d Neptune had helped Apollo to build the walls of Troy.

STATIUS

cum reduces Danaï nocturnaque signa Caphereus
exseret et dirum pariter quaeremus Ulixen."

Dixerat. illa gravi vultum demissa repulsa, 95
quae iam excire fretum et ratibus bellare parabat
Iliacis, alios animo¹ commenta paratus,
tristis ad Haemonias detorquet brachia terras.
ter conata manu, liquidum ter gressibus aequor
reppulit et niveas feriunt vada Thessala plantas. 100
laetantur montes et conubialia pandunt
antra sinus lateque deae Sperchios abundat
obuius et dulci vestigia circuit unda.
illa nihil gavisā locis, sed coepta fatigat
pectore consilia et sollers pietate magistra 105
longaevum Chirona petit. domus ardua montem
perforat et longo suspendit Pélion arcu ;
pars exhausta manu, partem sua ruperat aetas.
signa tamen divumque tori et quem quisque sacravit
accubitu genioque locum monstrantur : at intra 110
Centauri stabula alta patent, non aequa nefandis
fratribus. hic hominum nullos experta cruores
spicula nec truncae bellis genialibus orni
aut consanguineos fracti crateres in hostes,
sed pharetrae insontes et inania terga ferarum. 115
haec quoque dum viridis ; nam tunc labor unus inermi
nosse salutiferas dubiis animantibus herbas,
aut monstrare lyra veteres heroas alumno.

Et tunc venatu rediturum in limine primo

¹ animo *P* : iterum *ω*.

^a A promontory at the southern end of Euboea, on which many Greek ships were wrecked when returning from Troy, because Nauplius, king of Euboea, showed false lights.

^b He offended Poseidon, who sought to destroy him ; see *Odyssey*, xiii. 125 sq.

^c *i.e.*, at the marriage-feast of Peleus and Thetis.

billows, when the Danaans return and Caphereus^a shows forth his nightly signals and we search together for the terrible Ulysses.^b"

He spoke; but she, downcast at the stern refusal, for but now she was preparing to stir up the waters and make war upon the Ilian craft, devised in her mind another plan, and sadly turned her strokes toward the Haemonian land. Thrice strove she with her arms, thrice spurned the clear water with her feet, and the Thessalian waves are washing her snow-white ankles. The mountains rejoice, the marriage-bowers fling open their recesses, and Spercheus in wide, abundant stream flows to meet the goddess and laps her footsteps with his fresh water. She delights not in the scene, but wearies her mind with schemes essayed, and taught cunning by her devoted love seeks out the aged Chiron. His lofty home bores deep into the mountain, beneath the long, overarching vault of Pelion; part had been hollowed out by toil, part worn away by its own age. Yet the images and couches of the gods are shown, and the places that each had sanctified by his reclining and his sacred presence^c; within are the Centaur's wide and lofty stalls, far different from those of his wicked brethren. Here are no spears that have tasted human blood, nor ashen clubs broken in festal conflict, nor mixing-bowls shattered upon kindred foemen, but innocent quivers and mighty hides of beasts. These did he take while yet in the prime of age; but now, a warrior no more, his only toil was to learn the herbs that bring health to creatures doubting of their lives, or to describe to his pupil upon his lyre the heroes of old time.

On the threshold's edge he awaited his return from

STATIUS

opperiens properatque dapes largoque serenat 120
 igne domum : cum visa procul de litore surgens¹
 Nereis ; erumpit silvis—dant gaudia vires—
 notaque² desueto crepuit senis ungula campo.
 tunc blandus dextra atque imos demissus in armos
 pauperibus tectis inducit et admonet antri. 125

Iamdudum tacito lustrat Thetis omnia visu
 nec perpessa moras : “ ubinam mea pignora, Chiron,
 dic,” ait, “ aut cur ulla puer iam tempora ducit
 te sine ? non merito trepidus sopor atraque matri
 signa deum et magnos utinam mentita timores ? 130
 namque modo infensos utero mihi contuor enses,
 nunc planctu livere manus, modo in ubera saevas
 ire feras ; saepe ipsa—nefas !—sub inania natum
 Tartara et ad Stygios iterum fero mergere fontes.
 hos abolere metus magici iubet ordine sacri 135
 Carpathius vates puerumque sub axe peracto³
 secretis lustrare fretis, ubi litora summa
 Oceani et genitor tepet inlabentibus astris
 Pontus. ibi ignotis horrenda piacula divis
 donaque—sed longum cuncta enumerare vetorque ;
 trade magis !” sic ficta parens : neque enim ille
 dedisset, 141
 si molles habitus et tegmina foeda fateri
 ausa seni. tunc ipse refert : “ duc, optima, quaeso,
 duc genetrix humilique deos infringe precatu.

¹ surgens *PE* : mater ω .

² notaque *P* : motaque ω . ³ peracto *P* : probato ω .

^a Proteus, from his abode in the Carpathian sea. “ axe peracto,” the bound or limit of the sky, *i.e.*, beneath the horizon, not necessarily western, though that is the meaning here (l. 138).

^b Here obviously = Oceanus, not the Euxine.

hunting, and was urging the laying of the feast and brightening his abode with lavish fire : when far off the Nereid was seen climbing upward from the shore ; he burst forth from the forests—joy speeds his going—and the well-known hoof-beat of the sage rang on the now unwonted plain. Then bowing down to his horse's shoulders he leads her with courtly hand within his humble dwelling and warns her of the cave.

Long time has Thetis been scanning every corner with silent glance : then, impatient of delay, she cries : " Tell me, Chiron, where is my darling ? Why spends the boy any time apart from thee ? Is it not with reason that my sleep is troubled, and terrible portents from the gods and fearful panics—would they were false !—afflict his mother's heart ? For now I behold swords that threaten to pierce my womb, now my arms are bruised with lamentation, now savage beasts assail my breasts ; often—ah, horror !—I seem to take my son down to the void of Tartarus, and dip him a second time in the springs of Styx. The Carpathian seer^a bids me banish these terrors by the ordinance of a magic rite, and purify the lad in secret waters beyond the bound of heaven's vault, where is the farthest shore of Ocean and father Pontus^b is warmed by the ingliding stars. There awful sacrifices and gifts to gods unknown—but 'tis long to recount all, and I am forbidden ; give him to me rather." Thus spoke his mother in lying speech—nor would he have given him up, had she dared to confess to the old man the soft raiment and dishonourable garb.^c Then he replies : " Take him, I pray, O best of parents, take him, and assuage the gods with humble entreaty. For thy hopes are

^c See ll. 326 sq.

nam superant tua vota modum placandaque multum
 invidia est. non addo metum, sed vera fatebor : 146
 nescio quid magnum—nec me patria omina fallunt—
 vis festina parat tenuesque supervenit annos.
 olim et ferre minas avidaeque audire solebat
 imperia et nostris procul haud discedere ab antris :
 nunc illum non Ossa capit, non Pelion ingens 151
 Thessaliaeve nives.¹ ipsi mihi saepe queruntur
 Centauri raptasque domos abstractaque coram
 armenta et semet campis fluviisque fugari :
 insidiasque et bella parant tumideque² minantur. 155
 olim equidem Argoos pinus cum Thessala reges
 hac veheret, iuvenem Alciden et Thesea vidi—
 sed taceo.” figit gelidus Nereida pallor :
 ille aderat multo sudore et pulvere maior,
 et tamen arma inter festinatosque labores 160
 dulcis adhuc visu : niveo natat ignis in ore
 purpureus fulvoque nitet coma gratior auro.
 necdum prima nova lanugine vertitur aetas,
 tranquillaeque faces oculis et plurima vultu
 mater inest : qualis Lycia venator Apollo 165
 cum redit et saevis permutat plectra pharetris.
 forte et laetus adest—o quantum gaudia formae
 adiciunt !—: fetam Pholoes sub rupe leaenam
 perculerat ferro vacuisque reliquerat antris
 ipsam, sed catulos adportat et incitat unguis. 170
 quos tamen, ut fido genetrix in limine visa est,
 abicit exceptamque avidis circumligat ulnis,
 iam gravis amplexu iamque aequus vertice matri.

¹ Thessaliaeve nives ω : Pharsaliaeve nives *P*: thessaliae iuvenes *E*.

² tumideque *Kohlmann*: timideque *P*: tumidique ω .

^a “purpureus,” as in Virgil’s “lumenque iuventae purpureum” (*Aen.* i. 590), also *cf.* Hor. *C.* iii. 3. 12.

pitched too high, and envy needs much appeasing. I add not to thy fears, but will confess the truth: some swift and violent deed—the forebodings of a sire deceive me not—is preparing, far beyond his tender years. Formerly he was wont to endure my anger, and listen eagerly to my commands nor wander far from my cave: now Ossa cannot contain him, nor mighty Pelion and all the snows of Thessaly. Even the Centaurs often complain to me of plundered homes and herds stolen before their eyes, and that they themselves are driven from field and river; they devise violence and fraud, and utter angry threats. Once when the Thessalian pine bore hither the princes of the Argo, I saw the young Alcides and Theseus—but I say no more.” Cold pallor seized the daughter of Nereus: lo! he was come, made larger by much dust and sweat, and yet for all his weapons and hastened labours still pleasant to the sight; a radiant glow^a shimmers on his snow-white countenance, and his locks shine more comely than tawny gold. The bloom of youth is not yet changed by new-springing down, a tranquil flame burns in his glance, and there is much of his mother in his look: even as when the hunter Apollo returns from Lycia and exchanges his fierce quiver for the quill. By chance too he is in joyful mood—ah, how joy enhances beauty!—; beneath Pholoë’s cliff he had stricken a lioness lately delivered and had left her in the empty lair, but had brought the cubs and was making them show their claws. Yet when he sees his mother on the well-known threshold, away he throws them, catches her up and binds her in his longing arms, already violent in his embrace and equal to her in height. Patroclus follows him, bound

STATIUS

insequitur magno iam tunc conexus amore
 Patroclus tantisque extenditur aemulus actis, 175
 par studiis aevique modis, sed robore longe,
 et tamen aequali visurus Pergama fato.

Protinus ille subit rapido quae proxima saltu
 flumina fumantesque genas crinemque novatur
 fontibus : Eurotae qualis vada Castor anhelò 180
 intrat equo fessumque sui iubar excitat astri.

miratur comitque senex, nunc pectora mulcens,
 nunc fortes umeros : angunt sua gaudia matrem.
 tunc libare dapes Baccheaque munera Chiron
 orat et attonitae varia oblectamina nectens 185

elicit extremo chelyn et solantia curas
 fila movet leviterque expertas pollice chordas
 dat puero. canit ille libens immania laudum
 semina : quot tumidae superarit iussa novercae .

Amphitryoniades, crudum quo Bebryca caestu 190
 obruerit Pollux, quanto circumdata nexu
 ruperit Aegides Minoia bracchia tauri,
 maternos in fine toros superisque gravatum

Pelion : hic victo risit Thetis anxia vultu.
 nox trahit in somnos, saxo conlabitur ingens 195
 Centaurus blandusque umeris se innectit Achilles,
 quamquam ibi fida parens, adsuetaque pectora mavult.

At Thetis undisonis per noctem in rupibus astans,
 quae nato secreta velit, quibus abdere terris
 destinet, huc illuc divisa mente volutat. 200

to him even then by a strong affection, and strains to rival all his mighty doings, well-matched in the pursuits and ways of youth, but far behind in strength, and yet to pass to Pergamum with equal fate.

Straightway with rapid bound he hies him to the nearest river, and freshens in its waters his steaming face and hair : just as Castor enters the shallows of Eurotas on his panting steed, and tricks out anew the weary splendours of his star. The old mæe marvels as he adorns him, caressing now his breast, now his strong shoulders : her very joy pierces his mother's heart. Then Chiron prays her to taste the banquet and the gifts of Bacchus, and contriving various amusements for her beguiling at last brings forth the lyre and moves the care-consoling strings, and trying the chords lightly with his finger gives them to the boy. Gladly he sings of the mighty causes of noble deeds : how many behests of his haughty stepmother the son of Amphitryon performed, how Pollux with his glove smote down the cruel Bebryx, with what a grip the son of Aegæus enfolded and crushed the limbs of the Minoan bull, lastly his own mother's marriage-feast and Pelion trodden by the gods. Then Thetis relaxed her anxious countenance and smiled. Night draws them on to slumber : the huge Centaur lays him down on a stony couch, and Achilles lovingly twines his arms about his shoulders—though his faithful parent is there—and prefers the wonted breast.

—But Thetis, standing by night upon the sea-echoing rocks, this way and that divides her purpose, and ponders in what hiding-place she will set her son, in what country she shall choose to conceal him. Nearest

STATIUS

proxima, sed studiis multum Mavortia Thrace ;
 nec Macetum gens dura placet laudumque daturi
 Cecropidae stimulos, nimium opportuna carinis
 Sestos Abydenique sinus : placet ire per altas
 Cycladas. hicspretæ Myconosque humilisque Seriphos
 et Lemnos non æqua viris atque hospita Delos 206
 gentibus. imbelli nuper Lycomedis ab aula
 virgineos coetus et litora persona ludo
 audierat, duros laxantem Aegæona nexus
^aissa sequi centumque dei numerare catenas. 210
 hæc placet, hæc timidæ tellus tutissima matri.
 qualis vicino volucris iam sedula partu
 iamque timens, qua fronde domum suspendat inanem,
 providet hic ventos, hic anxia cogitat angues,
 hic homines : tandem dubiæ placet umbra, novisque
 nix stetit in ramis et protinus arbor amatur. 216

Altera consilio superest tristemque fatigat
 cura deam, natum ipsa sinu complexa per undas
 an magno Tritone ferat, ventosne volucres
 advocet an pelago solitam Thaumantida pasci. 220
 elicit inde fretis et murice frenat acuto
 delphinas biugos, quos illi maxima Tethys
 gurgite Atlanteo pelagi sub valle sonora
 nutrierat ;—nullis vada per Neptunia glaucae
 tantus honos formæ nandique potentia nec plus 225
 pectoris humani—iubet hos subsistere pleno

^a The Athenians.

^b See the story of Hypsipyle, *Theb.* v. 48 sq.

^c King of Scyros.

^d Also named Briareus, one of the sons of Uranus, put in chains by Cronos, and set free by Zeus ; Thetis went in search of him to bring aid to Zeus when threatened by the other Olympians (see Hesiod, *Theog.* 502 ; Homer, *Il.* i. 398 sqq.). “centum,” because he had a hundred arms.

^e Iris, *i.e.* the rainbow, that seems to draw moisture from

timid
best place

is Thrace, but steeped in the passionate love of war; nor does the hardy folk of Macedon please her, nor the sons of Cecrops,^a sure to excite to noble deeds, nor Sestos and the bay of Abydos, too opportune for ships; she decides to roam the lofty Cyclades. Of these she spurns Myconos and humble Seriphos, and Lemnos cruel to its men,^b and Delos, that gives all the world a welcome. Of late from the unwarlike palace of Lycomedes^c had she heard the sound of maiden bands and the echo of their sport along the shore, what time she was sent to follow Aegaeon^d freed from his stubborn bonds and to count the hundred fetters of the god. This land finds favour, and seems safest to the timid mother. Even so a bird already taking anxious thought, as her delivery draws nigh, on what branch to hang her empty home, here foresees winds, there bethinks her fearfully of snakes, and there of men; at last in her doubt a shady spot finds favour; scarce has she alighted on the boughs, and straightway loves the tree.

One more care abides in her mind and troubles the sad goddess, whether she shall carry her son in her own bosom o'er the waves, or use great Triton's aid, whether she shall summon the swift winds to help her, or the Thaumantian^e that is wont to drink the main. Then she calls out from the waves and bridles with a sharp-edged shell her team of dolphins twain, which Tethys, mighty queen, had nourished for her in an echoing vale beneath the sea;—none throughout all Neptune's watery realm had such renown for their sea-green beauty, nor greater speed of swimming, nor more of human sense;—these she the sea, cf. Ovid. *Met.* i. 271 "concipit Iris aquas alimenta que nubibus adfert." Iris was the daughter of Thaumatas.

dolphins

STATIUS

litore, ne nudae noceant contagia terrae.
 ipsa dehinc toto resolutum pectore Achillen,
 qui pueris sopor, Haemonii de rupibus antri
 ad placidas deportat aquas et iussa tacere 230
 litora : monstrat iter totoque effulgurat orbe
 Cynthia. prosequitur divam celeresque recursus
 securus pelagi Chiron rogat¹ udaeque celat
 lumina et abreptos subito iamiamque latentes
 erecto prospectat equo, qua cana parumper 235
 spumant signa fugae et liquido perit orbita ponto.
 illum non alias rediturum ad Thessala Tempe
 iam tristis Pholoe, iam nubilus ingemit Othrys
 et tenuior² Spercheos aquis speluncaque docti
 muta senis ; quaerunt puerilia carmina Fauni 240
 et sperata diu plorant conubia Nymphae.

Iam premit astra dies humilique ex aequore Titan
 rorantes evolvit equos et ab aethere magno
 sublatum curru pelagus cadit, at vada mater
 Scyria iamdudum fluctus emensa tenebat, 245
 exierantque iugo fessi delphines erili :
 cum pueri tremefacta quies oculique patentes
 infusum sentire diem. stupet aere primo,
 quae loca, qui fluctus, ubi Pelion ? omnia versa
 atque ignota videt dubitatque agnoscere matrem. 250
 occupat illa manu blandequae adfata paventem :
 “si mihi, care puer, thalamos sors aequa tulisset,
 quos dabat, aetheriis ego te complexa tenerem

¹ rogat ω : rotat *P*.

² tenuior *Postgate* : senior *P* : tenuis ω.

^a “rotat” would presumably mean “gallops quickly back,” which would have no point here.

^b Both mountains of Thessaly.

halts in the deep shore-water, lest they take harm from the touch of naked earth. Then in her own arms she carries Achilles, his body utterly relaxed in a boy's slumber, from the rocks of the Haemonian cave down to the placid waters and the beach that she had bidden be silent; Cynthia lights her way and shines out with full orb. Chiron escorts^a the goddess, and careless of the sea entreats her speedy return, and hides his moistened eyes and high upon his horse's body gazes out towards them as suddenly they are whirled away, and now—and now are lost to view, where for a short while the foamy marks of their going gleam white and the wake dies away into the watery main. Him destined never more to return to Thessalian Tempe now mournful Pholoë bewails, now cloudy Othrys,^b and Spercheos with diminished flood and the silent grotto of the sage; the Fauns listen for his boyish songs in vain, and the Nymphs bemoan their long-hoped-for nuptials.

Now day o'erwhelms the stars, and from the low and level main Titan wheels heavenward his dripping steeds, and down from the expanse of air falls the sea that the chariot bore up; but long since had the mother traversed the waves and gained the Scyrian shores, and the weary dolphins had been loosed from their mistress' yoke: when the boy's sleep was stirred, and his opening eyes grew conscious of the inpouring day. In amaze at the light that greets him he asks, where is he, what are these waves, where is Pelion? All he beholds is different and unknown, and he hesitates to recognize his mother. Quickly she caresses him and soothes his fear: "If, dear lad, a kindly lot had brought me the wedlock that it offered, in the fields of heaven should I be

STATIUS

sidus grande plagis, magnique puerpera caeli
 nil humilis Parcas terrenaque fata vererer. 255
 nunc impar tibi, nate, genus, praeclusaque leti
 tantum a matre via est; quin et metuenda propinquant
 tempora et extremis admota pericula metis.
 cedamus, paulumque animos submitte viriles
 atque habitus dignare meos. si Lydia dura 260
 pensa manu mollesque tulit Tiryntius hastas,
 si decet aurata Bacchum vestigia palla
 verrere, virgineos si Iuppiter induit artus,
 nec magnum ambigui fregerunt Caenea sexus :
 hac¹ sine, quaeso, minas nubemque exire malignam.²
 mox iterum campos, iterum Centaurica reddam 266
 lustra tibi: per ego hoc decus et ventura iuventae
 gaudia, si terras humilemque experta maritum
 te propter, si progenitum Stygos amne severo
 armavi—totumque utinam!—, cape tuta parumper
 tegmina nil nocitura animo. cur ora reducis 271
 quidve parant oculi? pudet hoc mitescere cultu?
 per te, care puer, cognata per aequora iuro,
 nesciet hoc Chiron.” sic horrida pectora tractat
 nequiquam mulcens; obstat genitorque roganti 275
 nutritorque ingens et cruda exordia magnae
 indolis. effrenae tumidum velut igne iuventae
 si quis equum primis submittere temptet habenis :
 ille diu campis fluviisque et honore superbo

¹ hac *Postgate* : hae *P* : has ω .

² nubemque malignam *P* : numenque malignum ω .

^a Hercules spun wool for Omphale in Lydia.

^b Jupiter disguised himself as Diana to gain possession of Callisto (Ovid, *Met.* ii. 425).

^c First a girl, Caenis, then a man, then a woman again (Ovid, *Met.* xii. 189 ; Virg. *Aen.* vi. 448).

holding thee, a glorious star, in my embrace, nor a celestial mother should I fear the lowly Fates or the destinies of earth. But now unequal is thy birth, my son, and only on thy mother's side is the way of death barred for thee; moreover, times of terror draw nigh, and peril hovers about the utmost goal. Retire we then, relax awhile thy mighty spirit, and scorn not this raiment of mine. If the Tirynthian took in his rough hand Lydian wool and women's wands,^a if it becomes Bacchus to trail a gold-embroidered robe behind him, if Jupiter put on a woman's form,^b and doubtful sex weakened not the mighty Caeneus,^c this way, I entreat thee, suffer me to escape the threatening, baleful cloud. Soon will I restore thy plains and the fields where the Centaurs roam: by this beauty of thine and the coming joys of youth I pray thee, if for thy sake I endured the earth and an inglorious mate, if at thy birth I fortified thee with the stern waters of Styx^d—ay, would I had wholly!—take these safe robes awhile, they will in no wise harm thy valour. Why dost thou turn away? What means that glance? Art thou ashamed to soften thee in this garb? Dear lad, I swear it by my kindred waters, Chiron shall know nought of this." So doth she work on his rough heart, vainly cajoling; the thought of his sire and his great teacher oppose her prayer and the rude beginnings of his mighty spirit. Even so, should one try to subdue with earliest rein a horse full of the mettlesome fire of ungoverned youth, he having long delighted in stream and meadow and his own proud

^d Thetis plunged the infant Achilles in the waters of Styx, and thereby made his body immune from harm—all except the left heel by which she held him.

STATIUS

gavisus non colla iugo, non aspera praebet 280
 ora lupis dominique fremit captivus inire
 imperia atque alios miratur discere cursus.

Quis deus attonitae fraudes astumque parenti
 contulit? indocilem quae mens detraxit Achillem?

Palladi litoreae celebrabat Scyros honorum 285

forte diem, placidoque satae Lycomedae sorores
 luce sacra patriis, quae rara licentia, muris
 exierant dare veris opes divaeque severas
 fronde ligare comas et spargere floribus hastam.
 omnibus eximium formae decus, omnibus idem 290

cultus et expleto teneri iam fine pudoris
 virginitas matura toris annique tumentes.
 sed quantum virides pelagi Venus addita Nymphas
 obruit, aut umeris quantum Diana relinquit
 Naidas, effulget tantum regina decori 295

Deidamia chori pulchrisque sororibus obstat.
 illius et roseo flammatur purpura vultu
 et gemmis lux maior inest et blandius aurum :
 atque ipsi par forma deae est,¹ si pectoris angues
 ponat et exempta pacetur casside vultus. 300

hanc ubi ducentem longe socia agmina vidit,
 trux puer et nullo temeratus pectora motu
 deriguit totisque novum bibit ossibus ignem.
 nec latet haustus amor, sed fax vibrata medullis
 in vultus atque ora redit lucemque genarum 305
 tingit et impulsum tenui sudore pererrat.

¹ deae est *Kohlmann* : deae ω : deest *P.*

beauty, gives not his neck to the yoke, nor his fierce mouth to the bridle, and snorts with rage at passing beneath a master's sway and marvels that he learns another gait.

What god endued the despairing mother with fraud and cunning? What device drew Achilles from his stubborn purpose? It chanced that Scyros was keeping festal day in honour of Pallas, guardian of the shore, and that the sisters, offspring of peace-loving Lycomedes, had on this sacred morn gone forth from their native town—a licence rarely given—to pay tribute of the spring, and bind their grave tresses with the leaf of the goddess and scatter flowers upon her spear. All were of rarest beauty, all clad alike and all in lusty youth, their years of girlish modesty now ended, and maidenhood ripe for the marriage-couch. But as far as Venus by comparison doth surpass the green Nymphs of the sea, or as Diana rises taller by head and shoulders than the Naiads, so doth Deidamia, queen of the lovely choir, outshine and dazzle her fair sisters. The bright colour flames upon her rosy countenance, a more brilliant light is in her jewels, the gold has a more alluring gleam; as beauteous were the goddess herself, would she but lay aside the serpents on her breast, and doff her helm and pacify her brow. When he beheld her far in advance of her attendant train, the lad, ungentle as he was and heart-whole from any touch of passion, stood spellbound and drank in strange fire through all his frame. Nor does the love he has imbibed lie hidden, but the flame pulsating in his inmost being returns to his face and colours the glow upon his cheeks, and as he feels its power runs o'er his body with a light sweat. As when the

STATIUS

lactea Massagetae veluti cum pocula fuscant
 sanguine puniceo vel ebur corrumpitur ostro :
 sic variis manifesta notis—palletque rubetque—
 flamma repens. eat atque ultro ferus hospita sacra
 dissociat turbae securus et immemor aevi, 311
 ni pudor et iunctae teneat reverentia matris.
 ut pater armenti quondam ductorque futurus,
 cui nondum toto peraguntur cornua gyro,
 cum sociam pastus niveo candore iuvencam 315
 aspicit, ardescunt animi primusque per ora
 spumat amor, spectant hilares obstantque magistri.

Occupat arrepto iam conscia tempore mater :
 “hasne inter simulare choros et bracchia ludo
 nectere, nate, grave est ? gelida quid tale sub Ossa
 Peliacisque iugis ? o si mihi iungere curas 321
 atque alium portare sinu contingat Achillen !”
 mulcetur laetumque rubet visusque protervos
 obliquat vestesque manu leviore repellit.
 aspicit ambiguum genetrix cogique¹ volentem 325
 iniecitque sinus ; tum colla rigentia mollit
 submittitque graves umeros et fortia laxat
 bracchia et impexos certo domat ordine crines
 ac sua dilecta cervice monilia transfert ;
 et picturato cohibens vestigia limbo 330
 incessum motumque docet fandique pudorem.
 qualiter artificii victurae pollice cerae
 accipiunt formas ignemque manumque sequuntur :
 talis erat divae natum mutantis imago.
 nec luctata diu ; superest nam plurimus illi 335

¹ cogique *Heinsius* : cogitque *P^o*.

Massagetae darken milk-white bowls with blood-red dye, or ivory is stained with purple, so by varying signs of blush and pallor does the sudden fire betray its presence. He would rush forward and unprovoked fiercely break up the ceremonies of his hosts, reckless of the crowd and forgetful of his years, did not shame restrain him and awe of the mother by his side. As when a bullock, soon to be the sire and leader of a herd, though his horns have not yet come full circle, perceives a heifer of snowy whiteness, the comrade of his pasture, his spirit takes fire, and he foams at the mouth with his first passion; glad at heart the herdsmen watch him and check his fury.

Seizing the moment his mother purposely accosts him: "Is it too hard a thing, my son, to make pretence of dancing and join hands in sport among these maidens? Hast thou aught such 'neath Ossa and the crags of Pelion? O, if it were my lot to match two loving hearts, and to bear another Achilles in my arms!" He is softened, and blushes for joy, and with sly and sidelong glance repels the robes less certainly. His mother sees him in doubt and willing to be compelled, and casts the raiment o'er him; then she softens his stalwart neck and bows his strong shoulders, and relaxes the muscles of his arms, and tames and orders duly his uncombed tresses, and sets her own necklace about the neck she loves; then keeping his step within the embroidered skirt she teaches him gait and motion and modesty of speech. Even as the waxen images that the artist's thumb will make to live take form and follow the fire and the hand that carves them, such was the picture of the goddess as she transformed her son. Nor did she struggle long; for plenteous charm re-

STATIUS

invita virtute decor, fallitque tuentes
ambiguus tenuique latens discrimine sexus.

Procedunt, iterumque monens iterumque fatigans
blanda Thetis : “ sic ergo gradum, sic ora manusque,
nate, feres comitesque modis imitabere fictis, 340

ne te suspectum molli non misceat aulae
rector et incepti pereant mendacia furti.”

dicit et admoto non distat comere tactu.

sic ubi virgineis Hecate lassata Therapnis
ad patrem fratremque redit, comes haeret eunti 345
mater et ipsa umeros exsertaque bracchia velat ;
ipsa arcum pharetrasque locat vestemque latentem
deducit sparsosque tumet componere crines.

Protinus adgreditur regem atque ibi testibus aris
“ hanc tibi,” ait, “ nostri germanam, rector, Achillis 350
—nonne vides, ut torva genas aequandaque fratri ?—
tradimus : arma umeris arcumque animosa petebat
ferre et Amazonio conubia pellere ritu.

sed mihi curarum satis est pro stirpe virili :
haec calathos et sacra ferat, tu frange regendo 355

indocilem sexuque tene, dum nubilis aetas
solvendusque pudor ; neve exercere protervas¹
gymnadas aut lustris nemorum concede vagari.

intus ale et similes inter seclude puellas ;
litore praecipue portuque arcere memento. 360

¹ protervas ω : catervas *P.*

mains to him though his manhood brook it not, and he baffles beholders by the puzzle of his sex that by a narrow margin hides its secret.

They go forward, and Thetis unsparingly plies her counsels and persuasive words : “ Thus then, my son, must thou manage thy gait, thus thy features and thy hands, and imitate thy comrades and counterfeit their ways, lest the king suspect thee and admit thee not to the women’s chambers, and the crafty cunning of our enterprise be lost.” So speaking she delays not to put correcting touches to his attire. Thus when Hecate ^a returns wearied to her sire and brother from Therapnae, haunt of maidens, her mother bears her company as she goes, and with her own hand covers her shoulders and bared arms, herself arranges the bow and quiver, and pulls down the girt-up robe, and is proud to trim the disordered tresses.

Straightway she accosts the monarch, and there in the presence of the altars : “ Here, O king,” she says, “ I present to thee the sister of my Achilles—seest thou not how proud her glance and like her brother’s ?—so high her spirit, she begged for arms and a bow to carry on her shoulders, and like an Amazon to spurn the thought of wedlock. But my son is enough care for me ; let her carry the baskets at the sacrifice, do thou control and tame her wilfulness, and keep her to her sex, till the time for marriage come and the end of her maiden modesty ; nor suffer her to engage in wanton wrestling-matches, nor to frequent the woodland haunts. Bring her up indoors, in seclusion among girls of her own age ; above all remember to keep her from the harbour and the

^a Another name for Diana.

STATIUS

vidisti modo vela Phrygum : iam mūtua iura
fallere transmissae pelago didicere carinae.”

Accedit dictis pater ingenioque parentis
occultum Aeaciden—quis divum fraudibus obstet ?—
accipit ; ultro etiam veneratur supplice dextra 365

et grates electus agit : nec turba piarum
Scyriadum cessat nimio defigere visu
virginis ora novae, quantum cervice comisque
emineat quantumque umeros ac pectora fundat.
dehinc sociare choros castisque accedere sacris 370

hortantur, ceduntque loco et contingere gaudent.
qualiter Idaliae volucres, ubi mollia frangunt
nubila, iam longum caeloque domoque gregatae,
si iunxit pinnas diversoque hospita tractu
venit avis, cunctae primum mirantur et horrent : 375
mox propius propiusque volant, atque aere in ipso
paulatim fecere suam plausuque secundo
circueunt hilares et ad alta cubilia ducunt.

Digreditur multum cunctata in limine mater,
dum repetit monitus arcanaque murmura figit 380
auribus et tacito dat verba novissima vultu.

tunc excepta freto longe cervice reflexa
abnatat et blandis adfatur litora votis :
“ cara mihi tellus, magnae cui pignora curae
depositumque ingens timido commisimus astu, 385
sis felix taceasque, precor, quo more tacebat
Creta Rheae : te longus honos aeternaque cingent
templa nec instabili fama superabere Delo ;

^a *i.e.*, of Paris.

^b Doves, as sacred to Venus, who had a shrine at Idalium.

^c When she gave birth to Zeus.

^d Delos floated till made fast by Apollo.

shore. Lately thou sawest the Phrygian^a sails : already ships that have crossed the sea have learnt treason to mutual loyalties."

The sire accedes to her words, and receives the disguised Achilles by his mother's ruse—who can resist when gods deceive? Nay more, he venerates her with a suppliant's hand, and gives thanks that he was chosen; nor is the band of duteous Scyrian maidens slow to dart keen glances at the face of their new comrade, how she o'ertops them by head and neck, how broad her expanse of breast and shoulders; then they invite her to join the dance and approach the holy rites, and make room for her in their ranks and rejoice to be near her. Just as Idalian birds,^b cleaving the soft clouds and long since gathered in the sky or in their homes, if a strange bird from some distant region has joined them wing to wing, are at first all filled with amaze and fear; then nearer and nearer they fly, and while yet in the air have made him one of them and hover joyfully around with favouring beat of pinions and lead him to their lofty resting-places.

Long, ere she departs, lingers the mother at the gate, while she repeats advice and implants whispered secrets in his ear and in hushed tones gives her last counsels. Then she plunges into the main, and gazing back swims far away, and entreats with flattering prayers the island-shore: "O land that I love, to whom by fimid cunning I have committed the pledge of my anxious care, a trust that is great indeed, mayst thou prosper and be silent, I beg, as Crete was silent for Rhea^c; enduring honour and everlasting shrines shall gird thee, nor shalt thou be surpassed by unstable^d Delos; sacred alike to wind

STATIUS

et ventis et sacra fretis interque vadosas
 Cycladas, Aegaeae frangunt ubi saxa procellae, 390
 Nereidum tranquilla domus iurandaque nautis
 insula, ne solum Danaas admitte carinas,
 ne, precor ! hic thiasi tantum et nihil utile bellis,
 —hoc famam narrare doce—dumque arma parantur
 Dorica et alternum Mavors interfurit orbem, 395
 —cedo equidem—sit virgo pii Lycomedis Achilles.”

Interea meritos ultrix Europa dolores
 dulcibus armorum furiis et supplicie regum
 conquestu flammata movet ; quippe ambit Atrides
 ille magis, cui nupta domi, facinusque relatu 400
 asperat Iliacum : captam sine Marte, sine armis
 progeniem caeli Spartaeeque potentis alumnam,
 iura fidem superos una calcata rapina.
 hoc foedus Phrygium, haec geminae commercia terrae?
 quid maneat populos, ubi tanta iniuria primos 405
 degrassata duces ?—coeunt gens omnis et aetas :
 nec tantum exciti, bimari quos Isthmia vallo
 claustra nec undisonae quos circuit umbo Maleae,
 sed procul admotas Phryxi qua semita iungi
 Europamque Asiamque vetat ; quasque ordine gentes
 litore Abydeno maris alligat unda superni. 411
 fervet amor belli concussasque erigit urbes.
 aera domat Temese, quatitur navalibus ora
 Eubois, innumera resonant incude Mycenae,
 Pisa novat currus, Nemeae dat terga ferarum, 415
 Cirrha sagittiferas certat stipare pharetras,

^a Because daughter of Zeus by Leda.

^b See note on *Silv.* i. 1. 42.

and wave shalt thou be, and calm abode of Nereids among the shallows of the Cyclades, where the rocks are shattered by Aegean storms, an isle that sailors swear by—only admit no Danaan keels, I beg! ‘Here are only the wands of Bacchus, nought that avails for war;’ that tale bid rumour spread, and while the Dorian armaments make ready and Mavors rages from world to world—he may, for aught I care—let Achilles be the maiden-daughter of good Lycomedes.”

Meanwhile avenging Europe, inflamed by war's sweet frenzy and the monarchs' complaining entreaties, excites her righteous ire; more earnestly pleads that son of Atreus whose spouse abides at home, and by his telling makes the Ælian crime more grievous: how without aid of Mars or force of arms the daughter of heaven^a and child of mighty Sparta was taken, and justice, good faith and the gods spurned by one deed of rapine. Is this then Phrygian honour? Is this the intercourse of land with land? What awaits the common folk, when wrong so deadly attacks the foremost chieftains? All races, all ages flock together: nor are they only aroused whom the Isthmian barrier with its rampart fronting on two seas encloses and Malea's wave-resounding promontory, but where afar the strait of Phrixus sunders Europe and Asia; and the peoples that fringe Abydos' shore, bound fast by the waters of the upper sea. The war-fever rises high, thrilling the agitated cities. Temese^b tames her bronze, the Euboean coast shakes with its dockyards, Mycenae echoes with innumerable forges, Pisa makes new chariots, Nemea gives the skins of wild beasts, Cirrhæ vies in packing tight the arrow-bearing quivers,

STATIUS

Lerna graves clipeos caesis vestire iuvenis.
 dat bello pedites Aetolus et asper Acarnan,
 Argos agit turmas, vacuantur pascua ditis
 Arcadiae, frenat celeres Epiros alumnos, 420
 Phocis et Aoniae iaculis rarescitis umbrae,
 murorum tormenta Pylos Messenaque tendunt.
 nulla immunis humus ; velluntur postibus altis
 arma olim dimissa patrum, flammisque liquescunt
 dona deum : ereptum superis Mars efferat aurum. 425
 nusquam umbrae veteres : minor Othrys et ardua sidunt
 Taygeta, exuti viderunt aera montes.
 iam natat omne nemus : caeduntur robora classi,
 silva minor remis. ferrum lassatur in usus
 innumeros, quod rostra liget, quod muniat arma, 430
 belligeros quod frenet equos, quod mille catenis
 squalentes nectat tunicas, quod sanguine fumet
 vulneraque alta bibat, quod conspirante veneno
 impellat mortes ; tenuant umentia saxa
 attritu et pigris addunt mucronibus iras. 435
 nec modus aut arcus lentare aut fundere glandes
 aut torrere sudes galeasque attollere conis.
 hos inter motus pigram gemit una quietem
 Thessalia et geminis incusat fata querellis,
 quod senior Peleus nec adhuc maturus Achilles. 440

Iam Pelopis terras Graiumque exhauserat orbem
 praecipitans in transtra viros insanus equosque
 Bellipotens. fervent portus et operta carinis
 stagna suasque hiemes classis promota suosque

Lerna in covering heavy shields with the hides of slaughtered bullocks. Aetolia and fierce Acarnania send infantry to war, Argos collects her squadrons, the pasture-lands of rich Arcadia are emptied, Epiros bridles her swift-footed nurslings,^a ye shades of Phocis and Aonia grow scant by reason of the javelins, Pylos and Messene strain their fortress-engines. No land but bears its burden; ancestral weapons long renounced are torn from lofty portals, gifts to the gods melt in the flame; gold reft from divine keeping Mars turns to fiercer use. Nowhere are the shady haunts of old: Othrys is lesser grown, lofty Taygetus sinks low, the shorn hills see the light of day. Now the whole forest is afloat: oaks are hewn to make a fleet, the woods are diminished for oars. Iron is forced into countless uses, for riveting prows, for armour of defence, for bridling chargers, for knitting rough coats of mail by a thousand links, to smoke with blood, to drink deep of wounds, to drive death home in conspiracy with poison; they make the dripping whetstones thin with grinding, and add wrath to sluggish sword-points. No limit is there to the shaping of bows or heaping up of bullets or the charring of stakes or the heightening of helms with crests. Amid such commotion Thessaly alone bewails her indolent repose, and brings a twofold complaint against the Fates, that Peleus is too old and Achilles not yet ripe of age.

Already the lord of war had drained the land of Pelops and the Grecian world, madly flinging aboard both men and horses. All aswarm are the harbours and the bays invisible for shipping, and the moving

^a Cf. Virgil *Georg.* i. 57 "Eliadum palmas Epiros equarum."

STATIUS

attollit fluctus ; ipsum iam puppibus aequor 445
deficit et totos consumunt carbasa ventos.

Prima ratis Danaas Hecateia congregat Aulis,
rupibus expositis longique crepidine dorsi
Euboicum scandens¹ Aulis mare, litora multum
montivagae dilecta deae, iuxtaque Caphereus 450
latratum pelago tollens caput. ille Pelasgas
ut vidit tranare rates, ter monte ter undis
intonuit saevaeque dedit praesagia noctis.
coetus ibi armorum Troiae fatalis, ibi ingens
iuratur bellum, donec sol annuus omnes 455
conficeret metas. tunc primum Graecia vires
contemplata suas ; tunc sparsa ac dissona moles
in corpus vultumque coit et rege sub uno
disposita est. sic curva feras indago latentes
claudit et admotis paulatim cassibus artat. 460

illae ignem sonitumque pavent diffusaque linqunt
avia miranturque suum decrescere montem,
donec in angustam ceciderunt undique vallem ;
inque vicem stupuere greges socioque timore
mansuescunt : simul hirtus aper, simul ursa lupusque
cogitur et captos contempsit cerva leones 466

Sed quamquam et gemini pariter sua bella capessant
Atridae famamque avida virtute paternam
Tydides Sthenelusque premat, nec cogitet annos
Antilochos septemque Ajax umbone coruscet 470
armenti reges atque aequum moenibus orbem.
consiliisque armisque vigil contendat Ulixes :
omnis in absentem belli manus ardet Achillem,
nomen Achillis amat, et in Hectorsa solus Achilles

¹ scandens *P ω* : scindens *Menke*, but cf. *Theb.* ii. 44.

^a Cf. note on i. 93.

^b *i.e.*, the seven bullocks whose hides went to make his shield.

fleet stirs its own storms and billows ; the sea itself fails the vessels, and their canvas swallows up every breath of wind.

Aulis, sacred to Hecate, first gathers together the Danaan fleet, Aulis, whose exposed cliff and long-projecting ridge climb the Euboean sea, coast beloved by the mountain-wandering goddess, and Caphereus, that raises his head hard by against the barking waves. He, when he beheld the Pelasgian ships sail by, thrice thundered from peak to wave, and gave presage of a night of fury.^a There assembles the armament for Troy's undoing, there the vast array is sworn, while the sun completes an annual course. Then first did Greece behold her own might ; then a scattered, dissonant mass took form and feature, and was marshalled under one single lord. Even so does the round hunting-net confine the hidden beasts, and gradually hem them in as the toils are drawn close. They in panic of the torches and the shouting leave their wide pathless haunts, and marvel that their own mountain is shrinking, till from every side they pour into the narrow vale ; the herds startle each other, and are tamed by mutual fear ; bristly boar and bear and wolf are driven together, and the hind despises the captured lions.

But although the twain Atridae make war in their own cause together, though Sthenelus and Tydeus' son surpass in eager valour their fathers' fame, and Antilochus heeds not his years, and Ajax shakes upon his arm the seven leaders of the herd^b and the circle vast as a city-wall, though Ulysses, sleepless in counsel and deeds of arms, joins in the quarrel, yet all the host yearns ardently for the absent Achilles, lovingly they dwell upon Achilles' name, Achilles alone is

STATIUS

poscitur, illum unum Teucris Priamoque loquuntur
 fatalem. quis enim Haemoniis sub vallibus alter 476
 creverit effossa reptans nive? cuius adortus¹
 cruda rudimenta et teneros formaverit annos
 Centaurus? patrii propior cui linea caeli,
 quemve alium Stygios tulerit secreta per amnes 480
 Nereis et pulchros ferro praestruxerit artus?
 haec Graiae castris iterant traduntque cohortes,
 cedit turba ducum vinciue haud maesta fatetur,
 sic cum pallentes Phlegraea in castra coirent
 caelicolae iamque Odrysiam Gradivus in hastam 485
 surgeret et Libycos Tritonia tolleret angues
 ingentemque manu curvaret Delius arcum,
 stabat anhela metu solum Natura Tonantem
 respiciens—quando ille hiemes tonitrusque vocaret
 nubibus, igniferam quot fulmina posceret Aetnen?

Atque ibi dum mixta vallati plebe suorum 491
 et maris et belli consultant tempora reges,
 increpitans magno vatem Calchanta tumultu
 Protesilaus ait—namque huic bellare cupido
 praecipua et primae iam tunc data gloria mortis—:
 “o nimium Phoebi tripodumque oblite tuorum, 496
 Thestoride, quando ora deo possessa movebis
 iustius aut quianam² Parcarum occulta recludis³?
 cernis ut ignotum cuncti stupeantque fremantque⁴
 Aeaciden? sordent vulgo Calydonius heros 500

¹ adortus *P*ω: ad ortus *E*: ab ortu *Q* (correction from ad ortus). ² quianam *P*: quaenam ω.

³ recludis *Garrod*: recludes *P*ω.

⁴ fremantque *E*: premantque *P*ω.

^a Scene of the battle of gods and giants, part of Macedonia, also called Pallene. ^b *i.e.*, Thracian.

^c I have adopted *Garrod*'s reading here, giving “recludo” the meaning of “conceal”; “quaenam . . . recludes” would mean “What mysteries wilt thou reveal?”

called for against Hector, him and none other do they speak of as the doom of Priam and of Troy. For who else grew up from infancy crawling on fresh-dug snow in the Haemonian valleys? Whom else did the Centaur take in hand and shape his rude beginnings and tender years? Whose line of ancestry runs nearer heaven? Whom else did a Nereid take by stealth through the Stygian waters and make his fair limbs impenetrable to steel? Such talk do the Grecian cohorts repeat and interchange. The band of chieftains yields before him and gladly owns defeat. So when the pale denizens of heaven flocked into the Phlegræan camp,^a and already Gradivus was towering to the height of his Odrysian^b spear and Tritonia raised her Libyan snakes and the Delian strongly bent his mighty bow, Nature in breathless terror stood looking to the Thunderer alone—when would *he* summon the lightnings and the tempests from the clouds, how many thunderbolts would he ask of fiery Aetna?

There, while the princes, surrounded by the mingled multitudes of their folk, hold counsel of times for sailing and for war, Protesilaus amid great tumult rebukes the prophet Calchas and cries—for to him was given the keenest desire to fight, and the glory even then of suffering death the first: "O son of Thestor, forgetful of Phoebus and thy own tripods, when wilt thou open thy god-possessed lips more surely, or why dost thou hide the secret things of Fate^c? Seest thou how all are amazed at the unknown Aeacides and clamour for him? The Calydonian hero^d seems as nought in the people's eyes,

^d Diomede.

STATIUS

et magno genitus Telamone Ajaxque secundus,
 nos quoque : sed Mavors et Troia arrepta probabunt.
 illum neglectis—pudet heu !—ductoribus omnes
 belligerum ceu numen amant. dic ocius aut cur
 serta comis et multus honos ? quibus abditus oris
 quave iubes tellure peti ? nam fama nec antris 506
 Chironis patria nec degere Peleos aula.
 heia, inrumpe deos et fata latentia vexa,
 laurigerosque ignes, si quando, avidissimus hauri !
 arma horrenda tibi saevosque remisimus enses, 510
 numquam has imbelles galea violabere vittas :
 sed felix numeroque ducum praestantior omni,
 si magnum Danais per te¹ deprendis² Achillem.”

Iamdudum trepido circumfert lumina motu
 intrantemque deum primo pallore fatetur 515
 Thestorides ; mox igne genas et sanguine torquens³
 nec socios nec castra videt, sed caecus et absens
 nunc superum magnos deprendit in aethere coetus,
 nunc sagas adfatur aves, nunc dura sororum
 licia, turiferas modo consulit anxius aras 520
 flammaramque apicem rapit et caligine sacra
 pascitur. exsiliunt crines rigidisque laborat
 vitta comis, nec colla loco nec in ordine gressus.
 tandem fessa tremens longis mugitibus ora

¹ per te *Garrod* (*from own MS.*): pro te *Pω*.

² deprendis *Garrod* (*from own MS.*): deprehendis *E*:
 dependis *P*: portendis *ω*. See *Garrod ad loc.* *P* is faulty
 in these lines.

³ torquens *Pω*: torpens *Garrod*.

^a *Garrod* rightly remarks that there is no question here
 546

and so too Ajax born of mighty Telamon and lesser Ajax, so do we also : but Mars and the capture of Troy will prove the truth. Slighting their leaders—for shame!—they all love him as a deity of war. Quickly speak, or why are thy locks enwreathed and held in honour? In what coasts lies he hidden? In what land must we seek him? For report has it that he is living neither in Chiron's cave nor in the halls of Peleus his sire. Come, break in upon the gods, harry the fates that lie concealed! Quaff greedily, if ever thou dost, thy draughts of laurelled fire! We have relieved thee of dread arms and cruel swords, and never shall a helm profane thy unwarlike locks, yet blest shalt thou be and foremost of all our chiefs, if of thyself thou dost find great Achilles for the Danaans." ^a

Long since has the son of Thestor been glancing round about him with excited movements, and by his first pallor betrayed the incoming of the god; soon he rolls fiery, bloodshot eyes, seeing neither his comrades nor the camp, but blind and absent from the scene he now overhears the mighty councils of gods in the upper air, now accosts the prescient birds, now the stern sisters' threads, now anxiously consults the incense-laden altars, and quickly scans the shooting flames and feeds upon the sacred vapours.^b His hair streams out, and the fillet totters on his stiffened locks, his head rolls and he staggers in his gait. At last trembling he looses his weary of which is to serve in the campaign (implied by "pro te dependis"); see ll. 510, 511. The question is "Where is Achilles?"

^b This was a *καπνομαντεία*, or divination by the smoke of the altar-fire, as in *Theb.* x. 598. The altar of Apollo would be crowned with laurel (*cf.* 509).

STATIUS

solvit, et oppositum vox eluctata furorem est : 525
 “ quo rapis ingentem magni Chironis alumnum
 femineis, Nerei, dolis ? huc mitte : quid aufers ?
 non patiar : meus iste, meus. tu diva profundi,
¹et me Phoebus agit. latebris quibus abdere temptas
 eversorem Asiae ? video per Cycladas altas 530
 attonitam et turpi quaerentem litora furto.
 occidimus : placuit Lycomedis conscia tellus.
 o scelus ! en fluxae veniunt in pectora vestes.
 scinde, puer, scinde et timidae ne cede parenti.
 ei mihi raptus abit ! quaenam haec procul improba
 virgo ? ” 535

Hic nutante gradu stetit amissisque furoris
 viribus ante ipsas tremefactus conruit aras.
 tunc haerentem Ithacum Calydonius occupat heros :
 “ nos vocat iste labor : neque enim comes ire recusem,
 si tua cura trahat. licet ille sonantibus antris 540
 Tethyos aversae gremioque prematur aquosi
 Nereos : invenies. tu tantum providus astu
 tende animum vigilem fecundumque erige pectus :
 non mihi quis vatium dubiis in casibus ausit
 fata videre prior.” subicit gavisus Ulixes : 545
 “ sic deus omnipotens firmet, sic adnuat illa
 virgo paterna tibi ! sed me spes lubrica tardat :
 grande equidem armatum castris inducere Achillem ;
 sed si fata negent, quam foedum ac triste reverti !
 vota tamen Danaum non intemptata relinquam 550

¹ *Lines 529-661 only in PE and late mss., not in ω.*

^a *i.e.*, himself and Ulysses ; “cura” seems to recognize Ulysses’ hesitation.

lips from their long bellowings, and his voice has struggled free from the resisting frenzy: "Whither bearest thou, O Nereid, by thy woman's guile great Chiron's mighty pupil? Send him hither: why dost thou carry him away? I will not suffer it: mine is he, mine! Thou art a goddess of the deep, but I too am inspired by Phoebus. In what hiding-places triest thou to conceal the destroyer of Asia? I see her all bewildered among the Cyclades, in base stealth seeking out the coast. We are ruined! The accomplice land of Lycomedes finds favour. Ah! horrid deed! see, flowing garments drape his breast. Rend them, boy, rend them, and yield not to thy timid mother. Woe, woe! he is rapt away and is gone! Who is that wicked maiden yonder?"

Here tottering he ceased, the madness lost its force, and with a shudder he collapsed and fell before the altar. Then the Calydonian hero accosts the hesitating Ithacan: "'Tis us^a that task summons; for I could not refuse to bear thee company, should thy thought so lead thee. Though he be sunk in the echoing caves of Tethys far removed and in the bosom of watery Nereus, thou wilt find him. Do thou but keep alert the cunning and foresight of thy watchful mind, and arouse thy fertile craft: no prophet, methinks, would make bold in perplexity to see the truth before thee." Ulysses in joy makes answer: "So may almighty God bring it to pass, and the virgin guardian of thy sire grant to thee! But fickle hope gives me pause; a great enterprise is it indeed to bring Achilles and his arms to our camp, but should the fates say nay, how woeful a disgrace were it to return! Yet will I not leave unventured the fulfilment of the Danaans' desire. Ay, verily, either

STATIUS

iamque adeo aut aderit mecum Peleius heros,
aut verum penitus latet et sine Apolline Calchas."

Conclamant Danai stimulatque Agamemno vo-
lentes :

laxantur coetus resolutaque murmure laeto
agmina discedunt. quales iam nocte propinqua 555
e pastu referuntur aves, vel in antra reverti
melle novo gravidas mitis videt Hybla catervas.
nec mora, iam dextras Ithacesia carbasus auras
poscit, et in remis hilaris sedere iuventus.

At procul occultum falsi sub imagine sexus 560
Aeaciden furto iam noverat una latenti
Deidamia virum ; sed opertae conscia culpae
cuncta pavet tacitasque putat sentire sorores.
namque ut virgineo stetit in grege durus Achilles
exsolvitque rudem genetrix digressa pudorem, 565
protinus elegit comitem, quamquam omnis in illum
turba coit, blandecque novas nil tale timenti
admovet insidias : illam sequiturque premitque
improbus, illam oculis iterumque iterumque resumit.
nunc nimius lateri non evitantis inhaeret, 570
nunc levibus sertis, lapsis nunc sponte canistris,
nunc thyrso parcente ferit, modo dulcia notae
fila lyrae tenuesque modos et carmina monstrat
Chironis ducitque manum digitosque sonanti
infringit citharae, nunc occupat ora canentis 575
et ligat amplexus et mille per oscula laudat.

the Pelean hero shall accompany me hither, or the truth lies deep indeed and Calchas hath not spoken by Apollo."

The Danai shout applause, and Agamemnon urges on the willing pair; the gathering breaks up, and the dispersing ranks depart with joyful murmurs, even as at nightfall the birds wing their way homeward from the pastures, or kindly Hybla sees the swarms returning laden with fresh honey to their cells. Without delay the canvas of the Ithacan is already calling for a favouring breeze, and the merry crew are seated at the oars.

But far away Deidamia—and she alone—had learnt in stolen secrecy the manhood of Aeacides, that lay hid beneath the show of a feigned sex; conscious of guilt concealed there is nought she does not fear, and thinks that her sisters know, but hold their peace. For when Achilles, rough as he was, stood amid the maiden company, and the departure of his mother rid him of his artless bashfulness, straightway although the whole band gathers round him, he chose her as his comrade and assails with new and winning wiles her unsuspecting innocence; her he follows, and persistently besets, toward her he ever and again directs his gaze. Now too zealously he clings to her side, nor does she avoid him, now he pelts her with light garlands, now with baskets that let their burden fall, now with the thyrsus that harms her not, or again he shows her the sweet strings of the lyre he knows so well, and the gentle measures and songs of Chiron's teaching, and guides her hand and makes her fingers strike the sounding harp, now as she sings he makes a conquest of her lips, and binds her in his embrace, and praises her

STATIUS

illa libens discit, quo vertice Pelion, et quis
 Aeacides, puerique auditum nomen et actus
 adsidue stupet et praesentem cañtat Achillem. 580
 ipsa quoque et validos proferre modestius artus
 et tenuare rudes attrito pollice lanas
 demonstrat reficitque colos et perdita dura¹
 pensa manu ; vocisque sonum pondusque tenentis,
 quodque fugit comites, nimio quod lumine sese
 figat et in verbis intempestivus anhelet, 585
 miratur : iam iamque dolos aperire parantem
 virginea levitate fugit prohibetque fateri.
 sic sub matre Rhea iuvenis regnator Olympi
 oscula securae dabat insidiosa sorori
 frater adhuc, medii donec reverentia cessit 590
 sanguinis et versos germana expavit amores.

Tandem detecti timidæ Nereidos astus.
 lucus Agenorei sublimis ad orgia Bacchi
 stabat et admissum caelo nemus : huius in umbra
 alternam renovare piaë trieterida matres 595
 consuerant scissumque pecus terraque revulsas
 ferre trabes gratosque deo praestare furores.
 lex procul ire mares : iterat praecepta verendus
 ductor, inaccessumque viris edicatur antrum.
 nec satis est : stat fine dato metuenda sacerdos 600
 exploratque aditus, ne quis temerator oberret
 agmine femineo. tacitus sibi risit Achilles.
 illum virgineae ducentem signa catervae

¹ perdita dura *E*, late *MSS.* : perfida durat *P*.

^a The courting of Juno by the youthful Jupiter is also mentioned *Theb.* x. 61 sq.

^b From Agenor, king of Tyre, from whom Semele, his mother, was descended.

amid a thousand kisses. With pleasure does she learn of Pelion's summit and of Aeacides, and hearing the name and exploits of the youth is spellbound in constant wonder, and sings of Achilles in his very presence. She in her turn teaches him to move his strong limbs with more modest grace and to spin out the unwrought wool by rubbing with his thumb, and repairs the distaff and the skeins that his rough hand has damaged; she marvels at the deep tones of his voice, how he shuns all her fellows and pierces her with too-attentive gaze and at all times hangs breathless on her words; and now he prepares to reveal the fraud, but she like a fickle girl avoids him, and will not allow him to confess. Even so beneath his mother Rhea's rule the young prince of Olympus gave treacherous kisses to his sister; he was still her brother and she thought no harm, until the reverence for their common blood gave way, and the sister feared a lover's passion.^a

At length the timorous Nereid's cunning was laid bare. There stood a lofty grove, scene of the rites of Agenorean^b Bacchus, a grove that reached to heaven; within its shade the pious matrons were wont to renew the recurrent three-yearly festival, and to bring torn animals of the herd and uprooted saplings, and to offer to the god the frenzy wherein he took delight. The law bade males keep far away; the reverend monarch repeats the command, and makes proclamation that no man may draw nigh the sacred haunt. Nor is that enough; a venerable priestess stands at the appointed limit and scans the approaches, lest any defiler come near in the train of women; Achilles laughed silently to himself. His comrades wonder at him as he leads the band of

STATIUS

magnaue difficili solventem bracchia motu
 —et sexus pariter decet et mendacia matris— 605
 mirantur comites. nec iam pulcherrima turbae
 Deidamia suae tantumque admota superbo
 vincitur Aeacide, quantum premit ipsa sorores.
 ut vero e tereti demisit nebrida collo
 errantesque sinus hedera collegit et alte 610
 cinxit purpureis flaventia tempora vittis
 vibravitque gravi redimitum missile dextra,
 attonito stat turba metu sacrisque relictis
 illum ambire libet pronosque attollere vultus. 614
 talis, ubi ad Thebas vultumque animumque remisit
 Euhius et patrio satiavit pectora luxu,
 sarta comis mitramque levat thyrsumque virentem
 armat et hostiles invisit fortior Indos.

Scandebat roseo medii fastigia caeli
 Luna iugo, totis ubi somnus inertior alis 620
 defluit in terras mutumque amplectitur orbem :
 consedere chori paulumque exercita pulsu
 aera tacent, tenero cum solus ab agmine Achilles
 haec secum : “ quonam timidae commenta parentis
 usque feres ? primumque imbelli carcere perdes 625
 florem animi ? non tela licet Mavortia dextra,
 non trepidas agitare feras. ubi campus et amnes
 Haemonii ? quaerisne meos, Sperchie, natatus
 promissasque comas ? an desertoris alumni 629
 nullus honos ? Stygiasque procul iam raptus ad umbras
 dicor, et orbatus plangit mea funera Chiron ?

^a *i.e.*, the thyrsus.

^b There is a sort of inverted comparison here: the warlike Achilles putting on Bacchic garb is compared to effeminate Bacchus making ready for war.

virgins and moves his mighty arms with awkward motion—his own sex and his mother's counterfeit alike become him. No more is Deidamia the fairest of her company, and as she surpasses her own sisters, so does she herself own defeat compared with proud *Aeacides*. But when he let the fawn-skin hang from his shapely neck, and with ivy gathered up its flowing folds, and bound the purple fillet high upon his flaxen temples, and with powerful hand made the enwreathed missile^a quiver, the crowd stood awe-struck, and leaving the sacred rites are fain to throng about him, uplifting their bowed heads to gaze. Even so *Euhius*, what time he has relaxed at *Thebes* his martial spirit and frowning brow, and sated his soul with the luxury of his native land, takes chaplet and mitre from his locks, and arms the green thyrsus for the fray, and in more martial guise sets out to meet his Indian foes.^b

The Moon in her rosy chariot was climbing to the height of mid-heaven, when drowsy Sleep glided down with full sweep of his pinions to earth and gathered a silent world to his embrace: the choirs reposed, the stricken bronze awhile was mute, when *Achilles*, parted in solitude from the virgin train, thus spoke with himself: "How long wilt thou endure the precepts of thy anxious mother, and waste the first flower of thy manhood in this soft imprisonment? No weapons of war mayst thou brandish, no beasts mayst thou pursue. Oh! for the plains and valleys of *Haemonia*! Lookest thou in vain, *Spercheus*, for my swimming, and for my promised tresses? Or hast thou no regard for the foster-child that has deserted thee? Am I already spoken of as borne to the Stygian shades afar. and does *Chiron* in

STATIUS

tu nunc tela manu, nostros tu dirigis arcus
 nutritosque mihi scandis, Patrocle, iugales :
 ast ego pampineis diffundere brachia thyrsis
 et tenuare colus—pudet haec taedetque fateri !— 635
 iam scio. quin etiam dilectae virginis ignem
 aequaevamque facem captus noctesque diesque
 dissimulas. quonam usque premes urentia pectus
 vulnera, teque marem—pudet heu !—nec amore
 probaris¹ ?

Sic ait ; et densa noctis gavisus in umbra 640
 tempestiva suis torpere silentia furtis
 vi potitur votis et toto pectore veros
 admovet amplexus ; vidit chorus omnis ab alto
 astrorum et tenerae rubuerunt cornua Lunae.
 illa quidem clamore nemus montemque replevit : 645
 sed Bacchi comites, discussa nube soporis,
 signa choris indicta putant ; fragor undique notus
 tollitur, et thyrsos iterum vibrabat Achilles,
 ante tamen dubiam verbis solatus amicis :
 “ ille ego—quid trepidas ?—, genitum quem caerula
 mater 650

paene Iovi² silvis nivibusque immisit alendum
 Thessalicis. nec ego hos cultus aut foeda subissem
 tegmina, ni primo tu visa³ in litore : cessi
 te propter, tibi pensa manu, tibi mollia gesto
 tympana. quid defles magno nurus addita ponto ?

¹ probaris *P* : probabis *late MSS.*

² paene Iovi *Gustafsson* : paene iovis *P* : Penei *E* : Peneis
late MSS. : Paeoniis *conj. Wilamowitz.*

³ tu visa *E* : te vias *P* : te visa *late MSS.*

^a Thetis nearly became the wife of Jove, so that Achilles
 556

solitude bewail my death? Thou, O Patroclus, now dost aim my darts, dost bend my bow and mount the team that was nourished for me; but I have learnt to fling wide my arms as I grasp the vine-wands, and to spin the distaff-thread—ah! shame and vexation to confess it! Nay more, night and day thou dost dissemble the love that holds thee, and thy passion for the maid of equal years. How long wilt thou conceal the wound that galls thy heart, nor even in love—for shame!—prove thy own manhood?”

So he speaks; and in the thick darkness of the night, rejoicing that the unstirring silence gives timely aid to his secret deeds, he gains by force his desire, and with all his vigour strains her in a real embrace; the whole choir of stars beheld from on high, and the horns of the young moon blushed red. She indeed filled grove and mountain with her cries, but the train of Bacchus, dispelling slumber's cloud, deemed it the signal for the dance; on every side the familiar shout arises, and Achilles once more brandishes the thyrsus; yet first with friendly speech he solaces the anxious maid: “I am he—why fearest thou?—whom my cerulean mother bore wellnigh to Jove,^a and sent to find my nurture in the woods and snows of Thessaly. Nor had I endured this dress and shameful garb, had I not seen thee on the sea-shore; 'twas for thee I did submit, for thee I carry skeins and bear the womanly timbrel. Why dost thou weep who art made the daughter-in-law of mighty ocean? Why dost thou moan who shalt bear

was “nearly” his son. An oracle warned Jove that the son thus born would destroy him. Wilamowitz's conjecture “Paeoniis” is attractive.

STATIUS

quid gemis ingentes caelo paritura nepotes ? 656
 sed pater— : ante igni ferroque excisa iacebit
 Scyros et in tumidas ibunt haec versa procellas
 moenia, quam saevo mea tu conubia pendas
 funcre : non adeo parebimus omnia matri.”¹ 660

Obstipuit tantis regina exterrita monstris, 662
 quamquam olim suspecta fides, et comminus ipsum
 horruit et facies multum mutata fatentis.²
 quid faciat ? casusne suos ferat ipsa parenti 665
 seque simul iuvenemque premat, fortassis acerbas
 hausurum poenas ? et adhuc in corde manebat
 ille diu deceptus amor : silet aegra premitque
 iam commune nefas ; unam placet addere furtis
 altricem sociam, precibus quae victa duorum 670
 adnuit. illa astu tacito raptumque pudorem
 surgentemque uterum atque aegros in pondere menses
 occuluit, plenis donec stata tempora metis
 attulit et partus index Lucina resolvit.

II ³ Iamque per Aegaeos ibat Laertia flexus 675
 puppis, et innumeras mutabant Cycladas aerae⁴ :
 iam Paros Olearosque latent ; iam raditur alta
 Lemnos et a tergo decrescit Bacchica Naxos,
⁵ ante oculos crescente Samo ; iam Delos opacat
 aequor : ibi e celsa libant carchesia puppi 680
 responsique fidem et verum Calchanta precantur.

¹ *After line 660 follows only in Q by a late hand the line vade sed ereptum celes taceasque pudorem, “go, but conceal and be silent of thy ravished honour.”*

² *Lines 663-664 bracketed by Garrod as spurious.*

³ *The old editors began Book II. here.*

⁴ *innumeras mutabant Cycladas aerae Koestlin : innumerae m. Cyclades auras Pw : innumerae mutabat Cyclados oras Garrod.*

valiant grandsons to Olympus^a? But thy father—Scyros shall be destroyed by fire and sword and these walls shall be in ruins and the sport of wanton winds, ere thou pay by cruel death for my embraces: not so utterly am I subject to my mother.”

Horror-struck was the princess at such dark happenings, albeit long since she had suspected his good faith, and shuddered at his presence, and his countenance was changed as he made confession. What is she to do? Shall she bear the tale of her misfortune to her father, and ruin both herself and her lover, who perchance would suffer untimely death? And still there abode within her breast the love so long deceived. Silent is she in her grief, and dissembles the crime that both now share alike; her nurse alone she resolves to make a partner in deceit, and she, yielding to the prayers of both, assents. With secret cunning she conceals the rape and the swelling womb and the burden of the months of ailing, till Lucina brought round by token the appointed season, her course now fully run, and gave deliverance of her child.

And now the Laertian^b bark was threading the winding ways of the Aegean, while the breezes changed one for another the countless Cyclades; already Paros and Olearos are hid, now they skirt lofty Lemnos and behind them Bacchic Naxos is lost to view, while Samos grows before them; now Delos darkens the deep, and there from the tall stern they pour cups of libation, and pray that the oracle be true and Calchas undeceived. The Wielder of the

^a Peleus was descended from Zeus; *cf.* 869, 899.

^b Because Ulysses was son of Laertes.

STATIUS

audiit Arquitenens Zephyrumque e vertice Cynthi
impulit et dubiis pleno dedit omina velo.

- 10 it pelago segura ratis : quippe alta Tonantis
iussa Thetin certas fatorum vertere leges 685
arcebant aegram lacrimis ac multa timentem,
quod non erueret pontum ventisque fretisque
omnibus invisum iam tunc sequeretur Ulixem.
- 15 Frangebat radios humili iam pronus Olympo
Phoebus et Oceani penetrabile litus anhelis 690
promittebat equis, cum se scopulosa levavit
Scyros ; in hanc totos emisit puppe rudentes
dux Laertiades sociisque resumere pontum
- 20 imperat et remis Zephyros supplere cadentes.
accedunt iuxta, et magis indubitata magisque 695
Scyros erat placidique super Tritonia custos
litoris. egressi numen venerantur amicae
Aetolusque Ithacusque deae. tunc providus heros,
- 25 hospita ne subito terrerent moenia coetu,
puppe iubet remanere suos ; ipse ardua fido 700
cum Diomede petit. sed iam praevenerat arcis
litoreae servator Abas ignotaque regi
ediderat, sed Graia tamen, succedere terris
- 30 carbasa. procedunt, gemini ceu foedere iuncto
hiberna sub nocte lupi : licet et sua pulset 705
natorumque fames, penitus rabiemque minasque
dissimulant humilesque meant, ne nuntiet hostes
cura canum et trepidos moneat vigilare magistros.

Bow ^a heard them, and from the top of Cynthus sent a zephyr flying and gave the doubting ones the good omen of a belying sail. The ship sails o'er the sea untroubled; for the Thunderer's high commands suffered not Thetis to overturn the sure decrees of Fate, faint as she was with tears, and foreboding much because she could not excite the main and straightway pursue the hated Ulysses with all her winds and waves.

Already Phoebus, stooping low upon the verge of Olympus, was sending forth broken rays, and promising to his panting steeds the yielding shore of Ocean, when rocky Scyros rose aloft; the Laertian chieftain from the stern let out all sail to make it, and bade his crew resume the deep and with their oars supply the failing zephyrs. Nearer they draw, and more undoubtedly, more surely was it Scyros, and Tritonia ^b above, the guardian of the tranquil shore. They disembark, and venerate the power of the friendly goddess, Aetolian and Ithacan alike. Then the prudent hero, lest they should frighten the hospitable walls with sudden throng, bids his crew remain upon the ship; he himself with trusty Diomedes ascends the heights. But already Abas, keeper of the coastal tower, had gone before them and given tidings to the king, that unknown sails, though Greek, were drawing nigh the land. Forward they go, like two wolves leagued together on a winter's night: though their cubs' hunger and their own assaults them, yet do they utterly dissemble ravening rage, and go slinking on their way, lest the alertness of the dogs announce a foe and warn the anxious herdsmen to keep vigil.

^a Apollo.

^b Cf. l. 285.

STATIUS

35 Sic segnes heroes eunt campumque patentem,
 qui medius portus celsamque interiacet urbem, 710
 alterno sermone terunt ; prior occupat acer
 Tydides : “ qua nunc verum ratione paramus
 scrutari ? namque ambiguo sub pectore pridem
 40 verso, quid imbelles thyrsos mercatus et aera
 urbibus in mediis Baccheaque terga mitrasque 715
 huc tuleris varioque aspersas nebridas auro.
 hisnegravem PriamoPhrygibusque armabis Achillem ? ”

Illi subridens Ithacus paulum ore remisso :
 45 “ haec tibi, virginea modo si Lycomedis in aula est
 fraude latens, ultro confessum in proelia ducent 720
 Peliden ; tu cuncta citus de puppe memento
 ferre, ubi tempus erit, clipeumque his iungere donis,
 qui pulcher signis auroque asperrimus ; hasta¹
 50 haec² sat erit : tecum lituo bonus adsit Agyrtes
 occultamque tubam tacitos adportet in usus.” 725

Dixerat, atque ipso portarum in limine regem
 cernit et ostensa pacem praefatus oliva :
 “ magna, reor, pridemque tuas pervenit ad aures
 55 fama trucis belli, regum placidissime, quod nunc
 Europamque Asiamque quatit. si nomina forte 730
 huc perlata ducum, fidit quibus ultor Atrides :
 hic tibi, quem tanta meliorem stirpe creavit
 magnanimus Tydeus, Ithacis ego ductor Ulixes.
 60 causa viae—metuam quid enim tibi cuncta fateri,
 cum Graius notaque fide celeberrimus unus³— 735

¹ hasta *P* : ardet ω : astat *E*, *Garrod and conj. Kohlmann*.

² haec *P* ω : nec *Garrod*.

³ unus ω : imus *PE*.

So with slow pace the heroes move, and with mutual converse tread the open plain that lies between the harbour and the high citadel; first keen Tydides speaks: "By what means now are we preparing to search out the truth? For in perplexity of mind have I long been pondering why thou didst buy those unwarlike wands and cymbals in the city marts, and didst bring hither Bacchic hides and turbans, and fawn-skins decked with patterns of gold. Is it with these thou wilt arm Achilles to be the doom of Priam and the Phrygians?"

To him with a smile and somewhat less stern of look the Ithacan replied: "These things, I tell thee, if only he be lurking among the maidens in Lycomedes' palace, shall draw the son of Peleus to the fight, ay, self-confessed! Remember thou to bring them all quickly from the ship, when it is time, and to join to these gifts a shield that is beautiful with carving and rough with work of gold; this spear will suffice; let the good trumpeter Agyrtes be with thee, and let him bring a hidden bugle for a secret purpose."

He spoke, and spied the king in the very threshold of the gate, and displaying the olive first announced his peaceful purpose: "Loud report, I ween, hath long since reached thy ears, O gentle monarch, of that fierce war which now is shaking both Europe and Asia. If perchance the chieftains' names have been borne hither, in whom the avenging son of Atreus trusts, here beholdest thou him whom great-hearted Tydeus begot, mightier even than so great a sire, and I am Ulysses the Ithacan chief. The cause of our voyage—for why should I fear to confess all to thee, who art a Greek and of all men most renowned by sure report?—is to spy out the

STATIUS

explorare aditus inuisaque litora Troiae,
 quidve parent." medio sermone intercipit ille :
 " adnuerit Fortuna, precor, dextrique secudent
 65 ista dei ! nunc hospitio mea tecta piumque
 inlustrate larem." simul intra limina ducit. 740
 nec mora, iam mensas famularis turba torosque
 instruit. interea visu perlustrat Ulixes
 scrutaturque domum, si qua vestigia magnae
 70 virginis aut dubia facies suspecta figura ;
 porticibusque vagis errat totosque penates, 745
 ceu miretur, adit : velut ille cubilia praedae
 indubitata tenens muto legit arva Molosso
 venator, videat donec sub frondibus hostem
 75 porrectum somno positosque in caespite dentes.
 Rumor in arcana iamdudum perstrepit aula, 750
 virginibus qua fida domus, venisse Pelasgum
 ductores Graiamque ratem sociosque receptos.
 iure¹ pavent aliae ; sed vix nova gaudia celat
 80 Pelides avidusque novos heroas et arma
 vel talis vidisse cupit. iamque atria fervent 755
 regali strepitu et picto discumbitur auro,
 cum pater ire iubet natas comitesque pudicas
 natarum. subeunt, quales Maeotide ripa,
 85 cum Scythicas rapuere domos et capta Getarum
 moenia, sepositis epulantur Amazones armis. 760
 tum vero intentus vultus ac pectora Ulixes
 perlibrat visu, sed nox inlataque fallunt

¹ iure *Pw* : aure *Garrod* (*Theb.* i. 366).

approaches to Troy and her hated shores, and what their schemes may be." Ere he had finished the other broke in upon him : " May Fortune assist thee, I pray, and propitious gods prosper that enterprise ! Now honour my roof and pious home by being my guests." Therewith he leads them within the gate. Straightway numerous attendants prepare the couches and the tables. Meanwhile Ulysses scans and searches the palace with his gaze, if anywhere he can find trace of a tall maiden or a face suspect for its doubtful features ; uncertainly he wanders idly in the galleries and, as though in wonder, roams the whole house through ; just as yon hunter, having come upon his prey's undoubted haunts, scours the fields with his silent Molossian hound, till he behold his foe stretched out in slumber 'neath the leaves and his jaws resting on the turf.

Long since has a rumour been noised throughout the secret chamber where the maidens had their safe abode, that Pelasgian chiefs are come, and a Grecian ship and its mariners have been made welcome. With good reason are the rest affrighted ; but Pelides scarce conceals his sudden joy, and eagerly desires even as he is to see the newly-arrived heroes and their arms. Already the noise of princely trains fills the palace, and the guests are reclining on gold-embroidered couches, when at their sire's command his daughters and their chaste companions join the banquet ; they approach, like unto Amazons on the Maeotid shore, when, having made plunder of Scythian homesteads and captured strongholds of the Getae, they lay aside their arms and feast. Then indeed does Ulysses with intent gaze ponder carefully both forms and features, but night and the lamps that are

STATIUS

- lumina et extemplo latuit mensura iacentum.
 90 at tamen erectumque genas oculisque vagantem
 nullaque virginei servantem signa pudoris 765
 defigit comitique obliquo lumine monstrat.
 quod nisi praecipitem blando complexa moneret
 Deidamia sinu nudataque pectora semper
 95 exsertasque manus umerosque in veste teneret
 et prodire toris et poscere vina vetaret 770
 saepius et fronti crinale reponeret aurum,
 Argolicis dueibus iam tunc patuisset Achilles.
 Ut placata fames epulis bis terque repostis,
 100 rex prior adloquitur paterisque hortatur Aehivos :
 " invideo vestris, fateor, decora inclita gentis 775
 Argolicac, coeptis : utinam et mihi fortior aetas,
 quaeque fuit, Dolopas cum Seyria litora adortos
 perdomui fregique vadis, quae signa triumphi
 105 vidistis celsa murorum in fronte, carinas !
 saltem si suboles, aptum quam mittere bello—¹ 780
 nunc ipsi viresque meas et cara videtis 782
 pignora : quando novos dabit haec mihi turba
 nepotes ? "
- 110 dixerat, et sollers arrepto tempore Ulixes :
 " haud spernenda cupis ; quis enim non visere gentes
 innumeras variosque duces atque agmina regum 786
 ardeat ? omne simul roburque decusque potentis
 Europae meritos ultro iuravit in enses.
 115 rura urbesque vacant, montes spoliavimus altos,
 omne fretum longa velorum obtexitur umbra ; 790

¹ *After line 780 occurs only in late MSS. : possem, plena forent mihi gaudia ; namque iuwarem, " I could (belonging to the aposiopesis), my joy would be full ; for I would help."*

brought in deceive him, and their stature is hidden as soon as they recline. One nevertheless with head erect and wandering gaze, one who preserves no sign of virgin modesty, he marks, and with sidelong glance points out to his companion. But if Deidamia, to warn the hasty youth, had not clasped him to her soft bosom, and ever covered with her own robe his bare breast and naked arms and shoulders, and many a time forbidden him to start up from the couch and ask for wine, and replaced the golden hair-band on his brow, Achilles had even then been revealed to the Argive chieftains.

When hunger was assuaged and the banquet had twice and three times been renewed, the monarch first addresses the Achaeans, and pledges them with the wine-cup: "Ye famous heroes of the Argolic race, I envy, I confess, your enterprise; would that I too were of more valiant years, as when I utterly subdued the Dolopes who attacked the shores of Scyros, and shattered on the sea those keels that ye beheld on the forefront of my lofty walls, tokens of my triumph! At least if I had offspring that I could send to war,—but now ye see for yourselves my feeble strength and my dear children: ah, when will these numerous daughters give me grandsons?" He spoke, and seizing the moment crafty Ulysses made reply: "Worthy indeed is the object of thy desire; for who would not burn to see the countless peoples of the world and various chieftains and princes with their trains? All the might and glory of powerful Europe hath sworn together willing allegiance to our righteous arms. Cities and fields alike are empty, we have spoiled the lofty mountains, the whole sea lies hidden beneath the far-spread shadow of our

STATIUS

tradunt arma patres, rapit inrevocata iuventus.
 non alias umquam tantae data copia famae
 fortibus aut campo maiore exercita virtus."

- 120 aspicit intentum vigilique haec aure trahentem,
 cum paveant aliae demissaque lumina flectant, 795
 atque iterat: " quisquis proavis et gente superba,
 quisquis equo iaculoque potens, qui praevalet arcu,
 omnis honos illic, illic ingentia certant
- 125 nomina: vix timidae matres aut agmina cessant
 virginea; a! multum steriles damnatus in annos 800
 invisusque deis, si quem haec nova gloria segnem
 praeterit." exisset stratis, ni provida signo
 Deidamia dato cunctas hortata sorores
- 130 liquisset mensas ipsum complexa. sed haeret
 respiciens Ithacum coetuque novissimus exit. 805
 ille quidem incepto paulum ex sermone remittit,
 pauca tamen iungens: " at tu tranquillus in alta
 pace mane carisque para conubia natis,
- 135 quas tibi sidereis divarum vultibus aequas
 fors dedit. ut me olim tacitum reverentia tangit!
 is decor et formae species permixta virili." 811
 occurrit genitor: " quid si aut Bacchea ferentes
 orgia, Palladias aut circum videris aras?
- 140 et dabimus, si forte novus cunctabitur auster."
 excipiunt cupidi et tacitis spes addita votis. 815
 cetera depositis Lycomedis regia curis
 tranquilla sub pace silet, sed longa sagaci
 nox Ithaco, lucemque cupit somnumque gravatur.

sails ; fathers give weapons, youths snatch them and are gone beyond recall. Never was offered to the brave such an opportunity for high renown, never had valour so wide a field of exercise." He sees him all attentive and drinking in his words with vigilant ear, though the rest are alarmed and turn aside their downcast eyes, and he repeats : " Whoever hath pride of race and ancestry, whoever hath sure javelin and valiant steed, or skill of bow, all honour there awaits him, there is the strife of mighty names : scarce do timorous mothers hold back or troops of maids ; ah ! doomed to barren years and hated of the gods is he whom this new chance of glory passes by in idle sloth." Up from the couches had he sprung, had not Deidamia, watchfully giving the sign to summon all her sisters, left the banquet clasping him in her arms ; yet still he lingers looking back at the Ithacan, and goes out from the company the last of all. Ulysses indeed leaves unsaid somewhat of his purposed speech, yet adds a few words : " But do thou abide in deep and tranquil peace, and find husbands for thy beloved daughters, whom fortune has given thee, goddess-like in their starry countenances. What awe touched me anon and holds me silent ? Such charm and beauty joined to manliness of form ! " The sire replies : " What if thou couldst see them performing the rites of Bacchus, or about the altars of Pallas ? Ay, and thou shalt, if perchance the rising south wind prove a laggard." They eagerly accept his promise, and hope inspires their silent prayers. All else in Lycomedes' palace are at rest in peaceful quiet, their troubles laid aside, but to the cunning Ithacan the night is long ; he yearns for the day and brooks not slumber.

STATIUS

- 145 Vixdum exorta dies et iam comitatus Agyrte
 Tydides aderat praedictaque dona ferebat. 820
 nec minus egressae thalamo Scyreides ibant
 ostentare choros promissaque sacra verendis
 hospitibus. nitet ante alias regina comesque
 150 Pelides : qualis Siculae sub rupibus Aetnae
 Naidas Ennaeas inter Diana feroxque 825
 Pallas et Elysii lucebat sponsa tyranni.
 iamque movent gressus thiasisque Ismenia buxus
 signa dedit, quater aera Rheae, quater enthea pulsant
 155 terga manu variosque quater legere recursus. 829
 tunc thyrsos pariterque levant pariterque reponunt
 multiplicantque gradum, modo quo Curetes in actu
 quoque pii Samothraces eunt, nunc obvia versae
 pectine Amazonio, modo quo citat orbe Lacaenas
 160 Delia plaudentesque suis intorquet Amyclis.
 tunc vero, tunc praecipue manifestus Achilles 835
 nec servare vices nec bracchia iungere curat ;
 tunc molles gressus, tunc aspernatur amictus
 plus solito rumpitque choros et plurima turbat.
 165 sic indignantem thyrsos acceptaque matris
 tympana iam tristes spectabant Penthea Thebae. 840
 Solvuntur laudata cohors repetuntque paterna
 limina, ubi in mediae iamdudum sedibus aulae
 munera virgineos visus tractura locarat

^a *i.e.*, Theban (from the river Ismenos), *i.e.* Bacchic.

^b Here = Cybele, worshipped by the Corybantes with very noisy rites.

^c The Curetes were priests of Jupiter (Zeus) in Crete ; the Samothracians celebrated mysteries in honour of the Cabiri.

^d "pecten" was the name of a dance in which, one may gather, two opposing lines met and passed through each other.

^e Pentheus, king of Thebes, tried to put down the Bacchus-worship of which his mother Agave was a votary. "tristes,"

Scarce had day dawned, and already the son of Tydeus accompanied by Agyrtes was present bringing the appointed gifts. The maids of Seyros too went forth from their chamber and advanced to display their dances and promised rites to the honoured strangers. Brilliant before the rest is the princess with Pelides her companion: even as beneath the rocks of Aetna in Sicily Diana and bold Pallas and the consort of the Elysian monarch shine forth among the nymphs of Enna. Already they begin to move, and the Ismenian ^a pipe gives the signal to the dancers; four times they beat the cymbals of Rhea, ^b four times the maddening drums, four times they trace their manifold windings. Then together they raise and lower their wands, and complicate their steps, now in such fashion as the Curetes and devout Samothracians use, ^c now turning to face each other in the Amazonian comb, ^d now in the ring wherein the Delian sets the Laconian girls a-dancing, and whirls them shouting her praises into her own Amyclae. Then indeed, then above all is Achilles manifest, caring neither to keep his turn nor to join arms; then more than ever does he scorn the delicate step, the womanly attire, and breaks the dance and mightily disturbs the scene. Even so did Thebes already sorrowing behold Pentheus spurning the wands and the timbrels that his mother welcomed. ^e

The troop disperses amid applause, and they seek again their father's threshold, where in the central chamber of the palace the son of Tydeus had long since set out gifts that should attract maidens' eyes, the mark of kindly welcome and the guerdon as though with apprehension of his fate (he was torn in pieces by his own mother in her frenzy).

STATIUS

- 170 Tydides, signum hospitii pretiumque laboris :
hortaturque legant, nec rex placidissimus arcet. 845
heu simplex nimiumque rudis, qui callida dona
Graiorumque dolos variumque ignoret Ulixem !
hic aliae, quas sexus iners naturaque ducit,
175 aut teretes thyrsos aut respondentia temptant
tympana, gemmatis aut nectunt tempora limbis : 850
arma vident magnoque putant donata parenti.
at ferus Aeacides, radiantem ut cominus orbem,
caelatum pugnas—saevis et forte rubebat
180 bellorum maculis—adclinem conspicit hastae,
infremuit torsitque genas, et fronte relicta 855
surrexere comae ; nusquam mandata parentis,
nusquam occultus amor, totoque in pectore Troia est.
ut leo, materno cum raptus ab ubere mores
185 accepit pectique iubas hominemque vereri
edidicit nullasque rapi nisi iussus in iras, 860
si semel adverso radiavit lumine ferrum,
eiurata fides domitorque inimicus : in illum
prima fames, timidoque pudet servisse¹ magistro.
190 ut vero accessit propius luxque aemula vultum
reddidit et simili talem se vidit in auro, 865
horruit erubuitque simul. tunc acer Ulixes
admotus lateri summissa voce : “ quid haeres ?
scimus,” ait, “ tu semiferi Chironis alumnus,
195 tu caeli pelagique nepos, te Dorica classis,
te tua suspensis exspectat Graecia signis, 870
ipsaque iam dubiis nutant tibi Pergama muris.
heia, abrumpe moras : sine perfida palleat Ide,
et iuuet haec audire patrem, pudeatque dolosam

¹ pudet servisse *EQ* : iuuet servire *P* : rubet servire *Krohn*.
572

of their toil; he bids them choose, nor does the peaceful monarch say them nay. Alas! how simple and untaught, who knew not the cunning of the gifts nor Grecian fraud nor Ulysses' many wiles! Thereupon the others, prompted by nature and their ease-loving sex, try the shapely wands or the timbrels that answer to the blow, and fasten jewelled bands around their temples; the weapons they behold, but think them a gift to their mighty sire. But the bold son of Aeacus no sooner saw before him the gleaming shield enchased with battle-scenes—by chance too it shone red with the fierce stains of war—and leaning against the spear, than he shouted loud and rolled his eyes, and his hair rose up from his brow; forgotten were his mother's words, forgotten his secret love, and Troy fills all his breast. As a lion, torn from his mother's dugs, submits to be tamed and lets his mane be combed, and learns to have awe of man and not to fly into a rage save when bidden, yet if but once the steel has glittered in his sight, his fealty is forsworn, and his tamer becomes his foe: against him he first ravens, and feels shame to have served a timid lord. But when he came nearer, and the emulous brightness gave back his features and he saw himself mirrored in the reflecting gold, he thrilled and blushed together. Then quickly went Ulysses to his side and whispered: "Why dost thou hesitate? We know thee, thou art the pupil of the half-beast Chiron, thou art the grandson of the sky and sea; thee the Dorian fleet, thee thy own Greece awaits with standards uplifted for the march, and the very walls of Pergamum totter and sway for thee to overturn. Up! delay no more! Let perfidious Ida grow pale, let thy father delight to hear these

STATIUS

- 200 sic pro te timuisse Thetin." iam pectus amictu
 laxabat, cum grande tuba sic iussus Agyrtes 875
 insonuit : fugiunt disiectis undique donis
 implorantque patrem commotaque proelia credunt.
 illius intactae cecidere a pectore vestes,
 205 iam clipeus breviorque manu consumitur hasta,
 —mira fides !—Ithacumque umeris excedere visus 880
 Aetolumque ducem : tantum subita arma calorque
 Martius horrenda confundit luce penates.
 immanisque gradu, ceu protinus Hectora poscens,
 210 stat medius trepidante domo : Peleaque virgo
 quaeritur. ast alia plangebatur parte resectos 885
 Deidamia dolos, cuius cum grandia primum
 lamenta et notas accepit pectore voces,
 haesit et occulto virtus infracta calore est.
 215 demittit clipeum regisque ad lumina versus
 attonitum factis inopinaque monstra paventem, 890
 sicut erat, nudis Lycomedem adfatur in armis :
 " me tibi, care pater,—dubium dimitte pavorem !—
 me dedit alma Thetis : te pridem tanta manebat
 220 gloria ; quaesitum Danais tu mittis Achillem,
 gratior et magno, si fas dixisset, parente 895
 et dulci Chirone mihi. sed corda parumper
 huc advertite libens atque has bonus accipe voces :
 Peleus te nato socerum et Thetis hospita iungunt,
 225 adlegantque suos utroque a sanguine divos.
 unam virgineo natarum ex agmine poscunt : 900

^a "consumitur," a vivid use of the word ; "is consumed, or used up by" his hand, which is too mighty for it.

tidings, and guileful Thetis feel shame to have so feared for thee." Already was he stripping his body of the robes, when Agyrtes, so commanded, blew a great blast upon the trumpet : the gifts are scattered, and they flee and fall with prayers before their sire and believe that battle is joined. But from his breast the raiment fell without his touching, already the shield and puny spear are lost in the grasp of his hand ^a—marvellous to believe!—and he seemed to surpass by head and shoulders the Ithacan and the Aetolian chief : with a sheen so awful does the sudden blaze of arms and martial fire dazzle the palace-hall. Mighty of limb, as though forthwith summoning Hector to the fray, he stands in the midst of the panic-stricken house : and the daughter of Peleus is sought in vain. But Deidamia in another chamber bewailed the discovery of the fraud, and as soon as he heard her loud lament and recognized the voice that he knew so well, he quailed and his spirit was broken by his hidden passion. He dropped the shield, and turning to the monarch's face, while Lycomedes is dazed by the scene and distraught by the strange portent, just as he was, in naked panoply of arms, he thus bespeaks him : " 'Twas I, dear father, I whom bounteous Thetis gave thee—dismiss thy anxious fears!—long since did this high renown await thee ; 'tis thou who wilt send Achilles, long sought for, to the Greeks, more welcome to me than my mighty sire—if it is right so to speak—and than beloved Chiron. But, if thou wilt, give me thy mind awhile, and of thy favour hear these words : Peleus and Thetis thy guest make thee the father-in-law of their son, and recount their kindred deities on either side ; they demand one of thy train of virgin

STATIUS

dasne ? an gens humilis tibi degeneresque videmur ?
 non renuis ; iunge ergo manus et concipe foedus
 atque ignosce tuis. tacito iam cognita furto
 230 Deidamia mihi ; quid enim his obstare lacertis,
 qua potuit nostras possessa repellere vires¹ ? 905
 me luere ista iube ; pono arma et reddo Pelasgis
 et maneo. quid triste fremis ? quid lumina mutas ?
 iam socer es ” — natum ante pedes prostravit et addit :
 235 “ iamque avus : immitis quotiens iterabitur ensis !
 turba sumus.” tunc et Danai per sacra fidemque 910
 hospitii blandusque precum compellit Ulixes.
 ille, etsi carae comperta iniuria natae
 et Thetidis mandata movent prodique videtur
 240 depositum tam grande deae, tamen obvius ire
 tot metuit fatis Argivaque bella morari ; 915
 fac velit : ipsam illic matrem sprevisset Achilles.
 nec tamen abnuerit genero se iungere tali :
 vincitur. areanis effert pudibunda tenebris
 245 Deidamia gradum, veniae nec protinus amens
 credit et opposito genitorem placet Achille. 920
 Mittitur Haemoniam, magnis qui Pelea factis
 impleat et classem comitesque in proelia poscat.
 nec non et geminas regnator Scyrius alnos
 250 deducit genero viresque excusat Achivis.
 tunc epulis consumpta dies, tandemque resectum 925
 foedus et intrepidus nox conscia iungit amantes.

¹ repellere vires *Kohlmann* : repellere vir *P* : evadere flammam ω .

^a *i.e.*, there was not only Achilles for Lycomedes to slay, but his daughter and his grandson also.

daughters : dost thou give her ? or seem we a mean and coward race ? Thou dost not refuse. Join then our hands, and make the treaty, and pardon thy own kin. Already hath Deidamia been known to me in stolen secrecy ; for how could she have resisted these arms of mine, how once in my embrace repel my might ? Bid me atone that deed : I lay down these weapons and restore them to the Pelasgians, and I remain here. Why these angry cries ? Why is thy aspect changed ? Already art thou my father-in-law ”—he placed the child before his feet, and added : “ and already a grandsire ! How often shall the pitiless sword be plied ! We are a multitude !^a ” Then the Greeks too and Ulysses with his persuasive prayer entreat by the holy rites and the sworn word of hospitality. He, though moved by the discovery of his dear daughter’s wrong and the command of Thetis, though seeming to betray the goddess and so grave a trust, yet fears to oppose so many destinies and delay the Argive war—even were he fain, Achilles had spurned even his mother then. Nor is he unwilling to take unto himself so great a son-in-law : he is won. Deidamia comes shamefast from her dark privacy, nor in her despair believes at first his pardon, and puts forward Achilles to appease her sire.

A messenger is sent to Haemonia to give Peleus full tidings of these great events, and to demand ships and comrades for the war. Moreover, the Scyrian prince launches two vessels for his son-in-law, and makes excuse to the Achaeans for so poor a show of strength. Then the day was brought to its end with feasting, and at last the bond was made known to all, and conscious night joined the now fearless lovers.

STATIUS

- Illius ante oculos nova bella et Xanthus et Ide
Argolicaeque rates atque ipsas cogitat undas
- 255 auroramque timet : cara cervice mariti
fusa novi lacrimas iam solvit et occupat artus. 930
- “ aspiciamne iterum meque hoc in pectore ponam,
Aeacide ? rursusque tuos dignabere partus ?
an tumidus Teucrosque lares et capta reportans
- 260 Pergama virgineae noles meminisse latebrae ?
quid precer, heu ! timeamve prius ? quidve anxia
mandem, 935
- cui vix flere vacat ? modo te nox una deditque
inviditque mihi ! thalamis haec tempora nostris ?
hiene est liber hymen ? o dulcia furta dolique,
- 265 o timor ! abripitur miserae permissus Achilles.
i—neque enim tantos ausim revocare paratus—, 940
i cautus, nec vana Thetin timuisse memento,
i felix nosterque redi ! nimis improba posco :
iam te sperabunt lacrimis planctuque decorae
- 270 Troades optabuntque tuis dare colla catenis
et patriam pensare toris aut ipsa placebit 945
Tyndaris, incesta nimium laudata rapina.
ast egomet primae puerilis fabula culpae
narrabor famulis aut dissimulata latebo.
- 275 quin age, duc comitem ; cur non ego Martia tecum
signa feram ? tu thyrsa¹ manu Baccheaque mecum
sacra, quod infelix non credet Troia, tulisti. 951
attamen hunc, quem maesta mihi solacia linqvis,
- ¹ thyrsa *P* : pensa *ω*.

^a *i.e.*, Deidamia's.

Before her^a eyes new wars and Xanthus and Ida pass, and the Argolic fleet, and she imagines the very waves and fears the coming of the dawn; she flings herself about her new lord's beloved neck, and at last clasping his limbs gives way to tears: "Shall I see thee again, and lay myself on this breast of thine, O son of Aeacus? Wilt thou deign once more to look upon thy offspring? Or wilt thou proudly bring back spoils of captured Pergamum and Teucrian homes and wish to forget where thou didst hide thee as a maid? What should I entreat, or alas! what rather fear? How can I in my anxiety lay a behest on thee, who have scarce time to weep? One single night has given and grudged thee to me! Is this the season for our espousals? Is this free wedlock? Ah! those stolen sweets! that cunning fraud! Ah! how I fear! Achilles is given to me only to be torn away. Go! for I would not dare to stay such mighty preparations; go, and be cautious, and remember that the fears of Thetis were not vain; go, and good luck be with thee, and come back mine! Yet too bold is my request: soon the fair Trojan dames will sigh for thee with tears and beat their breasts, and pray that they may offer their necks to thy fetters, and weigh thy couch against their homes, or Tyn-daris^b herself will please thee, too much belauded for her incestuous rape. But I shall be a story to thy henchmen, the tale of a lad's first fault, or I shall be disowned and forgotten. Nay, come, take me as thy comrade; why should I not carry the standards of Mars with thee? Thou didst carry with me the wands and holy things of Bacchus, though ill-fated Troy believe it not. Yet this babe, whom thou dost

^b Helen, daughter of Tyndareus.

STATIUS

hunc saltem sub corde tene et concede precanti
280 hoc solum, pariat ne quid tibi barbara coniunx,
ne qua det indignos Thetidi captiva nepotes." 955
taliam dicentem non ipse immotus Achilles
solatur iuratque fidem iurataque fletu
spondet et ingentes famulas captumque reversus
285 Ilion et Phrygiae promittit munera gazae.
inrita ventosae rapiebant verba procellae. 960

leave as my sad solace—keep him at least within thy heart, and grant this one request, that no foreign wife bear thee a child, that no captive woman give unworthy grandsons to Thetis.” As thus she speaks, Achilles, moved to compassion himself, comforts her, and gives her his sworn oath, and pledges it with tears, and promises her on his return tall handmaidens and spoils of Ilium and gifts of Phrygian treasure. The fickle breezes swept his words unfulfilled away.

LIBER II

II Exiit implicitum tenebris umentibus orbem
 Oceano prolata dies, genitorque coruscae
 lucis adhuc hebetem vicina nocte levabat
 290 et nondum excusso rorantem lampada ponto.
 et iam punicea nudatum pectora palla 5
 insignemque ipsis, quae prima invaserat, armis
 Aeaciden—quippe aura vocat cognataque suadent
 aequora—prospectant cuncti iuvenemque ducemque
 295 nil ausi meminisse pavent ; sic omnia visu
 mutatus rediit, ceu numquam Scyria passus 10
 litora Peliacoque rates escendat ab antro.
 tunc ex more deis—ita namque monebat Ulixes—
 aequoribusque austrisque litat fluctuque sub ipso
 300 caeruleum regem tauro veneratur avumque
 Nerea : vittata genetrix placata iuvenca. 15
 hic spumante salo iaciens tumida exta profatur :
 “ paruimus, genetrix, quamquam haud toleranda
 iubebas¹,
 paruimus nimium : bella ad Troiana ratesque
 305 Argolicas quaesitus eo.” sic orsus et alno 20
 insiluit penitusque noto stridente propinquis
 abripitur terris : et iam ardua ducere nubes
 incipit et longo Scyros discedere ponto.

¹ iubebas ω : puberis P : iuberes E : pararis Klotz.

BOOK II

DAY arising from Ocean set free the world from dank
enfolding shades, and the father of the flashing light
upraised his torch still dimmed by the neighbouring
gloom and moist with sea-water not yet shaken off.
And now all behold Aeacides, his shoulders stripped
of the scarlet robe, and glorious in those very arms
he first had seized—for the wind is calling and his
kindred seas are urging him—and quake before the
youthful chieftain, not daring to remember aught ;
so wholly changed to the sight hath he come back,
as though he had ne'er experienced the shores of
Scyros, but were embarking from the Pelian cave.
Then duly—for so Ulysses counselled—he does sacrifice
to the gods and the waters and south winds, and
venerates with a bull the cerulean king below the
waves and Nereus his grandsire : his mother is
appeased with a garlanded heifer. Thereupon casting
the swollen entrails on the salt foam he addresses
her : “ Mother, I have obeyed thee, though thy
commands were hard to bear ; too obedient have I
been : now they demand me, and I go to the Trojan
war and the Argolic fleet.” So speaking he leapt
into the bark, and was swept away far from the
neighbourhood of land by the whistling south wind ;
already lofty Scyros begins to gather mist about her,
and to fade from sight over the long expanse of sea.

STATIUS

Turre procul summa lacrimis comitata sororum
 310 commissumque¹ tenens et habentem nomina Pyrrhum
 pendebat coniunx oculisque in carbasa fixis 25
 ibat et ipsa freto, et puppem iam sola videbat.
 ille quoque obliquos dilecta ad moenia vultus
 declinat viduamque domum gemitusque relictæ
 315 cogitat : occultus sub corde renascitur ardor
 datque locum virtus. sentit Laertius heros 30
 maerentem et placidis adgressus flectere dictis :
 “ tene,” inquit, “ magnæ vastator debite Troiæ,
 quem Danaæ classes, quem divum oracula poscunt,
 320 erectumque manet reserato in limine Bellum,
 callida femineo genetrix violavit amictu 35
 commisitque illis tam grandia furta latebris
 speravitque fidem ? nimis o suspensa nimisque
 mater ! an hæc tacita virtus torperet in umbra,
 325 quæ vix audito litui clangore refugit
 et Thetin et comites et quos suppresserat ignes ? 40
 nec nostrum est, quod in arma venis sequerisque
 precantes :
 venisses— ” dixit, quem talibus occupat heros
 Acacius : “ longum resides exponere causas
 330 maternumque nefas ; hoc excusabitur ense
 Scyros et indecores, fatorum crimina, cultus. 45
 tu potius, dum lene fretum zephyroque fruuntur
 carbasa, quæ Danais tanti primordia belli,
 ede : libet iustas hinc sumere protinus iras.”
 335 hic Ithacus paulum repetito longius orsu :
 “ fertur in Hectorea, si talia credimus, Ida² 50
 electus formæ certamina solvere pastor

¹ commissum *P* : confessum ω .

² Ida *P* : ora ω .

Far away on the summit of a tower with weeping sisters round her his wife leaned forth, holding her precious charge, who bore the name of Pyrrhus, and with her eyes fixed on the canvas sailed herself upon the sea, and all alone still saw the vessel. He too turned his gaze aside to the walls he held dear, he thinks upon the widowed home and the sobs of her he had left: the hidden passion glows again within his heart, and martial ire gives place. The Laertian hero perceives him sorrowing, and draws nigh to influence him with gentle words: "Was it thou, O destined destroyer of great Troy, whom Danaan fleets and divine oracles are demanding, and War aroused is awaiting with unbarred portals—was it thou whom a crafty mother profaned with feminine robes, and trusted yonder hiding-place with so great a secret, and hoped the trust was sure? O too anxious, O too true a mother! Could such valour lie inert and hidden, that scarce hearing the trumpet-blast fled from Thetis and companions and the heart's unspoken passion? Nor is it due to us that thou comest to the war, and compliest with our prayers; thou wouldst have come—," he spoke, and thus the Aeacian hero takes up the word: " 'Twere long to set forth the causes of my tarrying and my mother's crime; this sword shall make excuse for Scyros and my dishonourable garb, the reproach of destiny. Do thou rather, while the sea is peaceful and the sails enjoy the zephyr, tell how the Danaans began so great a war: I would fain draw straightway from thy words a righteous anger." Then the Ithacan, tracing far back the beginning of the tale: "A shepherd, they say—if we believe such things—was chosen in Hector's domain of Ida to end a strife of

STATIUS

- sollicitas tenuisse deas nec torva Minervae
 ora nec aetherii sociam rectoris amico
 340 lumine, sed solam nimium vidisse Dionen. 55
 atque adeo lis illa tuis exorta sub antris
 concilio superum, dum Pelea dulce maritat
 Pelion, et nostris iam tunc promitteris armis.
 ira quatit victas ; petit exitialia iudex
 345 praemia : raptori faciles monstrantur Amyclae. 60
 ille Phrygas lucos, matris penetralia caedit
 turrigerae veritasque¹ solo procumbere pinus
 praecipitat terrasque freto delatus Achaeas
 hospitis Atridae—pudet heu miseretque potentis
 350 Europae !—spoliat thalamos, Helenaque superbus 65
 navigat et captos ad Pergama devehit Argos.
 inde dato passim varias rumore per urbes,
 undique inexciti sibi quisque et sponte coimus
 ultores : quis enim illicitis genialia rumpi
 355 pacta dolis facilique trahi conubia raptu 70
 ceu pecus armentumve aut viles messis acervos
 perferat ? haec etiam fortes iactura moveret.
 non tulit insidias divum imperiosus Agenor
 mugitusque sacros et magno numine vectam
 360 quaesiit Europen aspernatusque Tonantem est 75
 ut generum ; raptam Scythico de litore prolem
 non tulit Aeetes ferroque et classe secutus
 semideos reges et ituram in sidera puppim :
 nos Phryga semivirum portus et litora circum
 365 Argolica incesta volitantem puppe feremus ?

¹ veritasque *P* : vetitasque ω .

^a Medea. The Argo was set in heaven as a constellation by Pallas.

beauty, and while he kept the goddesses in anxious doubt looked not with friendly eye upon Minerva's frowning countenance nor on the consort of the heavenly ruler, but gazed overmuch on Dione alone. And verily that quarrel arose in thy own glades, at a gathering of the gods, when pleasant Pelion made marriage-feast for Peleus, and thou even then wert promised to our armament. Wrath thrills the vanquished ones : the judge demands his fateful reward, and compliant Amyclae is shown to the ravisher. He cuts down the Phrygian groves, the secret haunts of the turret-crowned mother, and flings down pines that fear to fall to earth, and borne o'er the sea to Achaean lands he plunders the marriage-chamber of his host the son of Atreus—ah ! shame and pity on proud Europe !—and exulting in Helen puts to sea and brings home to Pergamum the spoils of Argos. Then, as the rumours spread far and wide through the cities, of our own will, none urging us, we gather, each for himself, from every side for vengeance ; for who could endure the unlawful, crafty breaking of the marriage-bond, or a consort carried off in unresisted rape, as though a beast of the flock or herd, or some poor heap of harvest-corn ? Such a loss would shake even a valiant heart. Masterful Agenor endured not the treachery of the gods, but went in quest of sacred lowings and Europa riding on a mighty god, and scorned the Thunderer as a son-in-law ; Aeëtes endured not the rape of his daughter ^a from the Scythian shore, but with ships and steel pursued the princes and the vessel fated to join the stars : shall we endure a Phrygian eunuch hovering about the coasts and harbours of Argos with his incestuous bark ? Are our horses and men so utterly

STATIUS

usque adeo nusquam armâ et equi, fretaque inuia
 Grais ? 80

quid si nunc aliquis patriis rapturus ab oris
 Deidamian eat viduaque e sede revellat
 attonitam et magni clamantem nomen Achillis ? '

370 illius ad capulum rediit manus ac simul ingens
 impulit ora rubor : tacuit contentus Ulixes. 85

Excipit Oenides : " quin, o dignissima caeli
 progenies, ritusque tuos elementaque primae
 indolis et, valida mox accedente iuventa,

375 quae solitus laudum tibi semina pandere Chiron,
 virtutisque aditus, quas membra augere per artes, 90
 quas animum, sociis multumque faventibus edis ?
 sit pretium longas penitus quaesisse per undas
 Scyron et his primos arma ostendisse lacertis.¹ "

380 Quem pigeat sua facta loqui ? tamen ille modeste
 incohat, ambiguus paulum propiorque coacto : 95

" dicor et in teneris et adhuc reptantibus² annis,
 Thessalus ut rigido senior me monte recepit,
 non ullos ex more cibos hausisse nec almis

385 uberibus satiasset famem, sed spissa leonum
 viscera semianimisque lupae traxisse medullas. 100

haec mihi prima Ceres, haec laeti munera Bacchi,
 sic dabat ille pater. mox ire per inuia secum
 lustra gradu maiore trahens visisque docebat

390 adridere feris nec fracta ruentibus undis
 saxa nec ad vastae trepidare silentia silvae. 105

iam tunc arma manu, iam tunc cervice pharetrae,

¹ his primos arma ostendisse lacertis *Wilamowitz* : his primum arma ostendisse lacertis *P* : armos (is) tendisse *QKC* : primum me arma ost. *Schenkel*.

² reptantibus *P* : restantibus *ω* : crescentibus *edd*.

^a *i.e.*, Chiron.

vanished? Are the seas so impassable to Greeks? What if someone now were to carry off Deidamia from her native shores, and tear her from her lonely chamber in dire dismay and crying on the name of great Achilles?" His hand flew to the sword-hilt, and a dark flush surged over his face: Ulysses was silent and content.

Then spoke Oenides: "Nay, O thou worthiest progeny of heaven, tell us, thy admiring friends, of the ways in which thy spirit first was trained, and as the vigour of thy youth increased what stirring themes of glory Chiron was wont to recount to thee, and how thy valour grew, by what arts he made strong thy limbs or fired thy courage; let it be worth while to have sought Scyros over long leagues of sea, and to have first shown weapons to those arms of thine."

Who would find it hard to tell of his own deeds? Yet he begins modestly, somewhat uncertain and more like one compelled: "Even in my years of crawling infancy, when the Thessalian sage received me on his stark mountain-side, I am said to have devoured no wonted food, nor to have sated my hunger at the nourishing breast, but to have gnawed the tough entrails of lions and the bowels of a half-slain she-wolf. That was my first bread, that the bounty of joyous Bacchus, in such wise did that father of mine^a feed me. Then he taught me to go with him through pathless deserts, dragging me on with mighty stride, and to laugh at sight of the wild beasts, nor tremble at the shattering of rocks by rushing torrents or at the silence of the lonely forest. Already at that time weapons were in my hand and quivers on my shoulders,

STATIUS

et ferri properatus amor durataque multo
 sole geluque cutis ; tenero nec fluxa cubili
 395 membra, sed ingenti saxum commune magistro.
 vix mihi bisenos annorum torserat orbis 110
 vita rudis, volucres cum iam praevertere cervos
 et Lapithas cogebat equos praemissaque cursu
 tela sequi ; saepe ipse gradu me praepete Chiron,
 400 dum velox aetas, campis admissus agebat
 omnibus, exhaustumque vago per gramina passu 115
 laudabat gaudens atque in sua terga levabat.
 saepe etiam primo fluvii torpore iubebat
 ire supra glaciemque levi non frangere planta.
 405 hoc puerile decus. quid nunc tibi proelia dicam
 silvarum et saevo vacuos iam murmure saltus ? 120
 numquam ille imbelles Ossaea per avia dammas
 sectari aut timidas passus me cuspide lyncas
 sternere, sed tristes turbare cubilibus ursos
 410 fulmineosque sues, et sicubi maxima tigris
 aut seducta iugis fetae spelunca leaenae. 125
 ipse sedens vasto facta expectabat in antro,
 si sparsus nigro remearem sanguine ; nec me
 ante nisi inspectis admisit ad oscula telis.
 415 iamque et ad ensiferos vicina pube tumultus
 aptabar, nec me ulla ferī Mavortis imago 130
 praeteriit. didici, quo Paeones arma rotatu,
 quo Macetae sua gaesa citent, quo turbine contum
 Sauromates falcemque Getes arcumque Gelonus
 420 tenderet et flexae Balearicus actor habenae

^a "admissus," *cf.* the common phrase "admisso equo."

the love of steel grew apace within me, and my skin was hardened by much sun and frost; nor were my limbs weakened by soft couches, but I shared the hard rock with my master's mighty frame. Scarce had my raw youth turned the wheel of twice six years, when already he made me outpace swift hinds and Lapith steeds and running overtake the flung dart; often Chiron himself, while yet he was swift of foot, chased me at full gallop^a with headlong speed o'er all the plains, and when I was exhausted by roaming over the meads he praised me joyously and hoisted me upon his back. Often too in the first freezing of the streams he would bid me go upon them with light step nor break the ice. These were my boyhood's glories. Why now should I tell thee of the woodland battles and of the glades that know my fierce shout no more? Never would he suffer me to follow unwarlike does through the pathless glens of Ossa, or lay low timid lynxes with my spear, but only to drive angry bears from their resting-places, and boars with lightning thrust; or if anywhere a mighty tiger lurked or a lioness with her cubs in some secret lair upon the mountain-side, he himself, seated in his vast cave, awaited my exploits, if perchance I should return bespattered with dark blood; nor did he admit me to his embrace before he had scanned my weapons. And already I was being prepared for the armed tumults of the neighbouring folk, and no fashion of savage warfare passed me by. I learnt how the Paeonians whirl and fling their darts and the Macetae their javelins, with how fierce a rush the Sarmatian plies his pike and the Getan his falchion. how the Gelonian draws his bow, and how the Balearic wielder of the pliant

STATIUS

- quo suspensa trahens libraret vulnera tortu 135
 inclusumque suo distingueret aera gyro.
 vix memorem cunctos, etsi bene gessimus, actus.
 nunc docet ingentes saltu me iungere fossas,
 425 nunc caput aerii scandentem prendere montis,
 quo fugitur per plana gradu, simulacraque pugnae 140
 excipere immissos scutato¹ umbone molares
 ardentisque errare² casas peditemque volantes
 sistere quadriiugos. memini, rapidissimus ibat
 430 imbris adsiduis pastus nivibusque solutis
 Sperchios vivasque trabes et saxa ferebat : 145
 cum me ille immissum, qua saevior impetus undae,
 stare iubet contra tumidosque repellere fluctus,
 quos vix ipse gradu totiens obstante tulisset.
 435 stabam equidem, sed me referebat concitus amnis
 et latae caligo fugae : ferus ille minari 150
 desuper incumbens verbisque urgere pudorem.
 nec nisi iussus abi : sic me sublimis agebat
 gloria, nec duri tanto sub teste labores.
 440 nam procul Oebalios in nubila condere discos
 et liquidam nodare palen et spargere caestus, 155
 ludus erat requiesque mihi ; nec maior in istis
 sudor, Apollineo quam fila sonantia plectro
 cum quaterem priscosque virum mirarer honores.
 445 quin etiam sucos atque auxiliantia morbis
 gramina, quo nimius staret medicamine sanguis, 160
 quid faciat somnos, quid hiantia vulnera claudat,
 quae ferro cohibenda lues, quae cederet herbis,

¹ scutato *P* : curvato ω .

² errare *P* : intrare ω .

^a Cf. *Theb.* iv. 67.

^b *i.e.*, he had four legs to withstand the torrent.

^c See note on *Silv.* v. 3. 53 ; but it may simply mean Spartan, as being a sport much practised in Sparta.

thong keeps the missile swinging round with balanced motion, and as he swings it marks out a circle in the air.^a Scarce could I recount all my doings, successful though they were ; now he instructs me to span huge dykes by leaping, now to climb and grasp the airy mountain-peak, with what stride to run upon the level, how to catch flung stones in mimic battle on my shielded arm, to pass through burning houses, and to check flying four-horse teams on foot. Spercheus, I remember, was flowing with rapid current, fed full with constant rains and melted snows and carrying on its flood boulders and living trees, when he sent me in, there where the waves rolled fiercest, and bade me stand against them and hurl back the swelling billows that he himself could scarce have borne, though he stood to face them with so many a limb.^b I strove to stand, but the violence of the stream and the dizzy panic of the broad spate forced me to give ground ; he loomed o'er me from above and fiercely threatened, and flung taunts to shame me. Nor did I depart till he gave me word, so far did the lofty love of fame constrain me, and my toils were not too hard with such a witness. For to fling the Oebalian^c quoit far out of sight into the clouds, or to practise the holds of the sleek wrestling-bout, and to scatter blows with the boxing-gloves were sport and rest to me : nor laboured I more therein than when I struck with my quill the sounding strings, or told the wondrous fame of heroes of old. Also did he teach me of juices and the grasses that succour disease, what remedy will staunch too fast a flow of blood, what will lull to sleep, what will close gaping wounds ; what plague should be checked by the knife, what will yield to herbs ; and he implanted

STATIUS

edocuit monitusque sacrae sub pectore fixit
 450 iustitiae, qua Peliacis dare iura verenda
 gentibus atque suos solitus pacare biformes. 165
 haec hactenus annorum, comites, elementa meorum
 et memini et meminisse iuvat : scit cetera mater." ¹

¹ *After line 167 is added in E and some other MSS. in a
 fifteenth-century hand aura silet, puppis currens ad litora
 venit.*

ACHILLEID, II. 163-167

deep within my heart the precepts of divine justice, whereby he was wont to give revered laws to the tribes that dwelt on Pelion, and tame his own twy-formed folk. So much do I remember, friends, of the training of my earliest years, and sweet is their remembrance ; the rest my mother knows."

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