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MACAULAY'S LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME
AND OTHER POEMS

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PREFACE.

THIS edition of the *Lays of Ancient Rome* contains also *The Armada*, *Ivy*, and *The Battle of Naseby*, the two former of which Macaulay himself printed with the *Lays*

The full text of the author's long and learned Preface, with its copious illustrations and numerous foot-notes, appears to me unnecessary for the purpose of this volume. I have accordingly introduced a summary of it, comprising all that seems requisite, into my General Introduction.

W. T. W.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY was born at Rothley ^{Life} Temple, Leicestershire, October 25, 1800. Educated at Cambridge, he became fellow of Trinity College in 1822, and was called to the Bar two years later. In 1830 he entered Parliament, and four years later he went out to India as Legal Member of the Supreme Council, returning to England in 1838. In the same year he started for a tour in Italy, and some extracts from his Italian letters are interesting as bearing upon the *Lays*. Thus he writes from Florence "I meditated some verses for my ballad of *Romulus*, but made only one stanza to my satisfaction." In another letter "the white oxen of Clitumnus" and "the pale line of the river" *Nar* occur. Again, from Rome he writes: "I then went towards the river, to the spot where the old Pons Sublicius stood, and looked about to see how my Horatius agreed with the topography. Pretty well; but his house must be on Mount Palatine, for he would never see Mount Cœlius from the spot where he fought." In 1839 he was made

Secretary of War, and in 1840 was elected Member of Parliament for Edinburgh. In 1842 he published his *Lays of Ancient Rome*, which were soon followed by a collected edition of his *Essays*. In 1846 he was appointed Paymaster to the Forces, with a seat in the Cabinet, but lost his seat for Edinburgh in 1847 on account of his opinions on the subject of the grant to Maynooth. His constituents, however, subsequently repented their action, and returned him free of expense in 1852, and he continued to represent them until he was raised to the peerage in 1857, under the title of Baron Macaulay of Rothley. His health, however, now began to fail, and he henceforth mainly devoted himself to writing his *History of England*, four volumes of which appeared during his life, and a fifth after his death, which took place at Holly Lodge, Camden Hill, in his sixtieth year, December 28, 1859. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, January 9, 1860.

Existence of
the Roman
ballad-poetry

These Ballads deal with the early, legendary history of Rome, a history which is no doubt to a great extent fabulous, but which is far more poetical than anything else in Latin. "The loves of the Vestal and the God of War," writes Macaulay, "the cradle laid among the reeds of Tiber, the fig-tree, the she-wolf, the shepherd's cabin, the recognition, the fratricide, the rape of the Sabines, the death of Tarpeia, the fall of Hostus Hostilius, the struggle of Mettus Curtius through the marsh, the women rushing with torn raiment and dishevelled hair between their fathers and their husbands, the nightly meetings of Numa and the Nymph by the well in the sacred grove, the fight of the three Romans and the three Albans, the

purchase of the Sibylline book, the crime of Tullia, the simulated madness of Brutus, the ambiguous reply of the Delphian oracle to the Tarquins, the wrongs of Lucretia, the heroic actions of Horatius Cocles, of Scævola, and of Clœlia, the battle of Regillus won by the aid of Castor and Pollux, the defence of Cremera, the touching story of Coriolanus, the still more touching story of Virginia, the wild legend about the draining of the Alban lake, the combat between Valerius Corvus and the gigantic Gaul, are among the many instances which will at once suggest themselves to every reader."

These stories still live in the epic poem of Vergil, and in the scarcely less poetic prose of Livy's early history, and, while the Latin literature that has come down to us is fashioned almost exclusively on Greek models, it appears certain that there was an earlier Latin literature, a literature truly Latin, which has wholly perished, and which abounded in metrical romances, such as are found in early times amongst all nations of intelligence.

We know from Tacitus that the ancient Germans possessed songs as memorials of the past; and from Lucan that the brave actions of the ancient Gauls were commemorated in the verses of the Bards. The exploits of Athelstane and of Canute were similarly preserved, and the Welsh harpers have handed down a faint and doubtful memory of Arthur. Numerous similar instances could be quoted, but enough has been said to show that it is agreeable to general experience that, at a certain stage in the progress of society, ballad-poetry should flourish.

is appear- At a subsequent stage however, with the advance of knowledge and change of manners, the songs of the old minstrels are neglected. Their phraseology becomes antiquated, and their versification seems uncouth. Hence we cannot wonder that the ballads of Rome should have altogether disappeared—a fate which those of our own country and of Spain narrowly escaped. Similarly Sir Walter Scott was but just in time to save the precious relics of the Minstrelsy of the Border. In Germany, the lay of the Nibelungs, long utterly forgotten, was printed from an old manuscript for the first time in the eighteenth century.

That the early Romans should have had ballad-poetry, and that it should have perished, is therefore not strange. But we have, besides, direct evidence on the subject. The Roman poet, Ennius, who flourished in the time of the second Punic War, speaks of verses which the Fauns and Bards were wont to chant in the old time. “Where,” Cicero mournfully asks, “are those old verses now?” Quintus Fabius Pictor, a contemporary of Ennius, says that in his time his countrymen were still in the habit of singing ballads about the famous twins, Romulus and Remus. Another contemporary, Cato the Censor, mentioned this lost literature; and Valerius Maximus gives us exactly similar information. Varro, again, tells us that at banquets it was once the fashion for boys to sing ancient ballads in praise of men of former times. And, lastly, the incidental testimony of Horace confirms these statements, where (*Odes*, iv. 15) he predicts that, under the peaceful administration of Augustus, the Romans will sing to the pipe, after the fashion of their fathers,

the deeds of brave captains, and the ancient legends of the origin of the city.

We can, therefore, scarcely hesitate to pronounce that the magnificent, pathetic, and truly national legends, which present so striking a contrast to the later literature, are broken and defaced fragments of this early poetry, which was suffered to perish under the influence of the triumph of the Greek genius over the public mind of Italy. After the war with Pyrrhus the poetry of Rome began to put off its old Ausonian character, and the Greek literature became predominant. Nævius, who celebrated the first Punic War in Saturnian verse, seems to have been the last of the ancient line of poets, and, with Ennius, came the dawn of a new poetical literature.

The victory of the foreign taste was decisive, and the Latin ballads, while they may have continued, during some generations, to delight the vulgar, finally perished for ever. Yet discerning critics have thought that they could still perceive in the early history of Rome numerous fragments of this lost poetry, which became the source from which a crowd of orators and annalists drew the materials for their prose. Funeral panegyric and chronicle appear to have been the intermediate links which connected the lost ballads with the histories now extant. The oration pronounced over the remains of a noble Roman would recapitulate all the services which the ancestors of the deceased had, from the earliest time, rendered to the commonwealth. For this purpose the speaker would naturally make use of the stories to be found in the popular lays. The compilers of the early chronicles would

Fragments of
it still survive
in history

have recourse to these speeches, copies of which would doubtless be preserved; and the great historians of a later period would have recourse to the chronicles.

"It may be worth while," writes our author, "to select a particular story, and to trace its probable progress through these stages. The description of the migration of the Fabian house to Cremera is one of the finest of the many fine passages which he thick in the earlier books of Livy. The Consul, clad in his military garb, stands in the vestibule of his house, marshalling his clan, three hundred and six fighting men, all of the same proud patrician blood, all worthy to be attended by the fasces, and to command the legions. A sad and anxious retinue of friends accompanies the adventurers through the streets; but the voice of lamentation is drowned by the shouts of admiring thousands. As the procession passes the Capitol, prayers and vows are poured forth, but in vain. The devoted band, leaving Janus on the right, marches to its doom through the Gate of Evil Luck. After achieving high deeds of valour against overwhelming numbers, all perish save one child, the stock from which the great Fabian race was destined again to spring for the safety and glory of the commonwealth. That this fine romance, the details of which are so full of poetical truth, and so utterly destitute of all show of historical truth, came originally from some lay which had often been sung with great applause at banquets, is in the highest degree probable. Nor is it difficult to imagine a mode in which the transmission might have taken place

"The celebrated Quintus Fabius Maximus, who died

about twenty years before the first Punic War, and more than forty years before Ennius was born, is said to have been interred with extraordinary pomp. In the eulogy pronounced over his body all the great exploits of his ancestors were doubtless recounted and exaggerated. If there were then extant songs which gave a vivid and touching description of an event, the saddest and the most glorious in the long history of the Fabian house, nothing could be more natural than that the panegyrist should borrow from such songs their finest touches, in order to adorn his speech. A few generations later the songs would perhaps be forgotten, or remembered only by shepherds and vine-dressers. But the speech would certainly be preserved in the archives of the Fabian nobles. Fabius Pictor would be well acquainted with a document so interesting to his personal feelings, and would insert large extracts from it in his rude chronicle. That chronicle, as we know, was the oldest to which Livy had access. Livy would at a glance distinguish the bold strokes of the forgotten poet from the dull and feeble narrative by which they were surrounded, would retouch them with a delicate and powerful pencil, and would make them immortal."

That this might happen at Rome can scarcely be doubted; for something like this has happened in several other countries. Thus the stories of Elfric and Elfrida are related by Hume on the authority of the chronicle of William of Malmesbury, who lived in the time of King Stephen. And William does indeed tell the stories; but he gives us distinct notice that they rest on no better authority than that of ballads.

Castilian literature furnishes us with another parallel case. Mariana, the classical historian of Spain, tells the story of the ill-starred marriage which the King Don Alonso brought about between the heirs of Carrion and the two daughters of the Cid. For this story Mariana acknowledges his obligation to the ancient chronicle, and it has been since discovered that all the most striking passages in this chronicle were copied from an ancient ballad, four hundred years old, of which one imperfect copy had been preserved, and which was first printed a century and a half after the death of Mariana.

he LAYS

"Such, or nearly such," concludes Macaulay, "appears to have been the process by which the lost ballad-poetry of Rome was transformed into history. To reverse that process, to transform some portions of early Roman history back into the poetry out of which they were made, is the object of this work.

"In the following poems, the author speaks, not in his own person, but in the persons of ancient minstrels who know only what a Roman citizen, born three or four hundred years before the Christian era, may be supposed to have known, and who are in nowise above the passions and prejudices of their age and nation. To these imaginary poets must be ascribed some blunders which are so obvious that it is unnecessary to point them out. The real blunder would have been to represent these old poets as deeply versed in general history, and studious of chronological accuracy. To them must also be attributed the illiberal sneers at the Greeks, the furious party-spirit, the contempt for the arts of peace, the love of war for its own sake,

the ungenerous exultation over the vanquished, which the reader will sometimes observe. To portray a Roman of the age of Camillus or Curius as superior to national antipathies, as mourning over the devastation and slaughter by which empire and triumphs were to be won, as looking on human suffering with the sympathy of Howard, or as treating conquered enemies with the delicacy of the Black Prince, would be to violate all dramatic propriety. The old Romans had some great virtues, fortitude, temperance, veracity, spirit to resist oppression, respect for legitimate authority, fidelity in the observing of contracts, disinterestedness, ardent patriotism; but Christian charity and chivalrous generosity were alike unknown to them.

"It would have been obviously improper to mimic the manner of any particular age or country. Something has been borrowed, however, from our own old ballads, and more from Sir Walter Scott, the great restorer of our ballad-poetry. To the *Iliad* still greater obligations are due; and those obligations have been contracted with the less hesitation, because there is reason to believe that some of the old Latin minstrels really had recourse to that inexhaustible store of poetical images."

Such, in brief, is Macaulay's argument, drawn from Niebuhr's theory, which, however, is now generally abandoned, and was practically discarded by Niebuhr himself. As Sir G. C. Lewis has pointed out, it is highly probable that "at an early time poems or ballads, commemorating the praises of the great men of the Republic, were sung at banquets, or on other festive or solemn occasions", but "there is nothing," he continues,

Criticism of
the theory

"to show that any classical writer on Roman antiquity believed or suspected that poems of this kind contributed, in any material degree, to the formation of the early Roman history."

avourable
ception of the
ays

We cannot, however, regret Macaulay's support of the theory, since it laid the foundation of his own attempt to reproduce these lost ballads in modern English verse. "I amused myself," he writes in a letter of July 14, 1842, "in India with trying to restore some of these long-perished poems. . . . These are four of them, and I think that, though they are but trifles, they may pass for scholarlike and not inelegant trifles." The verdict of the critics and of the public has supported Macaulay's view. Dr. Arnold, of Rugby School, saw two of the *Lays* in manuscript, and wrote to the author in terms of high eulogy. Professor Wilson, in *Blackwood's Magazine*, greeted their publication "with a pæan of hearty, unqualified panegyric," praising their fire, their strength, and their reality. "Sir Walter," he writes, "would have rejoiced in Horatius as if he had been a doughty Douglas.

'Now by our sire Quirinus,
It was a goodly sight
To see the thirty standards
Swept down the tide of flight.'

That is the way of doing business! A cut and thrust style, without any flourish. Scott's style when his blood was up, and the first words came like a vanguard impatient for battle." "His Roman ballads," said the *Quarterly Review* in 1849, "exhibit a novel idea worked out with a rare felicity so as to combine the spirit of the ancient minstrels with the regularity

of construction and sweetness of versification which modern taste requires." And in 1843 Mrs. Browning, then Miss Barrett, wrote to Mr. Horne: "You are very right in admiring Macaulay; he has a noble, clear, metallic note in his soul, and makes us ready by it for battle. I very much admire Mr Macaulay, and could scarcely read his ballads and keep lying down. They seemed to draw me up to my feet, as the mesmeric powers are said to do." That Macaulay won the public approbation is shown by the fact that 18,000 of the *Lays* were sold in ten years; 40,000 in twenty years; and, by June, 1875, upwards of 100,000 copies had passed into the hands of readers.

As has been already remarked, there are many echoes of Scott—an author whose writings had deeply impressed him as a boy—throughout the *Lays*. They represent, so to speak, Scott's versification set to an Homeric tune. For street ballads Macaulay had always shown a special predilection. "He bought," Sir G. Trevelyan tells us, "every half-penny song on which he could lay his hands; if only it was decent, and a genuine, undoubted poem of the people. . . . It is hardly too much to say that Macaulay knew the locality, and, at this period of his life, the stock-in-trade of every book-stall in London" "After office hours," says his brother Charles, "his principal relaxation was rambling about with me in the back lanes of the city. It was then that he began to talk of his idea of restoring to poetry the legends of which poetry had been robbed by history; and it was in these walks that I heard for the first time from his lips the *Lays of Rome*. In fact I heard them in the making"

Macaulay's
love of ballads.

xx LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS

Their subject matter — legends of the Tarquins The subject matter of the *Lays* is such as admirably lends itself to poetic treatment. The legends of the various attempts to restore the Tarquins is in itself an epic poem. The intolerable tyranny of Tarquinius Superbus, culminating in his son Sextus's outrage upon Lucretia, had brought about a great popular revolt and the expulsion of the King. The first attempt at his restoration was a plot made at Rome, in which the Consul Brutus's two sons were implicated; and we have the pathetic picture of Brutus, in his love for his country, himself ordering the beheading of the traitors. The second attempt was made by the people of Tarquini and Veii, and in the battle that ensued Brutus and Aruns, the King's son, rode straight at each other with levelled spears, and both fell dead upon the field. The battle was a drawn one; but in the night, in obedience to a voice which said that the Romans were the victors, the Etruscans fled.

Horatius The third attempt forms the subject of *Horatius*, when Lars Porsena, chief of the League of twelve Etruscan cities, advanced with his army so rapidly as to reach the Sublician Bridge before there was time to destroy it. Then we have the defence of the bridge by Horatius Cocles and his two friends, while the Romans were cutting it down behind them. Upon this feat follow the stories of Mucius, who, arrested in his attempt to assassinate Porsena, thrust his right hand into the flame, to show his indifference to the tortures with which he was threatened, and of Clœlia, who, given as a hostage to the King, boldly persuaded her fellow-hostages to swim across the Tiber and escape. It has to be confessed however that there is little

truth in the Legend of Porsena. The evidence of Tacitus and of Phny shows that Porsena really conquered Rome, which became for a time subject to the Etruscan yoke.

The fourth and last attempt, made ten years after the expulsion of Tarquin, furnishes the materials for *The Battle of the Lake Regillus*, in which the forces of the thirty Latin cities, under Mamilius of Tusculum, are arrayed against Rome. The heroes on either side engage in single combat, and, in the Roman extremity, the great Twin Brethren turn the tide of victory in favour of the Romans. Then the Latin cities made peace with Rome, and agreed to refuse shelter to the aged Tarquin. This ballad is supposed by the author to have been originally recited in public, at a grand procession of the Equestrian Order, instituted to commemorate the anniversary of the battle.

As Sextus's outrage upon Lucretia was the immediate cause of the expulsion of the Tarquins, so a similar outrage perpetrated by Appius Claudius upon Virginia brought about the downfall of the Decemvirs. Enamoured of her beauty, he instigated one of his favourites to claim her as the daughter of a slave, and pronounced sentence in his client's favour. Informed of his violent proceedings, her father, the centurion L. Virginius, arrived from the Roman army, which was at that time engaged in a campaign with the Aequians. Demanding to see his daughter, he snatched a knife and plunged it into her breast, as the only means of her deliverance. Upon his return to the camp, both the army with which he was serving and another that was fighting against the Sabines, incensed at his story,

broke out into mutiny and immediately marched to Rome. Appius was seized, but destroyed himself in prison; his minion Marcus was put to death, and the Decemviral power abolished, B.C. 449. Some 77 years later, during a crisis in the struggle between the Plebeians and the Patricians, the story is supposed to have been made into a ballad, and recited to an eager crowd in the Roman forum

*The Prophecy
of Capys*

The Prophecy of Capys is in a less vigorous strain than the rest. Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, bent on the conquest of Southern Italy and Sicily, had landed at Tarentum with a force of 20,000 foot, 5,000 horse, and a squadron of 20 elephants, to aid the Tarentines in their quarrel with Rome. After defeating the Romans at the battles of Heraclea and Asculum, he left Italy for Sicily, where he stayed for about two years and a half. Returning B.C. 276, he encountered the Romans under Manius Curius Dentatus, and was completely defeated at the Battle of Beneventum—a turning-point in the history of the world. In this *Lay* the poet goes back to the time of Romulus, the founder of Rome, and his triumph over the usurper Amulius, and puts into the mouth of the seer Capys a prophecy of the future glories of Rome, from the Volscian Wars in B.C. 493 to the triumph over Pyrrhus—a period of about 220 years.

Macaulay's
sympathy
with the
subject.

The subject-matter of these *Lays* was peculiarly fitted to excite the sympathy and enthusiasm of so keen a Liberal politician as Macaulay, himself an uncompromising opponent of tyranny in every shape. The expulsion of the Tarquins and the defeat of their successive attempts to reimpose their yoke upon the Roman commonwealth would powerfully appeal to his

poetical instincts which ever ranged themselves on the side of the freedom of the people against the encroachments of the kingly power. Among his other poems, *The Battle of Naseby*, the triumphal chant of one of Cromwell's officers, and *The Battle of Irvy*, a song of the Huguenots, both written in 1824, are in the same strain.

It remains to say a few words upon Macaulay's poetic style. One of its chief merits is its absolute clearness and simplicity. In these *Lays* we meet with no unmeaning stopgap phrases—every épithet is significant and appropriate (cf. “the *milk-white* steer”; “*sun-burned* husbandmen”; “every *roaring* gate”; “*dark-blue* light”, “the *glassy* lake”, “the *whirling* Po”; “April's *wory* moonlight”; “the *bristling* mound”; “Capua's *curled* revellers”); and, while there is no want of dignity, there is no laboured pomp of diction, nothing grand or stilted in the language, which throughout is modelled upon the style of the old ballad-poetry, modernised to fit the taste of his own day.

Their style:
(1) Clearness
and simplicity.

At the same time the *Lays* are remarkable for their vigour, to which their terseness of expression naturally contributes. What can be more spirited than the description of the advance of Porsena's forces in *Horatius*—take especially stanza 21 of that *Lay*; or the fight round Valerius's dead body in stanza 19 of *The Battle of the Lake Regillus*; or, again, the stirring account of the flight of Mamilus's charger in stanza 29 of the same poem?

(2) Vigour.

Joined to this vigour of expression there is a vivid descriptive power, the outcome of a fresh and lively imagination. For picturesqueness of detail and dramatic force, few passages can equal that in stanzas 32-34

(3) Descriptive
power.

of *The Battle of the Lake Regillus*, which portrays the first appearance on the field of the great Twin Brethren. Another graphic piece is the rout of the Latin army that forms the subject of stanza 36 of the same *Lay*. The reader feels himself swept along with the "tide of flight" there so vividly described; he can see the trampled banner of proud Tusculum and the fall of chief after chief, and seems at the close to hear the confused din of flight and pursuit, as

"Far away the battle
Went roaring through the pass"

Fine, too, is the picture in stanza 35 of *Horatius*, of the apparently resistless advance of the Tuscan army as, like a stately procession of sea-waves, it "rolls slowly towards the bridge's head"—a passage with which may be compared stanza 21 of the same poem.

- (4) *Imagos* For many of his images and similes Macaulay confessedly drew upon Homer, but their descriptive power and the appropriateness of their application are his own. Such are the comparisons of the overthrow of the "great Lord of Luna" to the fall of "a thunder smitten oak," in stanza 46 of *Horatius* (cf. the "mast snapped by the tempest" in *Lake Regillus*, l. 373); the bear simile in stanza 49 of the same poem; that of the "famished eagle" and of the "fell speckled snake" in stanza 15 of *Lake Regillus*; and that admirable comparison, in *Horatius*, stanza 56, of the river, dammed by the wreck of the bridge, to an unbroken horse "when first he feels the rein." For striking images we may refer in addition to *Horatius*, ll. 40, 41:

"Where Cortona lifts to heaven
Her *diadem* of towers",

Horatius, l. 27 :

“Where *scowls* the far famed hold”;

Lake Regillus, ll. 25, 26 .

“Wild *Parthenius*
Tossing in waves of pine”;

Id. l. 643 :

“Ensigns *dancing* wild above”;

and *Id.* ll. 245, 246 :

“Under his hoary eyebrows
Still *flashed forth* quenchless rage.”

It is worth noticing here, as a part of Macaulay's (5) *Use of proper names* skilful versification, the musical effect of which, in common with Homer and Milton, he introduces and manipulates proper names in his poetry. This may be observed all through these *Lays*, but more especially perhaps in the opening stanzas of *Horatius*, where the various cities are enumerated that contribute their quotas to the host of Porsena.

On the other hand, our author has been charged (6) *Defects* with being declamatory rather than imaginative, and his verse has been described as rhetoric rather than poetry. His rhythm, while admittedly effective, has been depreciated as mechanical—the result more of art and elaboration than of natural poetic instinct; and some critics have found in the *Lays* the same faults that mar the author's prose—“commonplaceness of ideas and cheapness of sentiment and imagery.” While allowing that there is in these ballads a certain hard glitter, a deficiency of warmth of colouring and feeling, and some falling off in the pathetic parts, much of what has been said above will be a sufficient answer

to such criticisms. The delight of generations of school-boys since their first publication in 1842, the *Lays* have revived and popularised the old poetic legends of Italy for the ears of 'thousands of people; and in Macaulay's hands the story of ancient Rome may truly be said to have become

“ A trumpet whence he blew
Soul-animating strains.”

Other poems In addition to the *Lays* and the two poems mentioned on p. xxi, Macaulay has produced *The Armada. a Fragment*, written in 1832; *The Battle of Moncontour*, a lament over a great Huguenot defeat; the pathetic *Epitaph on a Jacobite*; and some fine verses composed after his defeat at Edinburgh at the General Election of 1847

HORATIUS.

THERE can be little doubt that among those parts of early Roman history which had a poetical origin was the legend of Horatius Cocles. We have several versions of the story, and these versions differ from each other in points of no small importance. Polybius, there is reason to believe, 5 heard the tale recited over the remains of some Consul or Prætor descended from the old Horatian patricians; for he introduces it as a specimen of the narratives with which the Romans were in the habit of embellishing their funeral oratory. It is remarkable that, according to him, Horatius 10 defended the bridge alone, and perished in the waters. According to the chronicles which Livy and Dionysius followed, Horatius had two companions, swam safe to shore, and was loaded with honours and rewards.

These discrepancies are easily explained. Our own litera- 15 ture, indeed, will furnish an exact parallel to what may have taken place at Rome. It is highly probable that the memory of the war of Porséna was preserved by compositions much resembling the two ballads which stand first in the "Relics of Ancient English Poetry." In both those 20 ballads the English, commanded by the Percy, fight with the Scots, commanded by the Douglas. In one of the ballads the Douglas is killed by a nameless English archer, and the Percy by a Scottish spearman. In the other, the Percy slays the Douglas in single combat, and is himself 25

A

2 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

made prisoner In the former, Sir Hugh Montgomery is shot through the heart by a Northumbrian bowman : in the latter, he is taken, and exchanged for the Percy. Yet both the ballads relate to the same event, and that an event
5 which probably took place within the memory of persons who were alive when both the ballads were made. One of the minstrels says :

“Old men that knowen the grounde well yenoughe
Call it the battell of Otterburn
10 At Otterburn began this spurne
Upon a monnyn day.
Ther was the doughte Doglas slean :
The Perse never went away ”

The other poet sums up the event in the following lines :

15 “Thys fraye bygan at Otterborne
Bytwene the nyghte and the day
Ther the Dowglas lost hys lyfe,
And the Percy was lede away.”

It is by no means unlikely that there were two old
20 Roman lays about the defence of the bridge ; and that, while the story which Livy has transmitted to us was preferred by the multitude, the other, which ascribed the whole glory to Horatius alone, may have been the favourite with the Horatian house

25 The following ballad is supposed to have been made about a hundred and twenty years after the war which it celebrates, and just before the taking of Rome by the Gauls. The author seems to have been an honest citizen, proud of the military glory of his country, sick of the disputes of factions, and much given to pining after good old
30 times which had never really existed. The allusion, however, to the partial manner in which the public lands were allotted, could proceed only from a plebeian ; and the allusion to the fraudulent sale of spoils marks the date of
35 the poem, and shows that the poet shared in the general

discontent with which the proceedings of Camillus, after the taking of Veii, were regarded

The penultimate syllable of the name Porsena has been shortened in spite of the authority of Niebuhr, who pronounces, without assigning any ground for his opinion, 5 that Martial was guilty of a decided blunder in the line,

“*Hanc spectare manum Porsena non potuit*”

It is not easy to understand how any modern scholar, whatever his attainments may be,—and those of Niebuhr were undoubtedly immense,—can venture to pronounce 10 that Martial did not know the quantity of a word which he must have uttered and heard uttered a hundred times before he left school. Niebuhr seems also to have forgotten that Martial has fellow-culprits to keep him in countenance. Horace has committed the same decided 15 blunder; for he gives us, as a pure iambic line,

“*Minacis aut Etrusca Porsenæ manus*”

Silius Italicus has repeatedly offended in the same way, as when he says,

“*Cernitur effugiens ardentem Porsena dextram*” 20

and again,

“*Clusinum vulgus, cum, Porsena magne, jubebas*”

A modern writer may be content to err in such company.

Niebuhr's supposition, that each of the three defenders of the bridge was the representative of one of the three 25 patrician tribes, is both ingenious and probable, and has been adopted in the following poem.

HORATIUS.

A LAY MADE ABOUT THE YEAR OF THE CITY CCCLX. (B.C. 394).

I

LARS PORSENA of Clusium
By the Nine Gods he swore
That the great house of Tarquin
Should suffer wrong no more.
By the Nine Gods he swore it, 5
And nam'd a trysting day,
And bade his messengers ride forth,
East and west and south and north,
To summon his array

II.

East and west and south and north 10
The messengers ride fast,
And tower and town and cottage
Have heard the trumpet's blast.
Shame on the false Etruscan
Who lingers in his home, 15
When Porsena of Clusium
Is on the march for Rome.

III.

The horsemen and the footmen
Are pouring in amain

From many a stately market-place ; 20
 From many a fruitful plain ;
 From many a lonely hamlet,
 Which, hid by beech and pine,
 Like an eagle's nest, hangs on the crest
 Of purple Apennine ; 25

IV

From lordly Volaterræ,
 Where scowls the far-famed hold
 Piled by the hands of giants
 For godlike kings of old ;
 From seagirt Populonia, 30
 Whose sentinels descry
 Sardinia's snowy mountain-tops
 Fringing the southern sky ;

V.

From the proud mart of Pisæ,
 Queen of the western waves, 35
 Where ride Massilia's triremes
 Heavy with fair-haired slaves ;
 From where sweet Clanis wanders
 Through corn and vines and flowers ;
 From where Cortona lifts to heaven 40
 Her diadem of towers.

VI

Tall are the oaks whose acorns
 Drop in dark Ausser's rill ;
 Fat are the stags that champ the boughs
 Of the Ciminian hill ; 45
 Beyond all streams Clitumnus
 Is to the herdsman dear ;
 Pest of all pools the fowler loves
 The great Volsinian mere.

6 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

VII.

But now no stroke of woodman
Is heard by Auser's rill ;
No hunter tracks the stag's green path
Up the Cimman hill ;
Unwatched along Clitumnus
Grazes the milk-white steer ; 55
Unharm'd the water fowl may dip
In the Volsinian mere

VIII

The harvests of Arretium,
This year, old men shall reap,
This year, young boys in Umbro 60
Shall plunge the struggling sheep ;
And in the vats of Luna,
This year, the must shall foam
Round the white feet of laughing girls
Whose sires have marched to Rome. 65

IX

There be thirty chosen prophets,
The wisest of the land,
Who alway by Lars Porsena
Both morn and evening stand :
Evening and morn the Thirty 70
Have turned the verses o'er,
Traced from the right on linen white
By mighty seers of yore.

X.

And with one voice the Thirty
Have their glad answer given : 75
"Go forth, go forth, Lars Porsena ;
Go forth, beloved of Heaven ;
Go, and return in glory
To Clusium's royal dome ;

HORATIUS.

7

And hang round Nursia's altars
The golden shields of Rome."

80

XI

And now hath every city
Sent up her tale of men ;
The foot are fourscore thousand,
The horse are thousands ten .
Before the gates of Sutrium
Is met the great array
A proud man was Lars Porsena
Upon the trysting day.

85

XII

For all the Etruscan armies
Were ranged beneath his eye,
And many a banished Roman,
And many a stout ally ,
And with a mighty following
To join the muster came
The Tusculan Mamilius,
Prince of the Latian name.

90

95

XIII.

But by the yellow Tiber
Was tumult and affright .
From all the spacious campaign
To Rome men took their flight.
A mile around the city,
The throng stopped up the ways ;
A fearful sight it was to see
Through two long nights and days.

100

105

XIV.

For aged folks on crutches,
And women great with child,

And mothers sobbing over babes
 That clung to them and smiled.
 And sick men borne in litters 110
 High on the necks of slaves,
 And troops of sun-burned husbandmen
 With reaping-hooks and staves,

XV.

And droves of mules and asses
 Laden with skins of wine, 115
 And endless flocks of goats and sheep,
 And endless herds of kine,
 And endless trains of waggons
 That creaked beneath the weight
 Of corn-sacks and of household goods, 120
 Choked every roaring gate.

XVI.

Now, from the rock Tarpeian,
 Could the wan burghers spy
 The line of blazing villages
 Red in the midnight sky. 125
 The Fathers of the City,
 They sat all night and day,
 For every hour some horseman came
 With tidings of dismay.

XVII.

To eastward and to westward 130
 Have spread the Tuscan bands ;
 Nor house, nor fence, nor dovecote
 In Crustumerium stands.
 Verbenna down to Ostia
 Hath wasted all the plain ; 135
 Astur hath stormed Janiculum,
 And the stout guards are slain.

XVIII.

I wis, in all the Senate,
 There was no heart so bold,
 But sore it ached and fast it beat, 140
 When that ill news was told.
 F'orthwith up rose the Consul,
 Up rose the Fathers all;
 In haste they girded up their gowns
 And hied them to the wall. 145

XIX.

They held a council standing
 Before the River-Gate;
 Short time was there, ye well may guess,
 For musing or debate
 Out spake the Consul roundly : 150
 "The bridge must straight go down
 For, since Janiculum is lost,
 Nought else can save the town"

XX

Just then a scout came flying,
 All wild with haste and fear ; 155
 "To arms ! to arms ! Sir Consul :
 Lars Porsena is here"
 On the low hills to westward
 The Consul fixed his eye,
 And saw the swarthy storm of dust 160
 Rise fast along the sky.

XXI

And nearer fast and nearer
 Doth the red whirlwind come ;
 And louder still and still more loud,
 From underneath that rolling cloud, 165
 Is heard the trumpet's war-note proud,
 'The trampling, and the hum.

10 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS

And plainly and more plainly
 Now through the gloom appears,
 Far to left and far to right, 170
 In broken gleams of dark-blue light,
 The long array of helmets bright,
 The long array of spears

XXII

And plainly and more plainly,
 Above that glimmering line, 175
 Now might ye see the banners
 Of twelve fair cities shine,
 But the banner of proud Clusium
 Was highest of them all,
 The terror of the Umbrian, 180
 The terror of the Gaul

XXIII

And plainly and more plainly
 Now might the bughers know,
 By port and vest, by horse and crest,
 Each warlike Lucumo 185
 There Cilnius of Arretium
 On his fleet roan was seen;
 And Astur of the fourfold shield,
 Girt with the brand none else may wield,
 Tolumnius with the belt of gold, 190
 And dark Verbenna from the hold
 By reedy Thrasymene

XXIV

Fast by the royal standard,
 O'erlooking all the war,
 Lars Porsena of Clusium 195
 Sat in his ivory car.
 By the right wheel rode Mamilius
 Prince of the Latian name;

And by the left false Sextus,
That wrought the deed of shame. 200

XXV.

But when the face of Sextus
Was seen among the foes,
A ye'l that rent the firmament
From all the town arose.
On the house-tops was no woman 205
But spat towards him and hissed,
No child but screamed out curses,
And shook its little fist

XXVI

But the Consul's brow was sad,
And the Consul's speech was low, 210
And darkly looked he at the wall,
And darkly at the foe
"Their van will be upon us
Before the bridge goes down ;
And if they once may win the bridge, 215
What hope to save the town?"

XXVII

Then out spake brave Horatius,
The Captain of the Gate .
"To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late 220
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his Gods,

XXVIII.

"And for the tender mother 225
Who dandled him to rest,

12 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

And for the wife who nurses
His baby at her breast,
And for the ho'y maidens
Who feed the eternal flame, 230
To save them from false Sextus
That wrought the deed of shame?

XXIX

"Hew down the bridge, Sir Consul,
With all the speed ye may ;
I, with two more to help me, 235
Will hold the foe in play
In yon strait path a thousand
May well be stopped by three.
Now who will stand on either hand,
And keep the bridge with me?" 240

XXX.

Then out spake Spurius Lartius ;
A Ramnian proud was he .
"Lo, I will stand at thy right hand,
And keep the bridge with thee."
And out spake strong Herminius ; 245
Of Titian blood was he
"I will abide on thy left side,
And keep the bridge with thee."

XXXI.

"Horatius," quoth the Consul,
"As thou sayest, so let it be." 250
And straight against that great array
Forth went the dauntless Three.
For Romans in Rome's quarrels
Spared neither land nor gold,
Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life, 255
In the brave days of old.

XXXII.

Then none was for a party ;
 'Then all were for the state ;
 Then the great man helped the poor,
 And the poor man loved the great : 260
 Then lands were fairly portioned ;
 Then spoils were fairly sold .
 The Romans were like brothers
 In the brave days of old.

XXXIII.

Now Roman is to Roman 265
 More hateful than a foe,
 And the Tribunes beard the high,
 And the Fathers grind the low
 As we wax hot in faction,
 In battle we wax cold . 270
 Wherefore men fight not as they fought
 In the brave days of old.

XXXIV.

Now while the Three were tightening
 Their harness on their backs,
 The Consul was the foremost man 275
 To take in hand an axe .
 And Fathers mixed with Commons,
 Seized hatchet, bar, and crow,
 And smote upon the planks above,
 And loosed the props below. 280

XXXV.

Meanwhile the Tuscan army,
 Right glorious to behold,
 Came flashing back the noonday light,
 Rank behind rank, like surges bright
 Of a broad sea of gold. 285

14 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

Four hundred trumpets sounded
 A peal of warlike glee,
 As that great host, with measured tread,
 And spears advanced, and ensigns spread
 Rolled slowly towards the bridge's head, 290
 Where stood the dauntless Three.

XXXVI

The Three stood calm and silent,
 And looked upon the foes,
 And a great shout of laughter
 From all the vanguard rose 295
 And forth three chiefs came spurring
 Before that deep array
 To earth they sprang, their swords they drew,
 And lifted high their shields, and flew
 To win the narrow way; 300

XXXVII.

Aunus from green Tifernum
 Lord of the Hill of Vines,
 And Seius, whose eight hundred slaves
 Sicken in Ilva's mines,
 And Picus, long to Clusium 305
 Vassal in peace and war,
 Who led to fight his Umbrian powers
 From that grey crag where, girt with towers,
 The fortress of Nequnum lowers
 O'er the pale waves of Nar. 310

XXXVIII.

Stout Lartius hurled down Aunus
 Into the stream beneath :
 Herminius struck at Seius,
 And clove him to the teeth :
 At Picus brave Horatius 315
 Darted one fiery thrust ;

And the proud Umbrian's gilded arms
Clashed in the bloody dust.

XXXIX.

Then Ocnus of Falern
Rushed on the Roman Three ; 320
And Lausulus of Urgo,
The rover of the sea ;
And Aruns of Volsinium,
Who slew the great wild boar,
The great wild boar that had his den 325
Amidst the reeds of Cosa's fen,
And wasted fields, and slaughtered men,
Along Albinia's shore

XL.

Herminius smote down Aruns :
Lartius laid Ocnus low 330
Right to the heart of Lausulus
Horatius sent a blow
"Lie there," he cried, "fell pirate !
No more, aghast and pale,
From Ostia's walls the crowd shall mark 335
The track of thy destroying bark
No more Campania's hinds shall fly
Th' woods and caverns when they spy
Thy thrice accursed sail."

XLI.

But now no sound of laughter 340
Was heard among the foes,
A wild and wrathful clamour
From all the vanguard rose.
Six spears' lengths from the entrance
Halted that deep array, 345
And for a space no man came forth
To win the narrow way

16 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

XLII.

But hark! the cry is Astur:
 And lo! the ranks divide;
 And the great Lord of Luna 350
 Comes with his stately stride
 Upon his ample shoulders
 Clangs loud the fourfold shield,
 And in his hand he shakes the brand
 Which none but he can wield. 355

XLIII

He smiled on those bold Romans
 A smile serene and high;
 He eyed the flinching Tuscans,
 And scorn was in his eye
 Quoth he, "The she-wolf's litter 360
 Stands savagely at bay:
 But will ye dare to follow,
 If Astur clears the way?"

XLIV.

Then, whirling up his broadsword
 With both hands to the height, 365
 He rushed against Horatius,
 And smote with all his might.
 With shield and blade Horatius
 Right deftly turned the blow.
 The blow, though turned, came yet too nigh; 370
 It missed his helm, but gashed his thigh:
 The Tuscans raised a joyful cry
 To see the red blood flow.

XLV.

He reeled, and on Herminius
 He leaned one breathing-space; 375
 Then, like a wild cat mad with wounds
 Sprang right at Astur's face;

Through teeth, and skull, and helmet
 So fierce a thrust he sped,
 The good sword stood a hand-breadth out 380
 Behind the Tuscan's head

XLVI

And the great Lord of Luna
 Fell at that deadly stroke,
 As falls on Mount Alvernus
 A thunder-smitten oak 385
 For o'er the crashing forest
 The giant arms lie spread;
 And the pale augurs, muttering low,
 Gaze on the blasted head.

XLVII.

On Astur's throat Horatius 390
 Right firmly pressed his heel,
 And thrice and four times tugged amain,
 Ere he wrenched out the steel
 "And see," he cried, "the welcome,
 Fair guests, that waits you here! 395
 What noble Lucumo comes next
 To taste our Roman cheer?"

XLVIII

But at his haughty challenge
 A sullen murmur ran,
 Mingled of wrath, and shame, and dread 400
 Along that glittering van
 There lacked not men of prowess,
 Nor men of lordly race,
 For all Etruria's noblest
 Were round the fatal place. 405

XLIX.

But all Etruria's noblest
 Felt their hearts sink to see

On the earth the bloody corpses,
 In the path the dauntless Three :
 And, from the ghastly entrance 410
 Where those bold Romans stood,
 All shrank, like boys who unaware,
 Ranging the woods to start a hare,
 Come to the mouth of the dark lair
 Where, growling low, a fierce old bear 415
 Lies amidst bones and blood.

L.

Was none who would be foremost
 To lead such dire attack.
 But those behind cried "Forward !"
 And those before cried "Back !" 420
 And backward now and forward
 Wavers the deep array ,
 And on the tossing sea of steel,
 To and fro the standards reel ;
 And the victorious trumpet-peal 425
 Dies fitfully away.

LI.

Yet one man for one moment
 Stood out before the crowd ;
 Well known was he to all the Three,
 And they gave him greeting loud, 430
 "Now welcome, welcome, Sextus !"
 Now welcome to thy home !
 Why dost thou stay, and turn away ?
 Here lies the road to Rome."

LII.

Thrice looked he at the city ; 435
 Thrice looked he at the dead ;
 And thrice came on in fury,
 And thrice turned back in dre

And, white with fear and hatred,
 Scowled at the narrow way, 440
 Where, wallowing in a pool of blood,
 The bravest Tuscan lay.

LIII.

But meanwhile axe and lever
 Have manfully been plied;
 And now the bridge hangs tottering 445
 Above the boiling tide.
 "Come back, come back, Horatius!"
 Loud cried the Fathers all
 "Back, Lartius! back, Herminius!"
 Back, ere the ruin fall!" 450

LIV.

Back darted Spurius Lartius;
 Herminius darted back:
 And, as they passed, beneath their feet
 They felt the timbers crack.
 But when they turned their faces, 455
 And on the farther shore
 Saw brave Horatius stand alone,
 They would have crossed once more.

LV

But with a crash like thunder
 Fell every loosened beam, 460
 And, like a dam, the mighty wreck
 Lay right athwart the stream.
 And a long shout of triumph
 Rose from the walls of Rome,
 As to the highest turret-tops 465
 Was splashed the yellow foam.

LVI.

And, like a horse unbroken
 When first he feels the rein,

20 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

The furious river struggled hard,
 And tossed his tawny mane, 470
 And burst the curb, and bounded,
 Rejoicing to be free,
 And whirling down, in fierce career,
 Battlement, and plank, and pier,
 Rushed headlong to the sea. 475

LVII

Alone stood brave Horatius,
 But constant still in mind ;
 Thrice thirty thousand foes before,
 And the broad flood behind.
 "Down with him !" cried false Sextus, 480
 With a smile on his pale face.
 ' Now yield thee," cried Lars Porsena,
 " Now yield thee to our grace."

LVIII.

Round turned he, as not deigning
 Those craven ranks to see ; 485
 Nought spake he to Lars Porsena,
 To Sextus nought spake he ;
 But he saw on Palatinus
 The white porch of his home ;
 And he spake to the noble river 490
 That rolls by the towers of Rome.

LIX.

"Oh, Tiber! father Tiber
 To whom the Romans pray,
 A Roman's life, a Roman's arms,
 Take thou in charge this day !" 495
 So he spake, and speaking sheathed
 The good sword by his side,
 And with his harness on his back,
 Plunged headlong in the tide.

LX.

No sound of joy or sorrow 500
 Was heard from eit' er bank;
 But friends and foes in dumb surprise,
 With parted lips and straining eyes,
 Stood gazing where he sank;
 And when above the surges 505
 They saw his crest appear,
 All Rome sent forth a rapturous cry,
 And even the ranks of Tuscany
 Could scarce forbear to cheer.

LXI

But fiercely ran the current, 510
 Swollen high by months of rain:
 And fast his blood was flowing;
 And he was sore in pain,
 And heavy with his armour,
 And spent with changing blows: 515
 And oft they thought him sinking,
 But still again he rose

LXII

Never, I ween, did swimmer,
 In such an evil case,
 Struggle through such a raging flood 520
 Safe to the landing place.
 But his limbs were borne up bravely
 By the brave heart within,
 And our good father Tiber
 Bore bravely up his chin.¹ 525

'Our ladye bare upp her chinne "

Bal'nd of Childe Waters.

"Never heavier man and horse
 Stemmed a midnight torrent's force;

* * * * *

Yet, through good heart and our Lady's grace,
 At length he gained the landing place."

Lay of the Last Minstrel. I.

LXIII

"Curse on him!" quoth false Sextus;
 "Will not the villain down?
 But for this stay, ere lose of day
 We should have sacked the town!"
 "Heaven help him!" quoth Lars Porsena, 530
 "And bring him safe to shore;
 For such a gallant feat of arms
 Was never seen before."

LXIV

And now he feels the bottom;
 Now on dry earth he stands;
 Now round him throng the Fathers
 To press his gory hands;
 And now, with shouts and clapping,
 And noise of weeping loud,
 He enters through the River-Gate, 540
 Borne by the joyous crowd.

LXV.

They gave him of the corn-land,
 That was of public right,
 As much as two strong oxen
 Could plough from morn till night; 545
 And they made a molten image,
 And set it up on high,
 And there it stands unto this day
 To witness if I lie.

LXVI.

It stands in the Comitium, 550
 Plain for all folk to see;
 Horatius in his harness,
 Halting upon one knee:

And underneath is written,
In letters all of gold, 555
How valiantly he kept the bridge
In the brave days o' old.

LXVII.

And still his name sounds stirring
Unto the men of Rome,
As the trumpet-blast that cries to them 560
To charge the Volscian home ;
And wives still pray to Juno
For boys with hearts as bold
As his who kept the bridge so well
In the brave days of old 565

LXVIII.

And in the nights of winter,
When the cold north winds blow,
And the long howling of the wolves
Is heard amidst the snow ;
When round the lonely cottage 570
Roars loud the tempest's din,
And the good logs of Algidus
Roar louder yet within ;

LXIX.

When the oldest cask is opened,
And the largest lamp is lit ; 575
When the chestnuts glow in the embers,
And the kid turns on the spit ;
When young and old in circle
Around the firebrands close ;
When the girls are weaving baskets, 580
And the lads are shaping bows ;

LXX.

When the goodman mends his armour,
And trims his helmet's plume ;
When the goodwife's rattle merrily
Goes flashing through the loom ;
With weeping and with laughter
Still is the story told,
How well Horatius kept the bridge
In the brave days of old.

585

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS.

THE following poem is supposed to have been produced about ninety years after the lay of Horatius. Some persons mentioned in the lay of Horatius make their appearance again, and some appellations and epithets used in the lay of Horatius have been purposely repeated. for, in an age of 5 ballad poetry, it scarcely ever fails to happen, that certain phrases come to be appropriated to certain men and things, and are regularly applied to those men and things by every minstrel. Thus we find, both in the Homeric poems and in Hesiod, βῆη Ἡρακλεΐη, περικλύτος Ἀμφιγυῖεις, διάκτορος 10 Ἀργειφόντης, ἐπτάτυλος Θήβη, Ἑλένης ἔνεκ' ἠυκόμοιο. Thus, too, in our own national songs, Douglas is almost always the doughty Douglas; England is merry England; all the gold is red, and all the ladies are gay.

The principal distinction between the lay of Horatius 15 and the lay of the Lake Regillus is, that the former is meant to be purely Roman, while the latter, though national in its general spirit, has a slight tincture of Greek learning and of Greek superstition. The story of the Tarquins, as it has come down to us, appears to have been compiled from 20 the works of several popular poets; and one, at least, of those poets appears to have visited the Greek colonies in Italy, if not Greece itself, and to have had some acquaintance with the works of Homer and Herodotus. Many of the most striking adventures of the house of Tarquin, 25

before Lucretia makes her appearance, have a Greek character. The Tarquins themselves are represented as Corinthian nobles of the great house of the Bacchiadæ, driven from their country by the tyranny of that Cypselus, the tale of whose strange escape Herodotus has related with incomparable simplicity and liveliness. Livy and Dionysius tell us that, when Tarquin the Proud was asked what was the best mode of governing a conquered city, he replied only by beating down with his staff all the tallest poppies in his garden. This is exactly what Herodotus, in the passage to which reference has already been made, relates of the counsel given to Periander, the son of Cypselus. The stratagem by which the town of Gabii is brought under the power of the Tarquins is, again, obviously copied from Herodotus. The embassy of the young Tarquins to the oracle at Delphi is just such a story as would be told by a poet whose head was full of the Greek mythology; and the ambiguous answer returned by Apollo is in the exact style of the prophecies which, according to Herodotus, lured Croesus to destruction. Then the character of the narrative changes. From the first mention of Lucretia to the retreat of Porsena nothing seems to be borrowed from foreign sources. The villainy of Sextus, the suicide of his victim, the revolution, the death of the sons of Brutus, the defence of the bridge, Mucius burning his hand, Cloelia swimming through Tiber, seem to be all strictly Roman. But when we have done with the Tuscan war, and enter upon the war with the Latines, we are again struck by the Greek air of the story. The Battle of the Lake Regillus is in all respects a Homeric battle, except that the combatants ride astride on their horses, instead of driving chariots. The mass of fighting men is hardly mentioned. The leaders single each other out, and engage hand to hand. The great object of the warriors on both sides is, as in the *Iliad*, to obtain possession of the spoils and bodies of the slain; and several circumstances are related which

forcibly remind us of the great slaughter round the corpses of Carpedon and Patroclus.

But there is one circumstance which deserves especial notice. Both the war of Troy and the war of Regillus were caused by the licentious passions of young princes, who were therefore peculiarly bound not to be sparing of their own persons in the day of battle. Now the conduct of Sextus at Regillus, as described by Livy, so exactly resembles that of Paris, as described at the beginning of the third book of the *Iliad*, that it is difficult to believe the resemblance accidental. Paris appears before the Trojan ranks, defying the bravest Greek to encounter him

Τρωσιν μὲν προμάχιζεν Ἀλέξανδρος θεοειδής,
 . . . Ἀργείων προκαλίζετο πάντας ἀρίστους,
 ἀντίβιον μαχέσασθαι ἐν αἰνῇ δηιοτήτι. 15

Livy introduces Sextus in a similar manner: "*Ferocem juvenem Tarquinium, ostentantem se in prima exsulum acie.*" Menelaus rushes to meet Paris. A Roman noble, eager for vengeance, spurs his horse towards Sextus. Both the guilty princes are instantly terror stricken. 20

Τὸν δ' ὡς οὖν ἐνόησεν Ἀλέξανδρος θεοειδής
 ἐν προμάχοισι φανέντα, κατεπλήγη φίλον ἦτορ·
 ἄψ δ' ἐτάρων εἰς ἔθνος ἐχάζετο κῆρ' ἀλεείνων.

"Tarquinius," says Livy, "*retro in agmen suorum infenso cessit hosti.*" If this be a fortuitous coincidence, it is one of the most extraordinary in literature 25

In the following poem, therefore, images and incidents have been borrowed, not merely without scruple, but on principle, from the incomparable battle-pieces of Homer.

The popular belief at Rome, from an early period, seems to have been that the event of the great day of Regillus was decided by supernatural agency. Castor and Pollux, it was said, had fought, armed and mounted, at the head of the legions of the commonwealth, and had afterwards

carried the news of the victory with incredible speed to the city. The well in the Forum at which they had alighted was pointed out. Near the well rose their ancient temple. A great festival was kept to their honour on the 5 Ides of Quintilis, supposed to be the anniversary of the battle; and on that day sumptuous sacrifices were offered to them at the public charge. One spot on the margin of Lake Regillus was regarded during many ages with superstitious awe. A mark, resembling in shape a horse's hoof, 10 was discernible in the volcanic rock, and this mark was believed to have been made by one of the celestial chargers.

How the legend originated cannot now be ascertained: but we may easily imagine several ways in which it might have originated; nor is it at all necessary to suppose, with 15 Julius Frontinus, that two young men were dressed up by the Dictator to personate the sons of Leda. It is probable that Livy is correct when he says that the Roman general, in the hour of peril, vowed a temple to Castor. If so, nothing could be more natural than that the multitude 20 should ascribe the victory to the favour of the Twin Gods. When such was the prevailing sentiment, any man who chose to declare that, in the midst of the confusion and slaughter, he had seen two godlike forms on white horses scattering the Latines, would find ready credence. We 25 know, indeed, that, in modern times, a very similar story actually found credence among a people much more civilized than the Romans of the fifth century before Christ. A chaplain of Cortes, writing about thirty years after the conquest of Mexico, in an age of printing presses, 30 libraries, universities, scholars, logicians, jurists, and statesmen, had the face to assert that, in one engagement against the Indians, Saint James had appeared on a grey horse at the head of the Castilian adventurers. Many of those adventurers were living when this lie was printed. One of 35 them, honest Bernal Diaz, wrote an account of the expedition. He had the evidence of his own senses against the

legenda ; bu' he seems to have distrusted even the evidence of his own senses. He says that he was in the battle, and that he saw a grey horse with a man on his back, but that the man was, to his thinking, *F. uncesco de Morla*, and not the ever-blessed apostle Saint James "Nevertheless," 5 Bernal adds, "it may be that the person on the grey horse was the glorious apostle Saint James, and that I, sinner that I am, was unworthy to see him." The Romans of the age of Cincinnatus were probably quite as credulous as the Spanish subjects of Charles the Fifth. It is therefore conceivable that the appearance of Castor and Pollux may have become an article of faith before the generation which had fought at Regillus had passed away. Nor could anything be more natural than that the poets of the next age should embellish this story, and make the celestial horsemen bear 15 the tidings of victory to Rome.

Many years after the temple of the Twin Gods had been built in the Forum, an important addition was made to the ceremonial by which the state annually testified its gratitude for their protection. Quintus Fabius and Publius 20 Decius were elected Censors at a momentous crisis. It had become absolutely necessary that the classification of the citizens should be revised. On that classification depended the distribution of political power. Party-spirit ran high ; and the republic seemed to be in danger of 25 falling under the dominion either of a narrow oligarchy or of an ignorant and head-strong rabble. Under such circumstances, the most illustrious patrician and the most illustrious plebeian of the age were entrusted with the office of arbitrating between the angry factions ; and they 30 performed their arduous task to the satisfaction of all honest and reasonable men.

One of their reforms was a remodelling of the equestrian order ; and, having effected this reform, they determined to give to their work a sanction derived from religion. In 35 the chivalrous societies of modern times, societies which

30 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

have much more than may at first sight appear in common with the equestrian order of Rome, it has been usual to invoke the special protection of some Saint, and to observe his day with peculiar solemnity. Thus the Companions of the Garter wear the image of Saint George depending from their collars, and meet, on great occasions, in Saint George's Chapel. Thus, when Lewis the Fourteenth instituted a new order of chivalry for the rewarding of military merit, he commended it to the favour of his own glorified ancestor and patron, and decreed that all the members of the fraternity should meet at the royal palace on the feast of Saint Lewis, should attend the king to chapel, should hear mass, and should subsequently hold their great annual assembly. There is a considerable resemblance between this rule of the order of Saint Lewis and the rule which Fabius and Decius made respecting the Roman knights. It was ordained that a grand muster and inspection of the equestrian body should be part of the ceremonial performed, on the anniversary of the battle of Regillus, in honour of Castor and Pollux, the two equestrian Gods. All the knights, clad in purple and crowned with olive, were to meet at a temple of Mars in the suburbs. Thence they were to ride in state to the Forum, where the temple of the Twins stood. This pageant was, during several centuries, considered as one of the most splendid sights of Rome. In the time of Dionysius the cavalcade sometimes consisted of five thousand horsemen, all persons of fair repute and easy fortune.

There can be no doubt that the Censors who instituted this august ceremony acted in concert with the Pontiffs to whom, by the Constitution of Rome, the superintendence of the public worship belonged; and it is probable that those high religious functionaries were, as usual, fortunate enough to find in their books or traditions some warrant for the innovation.

The following poem is supposed to have been made for this great occasion. Songs, we know, were chanted at the

religious festivals of Rome from an early period; indeed from so early a period, that some of the sacred verses were popularly ascribed to Numa, and were utterly unintelligible in the age of Augustus. In the Second Punic War a great feast was held in honour of Juno, and a song was sung in her praise. This song was extant when Livy wrote; and, though exceedingly rugged and uncouth, seemed to him not wholly destitute of merit. A song, as we learn from Horace, was part of the established ritual at the great Secular Jubilee. It is therefore likely that the Censors and Pontiffs, when they had resolved to add a grand procession of knights to the other solemnities annually performed on the Ides of Quintilis, would call in the aid of a poet. Such a poet would naturally take for his subject the battle of Regillus, the appearance of the Twin Gods, and the institution of their festival. He would find abundant materials in the ballads of his predecessors; and he would make free use of the scanty stock of Greek learning which he had himself acquired. He would probably introduce some wise and holy Pontiff enjoining the magnificent ceremonial, which, after a long interval, had at length been adopted. If the poem succeeded, many persons would commit it to memory. Parts of it would be sung to the pipe at banquets. It would be peculiarly interesting to the great Posthumian House, which numbered among its many images that of the Dictator Aulus, the hero of Regillus. The orator who, in the following generation, pronounced the funeral panegyric over the remains of Lucius Posthumius Megellus, thrice Consul, would borrow largely from the lay; and thus some passages, much disfigured, would probably find their way into the chronicles which were afterwards in the hands of Dionysius and Livy.

Antiquaries differ widely as to the situation of the field of battle. The opinion of those who suppose that the armies met near Cornufelle, between Frascati and the Monte Porzio, is at least plausible, and has been followed in the poem,

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As to the details of the battle, it has not been thought desirable to adhere minutely to the accounts which have come down to us. Those accounts, indeed, differ widely from each other, and, in all probability, differ as widely
5 from the ancient poem from which they were originally derived.

It is unnecessary to point out the obvious imitations of the *Iliad*, which have been purposely introduced.

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS.

LAY SUNG AT THE FEAST OF CASTOR AND POLLUX, ON
THE IDES OF QUINTILIS, IN THE YEAR OF THE CITY
CCCCLI. (B.C. 303).

I.

Ho, trumpets, sound a war-note !
Ho, lictors, clear the way !
The Knights will ride, in all their pride,
Along the streets to-day
To-day the doors and windows **5**
Are hung with garlands all,
From Castor in the Forum,
To Mars without the wall.
Each Knight is robed in purple,
With olive each is crowned ; **10**
A gallant war-horse under each
Paws haughtily the ground.
While flows the Yellow River,
While stands the Sacred Hill,
The proud Ides of Quintilis **15**
Shall have such honour still.
Gay are the Martian Kalends :
December's Nones are gay :
But the proud Ides, when the squadron rides,
Shall be Rome's whitest day. **20**

II.

Unto the great Twin Brethren
 We keep this solen n feast.
 Swift, swift, the Gre t Twin Brethren
 Came spurring from the east
 They came o'er wild Parthenius 25
 Tossing in waves of pine,
 O'er Cirrha's dome, o'er Adria's foam,
 O'er purple Apennine,
 From where with flutes and dances
 Their ancient mansion rings, 30
 In lordly Lacedæmon,
 The City of two kings,
 To where, by Lake Regillus,
 Under the Porcian height,
 All in the lands of Tusculum, 35
 Was fought the glorious fight.

III.

Now on the place of slaughter
 Are cots and sheepfolds seen
 And rows of vines, and fields of wheat,
 And apple-orchards green ; 40
 The swine crush the big acorns
 That fall from Corne's oaks
 Upon the turf by the Fair Fount
 The reaper's pottage smokes
 The fisher baits his angle ; 45
 The hunter twangs his bow ;
 Little they think on thore strong limbs
 That moulder deep below.
 Little they think how sternly
 That day the trumpets pealed ; 50
 How in the slippery swamp of blood
 Warrior and war-horse reeled ;

How wolves came with fierce gallop,
 And crows on eager wings,
 To tear the flesh o' captains, 55
 And peck the eyes of kings ;
 How thick the dead lay scattered
 Under the Porcian height ;
 How through the gates of Tusculum
 Raved the wild stream of flight ; 60
 And how the Lake Regillus
 Bubbled with crimson foam,
 What time the Thirty Cities
 Came forth to war with Rome.

IV.

But, Roman, when thou standest 65
 Upon that holy ground,
 Look thou with heed on the dark rock
 That girds the dark lake round,
 So shalt thou see a hoof-mark
 Stamped deep into the flint : 70
 It was no hoof of mortal steed
 That made so strange a dint :
 There to the Great Twin Brethren
 Vow thou thy vows, and pray
 That they, in tempest and in fight, 75
 Will keep thy head alway.

V.

Since last the Great Twin Brethren
 Of mortal eyes were seen,
 Have years gone by an hundred
 And fourscore and thirteen. 80
 That summer a Virginius
 Was Consul first in place ;
 The second was stout Aulus,
 Of the Posthumian race.

36 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS

The Herald of the Latines	85
From Gabii came in state :	
The Herald of the Latines	
Passed through Rome's Eastern Gate :	
The Herald of the Latines	
Did in our Forum stand ;	90
And there he did his office,	
A sceptre in his hand	

VI.

"Hear, Senators and people	
Of the good town of Rome,	
The Thirty Cities charge you	95
To bring the Tarquins home :	
And if ye still be stubborn,	
To work the Tarquins wrong,	
The Thirty Cities warn you,	
Look that your walls be strong."	100

VII.

Then spake the Consul Aulus,	
He spake a bitter jest .	
"Once the jay sent a message	
Unto the eagle's nest :—	
Now yield thou up thine eyrie	105
Unto the carrion-kite,	
Or come forth valiantly, and face	
The jays in deadly fight.—	
Forth looked in wrath the eagle ;	
And carrion-kite and jay,	110
Soon as they saw his beak and claw,	
Fled screaming far away."	

VIII.

The Herald of the Latines	
Hath hied him back in state ;	

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS. 37

The Fathers of the City	115
Are met in high debate	
Then spake the older Consul,	
An ancient man and wise	
'Now hearken, Conscrip Fathers,	
To that which I advise	120
In seasons of great peril	
'Tis good that one bear sway ;	
Then choose we a Dictator,	
Whom all men shall obey	
Camerium knows how deeply	125
The sword of Aulus bites,	
And all our city calls him	
The man of seventy fights.	
Then let him be Dictator	
For six months and no more,	130
And have a Master of the Knights,	
And axes twenty-four."	

IX.

So Aulus was Dictator,	
The man of seventy fights ;	
He made Æbutius Elva	135
His Master of the Knights.	
On the third morn thereafter,	
At dawning of the day,	
Did Aulus and Æbutius	
Set forth with their array.	140
Sempronius Atratinus	
Was left in charge at home	
With boys, and with grey-headed men,	
To keep the walls of Rome.	
Hard by the Lake Regillus	145
Our camp was pitched at night :	
Eastward a mile the Latines lay,	
Under the Porcian height.	

Far over hill and valley
 Their mighty host was spread ; 150
 And with their thousand watch-fires
 The midnight sky was red

x

Up rose the golden morning
 Over the Porcian height,
 The proud Ides of Quintilis 155
 Marked evermore with white.
 Not without secret trouble
 Our bravest saw the foes ;
 For girt by threescore thousand spears,
 The thirty standards rose. 160
 From every warlike city
 That boasts the Latian name,
 Foredoomed to dogs and vultures,
 That gallant army came ;
 From Setia's purple vineyards, 165
 From Norba's ancient wall,
 From the white streets of Tusculum,
 The proudest town of all ;
 From where the Witch's Fortress
 O'erhangs the dark-blue seas ; 170
 From the still glassy lake that sleeps
 Beneath Aricia's trees—
 Those trees in whose dim shadow
 The ghastly priest doth reign,
 The priest who slew the slayer, 175
 And shall himself be slain ;
 From the drear banks of Ufens,
 Where flights of marsh-fowl play,
 And buffaloes lie wallowing
 Through the hot summer's day ; 180
 From the gigantic watch-towers,
 No work of earthly men,

Whence Cora's sentinels o'erlook
 The never-ending fen ;
 From the Laurentian jungle, 185
 The wild hog's roedy home ;
 From the green steps whence Anio leaps
 In floods of snow-white foam.

XI.

Aricia, Cora, Norba,
 Velitræ, with the might 190
 Of Setia and of Tusculum,
 Were marshalled on the right :
 The leader was Mamilius,
 Prince of the Latian name ;
 Upon his head a helmet 195
 Of red gold shone like flame :
 High on a gallant charger
 Of dark-grey hue he rode :
 Over his gilded armour
 A vest of purple flowed, 200
 Woven in the land of sunrise
 By Syria's dark-browed daughters,
 And by the sails of Carthage brought
 Far o'er the southern waters.

XII.

Lavinium and Laurentum, 205
 Had on the left their post,
 With all the banners of the marsh,
 And banners of the coast.
 Their leader was false Sextus,
 That wrought the deed of shame : 210
 With restless pace and haggard face
 To his last field he came
 Men said he saw strange visions
 Which none beside might see,

And that strange sound^s were in his ears 215
 Which none might hear but he.
 A woman fair and stately,
 But pale as are the dead,
 Oft through the watch^{es} of the night,
 Sat spinning by his bed 220
 And as she plied the distaff,
 In a sweet voice and low,
 She sang of great old houses,
 And fights fought long ago.
 So spun she, and so sang she, 225
 Until the east was grey,
 Then pointed to her bleeding breast,
 And shrieked, and fled away.

XIII.

But in the centre thickest
 Were ranged the shields of foes, 230
 And from the centre loudest
 The cry of battle rose
 There Tiber marched and Pedum
 Beneath proud Tarquin's rule
 And Ferentinum of the rock, 235
 And Gabii of the pool
 There rode the Volscian succours :
 There, in a dark stern ring,
 The Roman exiles gathered close
 Around the ancient king 240
 Though white as Mount Soracte,
 When winter nights are long,
 His beard flowed down o'er mail and belt
 His heart and hand were strong .
 Under his hoary eyebrows 245
 Still flashed forth quenchless rage,
 And, if the lance shook in his gripe,
 'Twas more with hate than age.

Close at his side was Titus
 On an Apulian steed, 250
 Titus, the youngest Tarquin,
 Too good for such a breed.

XIV.

Now on each side the leaders
 Give signal for the charge ;
 And on each side the footmen 255
 Strode on with lance and targe ;
 And on each side the horsemen
 Struck their spurs deep in gore ;
 And front to front the armies
 Met with a mighty roar 260
 And under that great battle
 The earth with blood was red ;
 And, like the Pomptine fog at morn,
 The dust hung overhead ;
 And louder still and louder 265
 Rose from the darkened field
 The braying of the war-horns,
 The clang of sword and shield,
 The rush of squadrons sweeping
 Like whirlwinds o'er the plain, 270
 The shouting of the slayers,
 And screeching of the slain.

XV.

False Sextus rode out foremost :
 His look was high and bold ;
 His corslet was of bison's hide, 275
 Plated with steel and gold.
 As glares the famished eagle
 From the Digentian rock
 On a choice lamb that bounds alone
 Before Bandusia's flock, 280

Herminius glared on Sextus,
 And came with eagle speed,
 Herminius on black Auster,
 Brave champion on brave steed ;
 In his right hand the broadsword 285
 That kept the bridge so well,
 And on his helm the crown he won
 When proud Fidenæ fell.
 Woe to the maid whose lover
 Shall cross his path to-day ! 290
 False Sextus saw, and trembled,
 And turned, and fled away.
 As turns, as flies, the woodman
 In the Calabrian brake,
 When through the reeds gleams the round eye 295
 Of that fell speckled snake ;
 So turned, so fled, false Sextus,
 And hid him in the rear,
 Behind the dark Lavinian ranks,
 Bristling with crest and spear. 300

XVI.

But far to north Æbutius,
 The Master of the Knights,
 Gave Tubero of Norba
 To feed the Porcian kites
 Next under those red horse-hoofs 305
 Flaccus of Setia lay ;
 Better had he been pruning
 Among his elms that day
 Mamilius saw the slaughter,
 And tossed his golden crest, 310
 And towards the Master of the Knights
 Through the thick battle pressed.
 Æbutius smote Mamilius
 So fiercely on the shield,

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS. 43

That the great lord of Tusculum 315
 Well nigh rolled on the field.
 Mamilius smote Æbutius,
 With a good aim and true,
 Just where the neck and shoulder join,
 And pierced him through and through ; 320
 And brav : Æbutius Elva
 Fell swooning to the ground :
 But a thick wall of bucklers
 Encompassed him around
 His clients from the battle 325
 Bare him some little space,
 And filled a helm from the dark lake,
 And bathed his brow and face ;
 And when at last he opened
 His swimming eyes to light, 330
 Men say, the earliest word he spake
 Was "Friends, how goes the fight?"

XVII.

But meanwhile in the centre
 Great deeds of arms were wrought ;
 There Aulus the Dictator 335
 And there Valerius fought.
 Aulus with his good broadsword
 A bloody passage cleared
 To where, amidst the thickest foes,
 He saw the long white beard. 340
 Flat lighted that good broadsword
 Upon proud Tarquin's head.
 He dropped the lance . he dropped the reins :
 He fell as fall the dead.
 Down Aulus springs to slay him, 345
 With eyes like coals of fire ;
 But faster Titus hath sprung down,
 And hath bestrode his sire.

44 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

Latian captains, Roman knights,
 Fast down to earth they spring, 350
 And hand to hand they fight on foot
 Around the ancient king.
 First Titus gave tall Cæso
 A death wound in the face ;
 Tall Cæso was the bravest man 355
 Of the brave Fabian race :
 Aulus slew Rex of Gabii,
 The priest of Juno's shrine :
 Valerius smote down Julius,
 Of Rome's great Julian line ; 360
 Julius, who left his mansion
 High on the Velian hill,
 And through all turns of weal and woe
 Followed proud Tarquin still
 Now right across proud Tarquin 365
 A corpse was Julius laid ;
 And Titus groaned with rage and grief,
 And at Valerius made
 Valerius struck at Titus,
 And lopped off half his crest ; 370
 But Titus stabbed Valerius
 A span deep in the breast.
 Like a mast snapped by the tempest,
 Valerius reeled and fell.
 Ah ! woe is me for the good house 375
 That loves the people well !
 Then shouted loud the Latines ;
 And with one rush they bore
 The struggling Romans backward
 Three lances' length and more : 380
 And up they took proud Tarquin,
 And laid him on a shield,
 And four strong yeomen bare him,
 Still senseless, from the field.

XVIII.

But fiercer grew the fighting	385
Around Valerius dead ;	
For Titus dragged him by the foot,	
And Aulus by the head	
"On, Latines, on !" quoth Titus,	
"See how the Rebels fly !"	390
"Romans, stand firm !" quoth Aulus,	
"And win this fight or die !	
They must not give Valerius	
To raven and to kite ;	
For aye Valerius loathed the wrong,	395
And aye upheld the right :	
And for your wives and babies	
In the front rank he fell.	
Now play the men for the good house	
That loves the people well !"	400

XIX.

Then tenfold round the body,	
The roar of battle rose,	
Like the roar of a burning forest,	
When a strong north wind blows.	
Now backward, and now forward,	405
Rocked furiously the fray,	
Till none could see Valerius,	
And none wist where he lay.	
For shivered arms and ensigns	
Were heaped there in a mound,	410
And corpses stiff, and dying men	
That writhed and gnawed the ground ;	
And wounded horses kicking,	
And snorting purple foam :	
Right well did such a couch befit	415
A Consular of Rome	

XX.

But north looked the Dictator ;
 North looked he long and hard ;
 And spake to Caius Cossus,
 The Captain of his Guard . 420
 " Caius, of all the Romans
 Thou hast the keenest sight ;
 Say, what through yonder storm of dust
 Comes from the Latian right ? "

XXI.

Then answered Caius Cossus, 425
 " I see an evil sight ;
 The banner of proud Tusculum
 Comes from the Latian right ;
 I see the plumed horsemen ;
 And far before the rest 430
 I see the dark-grey charger,
 I see the purple vest ;
 I see the golden helmet
 That shines far off like flame ;
 So ever rides Mamilius, 435
 Prince of the Latian name . "

XXII

" Now hearken, Caius Cossus :
 Spring on thy horse's back ;
 Ride as the wolves of Apennine
 Were all upon thy track , 440
 Haste to our southward battle :
 And never draw thy rein
 Until thou find Herminius,
 And bid him come again "

XXIII.

So Aulus spake, and turned him : 445
 Again to that fierce strife ;

And Caius Cossus mounted,
 And rode for death and life.
 Loud clanged beneath his horse-hoofs
 The helmets of the dead, 450
 And many a curdling pool of blood
 Splashed him from heel to head.
 So came he far to southward,
 Where fought the Roman host,
 Against the banners of the marsh 455
 And banners of the coast
 Like corn before the sickle
 The stout Lavinians fell,
 Beneath the edge of the true sword
 That kept the bridge so well. 460

XXIV.

"Herminius' Aulus greets thee;
 He bids thee come with speed,
 To help our central battle;
 For sore is there our need.
 There wars the youngest Tarquin, 465
 And there the Crest of Flame,
 The Tusculan Mamilius,
 Prince of the Latian name.
 Valerius hath fallen fighting
 In front of our array 470
 And Aulus of the seventy fields
 Alone upholds the day."

XXV.

Herminius beat his bosom:
 But never a word he spake.
 He clapped his hand on Auster's mane: 475
 He gave the reins a shake,
 Away, away went Auster,
 Like an arrow from the bow:

48 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

Black Auster was the fleetest steed
From Aufidus to Po. 490

XXVI.

Right glad were all the Romans
Who, in that hour of dread,
Against great odds bare up the war
Around Valerius dead,
When from the south the cheering 485
Rose with a mighty swell;
"Herminius comes, Herminius,
Who kept the bridge so well!"

XXVII.

Mamilius spied Herminius,
And dashed across the way. 490
"Herminius! I have sought thee
Through many a bloody day.
One of us two, Herminius,
Shall never more go home.
I will lay on for Tusculum, 495
And lay thou on for Rome!"

XXVIII.

All around them paused the battle,
While met in mortal fray
The Roman and the Tusculan,
The horses black and grey. 500
Herminius smote Mamilius
Through breast-plate and through breast;
And fast flowed out the purple blood
Over the purple vest.
Mamilius smote Herminius 505
Through head-piece and through head;
And side by side those chiefs of pride
Together fell down dead.
Down fell they dead together
In a great lake of gore; 510

And still stood all who saw them fall
While men might count a score.

xxix.

Fast, fast, with heels wild spurning, The dark-grey charger fled	
He burst through ranks of fighting men;	515
He sprang o'er heaps of dead	
His bridle far out-streaming,	
His flanks all blood and foam,	
He sought the southern mountains,	
The mountains of his home.	520
The pass was steep and rugged,	
The wolves they howled and whined;	
But he ran like a whirlwind up the pass,	
And he left the wolves behind.	
Through many a startled hamlet	525
Thundered his flying feet,	
He rushed through the gate of Tusculum,	
He rushed up the long white street;	
He rushed by tower and temple,	
And paused not from his race	530
Till he stood before his master's door	
In the stately market-place.	
And straightway round him gathered	
A pale and trembling crowd,	
And when they knew him, cries of rage	535
Brake forth, and wailing loud:	
And women rent their tresses	
For their great prince's fall;	
And old men girt on their old swords,	
And went to man the wall.	540

xxx.

But, like a graven image,
Black Auster kept his place,

And ever wistfully he looked
 Into his master's face
 The raven mane that daily, 545
 With pats and fond caresses,
 The young Herminia washed and combed
 And twined in even tresses,
 And decked with coloured ribands
 From her own gay attire, 550
 Hung sadly o'er her father's corpse
 In carnage and in mire.
 Forth with a shout sprang Titus,
 And seized black Auster's rein.
 Then Aulus sware a fearful oath, 555
 And ran at him amain
 "The furies of thy brother
 With me and mine abide,
 If one of your accursed house
 Upon black Auster ride!" 560
 As on an Alpine watch-tower
 From heaven comes down the flame,
 Full on the neck of Titus
 The blade of Aulus came
 And out the red blood spouted, 565
 In a wide arch and tall,
 As spouts a fountain in the court
 Of some rich Capuan's hall.
 The knees of all the Latines
 Were loosened with dismay 570
 When dead, on dead Herminius,
 The bravest Tarquin lay.

XXXI

And Aulus the Dictator
 Stroked Auster's raven mane,
 With heed he looked unto the girths, 575
 With heed unto the rein.

"Now bear me well, black Auster,
 Into yon thick array;
 And thou and I will have revenge
 For thy good lord this day." 580

XXXII.

So spake he; and was buckling
 Tighter black Auster's band,
 When he was aware of a princely pair
 That rode at his right hand.
 So like they were, no mortal 585
 Might one from other know:
 White as snow their armour was:
 Their steeds were white as snow.
 Never on earthly anvil
 Did such rare armour gleam; 590
 And never did such gallant steeds
 Drink of an earthly stream.

XXXIII.

And all who saw them trembled,
 And pale grew every cheek;
 And Aulus the Dictator 595
 Scarce gathered voice to speak,
 'Say by what name men call you?
 What city is your home?
 And wherefore ride ye in such guise
 Before the ranks of Rome?' 600

XXXIV.

By many names men call us,
 In many lands we dwell:
 Well Samothracia knows us;
 Cyrene knows us well.
 Our house in gay Tarentum 605
 Is hung each morn with flowers:

High o'er the masts of Syracuse
 Our marble portal towers ;
 But by the proud Eurotas
 Is our dear native home ; 610
 And for the right we come to fight
 Before the ranks of Rome "

XXXV

So answered those strange horsemen,
 And each couched low his spear ,
 And forthwith all the ranks of Rome 615
 Were bold, and of good cheer .
 And on the thirty armies
 Came wonder and affright,
 And Ardea wavered on the left,
 And Cora on the right. 620
 "Rome to the charge !" cried Aulus ;
 "The foe begins to yield !
 Charge for the hearth of Vesta !
 Charge for the Golden Shield !
 Let no man stop to plunder, 625
 But slay, and slay, and slay ;
 The Gods who live for ever
 Are on our side to-day."

XXXVI.

Then the fierce trumpet-flourish
 From earth to heaven arose. 630
 The kites know well the long stern swell
 That bids the Romans close
 Then the good sword of Aulus
 Was lifted up to slay :
 Then, like a crag down Apennine, 635
 Rushed Auster through the fray.
 But under those strange horsemen
 Still thicker lay the slain ;

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS. 53

And after those strange horses
 Black Auster toiled in vain. 640
 Behind them Rome's long battle
 Came rolling on the foe,
 Ensigns dancing wild above,
 Blades all in line below
 So comes the Po in flood-time 645
 Upon the Celtic plain
 So comes the squall, blacker than night,
 Upon the Adrian main.
 Now, by our Sire Quirinus,
 It was a goodly sight 650
 To see the thirty standards
 Swept down the tide of flight.
 So flies the spray of Adria
 When the black squall doth blow,
 So corn-sheaves in the flood-time 655
 Spin down the whirling Po
 False Sextus to the mountains
 Turned first his horse's head ;
 And fast fled Ferentinum,
 And fast Lanuvium fled. 660
 The horsemen of Nomentum
 Spurred hard out of the fray ;
 The footmen of Velitræ
 Threw shield and spear away.
 And underfoot was trampled, 665
 Amidst the mud and gore,
 The banner of proud Tusculum,
 That never stooped before :
 And down went Flavius Faustus,
 Who led his stately ranks 670
 From where the apple blossoms wave
 On Anio's echoing banks,
 And Tullus of Arpinum,
 Chief of the Volscian aids,

And Metius with the long fair curls,	675
The love of Anxur's maids,	
And the white head of Vulso,	
The great Arician seer,	
And Nepos of Laurentum,	
The hunter of the deer ;	680
And in the back false Sextus	
Felt the good Roman steel,	
And wriggling in the dust he died,	
Like a worm beneath the wheel :	
And fliers and pursuers	685
Were mingled in a mass ;	
And far away the battle	
Went roaring through the pass.	

XXXVII.

Sempronius Atratinus	
Sate in the Eastern Gate,	690
Beside him were three Fathers,	
Each in his chair of state ;	
Fabius, whose nine stout grandsons	
That lay were in the field,	
And Manlius, eldest of the Twelve,	695
Who kept the Golden Shield ;	
And Sergius, the High Pontiff,	
For wisdom far renowned ;	
In all Etruria's colleges	
Was no such Pontiff found.	700
And all around the portal,	
And high above the wall,	
Stood a great throng of people,	
But sad and silent all ;	
Young lads, and stooping elders	705
That might not bear the mail,	
Matrons with lips that quivered,	
And maids with faces pale.	

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE, REGILLUS. 55

Since the first gleam of daylight,
 Sempronius had not ceased 710
 To listen for the rushing
 Of horse-hoofs from the east.
 The mist of eve was rising,
 The sun was hastening down,
 When he was aware of a princely pair 715
 Fast pricking towards the town.
 So like they were, man never
 Saw twins so like before,
 Red with gore their armour was,
 Their steeds were red with gore. 720

XXXVIII.

"Hail to the great Asylum!
 Hail to the hill-tops seven!
 Hail to the fire that burns for aye,
 And the shield that fell from heaven!
 This day, by Lake Regillus, 725
 Under the Porcian height,
 All in the lands of Tusculum
 Was fought a glorious fight,
 To-morrow your Dictator
 Shall bring in triumph home 730
 The spoils of thirty cities
 To deck the shrines of Rome!"

XXXIX.

Then burst from that great concourse
 A shout that shook the towers,
 And some ran north, and some ran south, 735
 Crying, "The day is ours!"
 But on rode the strange horsemen,
 With slow and lordly pace;
 And none who saw their bearing
 Durst ask their name or race. 740

On rode they to the Forum,
 While laurel-boughs and flowers,
 From house-tops and from windows,
 Fell on their crests in showers
 When they drew nigh to Vesta, 745
 They vaulted down amain,
 And washed their horses in the well
 That springs by Vesta's fane
 And straight again they mounted,
 And rode to Vesta's door, 750
 Then, like a blast, away they passed,
 And no man saw them more.

XL

And all the people trembled,
 And pale grew every cheek;
 And Sergius the High Pontiff 755
 Alone found voice to speak:
 "The gods who live for ever
 Have fought for Rome to-day!
 These be the great Twin Brethren
 To whom the Dorians pray. 760
 Back comes the Chief in triumph,
 Who, in the hour of fight,
 Hath seen the Great Twin Brethren
 In harness on his right
 Safe comes the ship to haven, 765
 Through billows and through gales,
 If once the Great Twin Brethren
 Sit shining on the sails.
 Wherefore they washed their horses
 In Vesta's holy well, 770
 Wherefore they rode to Vesta's door,
 I know, but may not tell.
 Here, hard by Vesta's Temple,
 Build we a stately dome

T. HE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS. 57

Unto the Great Twin Brethren	775
Who fought so well for Rome.	
And when the months returning	
Bring back this day of fight,	
The proud Ides of Quintilis,	
Marked evermore with white,	780
Unto the Great Twin Brethren	
Let all the people throng,	
With chaplets and with offerings,	
With music and with song ;	
And let the doors and windows	785
Be hung with garlands all,	
And let the Knights be summoned	
To Mars without the wall :	
Thence let them ride in purple	
With joyous trumpet-sound,	790
Each mounted on his war-horse,	
And each with olive crowned ;	
And pass in solemn order	
Before the sacred dome,	
Where dwell the Great Twin Brethren	795
Who fought so well for Rome !”	

VIRGINIA.

A COLLECTION consisting exclusively of war-songs would give an imperfect, or rather an erroneous, notion of the spirit of the old Latin ballads. The patricians, during more than a century after the expulsion of the Kings, held all the high
5 military commands. A Plebeian, even though, like Lucius Siccus, he were distinguished by his valour and knowledge of war, could serve only in subordinate posts. A minstrel, therefore, who wished to celebrate the early triumphs of his country, could hardly take any but Patricians for his heroes.
10 The warriors who are mentioned in the two preceding lays, Horatius, Lartius, Herminius, Aulus Posthumius, Æbutius Elva, Sempronius Atratinus, Valerius Poplicola, were all members of the dominant order; and a poet who was singing their praises, whatever his own political opinions
15 might be, would naturally abstain from insulting the class to which they belonged, and from reflecting on the system which had placed such men at the head of the legions of the Commonwealth.

But there was a class of compositions in which the great
20 families were by no means so courteously treated. No parts of early Roman history are richer with poetical coloring than those which relate to the long contest between the privileged houses and the commonalty. The population of Rome was, from a very early period, divided into hereditary
25 castes, which, indeed, readily united to repel foreign enemies, but which regarded each other, during many years, with

bitter animosity. Between those castes there was a barrier hardly less strong than that which, at Venice, parted the members of the Great Council from their countrymen. In some respects, indeed, the line which separated an Icilius or a Duilius from a Posthumius or a Fabius was even more 5 deeply marked than that which separated the rower of a gondola from a Contarini or a Morosini. At Venice the distinction was merely civil. At Rome it was both civil and religious. Among the grievances under which the Plebeians suffered, three were felt as peculiarly severe. 10 They were excluded from the highest magistracies; they were excluded from all share in the public lands; and they were ground down to the dust by partial and barbarous legislation touching pecuniary contracts. The ruling class in Rome was a moneyed class; and it made and administered 15 the laws with a view solely to its own interest. Thus the relation between lender and borrower was mixed up with the relation between sovereign and subject. The great men held a large portion of the community in dependence by means of advances at enormous usury. The law of debt, 20 framed by creditors, and for the protection of creditors, was the most horrible that has ever been known among men. The liberty, and even the life, of the insolvent were at the mercy of the Patrician money-lenders. Children often became slaves in consequence of the misfortunes of their 25 parents. The debtor was imprisoned, not in a public gaol under the care of impartial public functionaries, but in a private workhouse belonging to the creditor. Frightful stories were told respecting these dungeons. It was said that torture and brutal violation were common; that tight 30 stocks, heavy chains, scanty measures of food, were used to punish wretches guilty of nothing but poverty; and that brave soldiers, whose breasts were covered with honourable scars, were often marked still more deeply on the back by the scourges of high-born usurers. 35

The Plebeians were, however, not wholly without con-

stitutional rights. From an early period they had been admitted to some share of political power. They were enrolled each in his century, and were allowed a share, considerable though not proportioned to their numerical strength, in the disposal of those high dignities from which they were themselves excluded. Thus their position bore some resemblance to that of the Irish Catholics during the interval between the year 1792 and the year 1829. The Plebeians had also the privilege of annually appointing officers, named Tribunes, who had no active share in the government of the Commonwealth, but who, by degrees, acquired a power formidable even to the ablest and most resolute Consuls and Dictators. The person of the Tribune was inviolable; and though he could directly effect little, he could obstruct everything.

During more than a century after the institution of the Tribuneship, the Commons struggled manfully for the removal of the grievances under which they laboured; and, in spite of many checks and reverses, succeeded in wringing concession after concession from the stubborn aristocracy. At length in the year of the city 378, both parties mustered their whole strength for their last and most desperate conflict. The popular and active Tribune, Caius Licinius, proposed the three memorable laws which are called by his name, and which were intended to redress the three great evils of which the Plebeians complained. He was supported, with eminent ability and firmness, by his colleague, Lucius Sextius. The struggle appears to have been the fiercest that ever in any community terminated without an appeal to arms. If such a contest had raged in any Greek city, the streets would have run with blood. But, even in the paroxysms of faction, the Roman retained his gravity, his respect for law, and his tenderness for the lives of his fellow-citizens. Year after year Licinius and Sextius were re-elected Tribunes. Year after year, if the narrative which has come down to us is to be trusted, they

continued to exert, to the full extent, their power of stopping the whole machine of government. No curule magistrates could be chosen; no military muster could be held. We know too little of the state of Rome in those days to be able to conjecture how, during that long anarchy, the peace 5 was kept, and ordinary justice administered between man and man. The animosity of both parties rose to the greatest height. The excitement, we may well suppose, would have been peculiarly intense at the annual election of Tribunes. On such occasions there can be little doubt that the great 10 families did all that could be done, by threats and caresses, to break the union of the Plebeians. That union, however, proved indissoluble. At length the good cause triumphed. The Licinian laws were carried. Lucius Sextius was the first Plebeian Consul, Caius Licinius the third. 15

The results of this great change were singularly happy and glorious. Two centuries of prosperity, harmony, and victory followed the reconciliation of the orders. Men who remembered Rome engaged in waging petty wars almost within sight of the Capitol lived to see her the mistress of 20 Italy. While the disabilities of the Plebeians continued, she was scarcely able to maintain her ground against the Volscians and Hernicans. When those disabilities were removed, she rapidly became more than a match for Carthage and Macedon. 25

During the great Licinian contest the Plebeian poets were, doubtless, not silent. Even in modern times songs have been by no means without influence on public affairs; and we may therefore infer that, in a society where printing was unknown, and where books were rare, a pathetic or 30 humorous party-ballad must have produced effects such as we can but faintly conceive. It is certain that satirical poems were common at Rome from a very early period. The rustics, who lived at a distance from the seat of government, and took little part in the strife of factions, give 35 vent to their petty local animosities in coarse Fescennine

verse. The lampoons of the city were doubtless of a higher order; and their sting was early felt by the nobility. For in the Twelve Tables, long before the time of the Licinian laws, a severe punishment was denounced against the citizen
 5 who should compose or recite verses reflecting on another.¹ Satire is, indeed, the only sort of composition in which the Latin poets, whose works have come down to us, were not mere imitators of foreign models; and it is therefore the only sort of composition in which they have never been
 10 rivalled. It was not, like their tragedy, their comedy, their epic and lyric poetry, a hothouse plant, which, in return for assiduous and skilful culture, gave only scanty and sickly fruits. It was hardy and full of sap; and in all the various juices which it yielded might be distinguished
 15 the flavour of the Ausonian soil. 'Satire,' says Quintilian, with just pride, 'is all our own.' Satire sprang, in truth, naturally from the constitution of the Roman government and from the spirit of the Roman people, and, though at length subjected to metrical rules derived from Greece,
 20 retained to the last an essentially Roman character. Lucilius was the earliest satirist whose works were held in esteem under the Cæsars. But many years before Lucilius was born, Nævius had been flung into a dungeon, and guarded there with circumstances of unusual rigour, on account of
 25 the bitter lines in which he had attacked the great Cæcilian family.² The genius and spirit of the Roman satirist survived the liberty of their country, and were not extinguished by the cruel despotism of the Julian and Flavian Emperors. The great poet who told the story of Domitian's turbot was
 30 the legitimate successor of those forgotten minstrels whose songs animated the factions of the infant Republic.

¹ Cicero justly infers from this law that there had been early Latin poets whose works had been lost before his time. 'Quamquam id quidem etiam XII tabulæ declarant condidisse jam tum solitum esse carmen, quod ne liceret fieri ad alterius injuriam lege sanxerunt.'—*Tusc.* iv. 2.

² Plautus. *Miles Gloriosus*. Aulus Gellius, iii. 3.

These minstrels, as Niebuhr has remarked, appear to have generally taken the popular side. We can hardly be mistaken in supposing that, at the great crisis of the civil conflict, they employed themselves in versifying all the most powerful and virulent speeches of the Tribunes, and in heaping abuse on the leaders of the aristocracy. Every personal defect, every domestic scandal, every tradition dishonourable to a noble house, would be sought out, brought into notice, and exaggerated. The illustrious head of the aristocratical party, Marcus Furius Camillus, might perhaps be, in some measure, protected by his venerable age and by the memory of his great services to the State. But Appius Claudius Crassus enjoyed no such immunity. He was descended from a long line of ancestors distinguished by their haughty demeanour, and by the inflexibility with which they had withstood all the demands of the Plebeian order. While the political conduct and the deportment of the Claudian nobles drew upon them the fiercest public hatred, they were accused of wanting, if any credit is due to the early history of Rome, a class of qualities which, in the military commonwealth, is sufficient to cover a multitude of offences. The chiefs of the family appear to have been eloquent, versed in civil business, and learned after the fashion of their age; but in war they were not distinguished by skill or valour. Some of them, as if conscious where their weakness lay, had, when filling the highest magistracies, taken internal administration as their department of public business, and left the military command to their colleagues.¹ One of them had been intrusted with an army, and had failed ignominiously.² None of them had been honoured with a triumph. None of them had achieved any martial exploit, such as those by which Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, Titus Quinctius Capitolinus, Aulus Cornelius Cossus, and, above all, the great Camillus, had extorted the

¹ In the years of the city 260, 304, and 330.

² In the year of the city 282.

reluctant esteem of the multitude. During the Licinia conflict, Appius Claudius Crassus signalised himself by the ability and severity with which he harangued against the two great agitators. He would naturally, therefore, be the
 5 favourite mark of the Plebeian satirists; nor would they have been at a loss to find a point on which he was open to attack.

His grandfather, called, like himself, Appius Claudius, had left a name as much detested as that of Sextus Tar-
 10 quinius. This elder Appius had been Consul more than seventy years before the introduction of the Licinian laws. By availing himself of a singular crisis in public feeling, he had obtained the consent of the Commons to the abolition of the Tribuneship, and had been the chief of that Council
 15 of Ten to which the whole direction of the State had been committed. In a few months his administration had become universally odious. It had been swept away by an irresistible outbreak of popular fury, and its memory was still held in abhorrence by the whole city. The immediate cause
 20 of the downfall of this execrable government was said to have been an attempt made by Appius Claudius upon the chastity of a beautiful young girl of humble birth. The story ran that the Decemvir, unable to succeed by bribes and solicitations, resorted to an outrageous act of tyranny.
 25 A vile dependent of the Claudian house laid claim to the damsel as his slave. The cause was brought before the tribunal of Appius. The wicked magistrate, in defiance of the clearest proofs, gave judgment for the claimant. But the girl's father, a brave soldier, saved her from servitude
 30 and dishonour by stabbing her to the heart in the sight of the whole Forum. That blow was the signal for a general explosion. Camp and city rose at once; the Ten were pulled down; the Tribuneship was re-established; and Appius escaped the hands of the executioner only by a
 35 voluntary death.

It can hardly be doubted that a story so admirably

adapted to the purposes both of the poet and of the demagogue would be eagerly seized upon by minstrels burning with hatred against the Patrician order, against the Claudian house, and especially against the grandson and namesake of the infamous Decemvir. 5

In order that the reader may judge fairly of these fragments of the lay of Virginia, he must imagine himself a Plebeian who has just voted for the re-election of Sextius and Licinius. All the power of the Patricians has been exerted to throw out the two great champions of the 10 Commons. Every Posthumius, Æmilius, and Cornelius has used his influence to the utmost. Debtors have been let out of the workhouses on condition of voting against the men of the people: clients have been posted to hiss and interrupt the favourite candidates. Appius Claudius Crassus 15 has spoken with more than his usual eloquence and asperity; all has been in vain, Licinius and Sextius have a fifth time carried all the tribes: work is suspended the booths are closed: the Plebeians bear on their shoulders the two champions of liberty through the Forum. Just at this 20 moment it is announced that a popular poet, a zealous adherent of the Tribunes, has made a new song which will cut the Claudian nobles to the heart. The crowd gathers round him, and calls on him to recite it. He takes his stand on the spot where, according to tradition, Virginia, 25 more than seventy years ago, was seized by the pandar of Appius. And he begins his story.

VIRGINIA

FRAGMENTS OF A LAY SUNG IN THE FORUM ON THE DAY
WHEREON LUCIUS SEXTIUS SEXTINUS LATERANUS AND
CAIUS LICINIUS CALVUS STOLO WERE ELECTED TRIBUNES
OF THE COMMONS THE FIFTH TIME, IN THE YEAR OF THE
CITY CCCLXXXII. (B.C. 372)

YE good men of the Commons, with loving hearts and
true,
Who stand by the bold Tribunes that still have stood by
you,
Come, make a circle round me, and mark my tale with
care,
A tale of what Rome once hath borne, of what Rome yet
may bear.
This is no Grecian fable of fountains running wine, 5
Of maids with snaky tresses, or sailors turned to swine
Here, in this very Forum, under the noonday sun.
In sight of all the people, the bloody deed was done.
Old men still creep among us who saw that fearful day,
Just seventy years and seven ago, when the wicked Ten
bare sway. 10

Of all the wicked Ten, still the names are held accursed,
And of all the wicked Ten Appius Claudius was the worst.
He stalked along the Forum like King Tarquin in his pride :
Twelve axes waited on him, six marching on a side ;

The townsmen shrank to right and left, and eyed askance
with fear 15

His lowering brow, his curling mouth, which always seemed
to sneeze.

That brow of hate, that mouth of scorn, marks all the
kindred still,

For never was there Claudius yet but wished the Commons
ill.

Nor lacks he fit attendance; for close behind his heels,
With outstretched chin and crouching pace, the client
Marcus steals. 20

His loins girt up to run with speed, be the errand what
it may,

And the smile flickering on his cheek, for aught his lord
may say.

Such varlets pimp and jest for hire among the lying
Greeks.

Such varlets still are paid to hoot when brave Lucius
speaks.

Where'er ye shed the honey, the buzzing flies will crowd;

Where'er ye fling the carrion, the raven's croak is loud; 26

Where'er down Tiber garbage floats, the greedy pike ye
see;

And wheresoe'er such lord is found, such client still will be.

Just then, as through one cloudless chink in a black
stormy sky

Shines out the dewy morning-star, a fair young girl
came by. 30

With her small tablets in her hand and her satchel on
her arm,

Home she went bounding from the school, nor dreamed of
shame or harm;

And past those dreaded axes she innocently ran,

With bright, frank brow that had not learned to blush at
sight of man:

And up the Sacred Street she turned, and, as she danced
along, 35

She warbled gaily to herself lines of the good old song,
How for a sport the princes came spurring from the camp,
And found Lucrece, combing the fleece, under the mid-
night lamp

The maiden sang as sings the lark, when up he darts his
flight,

From his nest in the green April corn, to meet the
morning light; 40

And Appius heard her sweet young voice, and saw her
sweet young face,

And loved her with the accursed love of his accursed
race,

And all along the Forum, and up the Sacred Street,
His vulture eye pursued the trip of those small glancing
feet.

.

Over the Alban mountains the light of morning broke;
From all the roofs of the Seven Hills curled the thin
wreaths of smoke: 46

The city-gates were opened; the Forum, all alive,
With buyers and with sellers was humming like a hive:
Blithely on brass and timber the craftsman's stroke was
ringing, 49

And blithely o'er her panniers the market-girl was singing,
And blithely young Virginia came smiling from her home:
Ah! woe for young Virginia, the sweetest maid in Rome!
With her small tablets in her hand, and her satchel on
her arm,

Forth she went bounding to the school, nor dreamed of
shame or harm.

She crossed the Forum shining with stalls in alleys gay,
And just had reached the very spot whereon I stand this
day. 56

When up the varlet Marcus came; not such as when
erewhile

He crouched behind his patron's heels with the true client
smile.

He came with lowering forehead, swollen features, and
clenched fist,

And strode across Virginia's path, and caught her by the
wrist. 60

Hard strove the frightened maiden, and screamed with look
aghast,

And at her scream from right and left the folk came
running fast;

The money-changer Crispus, with his thin silver hairs,
And Hanno from the stately booth glittering with Punic
wares,

And the strong smith Muræna, grasping a half-forged
brand, 65

And Volero the flesher, his cleaver in his hand.

All came in wrath and wonder; for all knew that fair
child,

And, as she passed them twice a day, all kissed their
hands and smiled;

And the strong smith Muræna gave Marcus such a blow,
The caitiff reeled three paces back, and let the maiden
go.

Yet glared he fiercely round him, and growled in harsh,
fell tone,

'She's mine, and I will have her: I seek but for mine
own.

She is my slave, born in my house, and stolen away and
sold,

The year of the sore sickness, ere she was twelve hours
old.

'Twas in the sad September, the month of wail and fright,
Two augurs were borne forth that morn; the Consul died
ere night. 76

70 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

I wait on Appius Claudius, I waited on his sire.
Let him who works the client wrong beware the patron's
ire !'

So spake the varlet Marcus, and dread in silence came
On all the people at the sound of the great Claudian name
For then there was no Tribune to speak the word of
might, 81
Which makes the rich man tremble, and guards the poor
man's right.

There was no brave Licinius, no honest Sextius then ;
But all the city, in great fear, obeyed the wicked Ten
Yet ere the varlet Marcus again might seize the maid,
Who clung tight to Muræna's skirt, and sobbed, and
shrieked for aid, 86
Forth through the throng of gazers the young Icilius
pressed,
And stamped his foot, and rent his gown, and smote upon
his breast,
And sprang upon that column, by many a minstrel sung,
Whereon three mouldering helmets, three rusting swords,
are hung,
And beckoned to the people, and in bold voice and clear
Poured thick and fast the burning words which tyrants
quake to hear.

'Now, by your children's cradles, now by your fathers
graves,
Be men, to-day, Quirites, or be for ever slaves !
For this did Servius give us laws ? For this did Lucrece
bleed ? 95
For this was the great vengeance wrought on Tarquin's
evil seed ?
For this did those false sons make red the axes of their
sire ?
For this did Scævola's right hand hiss on the Tuscan fire ?

Shall the vile fox-earth awe the race that stormed the
lion's den?

Shall we, who could not brook one lord, crouch to the
wicked Ten? 100

Oh, for that ancient spirit which curbed the Senate's will!
Oh, for the tents which in old time whitened the Sacred
Hill!

In those brave days our fathers stood firmly side by side.
They faced the Marcian fury; they tamed the Fabian
pride:

They drove the fiercest Quinctius an outcast forth from
Rome; 105

They sent the haughtiest Claudius with shivered fasces
home

But what their care bequeathed us our madness flung
away:

All the ripe fruit of threescore years was blighted in a day.
Exult, ye proud Patricians! The hard-fought fight is o'er
We strove for honours—'twas in vain: for freedom—'tis
no more. 110

No crier to the polling summons the eager throng;
No Tribune breathes the word of might that guards the
weak from wrong.

Our very hearts, that were so high, sink down beneath
your will

Riches, and lands, and power, and state—ye have them:—
keep them still

Still keep the holy fillets; still keep the purple gown, 115
The axes, and the curule chair, the car, and laurel crown
Still press us for your cohorts, and, when the fight is
done,

Still fill your garners from the soil which our good swords
have won.

Still, like a spreading ulcer, which leech-craft may not
cure,

Let your foul usance eat away the substance of the poor. 120

Still let your haggard debtors bear all their fathers bore;
 Still let your dens of torment be noisome as of yore;
 No fire when Tiber freezes; no air in dog-star heat;
 And store of rods for free-born backs, and hol's for free-
 born feet

Heap heavier still the fetters; bar closer still the grate; 125
 Patient as sheep we yield us up unto your cruel hate.
 But, by the Shades beneath us, and by the Gods above,
 Add not unto your cruel hate your yet more cruel love!
 Have ye not graceful ladies, whose spotless lineage springs
 From Consuls, and High Pontiffs, and ancient Alban
 kings? 130

Ladies, who deign not on our paths to set their tender
 feet,*

Who from their cars look down with scorn upon the
 wondering street,

Who in Corinthian mirrors their own proud smiles behold,
 And breathe of Capuan odours, and shine with Spanish
 gold?

Then leave the poor Plebeian his single tie to life— 135
 The sweet, sweet love of daughter, of sister, and of wife,
 The gentle speech, the balm for all that his vexed soul
 endures,

The kiss, in which he half forgets even such a yoke as
 yours

Still let the maiden's beauty swell the father's breast with
 pride;

Still let the bridegroom's arms unfold an unpolluted bride.
 Spare us the inexpiable wrong the unutterable shame, 141
 That turns the coward's heart to steel, the sluggard's blood
 to flame,

Lest, when our latest hope is fled, ye taste of our despair,
 And learn by proof, in some wild hour, how much the
 wretched dare.'

: : : : : : :

Straightway Virginius led the maid a little space aside,
To where the reeking shambles stood, piled up with horn
and hide, 146

Close to yon low dark archway, where, in a crimson flood,
Leaps down to the great sewer the gurgling stream of
blood

Hard by, a flesher on a block had laid his whittle down;
Virginius caught the whittle up, and hid it in his gown
And then his eyes grew very dim, and his throat began
to swell, 151

And in a hoarse, changed voice he spake, 'Farewell, sweet
child! Farewell!

Oh! how I loved my darling! Though stern I some-
times be,

To thee thou know'st I was not so. Who could be so to
thee?

And how my darling loved me! How glad she was to
hear 155

My footstep on the threshold when I came back last
year!

And how she danced with pleasure to see my civic
crown,

And took my sword, and hung it up, and brought me
forth my gown!

Now, all those things are over—yes, all thy pretty ways,
Thy needlework, thy prattle, thy snatches of old lays; 160
And none will grieve when I go forth, or smile when I
return,

Or watch beside the old man's bed, or weep upon his
urn.

The house that was the happiest within the Roman walls,
The house that envied not the wealth of Capua's marble
halls,

Now, for the brightness of thy smile, must have eternal
gloom, 165

And for the music of thy voice, the silence of thy tomb.

74 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

The time is come. See how he points his eager hand this way !

See how his eyes gloat on thy grief, like a kite's upon the prey !

With all his wit, he little deems, that, spurned, betrayed, bereft,

Thy father hath in his despair one fearful refuge left. 170

He little deems that in this hand I clutch what still can save

Thy gentle youth from taunts and blows, the portion of the slave ;

Yea, and from nameless evil, that passeth taunt and blow--
Foul outrage which thou knowest not, which thou shalt never know

Then clasp me round the neck once more, and give me one more kiss , 175

And now, mine own dear little girl, there is no way but this.'

With that he lifted high the steel, and smote her in the side,

And in her blood she sank to earth, and with one sob she died

Then, for a little moment, all people held their breath ;
And through the crowded Forum was stillness as of death ;
And in another moment brake forth from one and all 181

A cry as if the Volscians were coming o'er the wa.'

Some with averted faces shrieking fled home amain ,

Some ran to call a leech ; and some ran to lift the slain :

Some felt her lips and little wrist, if life might there be found ; 185

And some tore up their garments fast, and strove to stanch the wound.

In vain they ran, and felt, and stanch'd ; for never truer blow

That good' right arm had dealt in fight against a Volscian foe.

When Appius Claudius saw that deed, he shuddered and
 sank down,
 And hid his face some little space with the corner of his
 gown, 190
 Till, with white lips and bloodshot eyes, Virginius tottered
 nigh,
 And stood before the judgment-seat, and held the knife
 on high
 'Oh ! dwellers in the nether gloom, avengers of the slain,
 By this dear blood I cry to you, do right between us
 twain , 194
 And even as Appius Claudius hath dealt by me and mine,
 Deal you by Appius Claudius and all the Claudian line !'
 So spake the slayer of his child, and turned, and went
 his way ,
 But first he cast one haggard glance to where the body
 lay,
 And writhed, and groaned a fearful groan, and then, with
 steadfast feet,
 Strode right across the market-place unto the Sacred
 Street. 200

Then up sprang Appius Claudius . 'Stop him , alive or
 dead !'
 Ten thousand pounds of copper to the man who brings
 his head '
 He 'oked upon his clients ; but none would work his
 will
 He looked upon his lictors ; but they trembled, and stood
 still.
 And, as Virginius through the press his way in silence
 cleft, 205
 Ever the mighty multitude fell back to right and left.
 And he hath passed in safety unto his woeful home,
 And there ta'en horse to tell the camp what deeds are
 done in Rome.

By this the flood of people was swollen from every side,
 And streets and porches round were filled with that o'er-
 flowing tide ; 210

And close around the body gathered a little train
 Of them that were the nearest and dearest to the slain.
 They brought a bier, and hung it with many a cypress crown,
 And gently they uplifted her, and gently laid her down.
 The face of Appius Claudius wore the Claudian scowl and
 sneer, 215

And in the Claudian note he cried, 'What doth this rabble
 here ?

Have they no crafts to mind at home, that hitherward
 they stray ?

Ho ! lictors, clear the market-place, and fetch the corpse
 away !'

The voice of grief and fury till then had not been loud ;
 But a deep sullen murmur wandered among the crowd, 220
 Like the moaning noise that goes before the whirlwind
 on the deep,

Or the growl of a fierce watch-dog but half-aroused from
 sleep.

But when the lictors at that word, tall yeomen all and
 strong,

Each with his axe and sheaf of twigs, went down into
 the throng,

Those old men say, who saw that day of sorrow and
 of sin, 225

That in the Roman Forum was never such a din,
 The wailing, hooting, cursing, the howls of grief and hate
 Were heard beyond the Pincian Hill, beyond the Latin
 Gate

But close around the body, where stood the little train
 Of them that were the nearest and dearest to the slain, 230
 No cries were there, but teeth set fast, low whispers and
 black frowns,

And breaking up of benches, and girding up of gowns.

'Twas well the lictors might not pierce to where the
maiden lay,
Else surely had they been all twelve torn limb from limb
that lay.

Right glad they were to struggle back, blood streaming
from their heads, 235

With axes all in splinters, and raiment all in shreds.
Then Appius Claudius gnawed his lip, and the blood left
his cheek ;

And thrice he beckoned with his hand, and thrice he strove
to speak ;

And thrice the tossing Forum set up a frightful yell ;
'See, see, thou dog ! what thou hast done ; and hide thy
shame in hell ' 240

Thou that wouldst make our maidens slaves must first
make slaves of men.

Tribunes ! Hurrah for Tribunes ! Down with the wicked
Ten !

And straightway, thick as hailstones, came whizzing
through the air

Pebbles, and bricks, and potsherds, all round the curule
chair :

And upon Appius Claudius great fear and trembling
came ; 245

For never was a Claudius yet brave against aught but
shame.

Though the great houses love us not, we own, to do them
right,

That the great houses, all save one, have borne them well
in fight.

Still Caius of Corioli, his triumphs and his wrongs,
His vengeance and his mercy, live in our camp-fire songs.
Beneath the yoke of Furius oft have Gaul and Tuscan
bowed ; 251

And Rome may bear the pride of him of whom herself is
proud.

But evermore a Claudius shrinks from a stricken field,
And changes colour like a maid at sight of sword and
shield.

The Claudian triumphs all were won within the city
towers ; 255

The Claudian yoke was never pressed on any necks but
ours

A Cossus, like a wild cat, springs ever at the face ;
A Fabius rushes like a boar against the shouting chase ,
But the vile Claudian litter, raging with curish spite,
Still yelps and snaps at those who run, still runs from
those who smite 260

So now 'twas seen of Appius When stones began to fly,
He shook, and crouched, and wrung his hands, and smote
upon his thigh

'Kind clients, honest lictors, stand by me in this fray !
Must I be torn in pieces ? Home, home, the nearest way !
While yet he spake, and looked around with a bewildered
stare, 265

Four sturdy lictors put their necks beneath the curule
chair ;

And fourscore clients on the left, and fourscore on the
right,

Arrayed themselves with swords and staves, and loins girt
up for fight.

But, though without or staff or sword, so furious was the
throng,

That scarce the train with might and main could bring
their lord along. 270

Twelve times the crowd made at him ; five times they
seized his gown ,

Small chance was his to rise again, if once they got him
down .

And sharper came the pelting ; and evermore the yell—
'Tribunes ! we will have Tribunes !'—rose with a louder
swell :

And the chair tossed as tosses a bark with tattered sail
 When raves the Adriatic beneath an eastern gale, 276
 When the Calabrian sea-marks are lost in clouds of spume,
 And the great Thunder-Cape has donned his veil of inky
 gloom.

One stone hit Appius in the mouth, and one beneath the
 ear ;

And ere he reached Mount Palatine, he swooned with pain
 and fear 280

His cursed head, that he was wont to hold so high with
 pride,

Now, like a drunken man's, hung down, and swayed from
 side to side ;

And when his stout retainers had brought him to his door,
 His face and neck were all one cake of filth and clotted
 gore

As Appius Claudius was that day, so may his grandson be !
 God send Rome one such other sight, and send me there
 to see ! 286

• • • • •

THE PROPHECY OF CAPYS.

It can hardly be necessary to remind any reader that, according to the popular tradition, Romulus, after he had slain his grand-uncle Amulius, and restored his grandfather Numitor, determined to quit Alba, the hereditary domain of the Sylvian princes, and to found a new city. The Gods, it was added, vouchsafed the clearest signs of the favour with which they regarded the enterprise, and of the high destinies reserved for the young colony.

This event was likely to be a favourite theme of the old Latin minstrels. They would naturally attribute the project of Romulus to some divine intimation of the power and prosperity which it was decreed that his city should attain. They would probably introduce seers foretelling the victories of unborn Consuls and Dictators, and the last great victory would generally occupy the most conspicuous place in the prediction. There is nothing strange in the supposition that the poet who was employed to celebrate the first great triumph of the Romans over the Greeks might throw his song of exultation into this form.

The occasion was one likely to excite the strongest feelings of national pride. A great outrage had been followed by a great retribution. Seven years before this time, Lucius Posthumius Megellus, who sprang from one of the noblest houses of Rome, and had been thrice Consul, was sent ambassador to Tarentum, with charge to demand reparation

for grievous injuries The Tarentines gave him audience in their theatre, where he addressed them in such Greek as he could command, which, we may well believe, was not exactly such as Cineas would have spoken. An exquisite sense of the ridiculous belonged to the Greek character: 5 and closely connected with this faculty was a strong propensity to flippancy and impertinence When Posthumius placed an accent wrong, his hearers burst into a laugh. When he remonstrated, they hooted him, and called him barbarian, and at length hissed him off the stage as if he 10 had been a bad actor As the grave Roman retired, a buffoon, who, from his constant drunkenness, was nicknamed the Pint pot, came up with gestures of the grossest indecency, and bespattered the senatorial gown with filth Posthumius turned round to the multitude, and held up 15 the gown, as if appealing to the universal law of nations. The sight only increased the insolence of the Tarentines They clapped their hands, and set up a shout of laughter which shook the theatre "Men of Tarentum," said Posthumius, "it will take not a little blood to wash this 20 gown"

Rome, in consequence of this insult, declared war against the Tarentines The Tarentines sought for allies beyond the Ionian Sea Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, came to their help with a large army, and, for the first time, the two 25 great nations of antiquity were fairly matched against each other

The fame of Greece in arms, as well as in arts, was then at the height Half a century earlier, the career of Alexander had excited the admiration and terror of all 30 nations from the Ganges to the Pillars of Hercules. Royal houses, founded by Macedonian captains, still reigned at Antioch and Alexandria. That barbarian warriors, led by barbarian chiefs, should win a pitched battle against Greek valour guided by Greek science, seemed as incredible as it 35 would now seem that the Burmese or the Siamese should,

in the open plain, put to flight an equal number of the best English troops. The Tarentines were convinced that their countrymen were irresistible in war; and this conviction had emboldened them to treat with 'the grossest
 5 indignity one whom they regarded as the representative of an inferior race. Of the Greek generals then living, Pyrrhus was indisputably the first. Among the troops who were trained in the Greek discipline, his Epirotes ranked high. His expedition to Italy was a turning-point
 10 in the history of the world. He found there a people who, far inferior to the Athenians and Corinthians in the fine arts, in the speculative sciences, and in all the refinements of life, were the best soldiers on the face of the earth. Their arms, their gradations of rank, their order of battle,
 15 their method of intrenchment, were all of Latian origin, and had all been gradually brought near to perfection, not by the study of foreign models, but by the genius and experience of many generations of great native commanders. The first words which broke from the king, when his
 20 practised eye had surveyed the Roman encampment, were full of meaning—"These barbarians," he said, "have nothing barbarous in their military arrangements." He was at first victorious, for his own talents were superior to those of the captains who were opposed to him; and the
 25 Romans were not prepared for the onset of the elephants of the East, which were then for the first time seen in Italy—moving mountains, with long snakes for hands. But the victories of the Epirotes were fiercely disputed, dearly purchased, and altogether unprofitable. At length, Manius
 30 Curius Dentatus, who had in his first Consulship won two triumphs, was again placed at the head of the Roman Commonwealth, and sent to encounter the invaders. A great battle was fought near Beneventum. Pyrrhus was completely defeated. He repassed the sea; and the world
 35 learned, with amazement, that a people had been discovered, who, in fair fighting, were superior to the best

troops that had been drilled on the system of Parmenio and Antigonus

The conquerors had a good right to exult in their success; for their glory was all their own. They had not learned from their enemy how to conquer him. It was 5 with their own national arms, and in their own national battle-array, that they had overcome weapons and tactics long believed to be invincible. The pilum and the broadsword had vanquished the Macedonian spear. The legion had broken the Macedonian phalanx. Even the elephants, 10 when the surprise produced by their first appearance was over, could cause no disorder in the steady yet flexible battalions of Rome.

It is said by Florus, and may easily be believed, that the triumph far surpassed in magnificence any that Rome had 15 previously seen. The only spoils which Papirius Cursor and Fabius Maximus could exhibit were flocks and herds, waggons of rude structure, and heaps of spears and helmets. But now, for the first time, the riches of Asia and the arts of Greece adorned a Roman pageant. Plate, 20 fine stuffs, costly furniture, rare animals, exquisite paintings and sculptures, formed part of the procession. At the banquet would be assembled a crowd of warriors and statesmen, among whom Manius Curius Dentatus would take the highest room. Caius Fabricius Luscinus, then, 25 after two Consulships and two triumphs, Censor of the Commonwealth, would doubtless occupy a place of honour at the board. In situations less conspicuous probably lay some of those who were, a few years later, the terror of Carthage; Caius Duilius, the founder of the maritime 30 greatness of his country; Marcus Atilius Regulus, who owed to defeat a renown far higher than that which he had derived from his victories, and Caius Lutatius Catulus, who, while suffering from a grievous wound, fought the great battle of the Ægates, and brought the First Punic 35 War to a triumphant close. It is impossible to recount

the names of these eminent citizens, without reflecting that they were all, without exception, Plebeians, and would, but for the ever-memorable struggle maintained by Caius Licinius and Lucius Sextius, have been doomed to hide
 5 in obscurity, or to waste in civil broils, the capacity and energy which prevailed against Pyrrhus and Hamilcar

On such a day we may suppose that the patriotic enthusiasm of a Latin poet would vent itself in reiterated shouts of *Io triumphe*, such as were uttered by Horace on a far
 10 less exciting occasion, and in boasts resembling those which Virgil put into the mouth of Anchises. The superiority of some foreign nations, and especially of the Greeks, in the lazy arts of peace, would be admitted with disdainful candour, but pre-eminence in all the qualities
 15 which fit a people to subdue and govern mankind would be claimed for the Romans

The following lay belongs to the latest age of Latin ballad-poetry. Nævius and Livius Andronicus were probably among the children whose mothers held them up to
 20 see the chariot of Curius go by. The minstrel who sang on that day might possibly have lived to read the first hexameters of Ennius, and to see the first comedies of Plautus. His poem, as might be expected, shows a much wider acquaintance with the geography, manners, and pro-
 25 ductions of remote nations, than would have been found in compositions of the age of Camillus. But he troubles himself little about dates, and having heard traveller talk with admiration of the Colossus of Rhodes, and of the structures and gardens with which the Macedonian kings
 30 of Syria had embellished their residence on the banks of the Orontes, he has never thought of inquiring whether these things existed in the age of Romulus.

THE PROPHECY OF CAPYS.

A LAY SUNG AT THE BANQUET IN THE CAPITOL, ON THE
DAY WHEREON MANIUS CURIUS DENTATUS, A SECOND
TIME CONSUL, TRIUMPHED OVER KING PYRRHUS AND
THE TARENTINES, IN THE YEAR OF THE CITY
CCCCCLXXIX (B C 275)

I

Now slain is King Amulhus,
Of the great Sylvian line,
Who reigned in Alba Longa,
On the throne of Aventine
Slain is the Pontiff Camers, 5
Who spake the words of doom :
"The children to the Tiber ,
The mother to the tomb "

II

In Alba's lake no fisher
His net to day is flinging 10
On the dark rind of Alba's oaks
To-day no axe is ringing
The yoke hangs o'er the manger :
The scythe lies in the hay .
Through all the Alban villages 15
No work is done to-day.

III.

And every Alban burgher
 Hath donned his whitest gown ;
 And every head in Alba
 Weareth a poplar crown ; 20
 And every Alban door-post
 With boughs and flowers is gay ;
 For to-day the dead are living ,
 The lost are found to-day

IV

They were doomed by a bloody king : 25
 They were doomed by a lying priest .
 They were cast on the raging flood
 They were tracked by the raging beast
 Raging beast and raging flood
 Alike have spared the prey ; 30
 And to-day the dead are living ;
 The lost are found to-day.

V

The troubled river knew them,
 And smoothed his yellow foam,
 And gently rocked the cradle 35
 That bore the fate of Rome
 The ravening she wolf knew them,
 And licked them o'er and o'er,
 And gave them of her own fierce milk,
 Rich with raw flesh and gore 40
 Twenty winters, twenty springs,
 Since then have rolled away ;
 And to-day the dead are living :
 The lost are found to-day.

VI.

Blithe it was to see the twins,* 45
 Right goodly youths and tall,

Marching from Alba Longa
 To their old grandsire's hall.
 Along their path fresh garlands
 Are hung from tree to tree ; 50
 Before them stride the pipers,
 Piping a note of glee.

VII.

On the right goes Romulus,
 With arms to the elbows red,
 And in his hand a broadsword, 55
 And on the blade a head—
 A head in an iron helmet,
 With horse-hair hanging down
 A shaggy head, a swaithy head.
 Fixed in a ghastly frown— 60
 The head of King Amulius
 Of the great Sylvian line,
 Who reigned in Alba Longa,
 On the throne of Aventine.

VIII

On the left side goes Remus, 65
 With wrists and fingers red,
 And in his hand a boar-spear,
 And on the point a head—
 A wrinkled head and aged,
 With silver beard and hair, 70
 And holy fillets round it,
 Such as the pontiffs wear—
 The head of ancient Camers,
 Who spake the words of doom :
 "The children to the Tiber ; 75
 The mother to the tomb"

IX

Two and two behind the twins
 Their trusty comrades go,
 Four and forty valiant men,
 With club, and axe, and bow. 80
 On each side every hamlet
 Pours forth its joyous crowd,
 Shouting lads and baying dogs
 And children laughing loud,
 And old men weeping fondly 85
 As Rhea's boys go by,
 And maids who shriek to see the heads,
 Yet, shrieking, press more nigh.

X

So they marched along the lake;
 They marched by fold and stall, 90
 By corn-field and by vineyard,
 Unto the old man's hall.

XI.

In the hall-gate sate Capys,
 Capys, the sightless seer;
 From head to foot he trembled 95
 As Romulus drew near
 And up stood stiff his thin white hair,
 And his blind eyes flashed fire:
 "Hail! foster child of the wonderful nurse!
 Hail! son of the wonderful sire! 100

XII.

"But thou—what dost thou here
 In the old man's peaceful hall?
 What doth the eagle in the coop,
 The lion in the stall?

Our corn fills many a garner ; 105
 Our vines clasp many a tree ;
 Our flocks are white on many a hill,
 Put these are not for thee.

XIII

“For thee no treasure ripens
 In the Tartessian mine. 110
 For thee no ship brings precious bales
 Across the Libyan brine
 Thou shalt not drink from amber ;
 Thou shalt not rest on down ;
 Arabia shall not steep thy locks, 115
 Nor Sidon tinge thy gown

XIV

“Leave gold and myrrh and jewels,
 Rich table and soft bed,
 To them who of man's seed are born,
 Whom woman's milk have fed. 120
 Thou wast not made for lucre,
 For pleasure, nor for rest ;
 Thou, that art sprung from the War-god's loins,
 And hast tugged at the she-wolf's breast

X

“From sunrise unto sunset 125
 All earth shall hear thy fame .
 A glorious city thou shalt build,
 And name it by thy name
 And there, unquenched through ages,
 Like Vesta's sacred fire, 130
 Shall live the spirit of thy nurse,
 The spirit of thy sire

XVI

“The ox toils through the furrow,
 Obedient to the goad ;

The patient ass, up flinty paths, 135
 Plods with his weary load :
 With whine and bound the spaniel
 His master's whistle hears ;
 And the sheep yields her patiently
 To the loud clashing shears 140

XVII.

"But thy nurse will hear no master ;
 Thy nurse will bear no load ;
 And woe to them that shear her,
 And woe to them that goad !
 When all the pack, loud baying, 145
 Her bloody lair surrounds,
 She dies in silence, biting hard,
 Amidst the dying hounds

XVIII

"Pomona loves the orchard ;
 And Liber loves the vine ; 150
 And Pales loves the straw-built shed
 Warm with the breath of kine ;
 And Venus loves the whispers
 Of plighted youth and maid,
 In April's ivory moonlight 155
 Beneath the chestnut shade.

XIX

"But thy father loves the clashing
 Of broadsword and of shield :
 He loves to drink the steam that reeks
 From the fresh battlefield. 160
 He smiles a smile more dreadful
 Than his own dreadful frown,
 When he sees the thick black cloud of smoke
 Go up from the conquered town.

XX.

- "And such as is the War-god, 165
 The author of thy line,
 And such as she who suckled thee,
 Even such be thou and thine
 Leave to the soft Campanian
 His baths and his perfumes ; 170
 Leave to the sordid race of Tyre
 Their dyeing-vats and looms .
 Leave to the sons of Carthage
 The rudder and the oar .
 Leave to the Greek his marble Nymphs 175
 And scrolls of wordy lore.

XXI.

- "Thine, Roman, is the pilum :
 Roman, the sword is thine,
 The even trench, the bristling mound,
 The legion's ordered line ; 180
 And thine the wheels of triumph,
 Which with their laurelled train
 Move slowly up the shouting streets
 To Jove's eternal fane.

XXII.

- "Beneath thy yoke the Volscian 185
 Shall veil his lofty brow .
 Soft Capua's curled revellers
 Before thy chairs shall bow :
 The Lucumoes of Arnus
 Shall quake thy rods to see ; 190
 And the proud Samnite's heart of steel
 Shall yield to only thee.

XXIII.

- "The Gaul shall come against thee
 From the land of snow and night:

Thou shalt give his fair-haired armies 195
To the raven and the kite.

XXIV

"The Greek shall come against thee,
The conqueror of the East.
Beside him stalks to battle
The huge earth-shaking beast, 200
The beast on whom the castle
With all its guards doth stand,
The beast who hath between his eyes
The serpent for a hand
First march the bold Epirotes, 205
Wedged close with shield and spear;
And the ranks of false Tarentum
Are glittering in the rear.

XXV

"The ranks of false Tarentum
Like hunted sheep shall fly. 210
In vain the bold Epirotes
Shall round their standards die:
And Apennine's grey vultures
Shall have a noble feast
On the fat and the eyes 215
Of the huge earth-shaking beast.

XXVI

"Hurrah! for the good weapons
That keep the War-god's land.
Hurrah! for Rome's stout pilum
In a stout Roman hand 220
Hurrah! for Rome's short broadsword,
That through the thick array
Of levelled spears and serried shields
Hews deep its gory way.

XXVII

- "Hurrah! for the great triumph 225
 That stretches many a mile.
 Hurrah! for the wan captives
 That pass in endless file
 Ho! bold Epirotes, whither
 Hath the Red King ta'en flight? 230
 Ho! dogs of false Tarentum,
 Is not the gown washed white?

XXVIII.

- "Hurrah! for the great triumph
 That stretches many a mile.
 Hurrah! for the rich dye of Tyre, 235
 And the fine web of Nile,
 The helmets gay with plumage
 Torn from the pheasant's wings,
 The belts set thick with starry gems
 That shone on Indian kings, 240
 The urns of massy silver,
 The goblets rough with gold,
 The many-coloured tablets bright
 With loves and wars of old,
 The stone that breathes and struggles, 245
 The brass that seems to speak;—
 Such cunning they who dwell on high
 Have given unto the Greek.

XXIX

- "Hurrah! for Manius Curius,
 The bravest son of Rome, 250
 Thrice in utmost need sent forth,
 Thrice drawn in triumph home.
 Weave, weave, for Manius Curius
 The third embroidered gown:
 Make ready the third lofty car, 255
 And twine the third green crown;

And yoke the steeds of Rosea
 With necks like a bended bow,
 And deck the bull, Mevama's bull,
 The bull as white as snow. 260

XXX.

"Blest and thrice blest the Roman
 Who sees Rome's brightest day,
 Who sees that long victorious pomp
 Wind down the Sacred Way,
 And through the bellowing Forum, 265
 And round the Suppliant's Grove,
 Up to the everlasting gates
 Of Capitolian Jove

XXXI

"Then where, o'er two bright havens
 The towers of Corinth frown , 270
 Where the gigantic King of Day
 On his own Rhodes looks down ,
 Where soft Orontes murmurs
 Beneath the laurel shades ;
 Where Nile reflects the endless length 275
 Of dark-red colonnades ,
 Where in the still deep water,
 Sheltered from waves and blasts,
 Bristles the dusky forest
 Of Byrsa's thousand masts , 280
 Where fur-clad hunters wander
 Amidst the northern ice ,
 Where through the sand of morning-land
 The camel bears the spice ,
 Where Atlas flings his shadow 285
 Far o'er the western foam,
 Shall be great fear on all who hear
 The mighty name of Rome."

THE ARMADA.

A FRAGMENT

ATTEND, all ye who list to hear our noble England's praise ;
I tell of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in ancient
days

When that great fleet invincible against her bore in vain
The richest spoils of Mexico, the stoutest hearts of Spain.

It was about the lovely close of a warm summer day, 5
There came a gallant merchant-ship full sail to Plymouth
Bay ;

Her crew hath seen Castile's black fleet, beyond Aurigny's
isle,

At earliest twilight, on the waves lie heaving many a mile.
At sunrise she escaped their van, by God's especial grace ;
And the tall Pinta, till the noon, had held her close in
chase . 10

Forthwith a guard at every gun was placed along the wall ;
The beacon blazed upon the roof of Edgcumbe's lofty hall ;
Many a light fishing-bark put out to pry along the coast,
And with loose rein and bloody spur rode inland many a
post.

With his white hair unbonneted, the stout old sheriff
comes ; 15

Behind him march the halberdiers , before him sound the
drums ;

His yeomen round the market-cross make clear an ample
space ,

For there behoves him to set up the standard of Her Grace.

And haughtily the trumpets peal, and gaily dance the
bells,

As slow upon the labouring wind the royal blazon swells 20
Look how the Lion of the sea lifts up his ancient crown,
And underneath his deadly paw treads the gay lilies
down.

So stalked he when he turned to flight, on that famed
Picard field,
Bohemia's plume, and Genoa's bow, and Cæsar's eagle
shield.

So glared he when at Agincourt in wrath he turned to
bay, 25

And crushed and torn beneath his claws the princely
hunters lay

Ho ! strike the flagstaff deep, Sir Knight · ho ! scatter
flowers, fair maids

Ho ! gunners, fire a loud salute ho ! gallants, draw your
blades :

Thou sun, shine on her joyously ; ye breezes, waft her
wide ;

Our glorious SEMPER EADEM, the banner of our pride 30

The freshening breeze of eve unfurled that banner's
massy fold ;

The parting gleam of sunshine kissed that haughty scroll
of gold ,

Night sank upon the dusky beach, and on the purple sea,
Such night in England ne'er had been, nor e'er again
shall be

From Eddystone to Berwick bounds, from Lynn to Mil-
ford Bay, 35

That time of slumber was as bright and busy as the day ;
For swift to east and swift to west the ghastly war-flame
spread,

High on St. Michael's Mount it shone : it shone on Beachy
Head,

Far on^t the deep the Spaniard saw, along each southern
 shire,
 Cape beyond cape, in endless range, those twinkling points
 of fire 40
 The fisher left his skiff to rock on Tamar's glittering waves :
 The rugged miners poured to war from Mendip's sunless
 caves
 O'er Longleat's towers, o'er Cranbourne's oaks, the fiery
 herald flew .
 He roused the shepherds of Stonehenge, the rangers of
 Beaulieu
 Right sharp and quick the bells all night rang out from
 Bristol town, 45
 And ere the day three hundred horse had met on Clifton
 down ,
 The sentinel on Whitehall gate looked forth into the night,
 And saw o'erhanging Richmond Hill the streak of blood-
 red light ,
 Then bugle's note and cannon's roar the deathlike silence
 broke,
 And with one start, and with one cry, the royal city
 woke 50
 At once on all her stately gates arose the answering fires;
 At once the wild alarum clashed from all her reeling
 spires ,
 From all the batteries of the Tower peeled loud the voice
 of fear ,
 And all the thousand masts of Thames sent back a louder
 cheer ,
 And from the farthest wards was heard the rush of hurry-
 ng feet, 55
 And the broad streams of pikes and flags rushed down
 each roaring street ,
 And broader still became the blaze, and louder still the din,
 As fast from every village round the horse came spurr-
 ing in

And eastward straight from wild Blackheath the warlike
 errand went,
 And roused in many an ancient hall the gallant squires of
 Kent. 60
 Southward from Surrey's pleasant hills flew those bright
 couriers forth,
 High on bleak Hampstead's swarthy moor they started
 for the north;
 And on, and on, without a pause, untired they bounded
 still:
 All night from tower to tower they sprang; they sprang
 from hill to hill.
 Till the proud Peak unfurled the flag o'er Darwin's rocky
 dales, 65
 Till like volcanoes flared to heaven the stormy hills of
 Wales,
 Till twelve fair counties saw the blaze on Malvern's lonely
 height,
 Till streamed in crimson on the wind the Wrekin's crest
 of light,
 Till broad and fierce the star came forth on Ely's stately
 fane,
 And tower and hamlet rose in arms o'er all the boundless
 plain, 70
 Till Belvon's lordly terraces the sign to Lincoln sent,
 And Lincoln sped the message on o'er the wide Vale of
 Trent;
 Till Skiddaw saw the fire that burned on Gaunt's em-
 battled pile,
 And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the burghers of
 Carlisle.

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IVRY.

A SONG OF THE HUGUENOTS.

Now glory to the Lord of Hosts, from whom all glories
are !

And glory to our Sovereign Liege, King Henry of
Navarre !

Now let there be the merry sound of music and of
dance,

Through thy corn-fields green, and sunny vines, oh
pleasant land of France !

And thou, Rochelle, our own Rochelle, proud city of
the waters, 5

Again let rapture light the eyes of all thy mourning
daughters

As thou wert constant in our ills, be joyous in our joy,
For cold, and stiff, and still are they who wrought thy
walls annoy.

Hurrah ! Hurrah ! a single field hath turned the chance
of war.

Hurrah ! Hurrah ! for Ivry and Henry of Navarre. 10

Oh ! how our hearts were beating when, at the dawn
of day,

We saw the army of the League drawn out in long
array ;

With all its priest-led citizens, and all its rebel peers,
 And Appenzel's stout infantry, and Egmont's Flemish
 spears

There rode the brood of false Lorraine, the curses of our
 land ; 15

And dark Mayenne was in the midst, a truncheon in his
 hand .

And, as we looked on them, we thought of Seme's
 empurpled flood,

And good Coligni's hoary han all dabbled with his
 blood ;

And we cried unto the living God, who rules the fate
 of war,

To fight for His own holy name, and Henry of Navarre

The King is come to marshal us, in all his armour
 diest, 21

And he has bound a snow-white plume upon his gallant
 crest

He looked upon his people, and a tear was in his eye ;

He looked upon the traitors, and his glance was stern
 and high

Right graciously he smiled on us, as rolled from wing
 to wing, 25

Down all our line, a deafening shout, 'God save our
 Lord the King !'

'And if my standard-bearer fall, as fall full well he may,

'For never saw I promise yet of such a bloody fray,

'Press where ye see my white plume shine, amidst the
 ranks of war,

'And be your oriflamme to-day the helmet of Navarre.'

Hurrah ! the foes are moving Hark to the mingled
 din 31

Of fife, and steed, and trump, and drum, and roaring
 culverin.

The fiery Duke is pricking fast across Saint André's
 plain,
 With all the hireling chivalry of Guelders and Almayne
 Now by the lips of those ye love, fair gentlemen of
 France, 35
 Charge for the golden lilies,—upon them with the lance
 A thousand spurs are striking deep, a thousand spears
 in rest,
 A thousand knights are pressing close behind the snow-
 white crest,
 And in they burst, and on they rushed, while, like a
 guiding star,
 Amidst the thickest carnage blazed the helmet of
 Navarre 40

Now, God be praised, the day is ours Mayenne hath
 turned his rein
 D'Aumale hath cried for quarter The Flemish Count
 is slain
 Then ranks are breaking like thin clouds before a Biscay
 gale,
 The field is heaped with bleeding steeds, and flags, and
 cloven mail
 And then we thought on vengeance, and, all along our
 van, 45
 'Remember St Bartholomew,' was passed from man to
 man
 But out spake gentle Henry, 'No Frenchman is my foe.
 'Down, down with every foreigner, but let your brethren go'
 Oh! was there ever such a knight, in friendship or in war,
 As our Sovereign Lord, King Henry, the soldier of
 Navarre? 50

Right well fought all the Frenchmen who fought for
 France to-day;
 And many a lordly banner God gave them for a prey.

But we of the religion have borne us best in fight ;
 And the good Lord of Rosny has ta'en the cornet white.
 Our own true Maximilian the cornet white hath ta'en, 55
 The cornet white with crosses black, the flag of false
 Loiraine
 Up with it high , unfurl it wide , that all the host may
 know
 How God hath humbled the proud house which wrought
 His Church such woe
 Then on the ground, while trumpets sound their loudest
 point of war,
 Fling the red shreds, a footcloth meet for Henry of
 Navarre 60

Ho ! maidens of Vienna ; Ho ! matrons of Lucerne ;
 Weep, weep, and rend your hair for those who never shall
 return
 Ho ! Philip, send, for charity, thy Mexican pistoles,
 That Antwerp monks may sing a mass for thy poor
 spearmen's souls
 Ho ! gallant nobles of the League, look that your arms
 be bright , 65
 Ho ! burghers of Saint Genevieve, keep watch and ward
 to-night.
 For our God hath crushed the tyrant, our God hath raised
 the slave
 And mocked the counsel of the wise, and the valour of
 the brave.
 Then glory to His holy name, from whom all glories are ;
 And glory to our Sovereign Lord, King Henry of Navarre.

THE BATTLE OF NASEBY.

BY OBADIAH BIND-THEIR-KINGS-IN-CHAINS-AND-THEIR-NOBLES-
WITH-LINKS OF-IRON, SERGEANT IN IRETON'S REGIMENT.
(1824)

OH! wherefore come ye forth, in triumph from the North,
With your hands, and your feet, and your raiment
all red?

And wherefore doth your rout send forth a joyous shout?
And whence be the grapes of the wine-press which ye
tread?

Oh evil was the root, and bitter was the fruit, 5
And crimson was the juice of the vintage that we
trod,
For we trampled on the throng of the haughty and the
strong,
Who sate in the high places, and slew the saints of God.

It was about the noon of a glorious day of June,
That we saw their banners dance, and their cuirasses
shine, 10
And the Man of Blood was there, with his long essenced
hair,
And Astley, and Sir Marmaduke, and Rupert of the
Rhine.

Like a servant of the Lord, with his Bible and his sword,
 The General rode along us to form us to the fight,
 When a murmuring sound broke out, and swell'd into a
 shout, 15
 Among the godless horsemen upon the tyrant's right

And hark! like the roar of the billows on the shore,
 The cry of battle rises along their charging line!
 For God! for the Cause! for the Church! for the Laws!
 For Charles King of England, and Rupert or the Rhine!

The furious German comes, with his clarions and his
 drums, 21
 His bravoës of Alsatia, and pages of Whitehall;
 They are bursting on our flanks Grasp your pikes, close
 your ranks,
 For Rupert never comes but to conquer or to fall

They are here! They rush on! We are broken! We
 are gone! 25
 Our left is borne before them like stubble on the
 blast
 O Lord, put forth thy might! O Lord, defend the
 right!
 Stand back to back, in God's name, and fight it to the
 last.

Stout Skippon hath a wound · the centre
 ground:
 Hark! hark!—What means the tramping of horsemen
 on our rear? 30
 Whose banner do I see, boys? 'Tis he, thank God, 'tis
 he, boys,
 Bear up another minute: brave Oliver is here.

Their heads all stooping low, their points all in a row,
Like a whirlwind on the trees, like a deluge on the
dykes,
Our cuirassiers have burst on the ranks of the Accurst, 35
And at a shock have scattered the forest of his pikes

Fast, fast, the gallants ride, in some safe nook to hide,
Their coward heads, predestined to rot on Temple Bar.
And he—he turns, he flies — shame on those cruel eyes
That bore to look on torture, and dare not look on
war 40

Ho! comrades, scour the plain; and, ere ye strip the
slain,
First give another stab to make your search secure,
Then shake from sleeves and pockets their broad-pieces
and lockets
The tokens of the wanton, and plunder of the poor.

Fools! your doublets shone with gold, and your heart
were gay and bold, 45
When you kissed your lily hands to your lemans
to-day;
And to-morrow shall the fox, from her chambers in the
rocks,
Lead forth her tawny cubs to howl above the prey.

Where be your tongues that late mocked at heaven and
hell and fate,
And the fingers that once were so busy with your
blades, 50
Your perfum'd satin clothes, your catches and your oaths,
Your stage-plays and your sonnets, your diamonds and
your spades?

Down, down, for ever down, with the mitre and the crown,
 With the Behal of the Court, and the Mammon of the
 Pope ;

There is woe in Oxford Halls ; there is wail in Durham's
 Stalls : 55

The Jesuit smites his bosom • the Bishop rends his cope.

And She of the seven hills shall mourn her children's ills,
 And tremble when she thinks on the edge of England's
 Sword ;

And the Kings of earth in fear shall shudder when they
 hear

What the hand of God hath wrought for the Houses
 and the Word. 60

NOTES.

HORATIUS.

INTRODUCTION.

P. 2, ll 8-13. In modern English

“Old men that know the ground well enough
Call it the battle of Otterburn ·
At Otterburn began this kick
Upon a Monday
There was the doughty Douglas slain
The Percy never went away.”

Spurne (kick) refers to a previous line, “that tear begane this spurn,” a proverb meaning ‘that tear or pull brought about this kick’

15-18 In modern English:

“This fray began at Otterburn
Between the night and the day:
There the Douglas lost his life,
And the Percy was led away ”

32 the public lands These were the property of the State and originally had been the Domain of the Kings, to which were added the confiscated lands of the conquered. Of this Crown Land the Patricians engrossed possession, till Sp. Cassius carried the first Agrarian Law, to distribute this land among the Plebeians. The Patricians, however, successfully thwarted the execution of this measure for a long period.

P. 3, l. 1. the proceedings of Camillus Camillus, the Roman general who captured Veii, was accused of fraudulently appropriating much of the booty. He was impeached for corrupt practices by L. Appuleius, Tribune of the Plebs, and went into exile.

TEXT.

1. Lars, Lar, or Lurth was an honorary appellation in Etruscan, equivalent to *lord* or *king*. It was usually the prefix of the first-

born, a younger son being called Aruns The king of Veii, slain by Cossus, was named *Lars Tolumnius* Cf *Virginia*, 257.

1. **Clusium**, the modern Chiusi, was one of the twelve cities forming the Etrurian league or confederacy It stands on a hill above the river Clanis, which falls into the Tiber.

2 **the Nine Gods** These were called by the Romans *Di Novensiles*, the new gods, i.e. gods received from abroad, as opposed to the native deities They were Etruscan gods, believed to possess the power of hurling thunderbolts The names of seven only can be ascertained

3 **Tarquin** Lucius Tarquinius Superbus was the seventh and last king of Rome, and was, with his family, expelled from Rome in consequence of the violence offered by his son, Sextus to Lucretia, the wife of Tarquinius Collatinus, who afterwards stabbed herself Four attempts were made to restore Tarquin, the third of which forms the subject of this poem See General Introduction and note to *Lake Regillus*, 96

6 **a trysting day**, a day of meeting agreed upon *Tryst* is a variant of *trust*, in the old sense of a covenant or agreement

9 **array**, battle-array, troops.

10 This repetition of 1 8 is in harmony with the antique style Such repetitions are frequent in Homer and Theocritus; they occur also in Spenser and Milton Cf note to 1 198 below

14 **Shame on**, i.e. let shame be on the disloyal Etruscan who does not join the army The words express the feelings, not of the poet, but of Porsena Cf the summons of the clansmen in Scott's *Lady of the Lake*, iii 9 *et seq*

“He meditated curse more dread,
And deadlier, on the clansman's head,
Who, summon'd to his Chieftain's aid,
The signal saw, and disobey'd”

19 **amain**, lit on or with strength (O E *mægen*), strenuously, apace

22 **hamlet**, small village *Hamlet* is compounded of *h* *m* (= home) and double diminutive suffix *-l-et*

24 **hangs** Its situation is so lofty that it almost seems as if it were suspended in the air Cf Wordsworth, “*There was a Boy*,” 29, 30

“The church-yard hangs
Upon a slope above the village school”

25 **purple Apennine** The Apennines are a chain of mountains forming the backbone of Italy Mountains, seen in the distance, present a bluish-purple hue

26 **Volaterræ** The modern Volterra, and one of the cities of the Etruscan confederacy. It is called “lordly” on account of

its fine position, standing on a hill 1700 feet high, about five miles north of the river Cæcina, and fifteen from the sea. The ancient walls may still be traced throughout their whole circuit.

27 **Where scowls**, etc. *Scowls*—a stronger word than *frowns*—is an instance of the 'pathetic fallacy,' human feelings being attributed to an inanimate object. The famous fortress, on its height, seems to *threaten* intruders. Its walls were so massive that it was fabled to have been built by the giants of old time.

30 **Populonia**. Situated on a promontory of the same name, opposite the island of Ilva (Elba), and the chief maritime town of Etruria. From it are visible the mountain heights of the great island of Sardinia.

34 **Pisæ** (Pisa) was one of the twelve Etruscan cities, situated on the right bank of the Ainus (Arno), a few miles from its mouth.

35 **Queen**, etc., i.e. it was the greatest maritime city on the east coast of Italy.

36 **Massilia**, the modern Marseilles, was a city of Greek foundation, with a fine harbour, on the south coast of Gallia Narbonensis, some distance east of the mouth of the Rhone.

triremes. Galleys with three ranks or horizontal tiers of oars.

37 **Heavy**, etc. The ships were laden with slaves brought for sale in Italy from among the tribes of Northern Europe, who were noted for their blue eyes and fair or red hair.

38 **Clanis**. The modern Chiana. See note to l. 1.

40 **Cortona**. Another of the twelve Etruscan cities. It stands on a lofty hill, about nine miles north of Lake Trasimene. Its walls may still be traced, and present some of the finest specimens of Cyclopean architecture to be seen in all Italy.

43 **Auser**. The modern Serchio. It formerly joined the Arno, but now reaches the sea by an independent channel.

45 **Ciminian**, *Mons Ciminus* (Monte Cimino) is a range that runs south-west from the Tiber to the sea-coast, and forms the boundary of the *Campagna* on the north.

46 **Clitumnus** (Clitumno) was a small tributary of the Tiber, flowing through a very fertile tract by the town of Mevania. It was "dear to the herdsman" as a watering-place for his cattle.

49 **Volsinian mere**. The lake on the shore of which stood the Etruscan town of Volsinii (Bolsena). *Mere* is cognate with Lat. *mare*, and has a doublet *moor*, the root idea being a *dead waste*, whether of water or land. *Mar-sh* is its derivative. Cf. Skt. *maru*, desert, from *mri*, to die.

50. **But now**, etc These country pursuits are abandoned, because all the able-bodied men are gone to the war. Cf. Scott, *Lady of the Lake*, iii 14

“The fisherman forsook the strand,

The hunter left the stag at bay,” etc

55. **steer**, young ox The word signifies ‘full-grown’ or ‘strong,’ and is cognate with Lat. *taurus* (for *staurus*), from root *sta*, to stand

58 **The harvests**, etc Only old men are left to reap the harvest, young boys to wash and shear the sheep, and girls to tread the grapes at the vintage So Scott, *Ib* iii 18.

“To arms !

Let babes and women wail the dead ”

Cf. *Lake Regillus*, 141-144

Arretium The modern Arezzo, another of the twelve Etruscan cities, situated in the upper valley of the Arno It became a military post of great importance in the Gaulish wars, as commanding the communications between Cisalpine Gaul and Etruria

60. **Umbro**, the modern Ombrone, was on the coast line between the Arno and the Tiber and flowed beneath the walls of Russellæ

62 **Luna** (Luni) was situated on the left bank of the Macra, on the borders of Liguria. Its territory was famous for its wine and its cheeses

63. **must**, new, unfermented grape-juice, from Lat *mustum*, neut of *mustus*, young, fresh; whence also *moist*

66 **prophets** The Etruscan augurs, who ascertained the will of the gods by *divination*, or the interpretation of outward signs, such as thunder and lightning, the flight of birds The Etruscans, and similarly the Romans, never entered upon any important undertaking without endeavouring beforehand to ascertain the feelings of the gods upon the subject Here they are represented as conning the sacred books for that purpose.

72. **Traced from the right** Written from left to right, as in the case of Hebrew, Persian, Arabic, etc

on linen white The early books were often composed of prepared linen, and were called *lintei libri*, referred to by Livy (iv. 7, 13, 20).

76 “**Go forth**,” etc The answer of the books is that Porsena will be victorious, and return to his palace with the captured shields of the Romans

80. **Nurscia**, an Etruscan goddess. The shields (see *Regillus*, 624, 695) would be hung round her altars, as votive offerings.

83 tale Full number, complement *Tale* meant originally number, whence orderly arrangement of speech, narrative. So, to tell was to count, cf the 'tellers' or counters of votes in the House of Commons, and 'to tell one's beads.' Also Milton, *L'Allegro*, 67, "Every shepherd tells his tale," i.e. counts the number of his sheep, and the tale, or appointed number, of bricks in Bible, *Exodus*, v 8

86 Sutrium (Sutri), on an isolated hill thirty-two miles north of Rome, is a place frequently mentioned in the wars of the Romans and Etruscans

92. banished Roman Exiles from Rome in the following of Tarquin

93 stout, strong, bold, brave.

96 Tusculan Mamilius *Tusculum* (Frascati), in Latium, stood on a spur of the Alban Hills, about fifteen miles south-east of Rome Octavius Mamilius, Tarquin's son-in-law, took refuge there on his expulsion from Rome, and headed the Latin allies of Porsena He also fought against Rome at the battle of Lake Regillus

97. Latian name The Latin *nomen Latinum*; whatever is called Latin, the Latin nation

98 yellow Tiber *Flavus*, 'reddish yellow,' is a frequent epithet of the Tiber with Roman writers, from the pozzuolanic (red volcanic) earth on its bottom Cf II 466, 470

100 champaign, plain, open country; Lat *campus*, a plain

104 to see = 'for seeing'—the gerundial infinitive, as in 'fair to see' (Burns), 'long to tell' (Milton)

107. great with child, 'pregnant'—a Biblical expression; see Bible, *Luke*, II 5

110 litters, palanquins; from Low Lat. *lectaria*, Lat. *lectus*, a bed.

111 on the necks The pole of the litter was borne on the shoulder close to the neck.

115 skins, i.e. bottles made of goat skins.

121. roaring gate, gateways filled with tumultuous crowds of people Cf *Lake Regillus*, 688; and Tennyson, *Duke of Wellington*, II. "Streaming London's central roar"

122 rock Tarpeian The Tarpeian Rock was a cliff about eighty feet high, probably on the east side of the Capitoline Hill, overlooking the Roman Forum It was so named after Tarpeia who betrayed the Capitol to the Sabines and was buried there

123 wan, pale with fear. They saw the blaze of the villages set on fire by the advancing enemy.

126 **Fathers of the City** The Roman Senators, known as *Patres* or Fathers of the State The Senate consisted at this time of 300 members Cf. *Lake Regillus*, 115.

127 **sat**, *z e* met in council, deliberated

133 **Crustumerium** A town in Latium It was captured by Romulus, and again by Tarquinius Priscus.

134-136 **Verbenna Astur**. The names of these Etruscan chiefs recur below, ll 188-192

134 **Ostia** The original port of Rome, situated at the mouth of the Tiber on its left bank It was founded by Ancus Martius, the fourth king of Rome

136. **Janiculum** A space outside Rome on the further bank of the Tiber, enclosed between a ridge, the Janiculan Hill, and a bend of the river. The hill was crowned by a fortress, built by Ancus Martius, as a defence against the Etruscans

138 **I wis**, certainly. *I wis* is a corruption of M E *wis*, O E *gewis*, an adjective from the root *wisa*, certain.

139-140 **There was ached**, *z e* There was no heart so bold that it did not ache sorely, the boldest heart ached. Cf. ll. 205-207 below

142 **Consul** After the expulsion of the Kings, the government was entrusted to two Magistrates, elected annually, called at first Prætors, and afterwards Consuls The Consuls of this year were Publius Valerius and Titus Lucretius; but Valerius held the chief power, and is referred to here

144 **girded up their gowns**, gathered up round their waists the flowing folds of their togas, for ease of movement. The *toga*, a loose outer garment of ample dimensions, was the distinctive garb of the Romans

145 **hied them**, hastened This *them* is called the *Reflexive Dative*, seen in 'sit *thee* down'; 'get *you* gone'; 'fare *thee* well.'

147. **the River-Gate** Porta Flumentana, the city gate facing the Tiber opposite Janiculum

150 **roundly**, in brief, plain terms. Cf Shakspeare, *T. of A.* II. ii 7, 8:

"What shall be done? he will not hear, till feel:

I must be *round* with him."

151. **The bridge** The *Pons Subicius*, the oldest of the bridges over the Tiber, so called after the 'wooden beams or piles' (*subices*) of which it was built It was erected by Ancus Martius, and connected Rome with Janiculum.

155. **All wild**, quite frantic. *All* is an adverb here.

160 **storm of dust**. Great clouds of dust raised by the enemy's troops on the march.

163. **red whirlwind.** The dust, dark ("swarthy") in the distance, now looked red, and was driven in still greater clouds, as being seen nearer.

165 **cloud,** i.e. of dust.

167. **the hum,** the murmur of many voices.

169 **the gloom,** the thick clouds of dust

171. **In broken light** The sunlight flashing upon their arms through occasional gaps in the cloud of dust, has a dark-blue tinge

175. **that glimmering line** The line of troops dimly lighted up by the sun shining through the dust cloud

177 **twelve** The twelve cities of the Etruscan confederacy, several of which have already been named Each of these cities was an independent State, united with the others only in matters of common interest

178 **Clusium** See l. 1, and note

180 **The terror,** etc Umbria and Cisalpine Gaul had both suffered from the invasion of the Etruscans, which broke the power of the Umbrians, who at one time possessed dominion over great part of central Italy

184 **port,** carriage demeanour.

185 **Lucumo,** Etruscan noble The Luceres or Etruscan Lucumos formed one of the three Tribes of Romulus

186 **Cilnius** The head of one of the noble families of Etruria, of princely rank Mæcenas, the famous patron of literary men in the time of Augustus, bore this as his *nomen* or name of his gens Cf Propertius, iii 9, 1 "Mæcenas, eques Etrusco de sanguine regum," 'Mæcenas knight sprung from the blood of Etruscan kings' The family of the Cilni were expelled from Arretium by their own citizens, B.C. 300

188 **fourfold shield,** shield consisting of four layers of ox-hides Cf Vergil's "clipeus septemplex," 'sevenfold shield' (*Æn.* xii 925) which is Homer's ἑπταβείων σάκος (*Il.* vii 220)

189. **brand,** poetical for 'sword.' So called because of its brightness (*O E brand,* a burning, from *brinnan,* to burn)

may = can

190. **Tolumnius** Another Etruscan chief

191. **the hold** The fortress of Cortona; see l. 40 and note

192 **Thrasymene** A lake of Etruria, famous later for the great victory obtained there by Hannibal over the Roman consul, C. Flaminius, in the second Punic war, B.C. 217.

193 **Fast by,** close to *Fast* = (1) firm; (2) close, urgent; (3) quick.

194 **the war**, the army in battle array. Cf. *Lake Regillus*, 441, and note

198 **Prince**, etc See l. 97, and *Lake Regillus*, 194, 436 For the Homeric repetition, cf note to l. 10; also Macaulay's introduction to *Lake Regillus*, p. 25, ll. 2-14

199 **false Sextus** Cf l. 480, and preceding note, and *Lake Regillus*, 273, 291, 657, 681.

200 **deed of shame** See note to l. 3 This line throughout originally stood "That brought Lucrece to shame"

203 **rent the firmament** So loud that it seemed to tear the very heavens asunder

206 **But spat**, i.e. who did not spit Here *but* (=except) was originally *but that*, and "There was no woman *but spat*" = "There was no woman *but that* (she) spat"

211 **darkly**, gloomily, anxiously

213 **van**, the front ranks of an army *Van* is short for *van-guard* = *vant-guard* = *avant-garde* (Fr. *avant*, Lat. *ab ante*, from in front) Cf. *advance*

217 **Horatius**, Horatius Cocles *Cocles* means blind of one eye He belonged to the Lucurian tribe

218 **the Gate** See l. 147 and note

219. **To every man**, etc Cf. Scott, *Marmion*, ll. 30, 31:

"And come he slow or come he fast,
It is but death who comes at last."

And Tennyson, *The Revenge*, 86-88

"A day less or more
At sea or ashore,
We die—does it matter when?"

222 **fearful odds**, greatly superior numbers. Cf. R. Browning, *The Ring and the Book*, xi, 1799 "A brave fighter who succumbs to *odds*" *Odd* = uneven, unequal. 'Strange, queer' is a secondary meaning

223 **For the ashes**, 'to preserve their remains from insult' *Ashes* is used here poetically for 'mortal remains,' or more generally, 'tombs' Inhumation was practised in the earlier ages, cremation not being common till towards the close of the republic, when the ashes were collected in urns.

229 **holy maidens** The Vestal Virgins or Virgin Priestesses of the goddess Vesta, the protectress of the domestic hearth. They were six in number, chosen from Patrician families, and their chief duty was to tend the ever-burning fire on the altar of the goddess. They enjoyed many honours and privileges, and occupied a conspicuous place at all great public solemnities. See *Lake Regillus*, 623, 723, and notes.

236. **hold in play**, keep in action, keep occupied

238. **well**, easily.

242. **A Ramnian** See Macaulay's Introduction, p 3, ll 24-27. The original inhabitants of Rome were a mixed people made up of three distinct races—Latins, Sabines, and Etruscans, and were divided accordingly into three *tribes* (1) Ramnes (Latins), (2) Tities (Sabines), (3) Luceres (Etruscans).

249 **quoth**, 'sa d,' is properly a preterite tense. The present is seen in the compound *be queath*

256 **brave days of old** See Macaulay's Introduction, p 2, ll 27-31

257. **a party**, a political faction

261 **lands**, *i e* the public or State lands, see note to p 2, l 32.

262 **spoils**, etc. See note to p 3, l 1

267 **Tribunes** After the expulsion of the Tarquins, the tyranny of the Patricians became so intolerable, that the Plebs retired from the city in a body to Mons Sacer, whereupon it was agreed that *Tribun Plebis*, Tribunes of the Plebs, should be elected annually to protect the interests of the Plebeian order. At first two were chosen, then five, and finally ten. Their persons were hallowed, and they had the right of veto upon any procedure detrimental to the Plebs. *Beard*, oppose, insult

268 **Fathers** See l 126, and note *Grind*, oppress

274 **harness**, armour Cf Milton, *Nativity Ode*, 244: "Bright-harnessed angels"; and Shakspeare, *Macbeth*, v. v. 52: "At least we'll die with *harness* on our back"

277 **mixed** The perfect participle

278 **crow**, *i e* crow-bar

288 **with measured tread**, in regular, even march.

291 **the dauntless Three** Cf ll 252, 409, and notes to ll. 198, 199

295. **vanguard** See note to l 213.

297 **Before array**, in front of the dense columns of their army

301 **Tifernum** A town of Samnium on the river Tifernus (Biferno); a well-watered, fertile spot

304 **Sicken**, lead an unhealthy life.

Ilva's mines. See note to l. 30. Ilva was famous for its iron-mines.

306 **Vassal**, dependent; bound to render service to his superior
Varlet, *valet* = *vassalet*, the diminutive of *vassal*.

307 **powers**, troops.

309 **Nequinum** A town in Umbria, strongly situated on a lofty hill on the left bank of the Nar (Nera), about eight miles above its confluence with the Tiber After its capture by the Romans in B C 299 it was named Narnia

lowers, 'frowns'; different in derivation and pronunciation from *lower*, to let down, probably a variant of *leer* Cf. l. 27

316 **Darted thrust** Here *thrust* is partially cognate object to *darted* In 'to thrust a thrust,' the verb is strictly cognate to the noun, but in 'to dart a thrust,' which means 'to thrust suddenly and swiftly a thrust,' the verb contains a superadded notion Cf *Capys*, 161, 224, and notes

319 **Faleri** Probably one of the twelve cities of the Etruscan confederacy It stood near Mt Soracte, a few miles west of the Tiber Its modern name is *Santa Maria di Falleri*

322 **rover** *Sea-rover* is another term for *pirate* The Etruscans, like the Phœnicians, were pirates as well as merchants

323 **Aruns** A common Etruscan name or title, like *Lars* and *Lucumo* It was the name of one of the sons of Tarquin the Proud. See note to l 1

Volsinium The true name is *Volsinii*; see note to l 49

326 **Cossa** A town of Etruria, the modern Ansedonia, that stood on a height near the sea coast

327. **wasted**, laid waste, ravaged

328 **Albinia**, *Liguria*, lying along the sea-coast, north of Etruria.

334 **aghast**, horror-struck. The proper spelling is *agast*, p p. of M E. *agasten*, to terrify

335. **Ostia** See note to l 134

337. **Campania** A province of Italy, south of Latium, consisting, as its name (from Lat *campus*) implies, of an extensive plain of great fertility

hinds, peasants The *d* in *hind* (M E *hine*) is excrescent, as in *hold* (of a ship), *sound*, *expound*, etc

344. **the entrance**, i e the head of the bridge

347 **the narrow way** See ll 300, 440, and note to l 10

348 **Astur** See l 188

349. **divide** The ranks are opened to let him pass

350 **Luna** See note to l 62

357. **high**, proud

360 **she-wolf's litter**, i e the Romans The story was that Romulus and Remus, the twin sons of Rea Silvia, daughter of Numitor, being exposed by his usurping brother Amulius, were

suckled by a wolf *Litter*, a brood (cf *Fi accoucher*, *Eng* 'to be brought to bed'), has probably the same derivation as *litter* in l 110 The author originally wrote

" 'By heaven,' he said, 'yon rebels
Stand manfully at bay,' "

But the word "rebels" was thought objectionable.

365 **to the height**, *ie* to the utmost height

371 **helm** Poetical for *helmet*, which is properly a diminutive form Cf *targe* and *target*, note to *Regillus*, 256

375 **breathing-space**, a short time to take breath

384 **As falls**, etc An Homeric simile

388 **augurs** See note to l 66

389 **blasted head**, the head or top of the tree, struck by lightning

392 **amain** See note to l 19

396 **Lucumo** See l 185, and note

397 **cheer**, entertainment M E *chere* (Gk *kápa*, the head) means (1) the face; (2) mien, (3) pleasant mien; (4) entertainment, food and drink

417 **was none**, *ie* There was no one

422 **deep array** Another repetition. see l 345

423 **sea of steel** The serried ranks of spears swayed to and fro like sea-waves

431 **Sextus** See note to l 3

435 **Thrice** is the regular Classical number for such attempts Thus Æneas (Vergil *Æn* vi 700-702) *thrice* endeavours to embrace his father's ghost, as Ulysses does his mother's, in the *Odyssey*

450 **ere** (with superlative *er-st*) came to be used with comparative force in the sense of 'sooner (than), before' *Ea-ly* (=soon-like) is a derivative of *ere*

458 **would have crossed** The hypothetical clause, 'if they could have crossed,' is suppressed

466 **yellow** See note to l 98 So *tawny*, l 470

471 **the curb**, the barrier that restrained it To *curb* is lit to 'bind' (Lat *curvare*) The noun is used specifically of the chain or strap attached to a horse's bit.

474. **pier**, the stone foundations: O.F *piere*, Lat. *petra*, Gk *πέτρα*, a rock, a stone

477 **constant**, firm, unmoved

478, 479 Two absolute clauses—"Thrice thirty foes (being) befec e," etc

483 **grace**, kindness, clemency,—"surrender, and we will treat you well"

485 **craven**, cowardly *Craven* is M. E. *cravand*, 'craving,' one who craves or sues for mercy

488 **Palatinus** The Palatine Hill, one of the seven hills of Rome It stood a little to the north of the Sublician bridge

492 **father Tiber** The *pater Tiberinus* of Vergil, *Georg.* iv. 369; his title as a river-god

498 **harness** See note to l. 274

508 **Tuscany** The modern name of Etruria

515. **spent blows**, exhausted with exchanging blows or with fighting

519 **evil case**, bad plight, adverse circumstances

525 **Bore** etc., held up his chin, so that he did not sink *Childe Waters* (foot note) is one of the ballads in *Percy's Reliques*

539 **weeping** Cf l. 586 The strong emotion of the spectators finds relief in tears

540 **River-Gate** See l. 147, and note

543 **of public right**, of which the State had the right of owner ship See note to p. 2, l. 32

544 **As much as**, etc According to Livy, it was as much land as he could *plough round* ("agri quantum uno die circum-arant") Lat. *jugum* (a yoke) was used for the quantity of land that a yoke of oxen could plough in a day.

549 **To witness** etc., to prove the truth of my statement

550 **Comitium** The portion of the Roman Forum that was set apart as the place of meeting of the Comitia Curiata, or assembly in which the people voted in their ten tribal sections, called *Curiæ*

553 **halting upon one knee**, limping on one knee, lame of one knee (on account of the wound in his thigh, l. 371) Cf *Stow's Chronicle* "The king would have given him Judith, but she refused him because that he *halted on the one leg*" And Bible, *Genesis*, xxxii. 31 (of Jacob, after his wrestling with the angel) "And he *halted upon his thigh*"

558 **sounds stirring**, has a stirring or rousing sound

561 **To charge home**, to attack at close quarters, without flinching So 'to strike home,' used of vigorous or effectual action. Cf Shaks *Lear*, II. i. 52, 53

"With his prepared sword, he charges *home*
My unprovided body"

the Volscian The Volscians were an Opican nation, inhabiting the hill country of the Lower Apennines, bordering

on the plain of Rome The Romans had been hard pressed by the Volscians about B.C. 496, but at the supposed date of this Lay the Consul Spurius Cassius had checked their advance on the east, and their power had declined

562 **Juno** This goddess, wife of Jupiter, presided over married life, and, as Lucina, lent her aid at childbirth She received special homage at the festival of the *Matronalia*, celebrated by the Matrons of Rome on the 1st of March

568 **long**, continuous, prolonged So "a long shout," l. 463

572 **Algidus**, a mountain or mountain range of the Alban Hills, in Latium Its sides were covered with dense forests. Cf Horace, *Odes*, III xxiii 9, 10

573 **Roar**, crackle in the flames of the hearth

574 **oldest cask**, cask of the oldest and best wine Cf Horace, *Odes*, III viii 9-12

576. **chestnuts** Chestnut is short for *chesten-nut*, *chesten* being from Lat. *castanea*, the chestnut tree, from Castana, a city in Pontus where they abounded

582 **the goodman**, the master of the house, to be pronounced *goodman* Cf Bible, *Matthew*, xxiv 43 "If the *goodman* of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched" And Shakspere's "*Goodman Verges*" (*Much Ado about Nothing*, III v. 10) Cf *goodwife* = mistress

586. **weeping** See note to l. 539.

THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS

INTRODUCTION

P. 25, l. 10. βῆ, etc In English. "The strong Hercules," "The renowned Hephaistos" (lit. 'the lame one'), "The Guide Hermes" (lit. 'slayer of Argus'), "The seven-gated Thebes," "for the sake of fair-haired Helen"

P. 26, l. 5 **Herodotus** See *Hist* v 92

13 **The stratagem** See Liddell's *History of Rome*, chap. iv. § 5

15 **The embassy** See *Id.* chap. iv § 6

P. 27, ll. 13-15 Τρωσὶν μὲν κ.τ.λ. "God-like Alexander (i.e. Paris) fights in front of the Trojans, he challenged all the bravest of the Argives to fight in dread encounter, opposing force to force"

16-18 **Ferocem**, etc "The warlike young Tarquin, showing himself in the front ranks of the exiles."

21-23 Τὸν δ' ὥς κ.τ.λ. "When therefore the god-like Alexander perceived him showing himself in the foremost ranks, his heart was struck with terror; and back into the band of his comrades he recoiled, shunning the doom of death"

24-25 Tarquinius, etc "Tarquin retired before the attacking foe back into the lines of his friends"

P 31, l 10 **Secular Jubilee** The *Ludi Sæculares* or Secular Games, a festival celebrated at long, but uncertain intervals. Horace's *Carmen Sæculare*, a festive hymn composed for one of these occasions, is still extant

TEXT.

2. **Ho, victors, clear the way** See note to *Cavys*, 190 It was their duty to clear the way before the chief magistrates, and to disperse a crowd when it impeded public business

3 **The Knights** The Equites, a body of wealthy Patrician horse-soldiers, supposed to have been originally founded by Romulus.

will ride See Macaulay's Introduction, p 30, ll 16-27. The Romans called the procession *Equitum Transvectio*, 'The riding past (or Review) of the Knights'

7, 8, **Castor Mars** The names of these deities stand for their temples. The temple of Castor, of which three columns still remain, stood on the south side of the Forum, and was built on the spot where rose a spring called the *Lacus Juturnæ*, at which the twin brethren watered their steeds after the battle. The temple of Mars stood outside the Porta Capena, beyond the Servian wall

9 **purple** Each is dressed in his robe of state, a purple-striped tunic called *trabea*

13 **Yellow River** The Tiber, see note to *Horatius*, 98

14 **Sacred Hill** *Mons Sacer*, a hill about two miles north-east from Rome, across the river Anio. It was so called because an altar to Jupiter was built there in commemoration of the concessions which successfully ended the secession thither of the Plebeians in B C 494. See note to *Horatius*, 267

15 **Ides of Quintilis** Quintilis (July) was the fifth month of the Roman year, which began with March. The "Ides" divided each month into two nearly equal parts; in July they were on the 15th day. This day was the anniversary of the battle of Lake Regillus. See Macaulay's Introduction, p 30, ll 15-20

17 **Martian Kalends** The Kalends were the first day of each month, so that the "Martian Kalends" were the ancient Roman New Year's Day, when the sacred fire in the temple of Vesta was rekindled, and public buildings adorned with fresh laurels

18 **December's Nones**, the fifth day of December. The *Nones* were always on the ninth day before the Ides. On the fifth of December occurred the *Faunalia*, a festival of the rural god *Faunus* (the Greek *Pan*). Cf. *Horace, Odes*, III xviii 10.

20 **whitest day**. Lucky days were proverbially marked with chalk, or with a white stone, as unlucky days were marked with charcoal. Cf. *Horace, Odes*, I xxxvi 10; *Persius, Sat* II 1, 2.

21 **Twin Brethren**. *Castor* and *Pollux*, fabled to be the Sons of *Zeus* and *Leda*, and worshipped at *Sparta* as patrons of travellers by sea. They give their names to the two bright stars in the Constellation of the *Twins*, the third of the Signs of the *Zodiac*.

25-36 **They came**, etc. These lines describe the mystic ride of the celestial horsemen from their birthplace to the battlefield, from *Lacedæmon* to *Lake Regillus*, across the pine-covered slopes of *Mount Parthenus*, north of *Sparta*, the Eastern boundary of the central table-land of the *Peloponnese*, past *Curia*, the port for pilgrims to the *Delphic oracle*, across the *Adriatic*, and thence across the *Apennines* to *Lake Regillus* and *Rome*.

32 **the City of two kings**. After the *Dorian conquest* of the *Peloponnese*, *Lacedæmon* (or *Sparta*) was made its chief city, under the joint rule of *Eurysthenes* and *Procles*, the two sons of *Aristodemus*. This dual rule was continued under their successors.

33 **Lake Regillus**. This lake, now not to be found, probably occupied a small crater at the foot of the *Tusculan hills*, since drained of its waters.

34 **Porcian height**. One of the *Tusculan hills*, the modern *Monte Pozzo*; see *Macaulay's Introduction*, p. 31, l. 35.

35 **All** is an adverb, commonly used in ballad poetry to emphasise the adverbial phrase of place or time to which it is prefixed, e.g. "*all* in the month of *May*", "*all* on a rock reclined" (*Gav*). For *Tusculum*, see note to *Horatius*, 96.

37 **place of slaughter**, i.e. place where the battle was fought.

42 **Corne**. *Corniculum*, a town of *Latium*, near *Lake Regillus*.

55 **To tear** etc. Cf. *Bible, Rev* xix 18. "That ye (the fowls) may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains."

60 **Raved** etc. Cf. II 687, 688 below.

63 **the Thirty Cities**. This confederacy of thirty cities constituted aboriginally the *Latin league*, from which *Rome* was an offshoot. Under *Tarquinius Superbus* *Rome* became the head of this league; but after the expulsion of the kings the *Thirty Cities* combined against *Rome*, making *Octavius Mamilius* their Dictator.

69 **a hoof-mark** See Macaulay's Introduction, p 28, ll 7-11.

76 **keep thy head**, protect thee from injury. Cf. Bible, 1 Sam xxviii 2 "And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee *keeper of mine head* for ever."

78 **Of** Antique for "by "

80 The date should be "fourscore and fifteen," since this lay is supposed to be sung A U C 451, and the date of the battle of Lake Regillus was A U C 256, the difference being 195, i.e. 100 + 4 score + 15

82 **first in place** In the City, each consul alternately assumed the direction of public affairs for a month at a time. The consul to whom the first month fell was termed *Major Consul*, and the precedence was probably determined by seniority; cf l. 117 below

86 **Gabii** One of the towns of the Latin league, about eleven miles east of Rome

88 **Eastern gate** The Porta Esquilina, at the back of the hill of the same name

96 **To bring the Tarquins home** The Tarquins were the later kings of Rome, descended from Demaratus of a noble family of Corinth, who settled at Tarquinii in Etruria, and there married a noble Etruscan lady Tanaquil, by whom he had two sons, Lucumo and Aruns. Lucumo succeeded to his father's property, but, being an alien, was excluded from all political power in the city of his birth. He therefore went to Rome with a train of followers, took the surname of Tarquinius, became the trusted adviser of the reigning king Ancus Martius, and subsequently succeeded him on the throne. As king he defeated the Latins and Sabines, and enriched Rome with many important public works. His adopted son, Servius Tullius, the child of a slave, became king after the murder of Tarquinius and he himself was murdered by his son-in-law, L. Tarquinius, surnamed Superbus, the most successful and powerful of the kings of Rome. A shameful outrage committed by Sextus, the son of Tarquinius Superbus, on Lucretia the wife of Tarquinius Collatinus, his cousin, led to the overthrow of kingly power, and the banishment of all the Tarquins from Rome. Mamilius of Tusculum, the most powerful of the Latin chiefs, had married Tarquin's daughter, and now took the lead in the attempt to restore the banished king, which was frustrated by the defeat of the Latins at Lake Regillus.

104 **the eagle's nest** The eagle symbolises Rome, and, later, silver or bronze eagles were used as standards for the Roman legions in war.

105 **eyrie**, 'eagle's nest' The proper spelling is *aery*, *Fizure* It came to be connected with *ME cy*, an egg, as if it meant *egger y*; hence the spelling *eyrie* or *eyry*

114 **hied him back**, hastened back; see note to *Horatius*, 145.

115 **Father** See note to *Horatius*, 126

119 **Conscript Fathers** Those among the better-born Plebeians whose names were enrolled (*conscripti*) among the members of the Senate to fill up vacancies after the expulsion of the Tarquins, were addressed as *Conscripti*, so that the form of addressing the whole Senate became *Patres et Conscripti*, which was abbreviated into *Patres Conscripti*, "Conscript Fathers"

123 **a Dictator** The *Dictator*, or "Master of the People," was an official appointed on extraordinary emergencies with supreme powers, to hold office for six months (l 130), the first Dictator is said by Livy to have been appointed after the expulsion of the kings One sign of royal dominion had been the symbol of the power of inflicting the death-penalty, viz an axe bound round with a bundle of rods Twelve of these used to be carried before the kings, afterwards, at first, twelve were carried before each of the two consuls These twenty-four axes (l 132) were transferred to the Dictator as a sign that all the executive powers of the State devolved upon him He was general-in-chief, and appointed his own lieutenant, who was called *Magister Equitum*, or "Master of the Knights" (l 136) Cf *Capys*, 190.

125 **Camerium**, or *Camena*, a town of Latium Its capture is mentioned by Livy, *Hist* 1 38

135. **Æbutius** He was one of the consuls of that year

143 **boys grey-headed man** Cf *Horatius*, 59, 60, and ll 539, 540 below

165. **Setia**. The modern *Sczze*, one of the Latin towns east of the Pomptine Marshes, celebrated for its wines

166 **Norba**, a town of Latium, the modern *Noima*

167 **Witch's Fortress** *Circe*, one of the towns of the Latin league, on a promontory in the south of Latium, named after the enchantress *Circe*, whose magic cup turned those who tasted it into brute beasts

172 **Aricia's trees** *Aricia* (*La Riccia*) was a Latin town, south of the Alban lake, halfway between *Norba* and *Rome*. Close to it was a grove and temple of *Diana*, the priest of which was always a runaway slave who obtained his office by killing his predecessor in single combat

177. **Ufens** (*Ufente*) was a sluggish stream flowing from *Setia* into the river *Amisenu* in the Pomptine Marshes to the south of *Latium*

181 **gigantic watch towers** Cora (Cori), standing on a bold hill, was one of the first cities of Latium, and is now remarkable for the massive remains of its ancient walls. It overlooks the Pomptine Marshes ("fen," l 184); see note to ll 207, 263

185 **Laurentian jungle**, the marshes and forest near Laurentum (L'orre di Paterno), a town on the coast, about ten miles south of the Tiber mouth

187 **Anio**, the modern Taverone. It rises in the Apennines and descends rapidly through the Æquian hills to Tibur, where it forms a remarkable waterfall

190 **Velitræ** (Vellitrî) was a town of Latium on the southern spur of the Alban Hills, and probably a member of the Latin league

193 **Mamilius** See note to l 63, and *Horatius*, 197, 198

201 **Woven**, etc Cf *Cypys*, 171, 172, and note Syria is often used to include Phœnicia

land of sunrise, i.e. the East, cf *Cypys*, 283, and note

203 **Carthage**, chief of the Phœnician colonies, in the north of Africa, was mistress of the sea and of ocean trade until its overthrow in the Punic wars by Rome, B.C. 201. See note to *Cypys*, 173

205 **Lavinium** (Pratica), south of Laurentum (l 185), was the sacred metropolis of the Latin league

207. **marsh** The Pomptine marshes occupy an extensive tract between the Volscian mountains and the sea, thirty miles in length by seven or eight in breadth

209 **false Sextus** See note to l 96, and cf *Horatius*, 199, and note

212 **field**, i.e. battlefield, see ll 681-684

215 **strange sounds** Cf Bible, *Job*, vi 21 "A dreadful sound is in his (the wicked man's) ears"

217 **A woman** An apparition of Lucretia, who stabbed herself in the presence of her husband Tarquinius Collatinus and his friends to atone for the dishonour done to her by Sextus

224. **lights**, etc Cf Wordsworth, *The Solitary Reaper*, 18-20

"Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago."

226 **grey**, i.e. with the approach of dawn.

233 **Tiber**, i.e. Tibur (Tivoli), stands on the bank of the Anio, just above the spot where the river descends into the Campagna *Pedum* (Gallicano), between Tibur and Fæneste, was a member of the Latin league.

235 **Ferentinum** (Ferentino), on the Via Latina, was subject to the Volscians. It is now famous for the remains of its Cyclopean walls.

236 **Gabii**. See l. 86 above. It was famous for its cold sulphureous springs.

237 **Volscian succours**, *i.e.* Volscian allies, a tribe distinct from the Latins, inhabiting the central part of Latium.

240 **king**, Tarquinius Superbus.

241 **Soracte**, the modern S. Oreste, a mountain 2200 ft high, about twenty four miles north of Rome. The summit is often covered with snow and is plainly visible at Rome (Horace, *Odes*, i. 9). The construction is — 'Though his beard flowed down white as Mount Soracte (*i.e.* though he was so old), yet his heart and hand were strong.'

250 **Apulian**. The northern plains of Apulia afforded pasture for vast numbers of horses and sheep during the winter months.

256. **targe**, a shield, of which *target* is the diminutive. Cf. note to *Horatius*, 371.

258. **gore**, *i.e.* the gory flanks of their horses.

263. **Pomptine fog**. The Pomptine or Pontine marshes lie near the central part of the coast of Latium, and are formed by a number of small streams which are choked up in the plain and find no exit to the sea. See note to l. 207.

277. **As glares**, etc. The simile is from Homer, *Il.* xxii. 308-311.

278 **Digentian rock**. Rock overhanging the Digentia (Licenza), a tributary of the Anio. Horace had a farm on its banks (*Epp.* i. 18, 104).

280. **Bandusia**. A fountain near Venusia, the birthplace of Horace, celebrated by him in song (*Odes*, iii. 13). Macaulay seems to have forgotten that Bandusia was 150 miles distant from the Digentia. Probably the poetry of Horace connected the two in the author's mind.

281. **Herminius**. See *Horatius*, 245.

283 **Auster**, his horse's name, is Latin for 'the south wind,' which is a stormy wind in Italy.

287 **crown**. Crowns were bestowed upon Roman soldiers for various feats of arms.

288 **Fidenæ** (Castel Gubileo) stood on a steep hill overlooking the Tiber, five miles from Rome. It was engaged in constant feuds with Rome till its destruction in B.C. 438.

294 **Calabrian**. Calabria was the name of the peninsula to the south-east of Tarentum, commonly known as the "heel" of Italy. It was notorious for its venomous serpents.

296. **speckled snake**, the viper.

299 **Lavinian** See l 205 above

303 **Norba** See l 166 above

307 **pruning**, i.e. pruning his vines (l 165), which were trained to elm-trees

325 **clients** Each Patrician house had a body of retainers, who were termed the *clients* of the house to which they were attached. Cf. note to *Virgilia*, 20.

336 **Valerius** Marcus Valerius, the brother of Publius Valerius, who was surnamed *Poplicola*, or 'Friend of the People' (l 376), on account of the laws he passed in their favour. Poplicola himself died shortly before the Battle of Lake Regillus.

353. **Cæso** was a *cognomen* of the Fabian family (Lat *familia*)

360 **Julian line** The "gens Julia" was one of the most ancient of the Patrician clans of Rome, and claimed to be descended from Iulus the son of Venus and Anchises. To this line belonged Julius Caesar

362 **Vellian hill** A spur of the Palatine hill at Rome, where afterwards was built the arch of Titus commemorating the destruction of Jerusalem

372 **A span deep** *Span* is an adverbial objective of amount.

375. **woe is me**, i.e. woe is to me Cf 'ah me'

376. **loves the people** See note to l 336 above

383 **yeomen, attendants** See note to *Virgilia*, 223.

397 **for your wives, etc** Cf *Horatius*, 227, 228

399. **play the men**, act like men, fight bravely Cf Bible, 2 Sam x. 12. "Let us *play the men* for our people, and for the cities of our God."

408 **Wist** is the preterite of the old English verb *to wit* = 'to know' Cf. *unwittingly*.

416. **A Consular.** All Roman citizens who had held the office of consul were styled *Consulares*. **Valerius** was three times consul.

425 **Cossus** A surname of the Roman gens *Cornelia*

439, 440 The construction is "Ride as if the wolves were all upon thy track"

441 **battle** is here used in its older signification of battalion or division of an army, cf Shakspeare, *Julius Caesar*, v. i 16, 17:

"Octavius, lead your *battle* softly on,
Upon the left hand of the even field."

Cf ll. 463, 641 below

444 **amain** See note to *Horatius*, 19

445 **turned him**, turned himself, returned

448 **for death and life**, i.e. as on an errand of, or involving, life and death.

458. **Lavinians.** See l 205, and note.

466. **Crest of Flame**, *i.e.* the Crest of Mamilius—"the golden helmet that shines far off like flame" (ll 433, 434)

471 **seventy fields** See l 128 above

472 **upholds the day**, sustains the fight Cf 'The day (*i.e.* the battle) is ours' (l 736); 'to win the day.' Cf l 483 below

473 **beat his bosom** In sign of grief; Lat *pectus plangere* Cf Ovid, *Met* vi 248

480 **From Aufidus to Po** The *Aufidus* is a river on the southern part of the east coast of Italy near the modern Brindisi, while the Po drains the wide basin of northern Italy; so that "from Aufidus to Po" = throughout the whole extent of the Italian peninsula

483 **odds** Cf *Horatius*, 222, and note.

495 **lay on**, lay on blows, fight Cf Shaks *Macbeth*, v viii 33, 34.

"Lay on, Macduff,
And damn'd be him that first cries 'Hold, enough!'"

519 **the southern mountains** See note to *Horatius*, 96.

523 Note how the quick, anapæstic rhythm of the line harmonises with the sense So with ll. 527, 528.

541 **like**, *i.e.* as motionless as

557 **The furies**, *i.e.* the avenging deities who haunt thy brother Sextus for his crime, see st 12 The three Furies, or Erinyes, were figured as fearful winged maidens with snaky locks and bloody garments They were regarded as the ministers of the vengeance of the gods

558 **abide**, *i.e.* may they abide

568 **Capuan's** See notes to *Corymbus*, 169, 187

570 **loosened**, relaxed, paralysed; the Homeric γυῖα λελυτο, 'the limbs were loosened' Cf Bible, *Dan* v 6 (of the terrified Belshazzar). "the joints of his loins were loosed"

582 **band**, belly-band, girth

583 **a princely pair**, *i.e.* Castor and Pollux, the Twin Brethren; see note to l 21

601-612 This stanza sketches the chief seats of the worship of the Dioscuri Samothracia, one of the four Greek islands at the north of the Aegean sea, Cyrene, a Greek city on the north of the Africa, due south from Greece; Tarentum, the most important of the Greek cities in the south of Italy; Syracuse, the wealthiest city of Sicily, with two extensive harbours on its eastern coast, founded by Dorian colonists; and Lacedæmon or Sparta, on the river Eurotas, their legendary birthplace; cf. l. 31.

608 **portal towers** The gateways of their temple

619, 620 **Ardea** **Cora**, i.e. the men of those towns; cf. ll 659, 660 below **Ardea** in **Latium** was twenty-four miles south of Rome For **Cora**, see l 183

623 See note to *Horatius*, 229 **Vesta**, one of the most ancient of the Roman deities, symbolising the sanctity of family life and the unity of the nation as one family Her temple stood in the Forum, between the Palatine and the Capitoline hills, a fire was kept ever burning on her altar tended by the Vestal Virgins

624 **The Golden Shield** was traditionally supposed to have fallen from heaven as a miraculous sign given by Jupiter to reward the piety of Numa Pompilius, who succeeded Romulus as king of Rome See l 696 below

631 **The kites** Cf ll 56, 394 above

635 **like a crag** As a loosened rock rushes down in a landslide on the precipitous sides of the Apennines

643 Here again the trochaic rhythm accentuates the sense of the line

646 **Celtic plain** The Italian Celts, who in successive migrations had crossed the Alps, occupied Gallia Cisalpina, which comprises the greater part of the Po basin

648 **Adrian main** The Adriatic Sea, which was noted for its sudden squalls and storms

649 **Sire Quirinus** Romulus was said to have been taken away to heaven by the god Mars in a sudden thunderstorm, and afterwards to have appeared in a vision to Julius Proculus, and bidden the Romans worship him evermore as their guardian under the title of Quirinus

661 **Nomentum** (Mentana) was a Latin town, a colony of Alba, fourteen and a half miles from Rome

663 **Velitræ** See note to l 190 above

673 **Arpinum** (Aipino) was a Latin town, originally belonging to the Volscians, captured by Rome B.C. 305, and famous as the birthplace of Cicero and Marius

676 **Anxur**, or Tarracina, stood on a white cliff, at the extremity of the Pomptine marshes Much of its walls remain

678 **Arician** See note to l 172 above

679 **Laurentum** See l. 185 above

688 **roaring** Cf *Horatius*, 121, and note

689 **Sempronius Atratinus** had been left in charge at Rome; see ll 141, 142

695 **the Twelve** King Numa caused eleven shields to be made of gold, exact copies of the one that fell from heaven; and he

instituted a sacred body of twelve Salii or priests of Mars to guard them. The shields were called *ancilia*.

697. **Pontiff** is from the Lat *pontificem*, accusative of *pontifex* (*pons* and *facere*), lit. 'path-maker,' perhaps used of one who leads the way in a sacred procession.

699. **Etruria's**. The Romans drew their early deities and religious rites from the Etruscans *Colleges* = guilds, corporations.

706 **that might not bear the mail**, i.e. too feeble to wear armour

715 For the repetition of l 583, etc., cf. note to *Horatius*, 10

716 **Fast pricking**, i.e. spurring their horses to a gallop; a common phrase in ballad poetry of the opening of Spenser's *Faery Queen*.

"A gentle knight was *pricking* o'er a plain"

721 **Asylum** Romulus is said to have set apart a place as a sanctuary or refuge for fugitive criminals, in order to supply his newly built city with men, hence it was called the *Asylum*, the Greek word for Sanctuary Cf. note to *Capys*, 266

722. **the hill-tops seven** The seven hills of Rome were the Capitoline, the Palatine, the Aventine, the Cælian, the Esquiline, the Viminal, and the Quirinal

723. **the fire** See *Horatius*, 230, and note to 229.

724. **the shield** See l 624, and note

727 See note to l 35 This repetition of stock phrases and lines is one characteristic of ballad poetry

736 **day** Cf. l 472, and note

741 **Forum** Cf. l 7 above, and *Horatius*, 500.

742 **laurel-boughs** The laurel was the symbol of victory; cf. note to *Capys*, 181

745 **Vesta**, i.e. the temple of Vesta; see note to l 623

760 **Dorians** The Spartans were a Dorian race, see note to ll 601-612

764 **harness** See note to *Horatius*, 274

768 **Sit shining** The worship of the Dioscuri as the protectors of those who travel by sea appears partly to have grown out of confusion between the stars *Castor* and *Pollux* and the electric light, now called *St Elmo's Fire*, often seen hovering in thunderstorms over the masts and rigging of ships This appearance is looked upon as a lucky omen by sailors

774. **Build we**. The subjunctive form of the verb with an imperative sense ('build we' = let us build) is still used in poetry, as "*Wind we up the heights*" (*R. Browning*)

↓ **stately dome**. See note to ll. 7, 8.

777. **And when** etc , *i e.* on the anniversary of the battle.

788. **Mars**, etc. See l. 8, and note

789. **in purple**. See l. 9, and note.

VIRGINIA

INTRODUCTION.

P. 59, l. 12 **the public lands** See note to *Horatius*, p. 2, l. 32.

P. 60, l. 8. **the year 1829**, when the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act was passed

P. 62, l. 29. **The great poet** Juvenal.

TEXT

2 **Tribunes** See note to *Horatius*, 267.

5. **fountains**, etc. The followers of Dionysus, the wine-god, are represented in the *Bacchæ* of Euripides as striking the ground, whence issued fountains of milk and wine.

6 **maids**, etc. The three Eumenides or Furies, as also the three Gorgons, had serpents wreathed round their head instead of hair. According to Ovid, only the Gorgon Medusa's locks were turned into snakes through the resentment of Minerva

sailors, etc. The enchantress Circe, by a magic potion, changed Ulysses' crew into swine till he compelled their restoration.

7 **Forum** The market place at Rome, and place of political assembly. It consisted of two parts: the Comitium or place of public meetings and the Lower Forum, in which all ordinary business was transacted, and in the centre of which was the sacred enclosure of the Lacus Curtius.

10. **wicked Ten**. The *Decemviri legibus scribendis*, or the commissioners for drawing up laws, appointed B.C. 451. The first board drew up a Code of ten divisions or *Tables*, to which the second board added two more, making the famous Twelve Tables, which were engraved on plates of bronze, and became the foundation of Roman law.

12 **Appius Claudius**. See Introduction

13 **Tarquin**. Tarquinius Superbus; see note to *Horatius*, 3.

14. **Twelve axes**, *i e.* twelve lictors; see note to *Capys*, 190. The Decemvirs were, for the time being, the sole magistrates of the republic, with absolute power. The first Decemvirs exercised the supreme power by turns, one only appearing in public with twelve lictors; but of the second board each was attended by twelve lictors, with bundles of rods (*fascæ*) and axes, thus thronging the Forum with a troop of 120 armed attendants.

15. **askance**, obliquely; *a=on*, and *skance* is probably the Italian *scanso*, slope.

17. **his kindred** Cf 1 285

18. **but** See note to *Horatius*, 206.

20. **client** See note to *Regillus*, 325 The Patricians in relation to their Clients were termed Patrons (cf 1. 78), and the position of the two parties resembled, in some respects, that of a feudal lord and his vassals. The Clients (who were distinct from the Plebeians) were probably a race conquered in old times by the Patricians. Eventually the old Clients became a portion of the Plebs, retaining, however, their old habits of dependence upon Roman nobles.

22 **for aught**, in response to anything

23 **varlets** *Varlet* or *vaslet* (for *vassulet*) is diminutive of *vassal*. *Valet* is its doublet. Cf. *Horatius*, 306

24 **Licinius** See Introduction

31 **tablets** *Tabulae*, small, thin folding boards, covered with a coating of wax, the writing being scratched on the wax with an iron pencil termed *stylus*, sharp at one end and flattened at the other for smoothing the surface in erasing

satchel is the Latin *sacculus*, diminutive of *saccus*, a bag, sack

35 **Sacred Street** See *Capys*, 264.

37 **How for a sport**, etc. When Tarquin was besieging Ardea, the young nobles, including Collatinus and the sons of Tarquin, were praising the domestic virtues of their wives, and suddenly determined to ride off to Rome to test the truth of their assertions. There, while the wives of the others were found feasting, Collatinus's wife, Lucretia, was discovered at her distaff spinning among her maidens. Cf. *Regillus*, 213-228.

38 **combing the fleece**, i.e. carding wool, preparatory to spinning it into yarn

39 **darts his flight** See note to *Horatius*, 316

45 **the Alban mountains** (*Mons Albanus*) are a bold, isolated mass in the Roman *Campagna*, dividing the *Campagna* proper from the Pomptine marshes.

46. **Seven Hills**. See note on *Regillus*, 722

50. **panniers** *Pannier* is properly a bread-basket (Lat. *panarium*, from *panis*, bread)

55. **stalls** Both sides of the Lower Forum (see note to 1 7) were lined with porticoes to which rows of shops (*tabernæ*) were attached, among which butchers' shops are especially noticed. Later on they were occupied almost exclusively by bankers.

63. **money-changer**. These *argentarii* sat in the Forum with tables or counters before them; hence also called *mensarii*.

64. **Hanno**, a Carthaginian name.

Punic, i.e. Carthaginian. The commerce of the Mediterranean was at this time in the hands of the Carthaginians. See *Regillus*, 203; *Cypis*, 173, 277.

65 **brand**, sword-blade; so called from its brightness (O. E. *brunnan*, to burn).

66 **flesher**. Still in use in Scotland for 'butcher.'

70. **caitiff**, a wretch; originally a 'captive' (Lat. *captivus*)
paces is an adverbial objective of amount; cf. *Regillus*, 372 and note.

74. **The year**, etc., the plague year

76. **augurs**. See note to *Horatius*, 66

Consul. See notes to *Horatius*, 142; *Regillus*, 82; *Cypis*, 188.

80. **Claudian name**. The appellation *Claudius* showed that the bearer belonged to the Claudian *gens* or clan. Each *gens* was made up of a number of branches or families (*familie*).

81. **word of might**. To afford assistance to Plebeians oppressed by Patricians, the Tribunes possessed the 'Right of Intervening' (*Jus Intercessionis*), and at once putting a stop to any measure injurious to their order. In exerting this right they were said to 'intervene' (*intercedere*), and the mode of exerting it was by pronouncing the solemn word *Veto*, 'I forbid.' Cf. note to *Horatius*, 267.

83. **Sextius**. See Introduction.

87 **icilius**. A Tribune of the people at the time.

88. **gown**, his toga. See note to *Horatius*, 144.

89. **column**, the *pila Horatia*, a column on which were hung the spoils of the three Curiatii, the Alban champions who fought the three Roman Horatii and lost the victory.

94. **Quirites**, i.e. Romans or citizens. The formal appellation of the Roman people was *Populus Romanus Quirites*, but the latter term was often used alone. The name is probably connected with *Quirinus*, the name under which Romulus was worshipped.

95. **Servius Tullius**, the sixth king of Rome, not only divided the Roman people into Tribes, but also into Classes and Centuries, according to the amount of fortune possessed by each citizen. The division was, in one point of view, a military organization, the whole body of the people being regarded as an Army (*Exercitus*). Servius also instituted the *Comitia Centuriata*, or Popular Assembly, and gave the Plebeians the *jus suffragii*, or right of voting.

Lucrece. See note to *Horatius*, 3.

97. **those false sons**, etc. The sons of Brutus, the first Consul of the Republic, were executed by order of their father for their complicity in a plot for the restoration of the Tarquins.

98. **Scævola's right hand** When Porsena was besieging Rome, Caius Mutius determined to deliver his country by assassinating the Etruscan king. Being seized by his guards and threatened with torture, he, to show his fortitude, thrust his right hand into the fire and held it there. Hence his name of *Scævola*, 'the left-handed'

99. **Shall the vile**, etc. The next line explains this one, the "fox-earth" (or fox's hole) standing for the office of the Decemvirs, as the "lion's den" does for kingly rule ("one lord") "Shall we who dethroned and banished the Tarquins submit to the tyranny of the Decemvirs?"

101. **the Senate's will** The Roman Senate had been the mouth-piece of the Patrician party in resisting the claims of the Plebeians.

102. **the Sacred Hill**. See notes to *Horatius*, 267 ; *Regillus*, 14.

104. **Marcian fury**. The bitter resentment of C. Marcius Coriolanus, who, upon being banished for his opposition to a distribution of corn to the people, made war against Rome at the head of the Volscian army. He was finally appeased by the entreaties of his mother, and afterwards slain by the Volscians.

Fabian pride Cæso Fabius was a Roman leader whose victory over the Veientes the infantry refused to follow up, being discontented with his overbearing conduct towards the Plebeian party

105. **Quinctius** A young Roman noble, who, being arraigned for murder during a popular disturbance, went into exile.

106. **Claudius**. This appears to refer to Appius Claudius's son, "who had been intrusted with an army, and had failed ignominiously" (Macaulay's Introduction), though this event occurred after Virginia's death

fascæ See note to l. 14 and to *Capys*, 190. The soldiers broke into mutiny against their general

108. **threescore years** The sixty years succeeding the expulsion of the Tarquins, B.C. 510. The "ripe fruit" is the liberties achieved by the Plebeians in their struggle with the Patricians.

110. **honours** The Latin *honores* The *jus honorum* was the right of being eligible to all public offices.

111. **polling**, voting During the supremacy of the Decemvirs all public rights, including the *jus suffragii* (see note to l. 95), were in abeyance, and even the office of the Tribunes of the Plebs was suspended (cf. note to l. 14).

115. **keep the holy fillets**, i.e. retain your hold of the *collegia*, or corporations of priests. The Pontifices or Priests were taken from the Patricians exclusively till B.C. 300. For 'fillets,' see note to *Capys*, 71. Cf. *Regillus*, 697.

purple gown, the *tunica laticlavia*, a tunic with a broad vertical purple stripe in front, one of the *insignia* of Senators.

116 **curule chair**. See note to *Capys*, 188.

car and laurel crown, i.e. the honours of a triumph. See notes to *Capys*, 181, 254. So long as the Consuls (and Dictators), who were also the generals in war, were exclusively Patricians, no Plebeian could win a triumph.

117. **press us**, etc., 'make us serve in the army.' Each Roman Legion, or brigade, contained ten cohorts, or battalions, divided into three *Manipuli* of 140 men.

118 **garners**, granaries. From Latin *granaria*, through O. Fr. *gernier*, a form of *greuer*. Cf. Shakspeare, *Coriolanus*, i. l. 81-84: *First Citizen* "They (the Patricians) suffer us to famish, and their store houses crammed with grain; make edicts for usury, to support usurers. If the wars eat us not up, they will."

119. **leech-craft**, medical skill. *Leech* is an old word for 'physician'; cf. l. 184.

120 **usance**, usury, high interest for loans. Shakspeare (*Merchant of Venice*, i. 3. 45) has "the rate of usance" (i.e. interest).

121. **haggard**, lean, hollowed-eyed, a corruption of *haggéd*, formed from *hag*, an old woman. There is another *haggard* (l. 198) in the sense of 'wild,' originally the name of an untrained hawk.

122. **noisome**, disgusting. *Noisome* is formed from Mid. Eng. *noy*, a contraction of *anoy*, with suffix *-some*. *Anoy* (annoy) is Lat. *in odio* (*habere*), '(to have) in hatred,' 'to be sick of.'

123. **dog-star heat**. The appearance of the dog-star (Sirius or Canicula) was supposed to cause great heat. Cf. Vergil, *Æn.* iii. 141.

124. **holes**, i.e. the stocks.

127. **Shades**, the Manes or spirits of the departed.

130. **Pontiffs**. See note to *Regillus*, 697.

Alban kings. The descendants of Æneas, who reigned in Alba Longa (see *Capys*, 3).

133. **Corinthian mirrors**. The Roman mirrors were made of polished metal, and the artists of Corinth were famous for the manufacture of the alloy of copper and silver of which they were composed.

134. **Capuan odours**. See note to *Capys*, 169, and cf. l. 164 below. **Spanish gold**, gold from the mines of Spain.

144. **proof**, experience

wild hour, time of passionate outbreak

146. **shambles**, slaughter-houses [Mid Eng *schamel*, a (butcher's) bench].

149 **whittle**, a knife, lit a cutter, from O E. *thwitan*, to cut. Shakspeare (*Imon*, v 1 183) has the word

157. **civic crown** The *corona civica*, made of oak leaves, was bestowed upon the soldier who had saved the life of a citizen

158. **gown** Virginius, returning from the wars, exchanges his *sagum*, or military cloak, for his *toga*, the citizen's garb of peace. Cf note to l 88

162 **urn** See note to *Horatius*, 223

167 **he**, *re* Appius

182. **Volscians** See note to *Horatius*, 561

183 **amain** (*a*, on, *mam*, strength), vigorously, as fast as possible

184 **leech** See note to l 119.

193 **nether gloom**, the lower or infernal regions, where dwelt the Furies (Eumenides), the ministers of the vengeance of the gods

198 **haggard**. See note to l 121.

199 **groaned a groan** See note to *Horatius*, 316

200. **Sacred Street** See l 43 above and note.

202 **pounds of copper** For nearly 500 years after the foundation of the city the Romans coined no metal except copper. The *As*, the largest of these coins, weighed originally a pound.

213 **cypress** The cypress tree was an emblem of death, and was placed, in Rome, before houses where a death had taken place

216. **note**, tone.

217. **crafts**, trades Cf. l 119.

223. **yeomen** (Friesic, *gaman*, a villager), attendants, guards.

224. **sheaf of twigs**, the *fasces* (see note to l 14).

228 **Pincian Hill** The *Collis Hortulorum*, in the decline of the empire named *Mons Pincius*. It stood beyond the Quirinal, and was laid out in gardens

Latin Gate The *Porta Latina*, however, was not in existence in the time of the Republic. It belonged to the walls of the Emperor Honorius.

232. **girding up of gowns** See note to *Horatius*, 144.

239. **tossing Forum**, Forum filled with a surging crowd. Cf. "roaring gate," *Horatius*, 121.

244 **potsherds**, fragments of pots *Sherd* or *shard* is the O.E. *sceard*, a broken thing (*sceran*, to shear)

249 **Corioli**, a town of Latium, taken from the Volscians by the Romans under C. Marcius, thence called Coriolanus. See note to l. 104.

251 **Furius** Marcus Furius Camillus, a celebrated Roman general, who, when Rome was besieged by the Gauls under Brennus, delivered his country. He also conquered the Hernici, the Volsci, the Latini, and the Etruscans, was five times dictator, and obtained four triumphs.

253 **stricken field**, field of battle *Strucken* is an old form of *struck*. A Claudius is afraid of fighting on the battlefield.

254 **changes colour**, turns pale

257 **Cossus**. See note to *Regillus*, 425. One of the Cossi, Aulus Cornelius, killed Lars Tolumnius, king of Veii, in single combat, and so won the *Spolia Opima*, the proudest of all military trophies, in B.C. 437.

like a wild cat, etc Cf *Horatius*, 376, 377.

258. **Fabius** The Fabii were so numerous a clan that they undertook alone the war against Veii, and were slain near the river Cremera to the number of 306, one male alone surviving. Another Fabius, the first Maximus, defeated the Samnites, and was five times consul and twice dictator.

chase, hunters and beaters

261 **of Appius**, in regard to Appius

270. **main** See note to l. 180

274 **we will have Tribunes**. Upon the fall of the Decemvirs, Tribunes of the People were again appointed

276 **the Adriatic sea**, on the east coast of Italy, was famous for its storms

277. **Calabrian**. See note to *Regillus*, 294.

spume (Lat *spuma*), foam

278. **Thunder Cape**. Acrocerania, a rocky promontory of Epirus, projecting between the Ionian and Adriatic seas. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning 'lofty-thundering,' or 'thunder-peak,' either because it was supposed to attract the lightning, or on account of the breakers that roared at its base.

280. **Palatine** See note to *Horatius*, 488.

283. **retainers**, his clients.

285 send me there to see. Cowper's *John Gilpin* has a similar close.

“And when he next doth ride abroad
May I be there to see!”

THE PROPHECY OF CAPYS.

INTRODUCTION

P 81, l 31 **Pillars of Hercules** *Herculis Columnæ*, the name given by the ancients to the Straits of Gibraltar

P 82, l 23 **at first victorious** Pyrrhus defeated the Romans at the battles of Heraclea and Asculum

P 84, ll 3, 4 **Calus Licinius and Lucius Sextius** These two Tribunes of the Plebs, after a five years' struggle with the Patricians, carried the famous Licinian Laws, which gave the Plebeians the Consulship and brought about the final equalisation of the two Orders

9 **To triumphe**, ‘hurrah for triumph’—the shout of the soldiery and the multitude at a triumphal procession

9. **Horace** See *Odes*, IV. ii 49, 50

11 **Virgil** See *Æn.* vi 756, *et seq.*

18, 22 **Nævius Livius Ennius** See General Introduction.

TEXT

1 **Amulius** The last of the Alban kings, Procas, left two sons, Numitor and Amulius. Amulius, the younger, usurped the throne, killed Numitor's son, and made his daughter, Rea Silvia, a Vestal Virgin. She, however, broke her vow and bore the twins, Romulus and Remus, to the god Mars. Then the doom was pronounced, and she was buried alive, as the law ordained, and the twins were ordered to be thrown into the Tiber. See notes to *Horatius*, 229, 360.

2 **Sylvian line** The twelve kings of Alba were all of the Sylvian *gens* or clan, and bore the surname of Silvius.

3 **Alba Longa**, or ‘the Long White City,’ was built on a hill about fifteen miles south-east of Rome, by Ascanius, and became the capital of Latium.

4 **Aventine** Aventinus was one of the Alban kings, buried on the Aventine Hill; whence its name.

5. **Jamers** The name signifies an inhabitant of Camerinum or Camertium, a town in Umbria.

9 **Alba's lake**. Alba Longa was situated on a long narrow ridge between the Alban Mount and the Alban Lake.

18 **whitest gown** They were dressed in fresh holiday attire. The wool of the *toga* was not dyed, but was allowed to retain its *natura* colour, white.

20 a poplar crown Garlands of leaves or flowers were worn at banquets and other festivities. The poplar tree was sacred to the Roman hero Hercules. In Horace, *Odes*, I vii 23, Teucer "binds his temples, moist with wine, with a poplar wreath", and cf Vergil, *Æn* viii 274-277.

23, 24 the dead to-day, i.e. the twins, supposed to be lost and dead, have been recovered, and have returned to their ancestral honours. The phrases are adapted from Bible, *Luke*, xv 24 (of the return of the Prodigal Son). "This my son was dead, and is alive again, he was lost and is found."

25 king, Amulius, the "priest" of course being Cameris.

31 For the repetition, cf. note to *Horatius*, 10.

33 troubled The word probably combines the ideas of *turbid* and *anxious* (about their fate).

34 smoothed, etc. The legend said that "the shoal water shrank before the fated founder of Rome, and the twins were left on dry ground near a wild fig-tree."

yellow See note to *Horatius*, 98. Cf. the rescue of the infant Moses from the Nile; Bible, *Exodus*, ii 1-10.

41 Twenty winters After being suckled by the wolf, the two boys were found by Faustulus, herdsman of Amulius, and grew up with his children till they were twenty years old.

48 grandsire, Numitor.

54 red The youths attacked and slew Amulius in his palace at Alba, and restored their grandsire to the throne of the Silvii.

58 horse-hair. The helmet had a horse-hair plume.

60 Fixed, etc. The ghastly frown that the features wore at death was fixed upon the face.

62-64 See note to l 31.

71 fillets At solemn rites the priests wore on their heads a sacred band of white wool (*infula*), wreathed round with white ribbons (*vitta*).

85 weeping See *Horatius*, 539, and note.

86 Rhea's See note to l 1.

88 Yet etc. They are terror-stricken but fascinated by the spectacle.

93 Capys is an Alban name, and was the name of one of the Alban kings, mentioned by Vergil (*Æn* vi 768).

95 trembled The seer is awe-struck at the approach of Romulus and at the thought of his mighty destiny.

99 foster child, child fostered or nursed by the wolf. *Wonderous* is an obsolete form of *wondrous*.

100. **sire** Mars, the Roman god of war, the reputed father of the Twins

101 **what dost**, etc Your place is not here, any more than the eagle's place is a hen-coop, or the bison's a stable

106 **clasp** Cf Vergil, *Georg* i 2. "ulmisque adjungere vites," 'to fasten vines to elm-trees.'

110 **Tartessian mine** Put generally for 'Spanish mine,' Spain being famous for its silver mines Tartessus, the Tarshish of the Bible, was a port lying west of the Straits of Gibraltar, near the mouth of the Bætis It became a synonymous term for the West among the Latin poets

112 **Libyan brine** The African sea or part of the Mediterranean extending along the shores of Africa

113 **amber**, *i e* cups ornamented with amber Cf Juvenal's (*Sat* v 38) description of a luxurious dinner. "Helicidum crustas," 'cups embossed with amber.'

115 **Arabia**, *i e* Arabian perfumes

116 **Sidon**, *i e* Sidonian or Tyrian dyes Tyre was especially celebrated for its purple dye, extracted from shellfish found on the coast Cf Vergil, *Æn* iv 262; Horace, *Ep* i vi 18; and ll 171, 172, 235 below Tyre and Sidon were well-known ports of Phœnicia, and great commercial centres

117 **myrrh** The ancients used the gum of the myrrh-tree to flavour their wine, also as an unguent for the hair.

118 **Rich table**, luxurious fare

119, 120 Cf notes to ll 99, 100

124 **tugged at**, sucked eagerly

125 **From sunset** From east to west

127 **city** Rome, named after Romulus, who founded it
B C 753

130 **Vesta's fire** See note to *Horatius*, 229

137 **spaniel**, a dog of Spanish breed, is from Span *español*, 'Spanish'

149 **Pomona** The Roman goddess of fruits

150 **Liber** An ancient Italian deity, the patron of agriculture, afterwards identified with Bacchus, the god of wine

151 **Pales** The deity of shepherds His festival was the Palilia

153. **Venus** The goddess of Love and Beauty

155 **April's** Cf Tennyson, *Locksley Hall*, 20 "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." *Flory* represents the soft, smooth whiteness produced by moonlight.

156. **chestnut** See note to *Horatius*. 576.

157 **thy father** See note to l 100.

159 **reeks**, smokes, exhales

161 **smile** Cognate object to *smiles* Cf *Horatius*, 316, and note

169 **Campanian** Campania, the Italian province south of Latium, was famous for its fertility, the genial mildness of its climate, and the beauty of its scenery Its capital Capua was proverbial for the wealth and luxury of its citizens *Soft* = effeminate, luxurious

170 **baths** Campania was celebrated for its hot springs

171 **sordid**, greedy of gain, money-grubbing

Tyre See note to l 116 It was also famous for its embroidered robes ("looms")

173 **Carthage** A city on the north coast of Africa, near the present Gulf of Tunis Originally a colony of Tyre, it rose to great naval power, and was Rome's rival for many years See note to l 277 below

175, 176 **marble Nymphs scrolls**, *i.e.* sculpture and literature Cf Vergil, *Æn* vi 847, *et seq*, "Excudent alii," etc., where Anchises bids the Romans leave sculpture, oratory, etc., to others, war and government were the Roman arts The *Nymphs* were demi-goddesses, inhabiting the sea, rivers, fountains, woods, and mountains, and often represented in Greek statuary

177, 178 **pilum sword** See Macaulay's Introduction, p 61, ll 5-9 The *pilum* was a heavy javelin, six feet long The Roman sword (*gladius*) was a short, straight, two-edged weapon.

179 **trench mound** The defences of a Roman camp consisted of a trench (*fossa*), the earth dug out forming a mound or rampart (*agger*), on the top of which a palisade of wooden stakes was erected (hence "bristling") Cf l 279

180 **legion** The Roman Legion, as established by Romulus, contained 3000 infantry (a number which afterwards rose to 5000 and 6000) and 300 cavalry.

181 **wheels of triumph** A Triumph was a solemn procession in which a victorious general entered the city through the Porta Triumphalis in a chariot drawn by four horses He was preceded by the captives and spoils taken in war, and was followed by his troops with their spears adorned with laurel ("laurelled train") After passing along the *Via Sacra* and through the Forum, he ascended the Capitol to offer a bull in sacrifice in the temple of Jupiter

185 **Beneath thy yoke**, etc This prophetic vision of the future triumphs of Rome is based upon a similar prophecy put into the

mouth of Anchises, the father of Æneas, the mythical founder of the Roman State, by Vergil, *Æn.* vi 756, *et seq*

yoke The Romans made their prisoners of war pass under a yoke consisting of a spear supported transversely by two upright spears. But "yoke" may be used here generally for 'rule, dominion'

Volscian See note to *Horatius*, 561

186 **vail**, 'lower'; common in Shakspeare; cf *Henry VI.*, v in 25: "France must *vail* her lofty-plumed crest," and *Merchant of Venice*, I i 28. "*Vailing* her high-top"

187 **Capua's** See note to l 169 *Curled*, foppish, dandified. Campania was conquered in the great Latin war, B.C. 340-338. It afterwards joined Hannibal in the second Punic war, and Capua was besieged and taken

188 **chairs** The Curule chair (*sella curulis*) was an ivory chair of state, used by the consuls. Hence the phrase means "shall make submission to thy consuls; shall be subject to the Roman State" Cf. *Virginia*, 116.

189. **Lucumoes** See note to *Horatius*, 185

Arnus The modern Arno, the river which drains the northern portion of Etruria. The Etruscan communities, after a long struggle, finally submitted to Rome in B.C. 265.

190 **thy rods**, the rods of thy lictors. Either consul was attended by twelve officers, called lictors, each of whom carried a bundle of rods (*fasces*) with an axe (*securis*) stuck in the midst, to indicate that the consul possessed the power of scourging and putting to death. Afterwards the lictors carried the axes only when in the field, and not in the city. Hence "thy rods to see" means "to see thy consuls advancing at the head of their troops"

191 **Samnite** Samnium was an extensive province in the centre of Italy, to the west of Latium and Campania. The three Samnite wars, from B.C. 343 to 290, ended in the reduction of the Samnites. A brief renewal of the war followed ten years later, when they submitted finally to Rome, after a struggle of about seventy years.

heart of steel Alluding to the great bravery and endurance of the Samnites.

193. **The Gaul** The first invasion of Italy by the Gauls was under Brennus in B.C. 390, when Rome was burnt. According to the legend, they were defeated and driven away by Camillus. Two later invasions followed, and in the Gallic War of B.C. 223, Cisalpine Gaul was conquered. Transalpine Gaul was subsequently reduced by Julius Cæsar.

194. **land night** Referring to the cold and to the short days of the wintry north.

195. **fair-haired** See note to *Horatius*, 37

197 **The Greek** Referring to the invasion of Italy by Pyrrhus

198 **the East** Alexander the Great had conquered Persia, and penetrated into India. He crossed the Indus into the Punjab, and defeated the Indian king Porus, near the river Jhelum. See Macaulay's Introduction, p. 59, ll. 29-33

200 **beast** Pyrrhus brought with him a squadron of twenty elephants, animals the Romans had never seen before, and which in their ignorance they called "Lucanian oxen." Their charge against the Roman cavalry helped to decide the battle of Heraclea in Pyrrhus's favour.

201 **castle** Small towers filled with armed men were placed on the backs of elephants used in battle. Cf. Livy, *Hist.* xxxvii. 40, and next note.

204 **The serpent**, etc. The Roman poet Lucretius's epithet for the elephant is *anguimanus*, 'snake-handed'; cf. his *De Rerum Nat.* v. 1302-3. "Inde boves lucas turrito corpore, tætras, angumanus," etc.; 'Next the Carthaginians taught the lucan kine with towered body, hideous of aspect, with snake-like hand,' etc.

205 **Epirotes**, men of Epirus, a district on the north west of Greece.

206 **Wedged**, etc. The Greek *phalanx* was a body of infantry, armed with spears twenty-one feet long, as well as swords. The lines were so arranged that the spears of the fifth rank projected three feet beyond the first, so that every man in the front rank was protected by five spears. The shield was very large and covered nearly the whole body, and in battle array their shields touched ("serried shields," l. 223), so that on favourable ground an impenetrable front was presented to the enemy.

209 **false Tarentum** After making a treaty with Rome, Tarentum intrigued with the Italian nations against her.

218 **War-god's land** The land of the Romans, whose progenitor was Mars, see note to l. 100.

219 **pilum** See note to l. 177 above.

223 **levelled shields** The *phalanx*; see l. 206, and note.

224 **Hews**, etc. 'To hew one's way' is 'to make one's way by hewing,' an instance of a verb with a cognate object, in which the verb and the noun are not co-extensive in meaning. Cf. 'to steal one's way,' 'to fight one's way,' and note to *Horatius*, 316. *Deep* is an adverb.

225 **triumph** See note to l. 181 above.

230 **Red King** Pyrrhus is in Greek Πύρρος, 'red,' i.e. 'red-haired,' answering to the Lat. *Rufus*. Cf. King William Rufus. Similarly the famous Scottish outlaw was nicknamed Rob Roy, i.e. Robert the Red, from his red hair. *ta'en* = taken.

232 **Is not**, etc See Macaulay's Introduction, p 59, ll. 11-21.

235-248 These verses enumerate the spoils captured from the Greeks; see Macaulay's Introduction, p 61, ll 14-22.

235 **dye of Tyre** See note to l 116

236 **web of Nile** The looms of Egypt were famous for their manufacture of scarfs, shawls, carpets, and tapestry

239 **belts** The Greek sword-belt or shield belt was usually of leather, but ornamented with gold, silver, and precious stones

240 **That shone**, etc, *i.e.* captured from Indian princes Cf. note to l 198 above

242 **rough with gold**, *i.e.* with gold embossments or relief work

243 **tablets** The Latin *tabula*, in the sense of 'picture, painting'

244 **With loves**, etc The subjects of the paintings would be love-scenes or war-pieces

245 **The stone**, etc The marble statues are so life-like that they seem to breathe and move; Vergil's "*spirantia signa*," 'breathing statues' (*Georg.* iii 34) *Struggles* perhaps refers to statues of wrestlers or gladiators, or of subjects like the Laocoon.

246 **brass** Bronze statues

249 **Manius** Manius Curius Dentatus, one of the most illustrious names in Roman history, was a man of simple tastes and much honesty of character In B.C. 290 he was elected consul, received the submission of the Samnites, and conquered the Sabines It was in B.C. 275 that he defeated Pyrrhus at the battle of Beneventum

251 **Thrice** In allusion to his three Triumphs—over the Samnites, the Sabines, and Pyrrhus

254 **third**, *i.e.* for the third time. At his triumph the victorious general wore the *toga picta*, a gold embroidered robe, and bore a wreath of laurel ("green crown," l 256) round his brows

257 **Rosea** (Le Roscie) was a very fertile district near Reate. Vatro (R. R. ii 7, 6) mentions the "Rosean horses"

259 **bull** White bulls, with gilded horns, and decorated with fillets and garlands, accompanied the triumphal procession They were afterwards sacrificed at the temple of Jupiter in the Capitol

Mevania (Bevagna) was an Umbrian town, situated in the midst of luxuriant pastures Lucan (*Phars.* i 468) speaks of its "tauriferi campi," 'bull-breeding plains'

263 **victorious pomp**, the triumphal procession

264 **Sacred Way**. The *Via Sacra*, a street in Rome leading through the Forum to the Capitol; see note to l 181 above.

265. **the bellowing Forum**, *i e* its shouting and cheering crowds. Cf *Horatius*, 121, and note

266 **the Suppliant's Grove** The hollow between the two summits of the Capitoline hill, where Romulus formed his Asylum; see note to *Lake Regillus*, 721.

269 **Then where**, etc The seer prophesies that all the world—the Greek Empire of the East, the Empire of Carthage, the Northern barbarians—shall tremble at the name of Rome

two bright havens Corinth, situated on a narrow isthmus, possessed two ports, Lechaum on the Corinthian, and Cenchreae on the Saronic Gulf.

271 **King of Day** Rhodes, the capital of the island of the same name, boasted one of the seven wonders of the world in the brazen statue of Helios, the Sun-god, commonly known as the Colossus Its height was 105 feet, and it stood at the entrance of one of the ports See p 84, l 28.

273 **Orontes**. The most important river of Syria, on which stood its great capital, Antioch. See p 84, ll 28 31.

275 **Where Nile**, etc, *i e* at Alexandria, the capital of Egypt. The marble colonnades that connected its Museum and Theatre were famous.

277. **Where in**, etc, *i e* at Carthage Byrsa, or Bosra (which was the Phœnician name for a citadel), was its citadel. The Greek called it Byrsa (= a hide), whence the legend that Dido bought as much land from the Libyans as a *hide* would compass, and then cheated them by cutting it into strips Carthage was the great centre of Phœnician commerce in the East. It possessed an outer and an inner harbour, with extensive docks. The masts of the ships are compared to a dark forest of trees. See note to l. 173 above.

279 **Bristles** Lat. *horrere*; cf l 179 above

283 **the sand of morning-land**, the deserts of the East or Arabia

285 **Atlas** A great mountain range on the north-west of Africa, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean ("the western foam").

THE ARMADA

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE so-called Invincible Armada was collected and equipped by Philip II of Spain in 1587 for the subjugation of England It consisted of 132 war-ships, carrying 21,855 soldiers, under the command of the Duke of Medina-Sidonia, and sailed from Lisbon

on the 19th May, 1588. It was soon after dispersed by a storm, but, being re-collected, entered the Channel on the 19th July. Here from the 21st to the 29th July it suffered from a series of engagements with the English fleet under Lord Charles Howard, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir John Hawkins, was dispersed by fire-ships, and many vessels were sunk or taken. The remainder retreated northward to Spain in August and September, suffering much damage by severe storms, the loss being computed at 35 ships and 13,000 men

3. **invincible.** See Introductory Note.

4 **Mexico.** The fleet had been equipped by the gold of Mexico. cf. *Imy*, note to l 63

5 **summer day,** July 19 (see Introductory Note)

6 **full sail,** in full sail, with all her sails set

7. **Castile's,** i.e. Spain's Castile (Old and New) is a central province of Spain containing its capital, Madrid

Aurigny's isle, Alderney, one of the Channel Islands.

8. **lie** is an infinitive dependent on 'hath seen'

9. **their van,** their leading ships

10. **Pinta,** the name of one of the Spanish war-ships

12. **Edgcumbe,** the name of a headland close to Plymouth.

16. **halberdiers,** men armed with halberds, a kind of pole-axe
Middle High Germ. *helmbarte* (*helm*, handle, and *barte*, axe),
a long-handled axe.

18. **behoves him,** it behoves him, it becomes him

Her Grace, her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth

21. **Look how,** etc The lines describe the royal arms in Elizabeth's time, which consisted of the three lions of England quartered with the three lilies (*fleurs-de-lis*) of France, with a crowned lion-rampant above the shield ("treading down the gay lilies"), and, beneath, the motto "Semper eadem," 'always the same'

23 **Picard field,** the battle-field of Crécy in the French province of Picardy, where Edward III. obtained a great victory over Philip of France on August 26, 1346.

24 **Bohemia's plume** John, the blind king of Bohemia, was slain in the battle. His crest of three ostrich feathers was afterwards adopted by the Princes of Wales

Genoa's bow. Genoese crossbow-men formed the first line of the French army.

Cæsar's eagle shield Charles IV., son of the king of Bohemia, had just been elected Emperor of the West ("Cæsar," but had been driven out of Germany. The Roman eagle was the cognizance of the Western Empire.

•25. **Agincourt**, a village in northern France, where Henry V., with 9,000 men, defeated 60,000 French on October 25, 1415.

26. **princely hunters** Among the prisoners were the royal dukes of Orleans and Bourbon, and the duke of Alençon was among the killed.

30. **Semper eadem** See note to l. 21. The motto was a favourite one with Elizabeth

32. **scroll**, on which the motto was blazoned

35 **Eddystone**, etc From Eddystone Rock off Plymouth Sound to Berwick on the northern frontier; from Lynn on the Wash to Milford Haven on the coast of Pembroke;—*i. e.* from south to north and from east to west of England.

37. **war flame**, *i. e.* the beacon fires.

38 **St Michael's Mount** A rocky promontory near Land's End in Cornwall, with an ancient chapel on its summit, the tower of which rises to 250 feet above the sea

Beachy Head. A prominent headland on the Sussex coast whose cliffs are nearly 600 feet high

41. **The fisher**, etc Cf. *Horatius*, 50, and note

• **Tamar.** The river that runs into Plymouth Sound.

42 **Mendip** The Mendip Hills are to the north of Somerset.

43 **Longleat's towers** The seat of the Marquis of Bath, in Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire The castle was built 1567-1579.

Cranbourne. In the north-east corner of Dorset

44 **Stonehenge** A Druidical monument on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.

rangers, foresters, park-keepers.

Beaulieu. In the New Forest, Hampshire.

45 **Bristol.** The great port on the southern boundary of Gloucestershire. "Clifton Down" is close to Bristol, on a high cliff on the north bank of the Avon

47. **Whitehall.** The royal palace in London, at this period the residence of the court.

48. **Richmond** On the Thames, near London.

52 **alarm**, call to arms The same word as *alarm* = *l'al. all' arme*, to arms

reeling, *i. e.* vibrating with the loud noise of the bells.

53 **Tower.** The Tower of London, originally a fortified royal residence.

55. **wards**, districts of London.

56. **roaring.** Cf. *Horatius*, 121 and note.

59. Blackheath. In the north-west corner of Kent, near London

62 Hampstead Heath lies to the north-west of London

65 till the proud, etc., i.e. till the flag was unfurled on the proud Peak. The Peak is a mountain district in the north of Derbyshire. Its highest point is 1981 feet above sea level

Darwin's dales, i.e. the dales of the Derwent in Derbyshire

67. Malvern. The Malvern Hills stand between Worcester-shire and Herefordshire. Their highest point, Hereford Beacon, is 1444 feet above sea level

68. Wrekin. A detached hill a few miles to the east of Shrewsbury, 1300 feet high

69 Ely's stately fane. Ely Cathedral, in Cambridgeshire, a flat, low-lying region ("the boundless plain")

71 Belvoir's lordly terraces. Belvoir Castle, seat of the Duke of Rutland, on a wooded hill overlooking a wide expanse of country, near Belvoir, in North Leicestershire

72 Trent. A river running through Nottinghamshire and Lancashire into the Humber.

73 Skiddaw. A mountain in Cumberland, 3023 feet high

Gaunt's embattled pile. Lancaster Castle, an ancient site restored and enlarged by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, whose effigy now stands in a niche over the gateway

burghers, citizens of a borough. Boroughs or burghs are such towns as send members to Parliament.

IVRY.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

IN 1559 Francis II. became king of France, with Charles of Guise, Cardinal of Lorraine, as his minister, and his brother Francis of Lorraine, Duke of Guise, as his commander-in-chief. Their insolence and cruelty, culminating in the 'Massacre of Vassy,' led to the civil war between the Catholics, under the Guises, and the Huguenots, under the leadership of Admiral Coligny and Antony of Bourbon, king of Navarre, the father of Henry. In 1560 Francis died, and was succeeded by his brother, Charles IX., under the regency of the queen-mother, Catherine de Medici. The civil war continued, and on St Bartholomew's Day, Aug. 24, 1572, a general massacre of the Huguenots took place, and Henry of Navarre, then at Paris on the occasion of his marriage

with Margaret of Valois, the king's youngest sister, was obliged to make profession of the Catholic faith to save his life. Charles IX died in 1574, and was succeeded by his younger brother Henry III. In 1576 Henry, king of Navarre, left the court and professed himself again a Protestant, and a treaty of peace with the Huguenots was concluded in the same year. Exasperated by this event, the Catholics formed the celebrated League, under the leadership of Henry of Guise, the son of Francis. Henry of Navarre put himself at the head of the Huguenots and won the battle of Contias. The murder of the Guises in 1588 was followed by the revolt of Paris and the assassination, in 1589, of Henry III, the last sovereign of the Valois branch. Henry of Navarre now succeeded to the throne under the title of Henry IV, and the same year won the victory of Arques over the Duke of Mayenne, the leader of the League, and on March 13, 1590, that of Ivry. After a protracted struggle, Henry, yielding to the wishes of his friends, once more professed the Catholic faith, and in 1594 entered Paris amid the acclamations of the people. In 1610 he was assassinated by Ravaillac. Henry was remarkable for a charming frankness and simplicity of manners united with great courage and the most dexterous policy.

1. **Lord of Hosts**, 'Lord of the armies of heaven,' a common Biblical title of God. Cf. Bible, *Psalms*, ciii. 21

2. **Liege**, *i.e.* liege lord, or free lord; lord of a free band (Old High Germ. *ledic*, free)

Navarre. Bearn and Navarre, which form the department of the Lower Pyrenees, occupy the south-west corner of France. It was at Pau, in Bearn, that Henry was born in 1553

4. **Rochelle**. La Rochelle, a fortified town on the river Charente, exactly in the centre of the west coast of France. It was in this part of France and in the south that the strength of the Huguenot party lay. Henry had gone with his mother to Rochelle in 1569, and learned the art of war there under Admiral Coligny

7. **our ills**. Such were the defeat of the Huguenots at Dreux by the Duke of Guise; their subsequent defeat at Jarnac, and the assassination of the Prince of Condé; and then defeat later at Moncontour.

9. **a single field**, *i.e.* a single battle. The victory of Arques (see Introductory Note) was the turning point in Henry's fortunes, but that of Ivry was decisive in opening the way to the siege of the capital

10. **Ivry**, a village near Dreux, about 40 miles to the west of Paris.

12 the League. The Holy League (see Introductory Note), to prevent the accession of a Protestant Henry IV., was formed at Peronne in 1576, and lasted till 1593.

14 Appenzel is a Roman Catholic canton of Switzerland. Swiss infantry fought as mercenaries in the armies of Europe at this period

15 Egmont, Count of Flanders Not the Egmont who fought at the battles of St Quentin and Gravelines in 1557 and 1558, for he was executed in 1568 by Alva.

16 the brood Lorraine, the Guise family Duke Francis, with his son Henry, and Cardinal Charles died before the battle of Ivry (see Introductory Note)

17 Mayenne Charles II. of Lorraine, Duke of Mayenne, second son of Duke Francis He became head of the League in 1580, and hoped to have been elected king in 1593 Died, 1611 (see Introductory Note) Mayenne is a department of France

truncheon, the marshal's baton or staff of office *Truncheon* is the diminutive of *trunk*

17 Seine's empurpled flood The river Seine (on which Paris stands), red with the blood of the victims of St Bartholomew's Day (see Introductory Note)

18 Coligni Admiral Coligni, born 1517, was a leader of the Huguenot party and fought at the battles of Dreux, St Denis, and Jarnac After the treaty of St. Germain in 1570 he was flatteringly received by Catherine de Medici, and, shortly after, his assassination was attempted by the Duke of Guise He was murdered on St Bartholomew's Day

24. high, haughty, disdainful

25 from wing to wing, from one side of the army to the other

27 And if, etc These are the words of Henry He said to his soldiers "If you miss the standards, rally to this plume. You will always find it on the path of victory"

as fall may, as he may very likely fall

28 promise, the likelihood

30 oriflamme, the old standard of France Low Lat. *auriflamma*, lit 'golden flame,' hence 'golden banner,' so called because the banner was cut at the outermost edge into flame-shaped strips, and was carried on a gilt pole.

32 culverin (O Fr *coulevrine*, adder-like; Lat *coluber*, a serpent), a kind of cannon, so called from its long, slender shape.

33 Duke, the Duke of Mayenne (see note to l 17)

pricking, spurring, riding Cf *Regillus*, 716

St. André's plain The plain on which Ivry lies.

34. **Guelders**, Guelderland, a large province of the Netherlands.

Almayne (Fr *Allemagne*), Germany Besides the Swiss, Dutch and German cavalry formed part of the Catholic army

35 **by the lips**, etc , by your wives and sweethearts, whose lips you have kissed

36 **the golden lilies**, the *fleurs-de-lis*, the royal emblem of France till it was replaced by the tricolour in 1789.

41. **the day**, i.e. the victory

turned his rein, fled

42 **D'Aumale**, i.e. the Duc d'Aumale, one of the royal family of France.

quarter, mercy ; from the idea of the captor sending the prisoner to his quarter or lodging

the Flemish count See note to l. 15

43 **Biscay** The image is appropriate, since La Rochelle, the Huguenot headquarters, is on the Bay of Biscay (see note to l. 4)

48. **Down, down**, etc Henry's words were "Save the Frenchmen, and down with the foreigner "

53 **the religion**, the reformed or Protestant religion

54 **Lord of Rosny**. Maximilian de Bethune, at this time known as the Baron of Rosny, and famous later as the Duke of Sully. He narrowly escaped the massacre of St Bartholomew, and fought at both Arques and Ivry Later he became Henry's right-hand as diplomatist and financier Died, 1641.

cornet A white horn with black crosses, the emblem of the house of Lorraine

59. **point of war**, war-note, trumpet-call

61. **Vienna Lucerne** In reference to the Austrian and Swiss troops slain in the battle

63. **Philip**, i.e. Philip II. of Spain

Mexican pistoles The pistole was a Spanish gold coin. Mexico, conquered by Cortez in 1521, sent large quantities of gold to Spain.

64. **Antwerp**, the great port of Belgium At this time the Netherlands were subject to Spain.

a mass In the Roman Catholic Church masses are sung for the repose of the souls of the dead

65 **Ho! gallant**, etc By the defeat of Ivry the army of the League was driven back upon Paris, which was now open to the attack of the Huguenot forces (see note to l. 9)

Saint Genevieve The patroness of the city of Paris.

68. **mocked the counsel**. Cf Bible, *Psalms*, xxxiii. 10 : "The Lord bringeth the counsel of the nations to nought."

THE BATTLE OF NASEBY

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

NASEBY near Market Harborough, in Northamptonshire. The battle was fought on June 14, 1645, between the royalist and Parliament forces. The main body of the royal army was commanded by Lord Astley; Prince Rupert led the right wing, Sir Marmaduke Langdale the left, and King Charles himself headed the body of reserve. General Sir Thomas Fairfax led the parliamentarians, with Cromwell in command of the right wing, and Ireton of the left. Rupert routed Ireton, but lost valuable time in his headlong pursuit of the enemy, and when he rejoined the king, he found the royalist infantry totally discomfited by Cromwell's attack. The king fled with the loss of 5000 prisoners and of all his artillery and baggage; his infantry were totally routed and scattered, so that scarcely any victory could be more complete.

Macaulay puts this hymn of triumph into the mouth of one of the Puritan soldiers. The Puritans affected Biblical names (hence he is called "Obadiah"), and even employed scriptural or religious texts and phrases for the purpose. Obadiah's name is taken from *Psalms*, clix. 8. Similarly we have "Praise-God Barebones" and "If-Jesus-Christ-had-not-died-for-thee-thou-hadst-been-damned Barebones," his son; though it appears that many of these names were inventions of their royalist opponents.

1. In the two opening stanzas Obadiah appropriately adopts imagery drawn from Scripture. The first stanza is a rhetorical question addressed to the victorious Parliamentary army, to which the second stanza gives the answer. Cf. Bible, *Isaiah*, lxiii. 1-3. "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? . . . Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat? I have trodden the winepress alone . . . for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment." Cf. also *Rev. xiv.* 19, 20, and *Joel*, iii. 13, where God's wrathful dealing with the wicked is typified by the treading of the grapes in the winepress.

from the North From Naseby field Fairfax marched south to Taunton to raise its siege.

3. **rout**, throng. *Rout* (Lat. *rupta*, broken) is properly a disorderly gathering.

4. **whence be the grapes**, etc., i.e. over whom do you come victorious?

8. **who sate**, etc. The Royalist and High Church party, who oppressed and persecuted the Puritans

11 **Man of Blood** King Charles I, so called here from his cruelty to the Puritans, cf II 39, 40

essenced, perfumed, in allusion to the luxurious manners of the court. The royalist gentlemen wore their hair in long curls, while the Puritans wore theirs cut short, hence their name of Roundheads

12 **Astley Sir Marmaduke Rupert** See Introductory Note

of the Rhine Prince Rupert of Bavaria was the third son of Frederick V, elector-palatine in 1610, and of Elizabeth, daughter of James I. The Palatinate of the Rhine was one of the seven ancient electorates of Germany. Rupert was famous for his dashing courage as a cavalry-leader (cf I 24), and had routed the Parliamentary cavalry at Worcester at the beginning of the civil war. Died, 1682

13 **his Bible**. The soldiers of Cromwell's "new model" carried Bibles with them into the field, and, with their officers for their chaplains, employed their vacant hours in prayer and reading the Scriptures.

14 **General Fairfax**, see Introductory Note

16 **right** Ireton's forces being on the left wing, faced Rupert's on the right of the royalist army (see Introductory Note)

19 **the Cause**, i.e. the royalist cause

21. **German**, i.e. Prince Rupert

22 **bravoes**, cut-throats. an Italian word

Alsatia A name given to Whitefinars, in London, which long held the privilege of sanctuary, and hence became the refuge of debtors and law breakers generally. Scott, in his *Fortunes of Nigel* (Intro and chaps xvi, xvii), has described the life and state of this nest of bad characters. Its privilege of sanctuary, derived from an establishment of the Carmelites or White Finars, lasted from 1241 to 1697, and was therefore in force at the date of this poem

Whitehall See note to *The Armada*, 47

24 **For Rupert**, etc. It was the boiling ardour of Rupert that persuaded the engagement at Naseby

25. **we are broken**. See Introductory Note

26 **like stubble** A Biblical image, see *Job*, xxi. 18. "They (the wicked) are as stubble before the wind." Cf. note to I 1

29. **Skippon**. A major-general in the Parliamentary army.

32 Oliver At Naseby, as at Marston Moor, Cromwell, after defeating the cavalry opposed to him pulled up and turned upon the king's infantry, which was left unguarded by horse. At this period infantry could not withstand, unsupported, a cavalry attack

35 cuirassiers Cromwell's troopers, the so-called Ironsides. *Cuirass*, a breast-plate, is from Lat *corium*, leather

Accurst As the chosen people Israel named the heathen Canaanites 'accursed,' so the Puritans applied the term to the Royalists.

37 gallants, dandies, courtiers

38 Temple Bar Erected outside the gates of the Inner and Middle Temple Inns of Law. It was called "the City Golgotha," because the heads of traitors were exposed above it. It was removed in 1879

39 he, i.e. Charles **Torture** was employed in the trials of the Star Chamber, abolished in 1640

40 dare not, etc. Charles however endeavoured to rally Rupert's horse with the words, "One charge more, and we recover the day."

43 broad-pieces, large-sized gold coins

44 The tokens, etc. The locketts were love-tokens from their mistresses, and the money was taken from the poor. The royalist troops, from want of pay, used great license, and mostly lived by plunder

45 doublet, an inner garment of the period

46 kissed, etc., i.e. in taking farewell

lily, white, effeminate . . .

lemans, sweethearts *Leman* = *loefman* (O.E. *leáf*, dear, and *mann*, man or woman)

47 the fox Cf. Bible, *Psalms*, lxxv. 10, "They (the wicked) shall be a portion for foxes," and notes to II. 1, 26, 35

51. catches, songs, the parts of which are caught up by different voices

52 diamonds spades Your games at cards, your gambling bouts

53. mitre crown, representing Episcopacy and Royalty, since the bishop wears a mitre, as the king a crown

54 Belial Mammon *Belial* is a Hebrew word meaning "worthlessness," and *Mammon*, a Syriac word meaning "riches" or "the god of riches." Milton makes Belial a lewd and vicious spirit, of outward polish and dignity, and hence appropriately images King Charles's court; while ecclesiastical greed is personified in Mammon.

154 LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME AND OTHER POEMS.

55. **Oxford Halls**, the colleges of Oxford, which was very loyal to the king

Durham's stalls, the choir seats in Durham Cathedral, where the church dignitaries sat

56 **The Jesuit**, etc Because his hope of re-establishing Roman Catholicism in England was gone

cope, an ecclesiastical vestment

57 **She**, etc, i.e. Rome, representing the Roman Catholic religion For the seven hills, see note to *Regillus*, 722.

60 **the Houses**, of Parliament

the Word, i.e. the Bible, or the Protestant Faith which claimed to be based upon it

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