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STATIUS

II
"STATIUS"

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IN TWO VOLUMES

II

THEBAID V-XII  •  ACHILLEID

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### ACHILLEID

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THEBAID
BOOKS V–XII
THEBAIDOS

LIBER V

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

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

\[a\] i.e., cranes, cf. Virg. Aen. x. 264.
\[b\] The epithet is taken from a town named Paraetonium, on the Libyan coast west of the Delta.
THEBAID

BOOK V

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

Then the son of Talaus, ringed round once more by a band of chieftain peers, as he stood by chance
stabat et admoti nixus Polynicis in hastam:
"at tamen, quaecumque es" ait, "cui—gloria tanta—
venimus innumerae fato\(^1\) debere cohortes,
quin non ipse deum sator aspèrnetur honorem,
die age, quando tuis alacres absistimus undis,
quae domus aut tellus, animam quibus hauseris astris?
die, quis et ille pater? neque enim tibi numina longe,
transierit fortuna licet, maiorque per ora
sanguis, et adflecto spirat reverentia vultu."

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

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

\(^1\) fato \textit{ms. at Peterhouse, Camb.}: fatum \textit{Pw}.

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

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

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

Close heed they gave her then, and nobler she seemed and worthy of honour, and equal to such a deed; then all craved to learn her story, and father Adrastus foremost urged her: "Ay, verily, while
"immo age, dum primi longe damus agmina vulgi—
nec facilis Nemee latas evolvere vires,
quippe obtenta comis et ineluctabilis umbra—
pande nefas laudesque tuas genitusque tuorum,
undec hos advenias regno deiecta labores."

Dulce loqui miseris veteresque reducere questus.
incipit: "Aegaeo premitur circumflua Nereo
Lemnos, ubi ignifera fessus respirat ab Aetna
Muleiber; ingenti tellurem proximus umbra
vestit Athos nemorumque obscurat imagine pontum;
Thraces arant contra, Thracum fatalia nobis
litora, et inde nefas. florebat dives alumnis
terra, nee illa Samo fama Delove sonanti
peior et innumeris quas spumifer adsilit Aegon.
dis visum turbare domos, nec pectora culpa
nostra vacant: nulos Veneri sacravimus ignis,
nulla deae sedes; movet et caelestia quondam
corda dolor lentoque inreput agmine Poenae.
illa Paphon veterem centumque altaria linquens
nee vultu nec erine prior solvisse ingalem
ceston et Idalias procul ablegasse volucres
fertur. erant certe, media quae noctis in umbra
divam alios ignes maioraque tela gerentem
Tartareas inter thalamis volitasse sorores
vulgarent, utque implicitis arcana domorum
anguibus et saeva formidine nupta replesset\(^1\)
limina nee fidi populum miserata mariti.

\(^1\) nupta replesset \(P\) : cuncta replevit \(w\).

\(a\) Some explain "with oracles," but the more likely meaning is "with dashing waves," as in the next line.
\(b\) i.e., the Aegean Sea.
\(c\) lit., "not as she previously was in respect of ..." Cf. xi. 459, "non habitu, quo nota prius, non ore sereno."
THEBAID, V. 43–69

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

Pleasant is it to the unhappy to speak, and to recall the sorrows of old time. Thus she begins: “Set amid the encircling tides of Aegean Nereus lies Lemnos, where Muleiber draws breath again from his labours in fiery Aetna; Athos hard by clothes the land with his mighty shadow, and darkens the sea with the image of his forests; opposite the Thracians plough, the Thracians, from whose shores came our sin and doom. Rich and populous was our land, no less renowned than Samos or echoing Delos or the other countless isles against which Aegon dashes in foam. It was the will of the gods to confound our homes, but our own hearts are not free from guilt; no sacred fires did we kindle to Venus, the goddess had no shrine. Even celestial minds are moved at last to resentment, and slow but sure the Avenging Powers creep on. She, leaving ancient Paphos and her hundred shrines, with altered looks and tresses, loosed, so they say, her love-alluring girdle and banished her Idalian doves afar. Some, 'tis certain, of the women told it abroad that the goddess, armed with other torches and deadlier weapons, had flitted through the marriage chambers in the darkness of midnight with the sisterhood of Tartarus about her, and how she had filled every secret place with twining serpents and our bridal thresholds with dire terror, pitying not the people of her
protinus a Lemno teneri fugistis Amores, 70
mutus Hymen versaeque faces et frigida iusti 75
cura tori! nullae redunt in gaudia noctes,
nullus in amplexu sopor est, Odia aspera ubique
et Furor et medio recubat Discordia lecto.
cura viris tumidos adversa Thracas in ora
eruere et saevam bellando frangere gentem.
cumque domus contra stantesque in litore nati,
dulcius Edonas¹ hiemes Arctonque prementem
excipere, aut tandem tacita post proelia nocte
fractorum subitas torrentum audire ruinas. 80
illae autem tristes—nam me tunc libera curis
virginitas annique tegunt—sub nocte dieque
adsiduis aegrae in lacrimis solantia miscent
conloquia, aut saevam spectant trans aequora Thracen.

Sol operum mediussummo librabat Olympo 85
lucentes, ceu staret, equos; quater axe sereno
intonuitt, quater antra dei fumantis anhelos
exseruere apices, ventisque absentibus Aegon
motus et ingenti percussit litora ponto:
cum subito horrendas aevi matura Polyxo

tollitur in furias thalamisque insueta relictis
evolat. insano veluti Teumesia thyias
rapta deo, cum sacra vocant Idaeaque suadet 90
buxus et a summis auditus montibus Euhan:
sic erecta genas aciemque offusa² trementi
sanguine desertam rabidis clamoribus urbem
exagitat, clausasque domos et limina pulsans

¹ Edonas Servius, Schol. on Lucan, edd.: edonias Pw.
² offusa Barth, Heinsius: effusa Pw.

*/ i.e., Vulcan, who dwelt in Lemnos.
² i.e., Theban, from Teumesus, a mountain of Boeotia.
faithful spouse. Straightway fled ye from Lemnos, ye tender Loves: Hymen fell mute and turned his torch to earth; chill neglect came o'er the lawful couch, no nightly return of joy was there, no slumber in the beloved embrace, everywhere reigned bitter Hatred and Frenzy and Discord sundering the partners of the bed. For the men were bent on overthrowing the boastful Thracians across the strait, and warring down the savage tribe. And in despite of home and their children standing on the shore, sweeter it was to them to bear Edonian winters and the brunt of the cold North, or, when at last still night followed a day of battle, to hear the sudden outburst of the crashing mountain torrent. But the women—for I at that time was sheltered by care-free maidenhood and tender years—sad and sick at heart sought tearful solace in converse day and night, or gazed out across the sea to cruel Thrace.

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

a The Phrygian mountain, where Cybele was worshipped.

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* Danaus, cf. iv. 133 n.
* Proene, wife of Tereus, king of Thrace; she set before him the flesh of his son Itys. Rhodope, a mountain in Thrace.
and thresholds summons us to council; her children clinging to her bear her woeful company. No less eagerly do all the women burst from their houses and rush to the citadel of Pallas on the hill-top: hither in feverish haste we press and crowd disorderly. Then with drawn sword she commands silence, and prompting us to crime dares thus to speak among us: 'Inspired by heaven and our just anger, O widowed Lemnians—steel now your courage and banish thought of sex!—I make bold to justify a desperate deed. If ye are weary of watching homes for ever desolate, of watching your beauty's flower blight and wither in long barren years of weeping, I have found a way, I promise you—and the Powers are with us!—a way to renew the charm of Love; only take courage equal to your griefs, yea, and of that assure me first. Three winters now have whitened—which of us has known the bonds of wedlock, or the secret honours of the marriage chamber? Whose bosom has glowed with conjugal love? Whom has Lucina beheld in travail? Whose ripening hope throbs in the womb as the due months draw on? Yet such permission is granted to beasts and birds to unite after their manner. Alas! sluggards that we are! could a Grecian sire a give avenging weapons to his daughters, and with treacherous joy drench in blood the bridegroom's careless slumber? And are we then to be but a spiritless mob? Or if ye would have deeds nearer home, lo! let the Thracian wife b teach us courage, who with her own hand avenged her union and set the feast before her spouse. Nor do I urge you on, guiltless myself or without care: full is my own house, and huge—ay, look c—the struggle.

c She points to her four children, whom it is hard to slay.
quattuor hos una, decus et solacia patris,
in gremio, licet amplexu lacrimisque morentur,
transadigam ferro saniemque et vulnera fratrum
miscabo patremque simul spirantibus addam.
cequa tot in caedes animum promittit?

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

¹ agi Heinsius: agit Pω, prob. from Aen. v. 638.
Behold these four together, the pride and comfort of their sire; though they should stay me with embraces and tears, even here in my bosom I will pierce them with the sword, and unite the brothers in one heap of wounds and blood, and set their father's corpse on their yet breathing bodies! Who of you can promise me a spirit for slaughter so great?

"Yet more was she urging, when yonder out at sea white sails shone—the Lemnian fleet! Exultant, Polyxo seizes the moment's chance and cries again: 'The gods themselves invite us—do we fail them? See, there are the ships! Heaven, avenging heaven, brings them to meet our wrath, and favours our resolve. Not vain was the vision of my sleep: with naked sword Venus stood over me as I slumbered, plain to my sight, and cried: "Why do ye waste your lives? Go, purge your chambers of the husbands who have lost their love! I myself will light you other torches and join you in worthier unions." She spoke, and laid this sword, this very sword, believe it, on my couch. Take heed then, unhappy ones, whilst there is time to act. Lo! the waters churn and foam beneath the strong arms of the rowers—perchance Thracian brides come with them!' At this all are wrought to highest pitch, and a loud clamour rolls upward to the skies. One would think it was Scythia swarming with tumultuous bands of Amazons, trooping to the fight with crescent bucklers, when the Father gives rein to armed conflict and flings wide the gates of savage War. Their uproar held no varying voices, nor did dissension cleave into opposing factions, as is the wont of a crowd; one frenzy, one purpose inspires all alike, to lay desolate our homes, to break life's thread for
praecipitare colos plenisque adfrangere parvos
uberibus ferroque omnes exire per annos.
tune viridi luco—lucus iuga celsa Minervae
propter opacat humun niger ipse, sed insuper ingens
mons premit et gemina pereunt caligne soles—
hic sanxere fidem, tu Martia testis Enyo
atque inferna Ceres, Stygiaeque Acheronte recluso
ante preces venere deae ; sed fallit ubique
mixta Venus, Venus arma tenet, Venus admovet iras.
nec de more cruor : natum Charopeia coniunx
obtulit, accingunt sese et mirantia ferro
pectora congestisque avidae simul undique dextris
perfringunt, ae dulee nefas in sanguine vivo
coniurant, matremque recens circumvolat umbra.
talia cernenti mihi quantus in ossibus horror,
quisve per ora color ! qualis cum eerva cruentis
circumventa lupis, nullum cui pectore molli
robur et in voluceri tenuis fiducia cursu,
praecipitat suspensa fugam, iamiamque teneri
credit et elusos audit concurre re morsus.

Illi aderant, primis iamque offendere carinae
litoribus, certant saltu contingere terram
praecipites. miser, quis non aut horrida virtus
Marte sub Odrysio, aut medii incelementia ponti
hauserit ! alta etiam superum delubra vaporant
promissasque trahunt pecudes : niger omnibus aris
ignis, et in nullis spirat deus integer extis.

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

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

\(^{a}\) \text{i.e., Proserpine.}\quad \text{\textit{Proserpine.}}

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

1 implacido *P*o: implicito *N*.

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

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

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

¹ Other edd. read (nam dubito) . . . casus?
² non solvit Pw: solvit sua X.
³ ingerit P (in margin): inserit Pw.

ᵃ For similar scenes see x. 273 sq.
hunger drives forth at sunrise and greedy cubs implore for their udders’ milk. Of a thousand shapes of guilt I hesitate what to tell thee that befell. a Bold Gorge stands over chaplet-crowned Elymus, who on high-piled cushions pants out in his sleep the rising fumes of wine, and probes in his disordered garments for a vital blow, but his ill-omened slumber flees from him at the near approach of death. Confused and half-awake he seizes his foe in his embrace, and she, as he holds her, straightway stabs through his side from behind, till the point touches her own breast. There at last the crime had ending: his head falls back, but still with quivering eyes and murmur of endearing words he seeks for Gorge, nor looses his arms from her unworthy neck. I will not now tell of the slaughter of the multitude, cruel as it was, but I will recall the woes of my own family: how I beheld thee, fair-haired Cydon, and thee, Crenaeus, with thy unshorn locks streaming o’er thy shoulders—my foster-brothers these, born of another sire—and brave Gyas, my betrothed, of whom I stood in awe, all fallen beneath the blow of bloodthirsty Myrmidone; and how his savage mother pierced Epopeus as he played among the garlands and the couches. Lycaste, her weapon flung away, is weeping over Cydimus, her brother of equal years, gazing alas! upon his doomed body, his face so like her own, the bloom upon his cheeks and that hair which she herself had decked in gold, when her cruel mother, her spouse already slain, stands over her, and threatening drives her to the deed, and thrusts the sword upon her. Like a wild beast, that under a soothing master has unlearnt its madness
tardius arma movet stimulisque et verbere crebro
in mores negat ire suos, sic illa iacenti
incidit undantemque sinu conlapsa cruorem
excipit et laceros premit in nova vulnera crines. ut vero Alcimeden etiamnum in murmurre truncos
ferre patris vultus et egentem sanguinis ensem
conspexi, riguere comae atque in viscera saevus
horror iit: meus ille Thoas, mea dira videri
dextra mihi! extemplo thalamis turbata paternis
inferor. ille quidem dudum—quis magna tuenti
somnus?—agit versans secum, etsi lata recessit
urbe domus, quinam strepitus, quae murmura noctis,
cur fremibunda quies? trepidus seclus ordine pando,
quis dolor, unde animi: ‘vis nulla arcere furentes; hae sequere, o miserande; premunt aderuntque mo-
ranti,
et mecum fortasse cades.’ his motus et artus
erexit stratis. ferimur per devia vastae
urbis et ingentem nocturnae caedis acervum
passim, ut quosque saeris crudelis vespera lucis
straverat, occulta speculamur nube latentes.
hic impressa toris ora extantessque reclusis
pectoribus capulos magnarum et fragmina trunca
hastarum et ferro laceras per corpora vestes,
crateras pronos epulasque in caede natantes
cernere erat, iugulisque modo torrentis apertis
sanguine permixto redeuntem in pocula Bacchum.
hic iuvenum manus et nullis violabilis armis
and is slow to make attack, and in spite of goadings
and many a blow refuses to assume its native temper,
so she falls upon him as he lies, and sinking down
gathers the welling blood in her bosom, and staunches
the fresh wounds with her torn tresses. But when
I beheld Alcimede carry her father's head still
murmuring and his bloodless sword, my hair stood
erect and fierce shuddering horror swept through
my frame; that was my Thoas, methought, and
that my own dread hand! Straightway in agony
I rush to my father's chamber. He indeed long
while had pondered—what sleep for him whose
charge is great?—although our spacious home lay
apart from the city, what was the uproar, what the
noises of the night, why the hours of rest were
 clamorous. I tell a confused story of the crime,
what was their grievance, whence their passionate
wrath. 'No force can stop their frenzy; follow
this way, unhappy one; they are pursuing, and will
be on us if we linger, and perchance we shall fall
together.' Alarmed by my words he sprang up
from the couch. We hurry through devious paths
of the vast city, and, shrouded in a covering of mist,
everywhere behold great heaps of nocturnal carnage,
wheresoe'er throughout the sacred groves the cruel
darkness had laid them low. Here could one see
faces pressed down upon the couches, and sword-
hilts projecting from breasts laid open, broken
fragments of great spears and bodies with raiment
gashed and torn, mixing-bowls upset and banquets
floating in gore, and mingled wine and blood stream-
ing back like a torrent to the goblets from gaping
throats. Here are a band of youths, and there old
men whom no violence should profane, and children
turba senes, positique patrum super ora gementum semineo pueri trepidas in limine vitae singuli animas. gelida non saevius Ossa luxuriant Lapitharum epulae, si quando profundo Nubigenae caluere mero; vix primus ab ira pallor, et impulsis surgunt ad proelia mensis.

Tunc primum sese trepidis sub nocte Thyoneus detexit, nato portans extrema Thoanti subsidia, et multa subitus cum luce refulsit. adgnovi: non ille quidem turgentia sertis tempora nec flava erinem destrinxerat uva: nubilus indignumque oculis liquentibus imbrem adloquitur: "dum fata dabant tibi, nate, potentem Lemnon et externis etiam servare timendam gentibus, haud umquam iusto mea cura labori destitit: absciderunt tristes crudelia Parcae stamina, nec dictis, supplex quae plurima fudi ante Iovem frustra, lacrimisque avertere luctus contigit; infandum natae concessit honorem. adecelerate fugam, tuque, o mea digna propago, hac rege, virgo, patrem, gemini qua bracchia muri litus eunt: illa, qua rere\(^1\) silentia, porta stat funesta Venus ferroque accincta furentes adiuvat—unde manus, unde haecc Mavortia divae pectora?—: tu lato patrem committe profundo. succeedam curis." ita fatus in aera rursus solvitur et nostrum, visus arcentibus umbris, mitis iter longae claravit limite flammae.

\(^1\) rere P: rara \(\omega\).
half-slain flung o’er the faces of their moaning parents and gasping out their trembling souls on the threshold of life. No fierer are the banquet-revellings of the Lapithae on frozen Ossa, when the cloud-born ones grow hot with wine deep-drained; scarce has wrath’s first pallor seized them, when overthrowing their tables they start up to the affray. "Then first Thyoneus beneath night’s cover revealed himself to us in our distress, succouring his son Thoas in his hour of need, and shone in a sudden blaze of light. I knew him: yet he had bound no chaplets round his swelling temples, nor yellow grapes about his hair: but a cloud was upon him, and his eyes streamed angry rain as he addressed us: ‘While the fates granted thee, my son, to keep Lemnos mighty and feared still by foreign peoples, never failed I to aid thy righteous labours; the stern Parcae have cut short the relentless threads, nor have my prayers and tears, poured forth in vain supplication before Jove, availed to turn away this woe; to his daughter hath he granted honour unspeakable.’ Hasten ye then your flight, and thou, O maiden, worthy offspring of my race, guide thy sire this way where the wall’s twin arms approach the sea; at yonder gate, where thou thinkest all is quiet, stands Venus in fell mood and aids the furious ones; —whence hath the goddess this violence, this heart of Mars? Trust thou thy father to the broad deep: I will take thy cares upon me.’ So speaking he faded into air again, and since the shadows barred our vision lit up our road with a long stream of fire,

b Bacchus.

c i.e., to Venus, to whom he has granted the awful privilege of destroying the Lemnians.
qua data signa, sequor; dein curvo robore clausum
dis pelagi Ventisque et Cycladas Aegaeoni
amplexo commendo patrem, nec fletibus umquam
fit 1 modus alternis, ni iam dimittat Eoo
Lucifer astra polo. tunc demum litore rauco
multa metu reputans et vix confisa Lyaeo
dividor, ipsa gradu nitente, sed anxia retro
pectora, nec requies, quin et surgentia caelo
flamina et e cunctis prospectem collibus undas. 295
exoritur pudibunda dies, caelumque retexens
aversum Lemno iubar et declinia Titan
opposita iuga nube refert. patuere furores
nocturni, lucisque novae formidine cunctis,
quamquam inter similes, subitus 2 pudor; impia terrae
infodiunt scelera aut festinis ignibus urunt. 301
iam manus Eumenidum captasque refugerat arces
exsaturata Venus; licuit sentire, quid ausae,
et turbare comas et lumina tingere fletu.
insula dives agris opibusque armisque virisque,
nota situ et Getico nuper ditata triumpho,
non maris incursu, non hoste, nec aethere laevo
perdidit una omnes orbata excisaque fundo 3
indigenas: non arva viri, non aequora vertunt,
conticuere domus, cruar altus et oblita crasso
310
cuncta rubent tabo, magnaeque in moenibus urbis
nos tantum et saevi spirant per culmina manes.
ipsa quoque arcanis tecti in penetrabilibus alto
molior igne pyram, sceptrum super armaque patris
inicio et notas regum velamina vestes,

1 fit Pw: sit Gronovius.
2 subitus Bentley: habitus Pw.
3 fundo Bentley (from a ms.): mundo Pw.
THEBAID, V. 287-315

in kindly succour. I follow where the signal leads, and anon entrust my sire, hidden in a vessel’s curving beams, to the gods of the sea and the winds and Aegaeon who holds the Cyclades in his embrace; nor set we any limit to our mutual grief, were it not that Lucifer is already chasing the stars from the eastern pole. Then at last I leave the sounding shore, in brooding fear and scarce trusting Lyaeus’ word, resolute in step but casting anxious thoughts behind me; nor rest I but must fain watch from every hill the breezes rising in heaven and the ocean waves. Day rises shamefast, and Titan opening heaven to view turns aside his beams from Lemnos and hides his averted chariot behind the barrier of a cloud. Night’s frenzied deeds lay manifest, and to all the new terrors of the day brought sudden shame, though all had share therein; they bury in the earth their impious crimes or burn with hurried fires. And now the Fury band and Venus sated to the full had fled the stricken city; now could the women know what they had dared, now rend their hair and bedew their eyes with tears. This island, blest in lands and wealth, in arms and heroes, famed for its site and enriched of late by a Getic triumph, has lost, not by onslaught of the sea or of the foe or by stroke of heaven, all her folk together, bereft and ravaged to the uttermost. No men are left to plough the fields or cleave the waves, silent are the homes, swimming deep in blood and stained red with clotted gore: we alone remain in that great city, we and the ghosts that fiercely hiss about our rooftops. I, too, in the inner courtyard of my house build high a flaming pile and cast thereon my father’s sceptre and arms and well-known royal
ac prope maesta rogum confusis ignibus adsto ense cruentato, fraudemque et inania busta plango metu, si forte premant, cassumque parenti omen et hac dubios leti precor ire timores. his mihi pro meritis, ut falsi criminis astu parta fides, regna\(^1\) et solio considere patris— supplicium!—datur. anne illis obsessa negarem? accessi, saepe ante deos testata fide mque immeritasque manus; subeo—pro dira potestas!— exsangue imperium et maestam sine culmine Lemnon. iam magis atque magis vigiles dolor angere sensus, et gemitus clari, et paulatim invisa Polyxo, \(327\) iam meminisse nefas, iam ponere manibus aras concessum et multum iurare sepultos. sic ubi ductorem trepidae stabulique maritum, \(330\) quem penes et saltus et adultae gloria gentis, Massylo frangi stupuere sub hoste iuvenae, it truncum sine honore pecus, regemque peremptum ipse ager, ipsi amnes et muta armenta queruntur.

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

\(^1\) regna \(P\): regno \(ω\).

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

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

"But lo! dividing the waters with brazen prow the Pelian pinewood bark draws nigh, stranger to that wide unadventured sea: the Minyae are her crew; the twofold splashing wave runs white along her towering sides: one would think Ortygia moved uprooted or a sundered mountain sailed upon the deep. But when the oars stayed poised in air and the waters fell silent, there came from the vessel's midst a voice sweeter than dying swans or quill of
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vox media de puppe venit, maria ipsa carinae accedunt. post nosse datum est: Oeagrius illic acclinis malo mediis intersonat Orpheus remigiis tantosque iubet nescirc labores. illis in Scythicum Borean iter oraque primi Cyaneis artata maris. nos Thracia visu bella ratae vario tecta incursare tumultu, densarum pecudum aut fugientum more volucrum. heu ubi nunc furiae? portus amplexaque litus moenia, qua longe pelago despectus aperto, scandimus et celsas turre; hoc saxa sudesque armaque maesta virum atque infectos caedibus ense subvectant trepidae; quin et squalentia texta thoracum et voltu galeas intrare soluto non pudet; audaces rubuit mirata catervas Pallas, et averso risit Gradivus in Haemo. tunc primum ex animis praeceps amentia cessit, nec ratis illa salo, sed divum sera per aequor iustitia et poenae scelerum adventare videntur. iamque aberant terris, quantum Cortynia currunt spicula, caeruleo gravidam cum Iuppiter imibri ipsa super nubem ratis armamenta Pelasgae sistit agens; inde horror aquis, et raptus ab omni sole dies miscet tenebras, quis protinus unda concolor; obnixi lacerant cava nubila venti diripiantque fretum, nigris reedit umida tellus verticibus, totumque notis certantibus¹ aequeo pendet et arquato iamiam prope sidera dorso frangitur, incertae nec iam prior impetus alno,

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

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² Cretan, i.e., arrows, for which Crete was famous.

³ This phrase can be explained by inversion, “all the sunlight taken from the day,” or by translating “dies” as “light” (cf. 421), with hypallage of “omni.”
Phoebus, and the seas themselves drew nigh the ship. Thereafter did we learn 'twas Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, who leaning against the mast sang thus amid the rowers and bade them know such toils no more. Towards Scythian Boreas were they voyaging and the mouth of the unattempted sea that the Cyanean rocks hold fast. We at the sight of them deemed them Thracian foes, and ran to our homes in wild confusion like crowding cattle or fluttering birds. Alas! where now is our frenzied rage? We man the harbour and the shore-embracing walls, which give a far view over the open sea, and the lofty towers; hither in excited haste they bring stones and stakes and the arms that mourn their lords, and swords stained with slaughter; nay, it shames them not to don stiff woven corselets and to fit helms about their wanton faces; Pallas blushed and marvelled at their bold array, and Gradivus laughed on the far slopes of Haemus. Then first did our headlong madness leave our minds, nor seemed it a mere ship on the salt sea, but the gods' late-coming justice and vengeance for our crimes that drew nigh o'er the deep. And already were they distant from the land the range of a Gortynian shaft, when Jupiter brought a cloud laden with dark rain and set it over the very rigging of the Pelasgian ship; then the waters shudder, all its light is stolen from the sun and the gloom thickens, and the wave straightway takes the colour of the gloom: warring winds tear the hollow clouds and rend the deep, the wet sand surges up in the black eddies, and the whole sea hangs poised between the conflict of the winds, and with arching ridge now all but touching the stars falls shattered; nor has the bewildered
sed labat exstamtem rostris modo gurgite in imo, nunc caelo Tritona ferens. nee robora prosunt semideum heroum, puppemque insana flagellat arbor et instabili procumbens pondere curvas raptat aquas, remique cadunt in pectus inanes. 375 nos quoque per rupes murorumque aggere ab omni, dum labor ille viris fretaque indignantur et austros, desuper invalidis fluitantia tela laeertis—quid non ausa manus?—Telamona et Pelea contra spargimus, et nostro petitur Tirynthius areu. 380 illi—quippe simul bello pelagoque laborant—pars clipeis munire ratem, pars aequora fundo egerere; ast alii pugnant, sed inertia motu corpora, suspensaeque earent eonamine vires. instamus iaetu telorum, et ferrea nimbis 385 certat hiemps, vastaeque sudes fractique molares spiculaque et multa crinitum missile flamma nune pelago, nune puppe cadunt, dat operta fragorem pinus, et abiunctis regemunt tabulata cavernis. talis Hyperborea viridis nive verberat agros 390 Iuppiter; obruitur campis genus omne ferarum, deprensaeque cadunt voluercs, et messis amaro strata gelu, fragor inde iugis, inde annibus irae. ut vero elisit nubes Iove tortus ab alto ignis et ingentes patuere in fulmine nautae, 395 deriguere animi, manibusque horrore remissis arma aliena cadunt, rediit in pectora sexus.

\[a\] For this meaning of "flagello" cf. iii. 36, x. 169.

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

Ampitryoniades puppemque alternus utrimque ingrat et medias ardet descendere in undas. at levis et miserae nondum mihi notus Iason transtra per et remos impressaque terga virorum nune magnum Oeniden, nune ille hortatibus Idan et Talaum et cana rorandem aspargine ponti Tyndariden iterans gelidique in nube parentis vela laborantem Calain subnectere male voce manuque rogat; quatiunt impulsibus illi nune freta, nune muros, sed nec spumantia cedunt aequora, et incussae redeunt a turribus hastae. ipse graves fluctus clavumque audire negantem lassat agens Tiphys palletque et plurima mutat imperia ae laevas dextras obtorquet in undas proram navifragis avidam concurrere saxis, donec ab extremae cuneo ratis Aesone natus Palladios oleae, Mopsi gestamina, ramos extulit et socium turba prohibente poposecit foedera; praecipites vocem involvere procellae, tunc modus armorum, pariterque exhausta quierunt flamina, confusoque dies respexit Olympe. quinquaginta illi, trabibus de more revinetis, eminus abrupto quasiunt nova litora saltu, magnorum decora alta patrum, iam fronte sereni noscendique habitu, postquam tumor iraque cessit

1 laborantem Pw: laboranti Bentley.
2 tumor Bentley: timor Pw.

a i.e., Castor or Pollux.  
b i.e., Boreas.  
c Apparently a reminiscence of Aen. vi. init.
sons of Aeacus, and Ancaeus threatening mightily our walls, and Iphitus with long spear warding off the rocks; clear to view among the desperate band the son of Amphitryon outtops them all, and alternately on either hand weighs down the ship and burns to leap into the midst of the waves. But Jason—not yet did I know him to my cost—leaping nimbly over benches and oars and treading the backs of heroes, calls now on great Oenides, now on Idas and Talaus, now on the son of Tyndareus a dripping with the white spume of the sea, and Calais striving aloft in the clouds of his frosty sire b to fasten the sails to the mast, and with voice and gesture again and again encourages them. With vigorous strokes they lash the sea and shake the walls, but none the more do the foaming waters yield, and the flung spears rebound from our towers. Tiphys himself wearies by his labours the heavy billows and the tiller that will not hear him, and pale with anxiety oft changes his commands, and turns right- and leftward from the land the prow that would fain dash itself to shipwreck on the rocks, until from the vessel's tapering bows the son of Aeson holds forth the olive-branch of Pallas that Mopsus bore, and though the tumult of his comrades would prevent him, asks for peace; his words were swept away by the headlong gale. Then came there a truce to arms, and the tempest likewise sank to rest, and day looked forth once more from the turbid heaven. Then those fifty heroes, their vessels duly moored, c as they leap from the sheer height shake the stranger shores, tall comely sons of glorious sires, serene of brow and known by their bearings, now that the swelling rage has left their countenances. Even so
vultibus. arcana sic fama erumpere porta
caelicolas, si quando domos litusque rubentum
Aethiopum et mensas amor est intrare\(^1\) minores;
dant Fluvii Montesque locum, tum Terra superbit
gressibus et paulum respirat caelifer Atlans. 430

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

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

\(^1\) intrare PW: iterare Schrader, cf. Lactantius frequenter
epulatur Jupiter . . . frequenter eos revisunt.

\(a\) Homer describes the gods as visiting the Aethiopians
and banqueting with them (II. i. 423).
\(b\) One of the exploits of Theseus was to slay a wild bull
that ravaged the fields of Marathon.
\(c\) i.e., Thracian, Northern, sons of the north wind.
the denizens of heaven are said to burst forth from
their mystic portals, when they desire to visit the
homes and the coast and the lesser banquet of the
red Aethiopians\(^a\): rivers and mountains yield them
passage, Earth exults beneath their footsteps and
Atlas knows a brief respite from the burden of the
sky.

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

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

\(^{a}\) Castor and Pollux; Oebalus was their grandfather, a
king of Sparta.
STATIUS

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

Detumuere animi-maris, et clementior Auster
vela vocat: ratis ipsa moram portusque quietos
odit et adversi tendit retinacula saxi.
inde fugam Minyae, sociosque appellat Iason
efferus, o utinam iam tunc mea litora rectis
praetervectus aquis, cui non sua pignora cordi,
non promissa fides; certe stat fama remotis
gentibus: aequorei redierunt vellera Phrixi.

1 adversi P: adsueti w: asserti D.

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

"The boisterous seas fell tranquil and a milder southern breeze invites the sails: the ship herself, hating to tarry in the quiet haven, strains with her hawsers at the resisting rock. Then would the Minyae fain begone, and cruel Jason summons his comrades—would he had ere that sailed past my shores, who recked not of his own children, nor of his sworn word; truly his fame is known in distant lands: the fleece of seafaring Phrixus hath returned. When the destined sun had sunk beneath the sea and Tiphys felt the coming breeze and Phoebus' western couch blushed red, once more alas! there
heu iterum gemitus, iterumque novissima nox est. vix reserata dies, et iam rate celsus Iason ire iubet, primoque ferit dux verbere pontum. illos e seopulis et summo vertice montis spumea porrecti dirimentes terga profundi prosequimur visu, donec lassavit euntes lux oculos longumque polo contexere visa est aequor et extremi pressit freta margine caeli. 480

Fama subit portus, vectum trans alta Thoanta fraterna regnare Chio, mih erimina nulla, et vacuos arsisse rogos; fremit impia plebes, sontibus accensae stimulus facinusque reposeunt. quin etiam occultae vulgo increbrescere voces: “solane fida suis, nos autem in funera laetae? non deus haec fatumque? quid imperat urbe nefanda?”

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

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

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1 laetae P.\(\omega\) : Garrod conj. nostra autem in funera laeta est?
2 tacentem P.\(\omega\) : iacentem latentem edd.: licentum Garrod.

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a "euntes" expresses the "travelling" of the sight as it follows the ships out to sea.

b i.e., our deed was ordained by heaven and fate; in disobeying them she is "nefanda."
was lamentation, once more the last night of all. Scarce is the day begun, and already Jason high upon the poop gives the word for sailing, and strikes as chieftain the first oar-stroke on the sea. From rocks and mountain height we follow them with our gaze as they cleave the foamy space of outspread ocean, until the light wearied our roaming\textsuperscript{a} vision and seemed to interweave the distant waters with the sky, and made the sea one with heaven's extremest marge.

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

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

\textsuperscript{a} \textit{i.e.}, Opheltes, the infant, cf. iv. 742, 787.
mergit humo, fessusque diu puerilibus actis labitur in somnos, prensa manus haeret in herba.

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

¹ Inachii Mueller: Inachio Pw.
² incensusque siti Schrader: incertusque sui Pw.

^a i.e., Bacchus, patron deity of Thebes.
^b I have adopted Schrader’s emendation; “incertusque sui” seems hardly to justify Klotz’s explanation “mentis non compos,” i.e., “in a fury.”
drooping head and wearied by his long childish play, sinks to slumber, deep buried in the luxuriant earth, while one hand holds the grass tight-clutched.

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

Quis tibi, parve, deus tam magni pondera fati
sorte dedit? tune hoc vix prima ad limina vitae
hoste iaces? an ut inde sacer per saecula Grais
gentibus et tanto dignus morerere sepulcro?
occidis extremae strictus verbere caudae
ignaro serpente puer, fugit ilicet artus
somnus, et in solam patuerunt lumina mortem.
cum tamen attonito moriens vagitus in auras
excidit et ruptis immutuit ore querellis,
qualia non totas peragunt insomnia voces,
audiit Hypsipyle, facilemque negantia cursum
exanimis genua aegra rapit; iam certa malorum
mentis ab augurio sparoque per omnia visu
lustrat humum quaerens et nota vocabula parvo
nequiquam ingeminans: nusquam ille, et prata re-
centes
amisere notas. viridi piger accubat hostis
collectus gyro spatiosaque iugera complet,
sic etiam obliqua cervicem expostus in alvo.
horruit infelix visu longoque profundum
incendit clamore nemus; nec territus ille,
sed iacet. Argolicas ululatus flebilis aures
impulit; extemplo monitu ducis advolat ardens
Arcas eques causamque refert. tunc squamea demum
torvus ad armorum radios fremitumque virorum
colla movet: rapit ingenti conamine saxum,

He means the snake (Draco) that winds between the
two Bears (cf. Virg. G. i. 244), but his expression is difficult;
nor does Draco go anywhere near the southern hemisphere,
alien sky, or as he that shook the horns of sacred Parnassus, twining his coils among them, until pierced by a hundred wounds he bore, O Delian, a forest of thy arrows.

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

\(^a\) Python, slain by Apollo at Delphi. \(^b\) Parthenopaeus.
Statius

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

1 evaserat Barth (from a m.s.), Baehrens: exhauserat Pw.
2 alta ω: hasta P: aeta Heinsius.
3 peregit Pw: peredit Lachmann.

Statius loses no opportunity of emphasizing Capaneus’s hostility to the gods.

The Giants were said to have snakes for legs, cf. Ov. F. 44
medon seizes a stone, the boundary mark of a field, and hurls it through the empty air; with such a whirlwind do the poised boulders fly forth against the barred gates in time of war. Vain was the chieftain’s might, in a moment had the snake bent back his supple neck and foiled the coming blow. The earth re-echoes and in the pathless woods the close-knit boughs are rent and torn. "But never shalt thou escape my stroke," cries Capaneus, and makes for him with an ashen spear, "whether thou be the savage inmate of the trembling grove, or a delight granted to the gods—ay, would it were to the gods!—never even if thou broughtest a Giant to battle with me upon those limbs." The quivering spear flies, and enters the monster’s gaping mouth and cleaves the rough fastenings of the triple tongue, then through the upright crest and the adornment of his darting head it issues forth, and fouled with the brain’s black gore sinks deep into the soil. Scarce has the pain run the length of his whole frame, with lightning speed he twines his coils around the weapon, and tears it out and carries it to his lair in the dark temple of the god; there measuring his mighty bulk along the ground he gasps and hisses out his life at his patron’s shrine. Him did the sorrowing marsh of kindred Lerna mourn, and the Nymphs who were wont to strew him with vernal flowers, and Nemea’s fields whereon he crawled; ye too, ye woodland Fauns, bewailed him in every grove with broken reeds. Jupiter himself had already called for his weapons from the height of air, and long had clouds and storms been gathering, had not v. 37 "mille manus illis dedit et pro cruribus angues." Or "super haec membra" may be "over these (slain) limbs."
ni minor ira deo gravioraque tela mereri
servatus Capaneus; moti tamen aura cucurrit
fulminis et summas libavit vertice cristas.

Iamque pererratis infelix Lemnia campis,
liber ut angue locus, modico super aggere longe
pallida sanguineis infectas roribus herbas
prospicit.  hue magno cursum rapit effera luctu
agnoscitque nefas, terraeque inlisa nocenti
fulminis in morem non verba in funere primo,
non lacrimas habet: ingeminat misera oscula tantum
incumbens animaeque fugam per membra tepentem
quaequit lians.  non ora loco, non pectora restant,
rapta cutis, tenuia ossa patent nexusque madentes
sanguinis imbre novi, totumque in vulnere corpus.
ac velut aligerae sedem fetusque parentis
cum piger umbrosa populatus in ilice serpens,
illa reedit querulæque domus mirata quietem
iam stupet 1 impendens advectosque horrenda maesto
execuit ore cibos, cum solus in arbore paret
sanguis et errantes per capta cubilia plumae.

Ut laceros artus gremio miseranda recepit
intexitque comis, tandem laxata dolori 2
vox invenit iter, gemitusque in verba soluti:
“ o mihi desertæ natorum dulcis imago,
Archemore, o rerum et patriæ solamen ademptae
servitiique decus, qui te, mea gaudia, sontes
extinxcre dei, modo quem digressa reliqui
lascivum et prono vexantem gramina cursu?
heu ubi siderei vultus? ubi verba ligatis

1 iam stupet P: stat super ω.
2 dolori Bentley, Heinsius: dolore Pω.
the god allayed his wrath and Capaneus been preserved to merit a direr punishment; yet the wind of the stirred thunderbolt sped and swayed the summit of his crested helm.

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

When, poor woman, she had gathered the mangled limbs to her bosom and covered them in her tresses, at length her voice released gave passage to her grief and her moans melted into words: “Archemorus, sweet image of my babes in my lonely plight, solace of my woes and exile, and pride of my thraldom, what guilty gods have slain thee, O my joy, whom, when I lately parted from thee, I left frolicking and crushing the grasses in thy crawl? Alas, where is that star-bright face? Where are thy half-formed
imperfecta sonis risusque et murmura soli
intellecta mihi? quotiens tibi Lemnon et Argo\(^1\) sueta loqui et longa somnum suadere querella!
sie equidem luctus solabar et ubera parvo
iam materna dabam, cui nunc venit inritus orbae
lactis et infelix in vulnera liquitum imber.
nosco deos: o dura mei praesagia somni
nocturnique metus, et numquam impune per umbras
attonitae mihi visa Venus! quos arguo divos?
ipsa ego te—quid enim timeam moritura fateri?
exposui fatis. quae mentem insania traxit?
tantane me tantae tenuere obliqua curae?
dum patrios casus famaeque exorsa retracto
ambitiosa meae—pietas haec magna fidesque!
exsolvi tibi, Lemne, nefas; ubi letifer anguis,
ferte, duces, meriti si qua est mihi gratia duri,
si quis honos dictis, aut vos exstinguite ferro,
des tristes dominos orbanque inimica revisam
Eurydicen, quamquam haud illi mea cura dolendo
cesserit. hocne ferens onus inlaetabile
meae—sordida magnorum circa vestigia regum
vertitur, et tacite maerentibus imputat undas.
Et iam sacrifici subitus per tecta Lycurgi
nuntius implerat lacrimis ipsumque domumque,
ipsum adventantem Persei vertice sancto
\(^1\) Argo Gronovius: Argos Pw.

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

And now the news, sweeping sudden through the
palace of devout Lycurgus, had brought full measure
of tears to himself and all his house—himself, as he
drew nigh from the sacred summit of Perseus’ moun-
montis, ubi averso dederat prosecta Tonanti, et caput iratis rediens quassabat ab extis. hic sese Argolicis immunem servat ab armis haud animi vacuus, scd templ a araeque tenebant. necdum etiam responsa deum monitusque vetusti exciderant voxque ex adytis accepta profundis: “prima, Lycurge, dabis Dirceo funera bello.” id cavet, et maestus vicini pulvere Martis angitur ad lituos periturisque invidet armis.

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

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

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

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

But lo!—so the gods keep faith!—the daughter of Thoas accompanies the mangled infant’s funeral train, and his mother comes to meet her, leading a band of women and troops of mourners. But not sluggish was the devotion of great-souled Lycurgus: grief emboldened him, the father’s mad rage thrust back the tears, and with long strides he covers the fields that stay his wrath, and cries aloud: “Where now is she, who recks little or is glad of the shedding of my blood? Lives she? Then seize her, comrades, and bring her speedily! I will make her insolence forget all her tale of Lemnos and her father and her lies about a race divine!” He advanced and prepared to deal the death-blow, his sword drawn in rage; but as he came, the Oeneian hero, quick to act, thrust his shield against his breast and barred the way, with stern rebuke: “Abate thy fury, madman, whoe’er thou art!” and Capaneus likewise and brave Hippomedon, with sword drawn back, and the Erymanthian, with levelled blade, were there to succour, and the prince is dazzled by their flashing swords: but on the other side the rustic bands
agrestum pro rege manus. quos inter Adrastus
mitius et sociae veritus commercia vittae
Amphiaraus ait: “ne, quaesö! absistite ferro,
umus avum sanguis, neve indulgete furori,
tuque prior.” sed non sedato pectore Tydeus
subicit: “anne ducem servatricemque cohortis
Inachiae ingratis coram tot milibus ausus
mactare in tumulos—quanti pro funeris ultor!—
cui regnum genitorque Thoas et lucidus Euhan
stirpis avus? timidone parum, quod gentibus actis
undique in arma tuis inter rapida agmina paeem
solus habes? habecasque, et te victoria Graium
inveniat tumulis etiamnum haec fata gementem.”
Dixerat, et tandem cunctante modestior ira
ille refert: “equidem non vos ad moenia Thebes
rebar, at hostiles huic adversisse catervas.
pergite in exscidium, socii si tanta voluptas
sanguinis, imbuite arma domi, atque haec inrita
dudum
templa Iovis—quid enim haud licium?—ferat impius
ignis,
si vilem, tanti premerent cum pectora luctus,
in famulam ius esse ratus dominoque ducique.
sed videt haec, videt ille deum regnator, et ausis
sera quidem, manet ira tamen.” sic fatus, et arces
respicit. atque illic alio certamine belli
tecta fremunt; volucres equitum praeverterat alas

1 vittae BQ2: vitae PDQX.
2 ausus P: audes o: ausis Kohlmann.
3 at Barth: et Pw.

Lycurgus had just been sacrificing, and would be
wearing the fillets; Amphiaraus as a soothsayer wore them
habitually.
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THEBAID, V. 667–691

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

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

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

This too is ironical: let Jove's temple be destroyed, if he was so impious as to think he had power over his own slave!
Fama recens, geminos alis amplexa\textsuperscript{1} tumultus: illi ad fata rapi atque illi iam occumbere leto, sie meritam Hypsipyle\textsuperscript{2} iterant, creduntque, nec irae fit mora, iamque faces et tela penatibus instant, 695 verte\textsuperscript{2} regna fremunt raptumque auferre Lycurgum cum Iove cunque aris; resonant ululatibus aedes femineis, versusque dolor dat terga timori.

Alipedum curru sed enim sublimis Adrastus secum ante ora virum fremibunda Thoantida portans it medius turmis, et “parcite, parcite!” clamat, 701 “nil actum saeve, meritus nec tale Lycurgus excidium, gratique inventrix fluminis ecce\textsuperscript{2}!” sie ubi diversis maria evertere procellis hine Boreas Eurusque, illine niger imbris\textsuperscript{2} Auster, pulsa dies regnantque hiemes, venit aequoris alti 706 rex sublimis equis, geminus\textsuperscript{2}que ad spumea Triton frena natans late pelago dat signa cadenti, et iam plana Thetis, montesque et litora crescent.

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

\textsuperscript{1} alis amplexa $P\omega$: agilis complexa Lachmann: aulis Garrod, who brackets volucres . . . recens as a parenthesis. Certainly the repetition of alas . . . alis is odd, but a characteristic of Statius.

\textsuperscript{2} ecce $P\omega$: haec est Phillimore.
flying squadrons, with twofold tumults gathered beneath her wings; some repeat that Hypsipyle is being dragged to death, some that she is even now meeting her fate, and is deserving of it: they believe, nor stay their anger, and already brands and javelins fly against the palace, cries are raised to overturn the kingdom, and to seize and carry away Lycurgus with Jove and all his shrines; the houses re-echo with female shrieks, and routed grief flees before panic terror.

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

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

Their names were Thoas and Euneus.
ergo adsunt comites—pro fors et caeca futuri
mens hominum!—regique favent; sed Lemnos ad
aures
ut primum dictusque Thoas, per tela manusque
inruerant, matremque avidis complexibus ambo
diripiunt flentes alternaque pectora mutant.
illa velut rupes immoto saxea visu
haeret et expertis non audet credere divis.
720 ut vero et vultus et signa Argoa relictis
ensibus atque umeris amborum intextus Iason,
cesserunt luctus, turbataque munere tanto
conruit, atque alio maduerunt lumina fletu.
addita signa polo, laetoque ululante tumultu
tergaque et aera dei motas crepuere per auras.

725 Tune pius Oeclides, ut prima silentia volgi
mollior ira dedit placidasque accessus ad aures:
"audite, o ductor Nemeae lectique potentes
Inachidae, quae certus agi manifestat Apollo.
iste quidem Argolicis haud olim indebitus armis
luctus adest, recto descendunt limite Parcae:
et sitis interitu fluviorum et letifer anguis,
et puer, heu nostri signatus nomine fati,
Archemorus, euncta haec superum demissa suprema
mente flunt. differte animos festinaque tela
730 ponite; mansuris donandus honoribus infans.
et meruit; det pulchra suis libamina virtus
manibus, atque utinam plures innectere pergas,

\[a\] Amphiaraus.
\[b\] The metaphor is probably of a river-channel; cf.
"fluunt," l. 740.
\[c\] "Archemorus" means "the beginning of doom."
death. Therefore hasten they to his support—so strange is Chance, so blind the purposes of men!—and favour the king's cause; but when "Lemnos" and "Thoas" reached their ears, straight had they rushed through weapons and troops of men, and both with tears snatch their mother to their greedy embrace and in turn press her to their bosoms. But she, like a stony rock, with countenance unmoved stirs not nor dares believe the gods she knows so well. But when she recognized their faces and the marks of Argo on the swords the mariners had left and Jason's name inwoven on their shoulders, her grief was stayed, and overcome by so great a blessing she swooned, and her eyes were moist with other tears. Signs too were shown in heaven, and the drums and cymbals of the god and the glad huzzas of his wild train resounded through the echoing air.

Then the devout Oeclides, so soon as wrath appeased made the crowd fall silent, and there was approach to tranquil ears: "Hearken, O ruler of Nemea and ye flower of Argive princes, what Apollo surely reveals for us to do. Long hath this woe been ordained for you at Argive hands, unwavering runs the line of Destiny. The drought of perished streams, the deadly serpent, and the child Archermorus, whose name, alas, bears the seal of our fate, all these events flow down and issue from the high purpose of the gods. A truce now to your passions, lay down your hasty arms! To this infant enduring honours must be paid. Truly he hath deserved them; let virtue make fair libation to a virtuous soul, and would that thou mightest continue, O Phoebus, to weave even more delays, would that new chances
Phoebe, moras, semperque novis bellare vetemur casibus, et semper Thebe funesta recedas! 745
at vos magnorum transgressi fata parentum felices, longum quibus hinc per saecula nomen,
dum Lernaea palus et dum pater Inachus ibit,
dum Nemea tremulas campis iaculabitur umbras,
ne fletu violate sacrum, ne plangite divos:
750
nam deus iste, deus, Pyliae nec fata senectae maluerit, Phrygiis aut degere longius annis." finierat, caeloque cavam nox induit umbram.
might ever bar us from the fray, and thou, O deadly
Thebes, fade from our sight for ever! And O ye
happy ones, who have surpassed the common fate of
noble parents, whose name will long endure through
the ages, while Lerna's lake remains and father
Inachus flows on, while Nemea throws the flickering
shadows across her fields—profane not this holy rite
by weeping, mourn not for the gods: for a god is
he, yea a god, nor would he prefer to enjoy a Pylian
age, nor a life that outlived the Phrygian span.\textsuperscript{a}
He finished, and night wrapt the heaven in her
enfolding shade.

\textsuperscript{a} \textit{i.e.}, longer than Nestor or Priam.
Nuntia multivago Danaas perlabitur urbes
Fama gradu, sancire novo solleumnia busto
Inachidas ludumque super, quo Martia bellis
praesudare paret seseque accendere virtus.
Graium ex more decus : primus Pisaea per arva
hunc pius Alcides Pelopi certavit honorem
pulvereumque fera crinem deter sit oliva :
proxima vipereo celebratur¹ libera nexu
Phocis, Apollineae bellum puerile pharetrae ;
mox circum tristes servata Palaemonis aras
nigra superstitio, quotiens animosa resunit
Leucothea gemitus et amica ad litora festa
tempestate venit : planctu conclamat uterque
Isthmos, Echioniae responsant flebile Thebae.
et nunc eximii regum, quibus Argos alumnis
conexum caelo, quorumque ingentia tellus
Aonis et Tyriae suspicant nomina matres,
concurrunt nudasque movent in proelia vires :
ceu primum ausurae trans alta ignota biremes,
seu Tyrrhenam hiemem, seu stagna Aegaea lacessant,
tranquillo prius arma lacu clavumque levesque
explorant remos atque ipsa pericula discunt ;
¹ celebratur P : celebravit w.

¹ The festivals alluded to are those at Olympia, Delphi, and Isthmus of Corinth.
BOOK VI

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

Clara laboriferos caelo Tithonia eurrus extulerat vigilesque deae pallentis habenas et Nox et cornu fugiebat Somnus inani; iam plangore viae, gemitu iam regia mugit flebilis, acceptos longe nemora avia frangunt multiplicantque sonos. sedet ipse exutus honoro vittarum nexu genitor squalentiaque ora sparsus et ineultam ferali pulvere barbam. asperior contra planctusque egressa viriles exemplo famulas premit hortaturque volentes orba parens, lacerasque super prorumpere\(^1\) nati reliquias ardet totiensque avolsa refertur.

arcet et ipse pater. mox ut maerentia dignis vultibus Inachii penetrarunt limina reges, eeu nova tunc clades et primo saucius infans vulnere letalisve inrumperet atria serpens, sie alium ex alio quamquam lassata fragorem pectora congenimam, integratoque resultant accensae clamore fores; sensere Pelasgi invidiam et lacrimis excusant crimen abortis.

Ipse, datum quotiens intereiscoque tumultu contieuit stupefacta domus, solatur Adrastus adloquiis genitorem ultro, nune fata reecensens resque hominum duras et inexorabile pensum, nune aliam prolem mansuraque numine dextro pignora. nondum orsis modus, et lamenta redibant.

\(^1\) prorumpere \(P\) : procumbere \(ω\).

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

\(^b\) Much of the following can be paralleled from the Consolatory poems of the \textit{Silvae}.
trained, then confidently do they push further out into the main nor seek the vanished coast.

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

Adrastus himself, whenso'er the tumult was quelled and the distracted house fell silent, and opportunity was given, addressed the sire unbidden with consoling words, reviewing now the cruel destiny of mankind and the inexorable thread of doom, now giving hope of other offspring and pledges that by heaven's favour would endure. But he had not ended, when mourning broke forth anew. Nor does the king more gently
ille quoque adfatus non mollius audit amicos,
quam trucis Ionii rabies clamantia ponto
vota virum aut tenues curant vaga fulmina nimbos.
Tristibus interea ramis teneraque cupresso
damnatus flammae torus et puerile feretrum
textur: ima virent agresti stramina cultu;
proxima gramineis operosior area sertis,
et picturatus morituris floribus agger;
tertius adsurgens Arabum strue tillitur ordo
Eoas complexus opes incanaque glebis
tura et ab antiquo durantia cinnama Belo.
summa crepant auro, Tyrioque attollitur ostro
molle supercilium, teretes hoc undique gemmae
inradian, medio Linus intertextus acantho
letiferique canes: opus admirabile semper
oderat atque oculos flecetebat ob omine mater.
arma etiam et veterum exuvias circumdat avorum
gloria mixta malis adfictaeque ambitus aulae,
ceu grande exsequiis onus atque immensa ferantur
membra rogo, sed cassa tamen sterilisque dolentes
fama iuvat, parvique augescunt funere manes.
inde ingens lacrimis honor et miseranda voluptas,
muneraque in cineres annis graviora feruntur—
namque illi et pharetras brevioraque tela dicarat
festinus voti pater insontesque sagittas;
iam tunc et nota stabuli de gente probatos
in nomen pasebat equos—cinctusque sonantes

a A legendary king of Egypt, father of Danaus: also an
Asiatic monarch, as in Virg. Aen. i. 621 and Ov. M. iv. 213.
Statius only means “cinnamon from the East,” cf. Silv.
iv. 5. 32.
b Linus, according to one story, was the name of the
babe whose fate is told in i. 557 sqq., the son of Apollo and
Psamathe, daughter of Crotopus.
hear his friendly speech than the madness of the fierce Ionian hears the sailors shouting prayers upon the deep, or the wayward lightnings heed the frail clouds.

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

\[\text{The long parenthesis is awkward, but the only alternative is to construe "pascebat" by zeugma with "cinctusque . . . lacertos."}\]
armaque maiores exspectatura lacertos.
spes avidae! quas non in nomen credula vestes
urgebatus studio cultusque insignia regni
purpureos sceptrumque minus? cuncta ignibus atris
damnat atrox suaque ipse parens gestamina ferri,
si damnis rabidum queat exsaturare dolorem.¹

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

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

² Perhaps because belts were commonly adorned with
gold and silver and precious stones, and would therefore
ring against the armour; cf. Aen. v. 312.
² There appears to be no parallel for this use of "muto,"
"to take one for another," i.e., "to see one (generation of
loud-ringing belts too are brought, and armour waiting for a mightier frame. Insatiable hopes! what garments did she not make for him in eager haste, credulous woman, and robes of purple, emblems of royalty, and childish sceptre? Yet all does the sire himself ruthlessly condemn to the murky flames, and bid his own signs of rank be borne withal, if by their loss he may sate his devouring grief.

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

"i.e., of oaks, from Chaonia in Epirus, where was the oak-grove of Dodona.
fraxinus atque situ non expugnabile robur.
hinc audax abies et odoro vulnere pinus
scinditur, adclinant intonsa cacumina terrae
alnus amica fretis nec inhospita vitibus ulmus.
dat gemitum tellus: non sic eversa feruntur
Ismara, cum fracto Boreas caput extulit antro,
non grassante noto citius nocturna peregit
flamma nemus; linquunt flentes dilecta locorum
otia cana Pales Silvanusque arbiter umbrae
semideumque pecus, migrantibus adgemit illis
silva, nec amplexae dimittunt robora Nymphae.

Iamque pari cumulo geminas hanc tristibus umbris,
ast illam superis aequus labor auxerat aras,
cum signum luctus cornu grave mugit adunco
tibia, cui teneros suetum producere\(^1\) manes
lege Phrygum maesta. Pelopem monstrasse ferebant
exsequiale sacrum carmenque minoribus umbris
utile, quo geminis Niobe consumpta pharetris
squalida bissenas Sipylon deduxerat urnas.

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

\(^1\) Servius on Aen. v. 138 quotes solitum deducere.

\(^a\) *i.e.,* when turned into spear-shafts.
\(^b\) *i.e.,* because it “dares” the deep, when turned into ships.
\(^c\) Italian rustic deities.
\(^d\) The Nymphs are often thought of as the living spirits of the trees, *cf.* *Silv.* i. 3. 63. The passage reminds one of Milton’s *Ode on the Morning of Christ’s Nativity*, st. 20.
of cursed battle, and oaks unconquerable by age. Then the daring fir is cloven, and the pine with fragrant wound, alders that love the sea bow to the ground their unshorn summits, and elms that give friendly shelter to the vines. The earth groans: not so are the woods of Ismarus swept away uprooted, when Boreas breaks his prison cave and rears his head, no swifter does the nightly flame tear through the forest before the south wind's onset; hoar Pales and Silvanus, lord of the shady glen, and the folk, half-god, half-animal, go forth weeping from the leisure haunts they loved, and as they go the woodland groans in sympathy, nor can the Nymphs loose the trees from their embrace. As when a leader gives over to the greedy conquerors the captured towers to plunder, scarce is the signal heard, and the city is nowhere to be found; they drive and carry, take captive and strike down in fury unrestrained: the din of battle was less loud.

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

The Grecian leaders bear the funeral gifts and offerings for the flame, each by his titles witnessing to his race's honourable renown; long after, high upon the necks of youths chosen by the prince from the mountain on which her children were slain by Apollo and Artemis.
ipse fero clamore torus. cinxere Lycurgum
Lernaei proceres, genetriciem mollior ambit
turba, nec Hypsipyle raro subit agmine; vallant
Inachidae memores, sustentant livida nati
bracchia et inventae concedunt plangere matri.

Illie infaustos ut primum egressa penates
Eurydice, nudo vocem de pectore rumpit
planctuque et longis praefata ululatibus infit:
"non hoc Argolidum coetu circumdata matrum
 speravi te, nate, sequi, nec talia demens
fingebam votis annorum elementa tuorum,
nil saevum reputans; etenim his in finibus aevi
unde ego bella tibi Thebasque ignara timerem?
cui superum nostro committere sanguine pugnas
dulce? quis hoc armis vovit seelus? at tua nondum,
Cadme, domus, nullus Tyrio grege plangitur infans.
primitias egomet lacrimarum et caedis acerbac
ante tubas ferrumque tuli, dum deside cura
credo sinus fidos altricis et ubera mando.
quidni ego? narrabat servatum fraude parentem
insontesque manus. en! quam feralis putemus
abiurasse sacrum et Lemni gentilibus unam
immunem furiis, haec illa—et creditis ausae!
haec pietate potens solis abiecit in arvis
non regem dominumve, alienos impia partus,
hoc tantum, silvaeque infamis tramite liquit,
quem non anguis atrox—quid enim hac opus, ei mihi,
leti
mole fuit?—tantum caeli violentior aura

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

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

There, as soon as Eurydice came forth from her ill-starred palace, she bared her breast and cried aloud, and with beating of her bosom and prelude of long wailings thus began: "I never thought, my son, to follow thee with this encompassing train of Argive matrons, nor thus did I picture in my foolish prayers thy infant years, nought cruel did I expect; whence at my life's end should I have fear for thee from a Theban war, whereof I knew not? What god has taken delight in joining battle with our race? Who vowed this crime against our arms? But thy house, O Cadmus, has not suffered yet, no infant do Tyrian crowds lament. 'Tis I that have borne the first-fruits of grief and untimely death, before even trumpets brayed or sword was drawn, while in indolent neglect I put faith in his nurse's bosom and entrusted to her my babe to suckle. Why should I not? She told a tale of the cunning rescue of her sire and her innocence. But look! this woman, who alone, we must think, abjured the deadly deed she vowed, and alone of her race was free from the Lemnian madness, this woman here—and ye believe her, after her daring deed!—so strong in her devotion, cast away in desolate fields, no king or lord, but, impious one! another's child, that is all! and left him on a path in an ill-famed wood, where not merely poisonous snake—what need, alas, of so huge a slayer?—but a strong tempest only, or a bough broken by the
impulsaeque noto frondes cassusque valeret exanimare timor. nec vos incessere luctu orba aveo, 1 fixum matri immotumque manebat hae altrice nefas; atquin et blandus ad illam, nate, magis, solam nosse atque audire vocantem, ignarusque mei: nulla ex te gaudia matri. illa tuos questus lacrimososque impia risus audiit et vocis decerpsit murmura primae. 165 illa tibi genetrix semper, dum vita manebat, nune ego. sed miserae mihi nec punire potestas sic meritam! quid dona, duces, quid inania fertis iusta rogis? illam—nil poscunt amplius umbrae,—illam, oro, cineri simul excisaque parenti reddite, quaeso, duces, per ego haec primordia belli, cui peperi; sic aequa gemant mihi funera matres Oxygiae.” sternit crines iteratque precando: “reddite, nec vero crudelem avidamque vocate sanguinis: occumbam pariter, dum vulnere iusto 175 exsaturata oculos, unum impellamur in ignem.” talia vociferans alia de parte gementem Hypsipyle—neque enim illa comas nec pectora servat—agnovit longe, et socium indignata dolorem: “hoc saltem, o proceres, tuque o, cui pignora nostri proturbata tori, prohibete, auferte suprenis 181 invisam exsequiis. quid se funesta parenti miscet et in nostris spectatur et ipsa ruinis? 2

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

2 There is some confusion in the mss. here; the reading in the text is that of P, except that P omits auferte (l. 181) and reads invitam (l. 182). The other mss. read pignore nostro partus honos prohibete nefas auferte (nefas om. in QN), cf. ii. 172, xii. 84. Also, l. 182 quid ω: quia P. funesta ω: 72
wind, or groundless fright could have availed to cause his death! Nor you would I accuse in my stricken grief; unalterable and sure came this curse upon the mother, at this nurse’s hands. Yet her didst thou favour more, my son, her only didst thou know and heard when she called thee; me thou knewest not, no joy had thy mother of thee. But she, the fiend! she heard thy cries and thy laughter mixt with tears, and caught the accents of thy earliest speech. She was ever thy mother, while life remained to thee, I only now. But woe is me! that I cannot punish her for her crime! Why bring ye these gifts, ye chieftains, to the pyre, why these empty rites? Herself, I beg—no more does his shade demand—herself, I pray you, offer, both to the dead and to the ruined parent, I beseech you by this first bloodshed of the war, for which I bore him; so may the Ogyian mothers have deaths to mourn as sad as mine!” She tears her hair and repeats her supplication: “Ay, give her up, nor call me cruel or greedy of blood; I will die likewise, so be it that, my eyes full-sated by her just death, we fall upon the selfsame fire.” Thus loudly crying she beheld elsewhere afar Hypsipyle lamenting—for she too spares nor hair nor bosom—and ill brooking a partner in her woe: “This at least prevent, O princes, and thou for whom the child of our own bed has been flung to ruin; remove that hated woman from the funeral rites! Why does she offend his mother with her accursed presence, and show herself

fecisse P. L. 183 P omits et. After l. 183 come the lines:
cui luget complexa suos? dixitque repente concidit, abruptisque obmutuit ore querelis.

but only in DQNS (ait atque D, dixitque also in B marg.).
sic ait abruptisque immutuit ore querellis: non secur ac primo fraudatum lacte iuvenecum, cui trepidae vires et solus ab ubere sanguis, seu fera seu duras avexit pastor ad aras; nunc vallem spoliata parens, nunc flumina questu, nunc armenta movet vacuosque interrogat agros; tunc piget ire domum, maestque novissima campo exit et oppositas impasta avertit herbas.

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

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

Stant iussi Danaum atque obtentis eminus armis prospectu visus intercluser e nefasto. ditantur flammeae; non umquam opulentior illie ante cinis: crepitant gemmae, atque immane liquecit argentum, et pictis exsudat vestibus aurum;

1 exclamat Pw: exclamant Baehrens, i.e. parentes.

"genas," here "cheeks," that would be in the flush of manhood; "viridis" often = "in the prime of age." The clause "si dedisses" is not the protasis to "dicaram," but expresses the content of the vow, i.e. implies an ellipse:
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thus in my day of ruin? Thus spake she and fell silent, and her complainings ceased. Even so when a wild beast has seized or shepherd borne away to the cruel shrine a bullock cheated of its first milk, whose strength is yet but frail and whose vigour is drawn but from the udder, the despoiled mother stirs now the valley, now the streams, now the herds with her moanings, and questions the empty meads; then it irks her to go home, and she leaves the desolate fields the last of all, and turns unfed from the herbage spread before her.

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

“I had, previously, promised (that I would give you the lock) if you should have, etc.” “dicaram” is not “vivid” for “dicassem”; cf. vi. 609-610.
nec non Assyriis pinguescunt robora sucis,
pallentique croco strident ardentia¹ mella,
spumantesque mero paterae verguntur et atri
sanguinis et rapti gratissima cymbia lactis.
tunc septem numero turmas—centenus ubique
surgit eques—versis ducunt insignibus ipsi
Graiugenae reges, lustrantque ex more sinistro
orbe rogum et stantes inclinant pulvere flammas.
ter curvos egere sinus, inlisaque telis
tela sonant, quater horrendum pepulere fragorem
arma, quater mollem famularum bracchia planctum.
semanimas alter pecudes spirantiaque ignis
accept armenta; hic luctus abolere novique
funeris auspicium vates, quamquam omina sentit
vera, iubet: dextri gyro et vibrantibus hastis
hac redeunt, raptunque suis libamen ab armis:
quisque iacit, seu frena libet seu cingula flammis
mergere seu iaculum summae seu cassidis umbram.
[multa gemunt extra raucus concentibus agri,
et lituis aures circum pulsantur acutis.
terretur clamore nemus: sic Martia vellunt
signa tubae, nondum ira calet, nec sanguine ferrum
inrubuit, primus bellorum comitur ille
vultus, honoris opus²: stat adhuc incertus in alta
nube, quibus sese Mavors indulgeat armis.³]

¹ ardentia Pω: armentia N1, tymetia N marg., whence Garrod conj. hymetia (with ard written over) as reading of archetype.
² honoris opus B3Q: horrisono K (not scanning).
³ Lines 227-233 are only found in Q, the margin of B by a late hand, and K, and are probably spurious.
raiment; the boughs are fattened with Assyrian juices, pale saffron drops hissing in the burning honey; foaming bowls of wine are outpoured, and beakers of black blood and pleasant milk yet warm from the udder.\(^a\) Then squadrons seven in number—a hundred tall knights in each—led by the Greek-born kings themselves with arms reversed, circling leftward in due manner purify the pyre, and quell with their dust the shooting flames. Thrice accomplished they their wheeling course, then with resounding clash of arms on arms four times\(^b\) their weapons gave forth a terrible din, four times the handmaids beat their breasts in womanly lament. The other fire receives half-dead animals and beasts yet living; here the prophet bids them cease their wailing, ominous of fresh disaster, although he knows the signs are true; rightward they wheel and so return with quivering spears, and each throws some offering snatched from his own armour, be it rein or belt he is pleased to plunge into the flames, or javelin or helmet’s shady crest. [Around, the countryside is filled with the hoarse cries of wailing, and piercing trumpets rend the ear. Loud shouts affright the groves; even so do the bugles tear the Martian standards from the ground, while anger still is cool, and the sword unreddened with blood, and the first face of battle is made fair and glorious: high on a cloud stands Mavors, uncertain yet which host to favour.]

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

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

Finis erat, lassusque putres iam Muleiber ibat in cineres; instant flammis multoque soporant imbre rogum, posito donec cum sole labores exhausti; seris vix cessit cura tenebris. roscida iam novies caelo dimiserat astra Lucifer et totidem Lunae praevenerat ignes mutato nocturnus equo, nee conscia fallit sidera et alterno deprediturus unus in ortu; mirum, opus adcelerasse manus\(^1\): stat s axe moles, templum ingens cineri, rerumque effictus in illa ordo docet casus: fessis hic flumina monstrat Hypsipyle Danais, hic reptat flebilis infans, hic iacet, extremum tumuli circum asperat orbem squameus; exspectes morientis ab ore cruenta sibila, marmorea sic volvitur anguis in haste.

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

Collibus incurvis viridique obsessa corona vallis in amplexu nemorum sedet; hispida circum stant iuga, et obiectus geminis umbonibus agger campum exire vetat, longo quem tramite planum gramineae frontes\(^2\) sinuataque caespit e vivo mollia non subitis augent fastigia clivis.

\(^1\) adcelerasse manus \(P_w: \) adcelerante manu \(D.\)
\(^2\) frontes \(P: \) frondes \(w.\)

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

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

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

Set in a green ring of curving hills and embraced by woodland lies a vale; rough ridges stand about it, and the twin summits of a mound make a barrier and forbid issue from the plain, which running long and level rises with gentle slope to grassy brows and winding heights soft with living turf. There in dense b i.e., at the Isthmian or Olympian games.
ille conferti, iam sole rubentibus arvis, bellatrix sedere cohors; ibi corpore mixto metiri numerum vultusque habitusque suorum dulce viris, tantique iuvat fiducia belli. centum ibi nigrantes, armenti robora, tauros lenta mole trahunt; idem numerosque colorque matribus et nondum lunatis fronte iuvencis. Exin magnanimum series antiqua parentum invehitur, miris in vultum animata figuris. primus anhelantem duro Tirynthius angens pectoris attritu sua frangit inossa leonem. haud illum impavidi, quamvis et in aere suumque Inachidae videre decus. pater ordine iuncto laevus harundinae recubans super aggere ripae cernitur emissaeque indulgens Inachus urnae. Io post tergum, iam prona dolorque parentis, spectat inocciduis stellatum visibus Argum. ast illam melior Phariis erexerat arvis Iuppiter atque hospes iam tunc Aurora colebat. Tantalus inde parens, non qui fallentibus undis imminet aut refugae sterilem aera silvae, sed pius et magni vehitur conviva Tonantis. parte alia victor curru Neptunia tendit lora Pelops, prensatque rotas auriga natantes Myrtilos et volucri iam iamque reliquitur axe. et gravis Acrisius speciesque horrenda Coroebi et Danae culpata sinus, et in amne reperto

a i.e., with horns.
b i.e., on all fours. Statius appears to mean that there were two representations of Io, one of her as a heifer, and one of her in Egypt, when Jupiter "had raised her erect again."
c i.e., the East.
d Pelops was a favourite of Poseidon, cf. Pindar, Ol. i. 39.
crowds, while the fields were still rosy in the dawn, the warrior company took their seats; there the heroes delight to reckon the number of the motley multitude, and scan the faces and the dress of their fellows, and they feel the glad confidence of a mighty host. Thither they drag a hundred black bulls, the strength of the herd, slow-paced and straining; as many cows of similar hue, and bullocks with foreheads not yet crescent-crowned.\textsuperscript{a}

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

\textsuperscript{a} A daughter of Danaus, to whom Poseidon showed a spring at Lerna in time of drought, and ravished her there.
tristis Amymone, parvoque Alemena superbit Hercule, tergemina crinem circumdata luna. iungunt discordes inimica in foedera dextras Belidae fratres; sed vultu mitior adstat Aegyptus, Danai manifestum adgnoscere ficto ore notas pacisque malae noctisque futurae. mille dehinc species. tandem satiata voluptas praestantesque viros vocat ad sua praemia virtus. 295

Primus sudor equis. die inclyta, Phoebe, regentum nomina, die ipsos; neque enim generosior umquam alipedum conlata acies, eeu praepete cursu confligant densae volucres aut litore in uno Aeolus insanis statuat certamina ventis.

Ducitur ante omnis rutilae manifestus Arion igne iubae. Neptunus equo, si certa priorum fama, pater; primus teneri¹ laesisse lupatis ora et litoreo domitasse in pulvere fertur, verberibus parcess; etenim insatiatus eundi ardor et hiberno par inconstantia ponto. saepe per Ionium Libycumque natantibus ire interiunctus equis omnesque adsuerat in oras caeruleum deferre patrem; stupuere relictà Nubila, certantes Eurique Notique sequuntur. 305

nec minor in terris bella Eurysthea gerentem Amphitryoniaden alto per gramina sulco duxerat, illi etiam ferus indocilisque teneri. mox divum dono regis dignatus Adrasti imperia et multum mediis mansuerat annis. 310
tune rector genero Polynici indulget agendum

¹ teneri Garrod: teneris Po.
by the stream she found, and Alcmena proud of the infant Hercules, a threefold moon about her hair. The sons of Belus join their discordant right hands in a pledge of enmity, but Aegyptus with milder look stands near; easy is it to mark on the feigned countenance of Danaus the signs of a treacherous peace and of the coming night. Then follow shapes innumerable. At length pleasure is sated, and prowess summons the foremost heroes to its own rewards.

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

Before the rest Arion, marked by his mane of fiery red, is led forth. Neptune, if the fame of olden time be true, was his sire; he first is said to have hurt his young mouth with the bit and tamed him on the sand of the sea-shore, sparing the lash; for insatiable was his eagerness to run, and he was capricious as a winter sea. Oft was he wont to go in harness with the steeds of ocean through the Libyan or Ionian deep, and bring his dark-blue sire safe home to every shore; the storm-clouds marvelled to be outstripped, and East and South winds strive and are left behind. Nor less swiftly on land had he borne Amphitryon's son, when he waged Eurystheus' wars, in deep-pressed furrows o'er the mead, fierce to him also and impatient of control. Soon by the gods' bounty he was deemed worthy to have Adrastus for his lord, and meanwhile had grown far gentler. On that day the chieftain allows him to be driven
multa monens, ubi fervor equo, qua suetus ab arte mulceri, ne saeva manus, ne liber habenis impetus. "urge alios" inquit "stimulisque minisque; ille ibit, minus ipse voles." sic ignea lora cum daret et rapido Sol natum imponeret axi, gau dentem lacrimans astra insidiosa docebat nolentesque teri zonas mediamque polorum temperiem: pius ille quidem et formidine cauta, sed iu venem durae prohibebant discere Parcae. Oebalios sublimis agit, spes proxima palmae, Amphiaraus equos; tua furto lapsa propago, Cyllare, dum Scythici diversus ad ostia Ponti Castor Amyclaeas remo permutat habenas. ipse habitu niveus, nivei dant colla iugales, concolor est albis et cassis et infula cristis. quin et Thessalicis felix Admetus ab oris vix steriles compescit equas; Centaurica dicunt semina (credo, adeo sexum indignantur, et omnis in vires adducta Venus); noctemque diemque adsimulant, maculis internigr antibus albae: tantus uterque color, credi nec degener illo de grege, Castaliae stupuit qui sibila cannae lactus et audito contempsit Apolline pasci. ecce et Iasonidae iuvenes, nova gloria matris Hypsipyles, subiere iugo, quo vectus uterque, nomen avo gentile Thoas atque omine dictus Euneos Argoo. geminis eadem omnia: vultus,
by his son-in-law Polynices, and much did he counsel him, what arts would soothe the horse when enraged, not to use too fierce a hand, nor to let him gallop free of the rein; "urge other steeds," said he, "with voice and goad; but he will go, ay, faster than you wish." Even so, when the sun granted the fiery reins and set his son upon the whirling chariot, with tears did he warn the rejoicing youth of treacherous stars and zones that would fain not be o'errun and the temperate heat that lies midway between the poles; obedient was he and cautious, but the cruel Fates would not suffer him to learn. Amphiaraus, next favourite for the prize, aloft in his chariot drives Oebalian steeds; thy progeny, Cyllarus, stealthily begotten while far away by the mouth of Scythian Pontus Castor was exchangning for the oar the Amyclean rein. Snow-white his own raiment, snow-white are the coursers that lend their necks to the yoke, his helm and fillet match the whiteness of his crested plume. Admetus, too, the fortunate, from Thessalian shores, can scarce restrain his barren mares, of Centaur's seed, as they tell (so scornful, methinks, are they of their sex, and their natural heat turns all to body's vigour). White with dark flecks, they resemble day and night: so strongly marked was each colour, nor unfit were they to be deemed of that stock which stood spellbound at the piping of the Castalian reed, and scorned their pasture when they heard Apollo play. Lo! the young sons of Jason, too, their mother Hypsipyle's new-found pride, took stand upon the chariots wherein each rode, Thoas, bearing the name of his grand-sire, proper to his race, and Euneos, e called from Argo's omen. In everything were the twins alike,
currus, equi, vestes, par et concordia votis,
vincere vel solo cupiunt a fratre relinqui. 345
it Chromis Hippodamusque, alter satus Hercule
mago,
alter ab Oenomao: dubites, uter efferas presset
frena magis. Getici pecus hic Diomedis, at ille
Pisaei iuga patris habet, crudelibus ambo
exuviis diroque imbuti sanguine currus. 350
metarum instar erant1 hinc nudo robere quercus,
olim omnis exuta comas, hinc saxeus umbo,
arbiter agricolis; finem iacet inter utrumque,
quale quater iaculo spatium, ter harundine vincas.

Interea canti Musarum nobile muleens 355
concilium citharaeque manus insertus Apollo
Parnassi summo spectabat ab aetherae terras;
orsa deum—nam saepe Iovem Phlegramque suique
anguis opus fratrumque pius cantarat honores—
tunc aperit, quis fulmen agat, quis sidera ducat 360
spiritus, unde animi fluviis, quae pabula ventis,
quae fonte immensum vivat2 mare, quae via solis
praecipitet noctem, quae porrigat, imane tellus
an media et rursus mundo succincta latenti.
finis erat, differt avidas audire sorores, 365
dumque chelyn lauro textumque inlustre coronae
subligat et picto discingit pectora limbo,
haud procul Herculeam Nemeen clamore reductus
aspicit atque illic ingens certaminis instar

1 erant Slater: erat P.ω.
2 vivat ω: bibat P, immensum quo fonte bibat conj.
Phillimore.

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

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

Meanwhile Apollo was charming with his strains
the Muses' glorious company, and, his finger placed
upon the strings, was gazing down to earth from the
airy summit of Parnassus. First he recounts the
deeds of the gods—for oft in duty bound he had
sung of Jove and Phlegra and his own victory o'er
the serpent and his brothers' praises—and then
reveals what spirit drives the thunderbolt or guides
the stars, whence comes the fury of the rivers, what
feeds the winds, what founts supply the unmeasured
ocean, what pathway of the sun hastens or draws out
the course of night, whether earth be lowest or in
mid-heaven and encompassed by yet another world
we view not. There he ended, and puts off the
sisters, eager though they are to listen, and while
he fastens bay about his lyre and the woven brilliance
of his coronet, and ungirds his breast of the pictured
girdle, he hears a clamour, and beholds not far away
Nemea famed for Hercules, and there the mighty
and the giants: the snake is the Python; his brothers are
Bacchus and Hercules, both sons of Zeus.
quadriiugi. nescit eunctos, et forte propinquo constiterant Admetus et Amphiaraurus in arvo. tune secum: "quisnam iste duos, fidissima Phoebi nomina, commisit deus in discrimina reges? ambo pii carique ambo; nequeam ipse priorem dicere. Peliacis hic eum famularer in arvis— sie Iovis imperia et nigrae voluere Sorores— tura dabat famulo nec me sentire minorem ausus; at hie tripodum comes et pius artis alumnus aetheriae. potior meritis tamen ille, sed huius extrema iam fila colu; datur ordo senectae Admeto serumque mori; tibi nulla supersunt gaudia, nam Thebae iuxta et tenebrosa vorago. scis miser, et nostrae pridem eecinere volucres." dixit, et os fletu paene inviolabile tinctus extemplo Nemeen radiante per aera saltu ocior et patrio venit igne suisque sagittis. ipse olim in terris, caelo vestigia durant, claraque per zephyros etiamnum semita luceat. 

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

1 duos ω: duo P (cf. Klotz ad loc. and Housman. Manil. i. 792).
spectacle of a four-horsed chariot-race. He recognizes all, and by chance Admetus and Amphiaraus had taken their stand in a field hard by. Then to himself he spake: "What god has set those two princes, Phoebus' most loyal names, in mutual rivalry? Both are devoted to me, and both are dear; nor could I say which holds first place. The one, when I served as thrall on Pelian ground—such was Jove's command, so the dark Sisters willed—burnt incense to his slave, nor dared to deem me his inferior. The other is the companion of the tripods and the devout pupil of the wisdom of the air: and though the first has preference by his deserts, yet the other's thread is near its distaff's end. For Admetus is old age ordained, and a late death; to thee no joys remain, for Thebes awaits thee and the dark gulf. Thou knowest it, unhappy one: long since have my own birds sung thy doom." He spoke, and tears bedew the face that scarce any sorrow may profane; then straightway came he to Nemea, bounding radiant through the air, swifter than his father's fire and his own shafts. Long had he reached the earth, yet still his tracks remain in heaven, and still athwart the zephyrs his path gleams bright.

And now Prothous had shaken the lots in a brazen helmet, and each had his place and order at the starting. The heroes, each his country's glorious boast, and the coursers, a match to them in glory, all alike of blood divine, stand penned by the one barrier, hopeful, daring yet fearful, anxious yet confident. All is confusion in their hearts; they strive, yet are afraid, to be gone, and a thrill of courage mixt with dread runs through them to the extremities of their limbs. The steeds are as ardent
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qui dominis, idem ardo serque; face lumina surgunt,
ostra sonant morsu, spumisque et sanguine ferrum
uritur, impulsi nequeunt obsistere postes
claustraque, compressae transfumant anhelitus irae.
stare adeo miserum est, perent vestigia mille
ante fugam, absentemque ferit gravis ungula campum.
circumstant fidi, nexusque et torta iubarum
expedient firmantque animos et plurima monstrant.
insonuit contra Tyrrhenum murmur, et omnes
exsiluere loco. quae tantum carbasae ponto,
quae bello sic tela volant, quae nubila caelo?
amnibus hibernis minor est, minor impetus igni,
tardius astra cadunt, glomerantur tardius imbres,
tardius et summo decurrunt flumina monte.

Emissos videre atque agnovere Pelasgi,
et iam rapti oculis, iam caeco pulvere mixti
una in nube latent, vultusque umbrante tumultu
vix inter sese clamore et nomine noscunt.
evolvere globum, et spatio quo quiesca valebat
didueti: delet sulcos iterata prioris
orbita, nunc avidi prono iuga pectore tangunt,
nunc pugnante genu et pressis duplicantur habenis.
colla toris crinita tument, stantesque repetit
aura iubas, bibit albentes humus arida nimbos.

fit sonus inmanisque pedum tenuisque rotarum.
nulla manu requies, densis insibilat aer
verberibus; gelida non eremibor exsilit Arcto
grando, nec Olenis manant tot cornibus imbres.

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

Pope, *Windsor Forest.*

\[b\] *i.e.*, of the trumpet; see note on iii. 650.

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

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

\[ \text{See note on iii. 25.} \]
Senserat adductis alium praesagus Arion
stare ducem loris, dirumque expaverat insons Oedipodioniden; iam illinc a limine discors
iratusque oneri solito\(^1\) truculentior ardet.
Inachidae credunt accensum laudibus; ille
aurigam fugit, aurigae furiale minatur
efferus, et campo dominum circumspicit omni.
ante tamen cunctos sequitur longeque secundus
Amphiaraus agit, quem Thessalus aequat eundo
Admetus: iuxta gemini, nunc Euneos ante
et nunc ante Thoas, cedunt vincuntque, nec umquam
ambitiosa pios conlidit gloria fratres.
postremum discrimen erant Chromis asper et asper
Hippodamus, non arte rudes, sed mole tenentur
cornipedum; prior Hippodamus fert ora sequentum,
fert gemitus multaque umeros incenditur aura.
speravit flexae circum compendia metae
interius ductis Phoebelius augur habenis
anticipasse viam; nec non et Thessalus heros
spe propiore calet, dum non cohibente magistro
spargitur in gyros dexterque exerrat Arion.
iam prior Oeclides et iam non tertius ibat
Admetus, laxo cum tandem ambo\(^2\) orbe reductus
aequoreus sonipes premit evaditque parumper
gavisos; subit astra fragor, caelumque tremisceit,
onniaque excusso patuere sedilia vulgo.
sed nec lora regit nec verbera pallidus audet
Labdacides: lassa veluti ratione magister

\(^{1}\) solito \textit{PS} : insolito \(\omega\).
\(^{2}\) ambo \textit{Alton} (Cl. Quart. xvii. 175): ab \textit{P\(\omega\)}: ex \textit{or} et ab
\textit{late Mss. : Klotz conj. ambage}.

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

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

Vixdum coeptus equis labor, et iam pulvere quarto
campum ineunt, iamque et tepidis sudoribus artus
efeti, et crassum rapit eiecatque vaporum
cornipedum flammata sitis, nec iam integer illis
impetus, et longi suspendunt ilia flatus.
hic aniceps Fortuna diu decernere primum
ausa venit. ruit, Haemonium dum fervidus instat
Admeturn superare, Thoas, nec pertulit\(^1\)  ullam
frater opem. velit ille quidem, sed Martius ante
obstitit Hippodamus mediasque immisit habenas.
mox Chromis Hippodamum metae interioris ad orbem
viribus Herculeis et toto robore patris
axe tenet prenso, luctantur abire iugales

\(^1\) pertulit Baehrens: praetulit \(P\omega\).

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

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

Scarce was the real struggle of the steeds begun, and yet now they are entering the fourth dusty lap, and now steaming sweat is pouring from their exhausted limbs, and fiery thirst heaves and gasps forth the thick breath of the horn-footed steeds; and now their vigour flags, and their flanks are racked with long-drawn pantings. Then first does Fortune, long time doubtful, dare to step in and make decision. Thoas, pressing madly on to pass Haemonian Admetus, falls, nor does his brother aid him; fain would he, but Martian Hippodamus forestalled him and drove his team between them. Next Chromis by Herculean vigour and all his father's strength holds Hippodamus with axles interlocked, as he wheels inside him past the goal; in vain the steeds struggle to get free,
nequiquam frenosque et colla rigentia tendunt. 
ut Siculas si quando rates tenet aestus et ingens 
auster agit, medio stant vela tumentia ponto. 
tune ipsum fracto curru deturbat, et isset
ante Chromis; sed Thraces equi ut videre iacentem 
Hippodamum, redit illa fames, iamiamque trementem 
partiti furiis, ni frena ipsosque frementes 
oblitus palmae retro Tirynthius heros 
torsisset victusque et conlaudatus abisset. 

At tibi promissos iamdudum Phoebus honores, 
Amphiarae, cupit. tandem ratus apta favori 
tempora pulverei venit in spatia horrida circi, 
eum iam in fine viae, et summum victoria nutat; 
anguicomam monstri effigiem, saevissima visu
ora, movet sive ille Erebo seu finxit in astus\(^1\)
temporis, innumera certe formidine cultum 
tollit in astra nefas. non illud ianitor atrae 
impavidus Lethes, non ipsae horrore sine alto 
Eumenides vidisse queant, turbasset euntes 
Solis equos Martisque iugum. nam flavus Arion 
vt vidit, saliere iubae, atque erectus in armos 
stat sociumque iubae comitesque utrimque laboris 
secum alte suspendit equos. ruit ilicet exsul 
Aonius nexusque diu per terga volutas
exuit; abripitur longe moderamine liber 
currus; at hunc putri praeter tellure iacentem

\(^1\) astus P: astu ω.
and strain their sinewy necks and bridles. As when the tide holds fast Sicilian craft and a strong South wind impels them, the swelling sails stand motionless in mid-sea. Then Chromis hurls his rival from the shattered car, and had sped on the foremost, but when the Thracian horses saw Hippodamus lying on the ground, that awful hunger comes back upon them, and already had they shared in their mad lust his trembling frame, had not the Tirynthian hero, forgetful of victory, taken their bridles and dragged away the neighing steeds, and left the field vanquished but praised of all.

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

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

Tum vero Oeclides, quamquam iam certa sequenti
praemia, cum vacuus domino prior iret\(^1\) Arion,
ardet adhuc cupiens vel inanem vincere currum.
dat vires refovetque deus; volat oior euro,
ceu modo carceribus dimissus in arva solutis,
verberibusque iubas et terga lacessit habenis
increpitans Caerumque levem Cygnumque nivalem.
nunc saltem, dum nemo prior, rapit igneus orbes
axis, et effusae longe sparguntur harenæ.
dat gemitum tellus et iam tune saeva minatur.

forsitan et victo prior isset Arione Cygnus,
sed vetat aequoreus vinci pater: hinc vice iusta
gloria mansit equo, cessit victoria vati.

huic pretium palmae gemini cratera ferebant
Herculeum iuvenes: illum Tirynthius olim
ferre manu sola spumantemque ore supino
vertere, seu monstri victor seu Marte, solebat.

\(^1\) prior iret \textit{Mueller}: praeiret \textit{Pw}: domitore praeiret
\textit{Unger}, cf. ii. 551.

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

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

Then Oeclides, although the prize was now sure for him as he followed, since masterless Arion held first place, yearned yet with keen desire to pass even the empty chariot. The god lends strength and refreshment; swifter than the East wind he flies, as though the barrier were but just fallen and he were starting on the race, and calling aloud on nimble Caerus and snow-white Cygnus, plies their necks with blows and shakes the reins upon their backs. Now at least, when nobody is in front, the fiery axle devours the course, and the scattered sand is thrown afar. The earth groans, and even then savagely threatens. And perchance Arion too had owned defeat and Cygnus taken first place, but his ocean-sire suffers him not to be defeated; thus by a just division the glory remained for the horse, but the prophet gained the victory. His meed of triumph was a Herculean bowl, borne by two youths; the Tirynthian on a time was wont to take it in one hand, and with head flung back quaff it foaming, whether victorious over a monster or in the field of
Centauros habet arte truces aurumque figuris
terrible: hie mixta Lapitharum caede rotantur
saxa, faces aliique iterum crateres, ubique
ingentes morientum irae; tenet ipse furentem
Hyaleum et torta molitur robora barba.
at tibi Maenonio fertur circumflua limbo
pro meritis, Admete, chlamys repetitaque multo
murice: Phrixei natat hie contemptor ephebus
aequoris et pieta tralueet eaerulus unda;
in latus ire manus\(^1\) mutaturusque videtur
bracchia, nec siceum speres in stamine erinem;
contra autem frustra sedet anxia turre suprema
Sestias in speculis, moritur prope eonsceius ignis.
has Adrastus opes dono victoribus ire
imperat; at generum famula solatur Achaea.
Sollicitat tunc ampla viros ad praemia cursu
praeceleres: agile studium et tenuissima virtus,
pacis opus, cum sacra vocant, nec inutile bellis
subsidiun, si dextra neget. prior omnibus Idas,
nuper Olympiacis umbratus tempora ramis,
prosilit; excipiunt plausu Pisaea iuventus
Eleaeque manus. sequitur Sicyonius Alcon,
et bis in Istmiaca victor clamatus harena
Phaedimus, alipedumque fugam praegressus equorum
ante Dymas, sed tunc aevo tardante secutus.
multi et, quos varii tacet ignorantia vulgi,
hine atque hine subiere. sed Arcada Parthenopaeum

\(^1\) manus P\(_\omega\) (i.e. videntur): manu Markland.
Mars. Fierce Centaurs has it, cunningly wrought, and fearful shapes in gold: here amid slaughter of Lapithae are stones and torches flying, and again other bowls; everywhere the furious anger of dying men; he himself seizes the raging Hylaeus, and grips him by the beard and wields his club. But for thee, Admetus, is brought for thy deserving a cloak with a flowing border of Maeonian dye, stained many a time with purple; here swims the youth contemptuous of Phrixean waters, and gleams with sea-blue body through the pictured wave; one sees the sideward sweep of his arm, and he seems about to make the alternate stroke, nor would one think to find his hair dry in the woven fabric. Yonder high upon her tower sits anxiously watching, all in vain, the Sestian maid; near her the conscious lamp droops and flickers. These rich rewards Adrastus bids be given to the victors; but his son-in-law he consoles with an Achaean handmaid.

Then he incites those heroes who are speediest of foot to strive for ample rewards: a contest of agility where prowess is frailest, fit pursuit for peace, when sacred games invite, nor useless in war as a refuge should power of arm fail. Before all the rest Idas leaps to the front, whose temples were lately shaded by Olympian wreaths; the youth of Pisa and the bands of Elis hail him with applause. Alcon of Sieyon follows, and Phaedimus, twice acclaimed the victor on the sands of Isthmus, and Dymas, who once outstripped the flight of wing-footed steeds, but now they outran him by reason of retarding age. Many too, whom the ignorant multitude received in silence, came forward from this side and from that. But for Parthenopaeus the Arcadian they call aloud, and
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appellant densique ciet vaga murmura circi. nota parens cursu; quis Maenalianc Atalantes nesciat egregium decus et vestigia cuneis indepressa proci? onerat celeberrima natum mater, et ipse procul fame iam notus inermes narratur cervas pedes inter aperta Lyceai tollere et emissum cursu deprendere telum. tandem exspectatus volucris super agmina saltu emicat et torto chlamydem diffibulat auro. effulsere artus, membrorumque omnis aperta est laetitia, insignes umeri, nec pectora nudis deteriora genis, latuitque in corpore vultus.1 ipse tamen formae laudem asperrnatur et arcet mirantes; tune Palladios non inscius haustus incubuit pinguique cutem fuscatum olivo. hoc Idas, hoc more Dymas aliique nitescunt. sic ubi tranquillo perlucent sidera ponto vibraturque fretis caeli stellantis imago, omnia clara nitent, sed clarior omnia supra Hesperos exercet radios, quantusque per altum aethera, caeruleis tantus monstratur in undis. proximus et forma nec multum segnior Idas cursibus atque aevol iuxta prior; attamen illi iam tenuem pingues florem induxere palaestrae, deserpitque genis nee se lanugo fatetur intonsae sub nube comae. tune rite citatos explorant acuuntque gradus, variasque per artes exstimulant docto languentia membra tumultu: poplite nunc sidunt flexo, nunc lubrica forti

1 latuitque in corpore vultus P (corr. from aluitque in corpore virtus): patuitque (valuitque Klotz) in corpore virtus Peyrared.
arouse murmurs that roam throughout the close-packed circus. Well known is his parent for speed of foot; who cannot tell of the peerless renown of Atalanta, and of those footprints that no suitor could o’ertake? The son bears all his mother’s glory, and he himself, already known to fame, is said to catch on foot the defenceless hinds in the open glades of Mount Lycaeus, and, as he runs, to o’ertake the flung javelin. Long expected, at last darts he forward, leaping lightly o’er the companies, and unfastens the twisted golden clasp of his cloak. His limbs shine forth, and all his graceful frame is revealed, his fine shoulders, and breast as smooth and comely as his cheeks, and his face was lost in his body’s beauty. But he scorns the praise of his fairness, and suffers not admirers to come near him. Then he cunningly sets to work with the draughts of Pallas,¹ and makes his skin tawny with rich oil. Thus do Idas and Dymas and the rest shine sleek and glossy. So when the star-light glitters on a tranquil sea, and the spangled heaven is mirrored tremulous in the deep, brilliant is every star, but more brilliant than the rest does Hesperus shoot his beams, and brightly as he flames in the high heavens, so bright is his reflection in the dark-blue waves. Idas is next in beauty, nor much slower in speed, next older too in years; but for him already has the palaestra’s oil brought on the tender growth, and the down is creeping o’er his cheeks, nor yet confesses itself among the cloud of unshorn locks. Then they duly try their speed and sharpen up their paces, and by various arts and feigned excitement stir their languid limbs; now they sink down with bended knees, now smite with

¹ Patron goddess of Athens, to whom the olive was sacred.
pectora conlidunt plausu, nunc ignea tollunt
 crura brevemque fugam necopino fine reponunt.
   Ut ruit atque aequum submisit regula limen,
   corripuere leves spatium, campoque refulsit
   nuda cohors : volucres isdem modo tardius arvis
   isse videntur equi ; credas e plebe Cydonum
   Parthorumque fuga totidem exsiluisse sagittas.
   non aliter celeres Hyrcana per avia cervi,
   cum procul impasti fremitum accepere leonis
   sive putant, rapit attonitos fuga caeca metusque
   congregat, et longum dant cornua mixta fragorem.
   effugit hic oculos rapida puer ocior aura
   Maenalius, quem deinde gradu premit horridus Idas
   inspiratque umero, flatuque et pectoris umbra
   terga premit. post ambiguo discrimine tendunt
   Phaedimus atque Dymas, illis celer imminet Alcon.
   flavus ab intonso pendebat vertice crinis
   Arcados ; hoc primis Triviae pasebat ab annis
   munus et, Ogygio victor eum Marte redisset,
   nequiquam patriis audax promiserat aris.
   tunc liber nexu lateque in terga solutus
   occursu zephyri retro fugit\(^1\) et simul ipsum
   impedit infestoque volans obtenditur\(^2\) Idae.
   inde dolum iuvenis fraudique adcommoda sensit
   tempora ; iam finem iuxta, dum limina victor
   Parthenopaeus init, correpto crine reductum
   occupat, et longae\(^3\) primus ferit ostia portae.

\(^1\) fugit \(P_w\) : fluit Bentley.
\(^2\) obtenditur \(B\) : ostenditur \(P_w\).
\(^3\) longae \(w\) : longe \(P.N\).
loud claps their slippery breasts, now ply their fiery feet in short sprint and sudden stop.

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

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

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Arcades arma fremunt, armis defendere regem, ni raptum decus et meriti reddantur honores, contendunt totoque parant descendere circro. 620 sunt et quis Idae placeat dolus. ipse regesta Parthenopaeus humo vulturque oculosque madentes obruit, accessit lacrimarum gratia formae. pectora nunc maerens, nunc ora indigna cruento ungue secat meritamque comam, furit undique clamor dissonus, ambiguvmque senis cunctatur Adrasti 626 consilium. tandem ipse refert: "compescite litem, o pueri! virtus iterum temptanda; sed ite limite non uno, latus hoc conceditur Idae, tu diversa tene, fraus cursibus omnis abesto." 630 Audierant, dictoque manent. mox numina suppex affatu tacito iuvenis Tegeaeus odorat: "diva potens nemorum, tibi enim hic, tibi crinis honori debitus, eque tuo venit hacc iniuria voto, si bene quid genetrix, si quid venatibus ipse promerui, ne, quaeso, sinas hoc omine Thebas ire nec Arcadiae tantum meruisse pudorem." auditum manifesta fides: vix campus euntem sentit, et exilis plantis intervenit aer, raraque¹ non fracto vestigia pulvere pendent. 640 inrumpit clamor forc, clamor recurrit ante ducem prenaxae fovent suspiria palma. finiti cursus, operumque insignia praesto. Arcas equum dono, clipeum gerit improbus Idas, cetera plebs Lyciis vadit contenta pharetris. 645 Tunc vocat, emisso si quis decernere disco

¹ raraque P: rasaque Heinsius: raptaque Garrod.
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The Arcadians cry "To arms!" and with arms they hasten to defend their prince, if the lost prize and merited honour be not restored, and make ready to descend on all the course. Others again were pleased by the ruse of Idas. Parthenopaeus himself pours showers of earth upon his face and streaming eyes, and the comeliness of tears is added to his beauty. In his grief he rends with bloody nails now his breast, now his innocent cheeks and guilty hair, while all around discordant clamour rages, and old Adrastus halts irresolute of counsel. At last he speaks: "Cease quarrelling, youths! your prowess must be tried again; but run not in one track only; Idas has this side; keep thou apart yonder, and let there be no cheating in the race!"

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

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

Pisaeus Phlegyas opus incohat et simul omnes
abstulit in se oculos: ea viso\(^1\) corpore virtus
promissa. ac primum terra dissemque manumque
asperat, excusso mox circum pulvere versat, 671
quod latus in digitos, mediae quod certius ulnae
conveniat, non artis egens: hic semper amori

\(^1\) ea viso P: exhausto w: ex viso Baehrens.

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\(^a\) I have translated the word both "quoit" and "disk,"
though the discus, a *plate* of iron or stone about 10 or 12
inches in diameter, was very different from our quoit, which
is a *ring*. The "discus" is well illustrated by the familiar
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issue with the hurled quoit, and display untiring vigour and proud strength. At his command goes Pterelas, and with all his body bent scarce lays down beside him the slippery weight of the bronze mass; in silence the sons of Inachus look on and estimate the toil. Soon a number rush forward: two of Achaean race, three sons of Ephyre, one Pisa-born, the seventh an Acarnanian; and more was the love of glory urging on, had not tall Hippomedon, incited by the crowd, come forward, and carrying another broad disk at his right side: “Take this one rather, ye warriors, who are marching to shatter walls with stones, and to overthrow the Tyrian towers, take this one! As for that other, any hand can toss that weight!” and with no effort he caught it up and threw it to one side. They fall back in amaze and confess themselves outdone; scarce Phlegyas alone and eager Menestheus, compelled by sense of shame and noble ancestry, vouchsafed to try their strength; the rest of their own accord gave place, and returned inglorious, marvelling at the disk. Even so the shield of Mars on the Bistonian plain reflects an evil light on Mount Pangaeus, and shining strikes the sun with terror, and deeply clangs beneath the spear of the god.

Phlegyas of Pisa begins the toil; straightway he drew all eyes upon himself, when they beheld his frame, such promise of great deeds was there. And first with earth he roughens the quoit and his own hand, then shaking off the dust turns it right skilfully to see which side best suits his fingers, or fits more surely the middle of his arm. This sport had he “Discobolus” of Myron. Thomas Gray wrote a verse translation of this passage (646-725).
ludus erat, patriae non tantum ubi laudis obiret sacra, sed alternis Alpheon utrumque solebat

metari ripis et, qua latissima distant, non unquam merso transmittere flumina disco.

ergo operum fidens non protinus horrida campi iugera, sed caelo dextram metitur, humique

pressus utroque genu collecto sanguine discum ipse super sese rotat atque in nubila condit.

ille eitum sublime petit similisque cadenti crescit in adversum, tandemque exhaustus ab alto
tardior ad terram redit atque immergitur arvis.
sic cadit, attonitis quotiens avellitur astris,
Solis opaca soror ; procul auxiliantia gentes
aera crepant frustraque timent, at Thessala victrix
ridet anhelantes audito carmine bigas.
conlaudant Danai, sed non tibi molle tuenti,
Hippomedon, maiorque manus speratur in aequo.

Atque illi extemplo, cui spes inu infringere dulce
immodicas, Fortuna venit. quid numina contra
tendere fas homini ? spatium iam immane parabat,
iam cervix conversa, et iam latus omne redibat :
excidit ante pedes elapsum pondus et ictus
destituit frustraque manum demisit inanem.
ingemuere omnes, rarisque ea visa voluptas.

inde ad conatus timida subit arte Menestheus

\[a\] Here again the reader may refer to the “Discobolus” of Myron.

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

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

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

\[ a \] Phlegryas's first throw is a practice-throw, upwards instead of "on the flat" ("in aequo").
\[ c \] *i.e.*, his left side had been bent round towards the discus in his right hand; it has already begun to swing back into place as he begins to throw.
cautior, et multum te, Maia crete, rogato
molis praevalidae castigat pulvere lapsus. illa manu magna et multo felicior exit,
 nec partem exiguam circi transvecta quievit. fit sonus, et fixa signatur terra sagitta.
tertius Hippomedon valida ad certamina tardo
molitur gressus; namque illum corde sub alto et casus Phlegyae monet et fortuna Menesthei.
erigit adsuetum dextrae certamen, et alte sustentans rigidumque latus fortesque lacertos
consulit ae vasto contorquet turbine, et ipse prosequitur. fugit horrendo per inania saltu
iamque procul meminit dextrae servatque tenorem discus, nec dubia iunctave Menesthea victum
transabiti meta: longe super aemula signa
consedit viridesque umeros et opaca theatri culmina ceu latae tremescit mole ruinae:
quale vaporifera saxum Polyphemus ab Aetna lucis egente manu tamen in vestigia puppis audita iuxtaque inimicem exegit Ulixen. sic et Aloidae, cum iam calcaret Olympum desuper Ossa rigens, ipsum glaciale ferebant Pelion et tremido sperabunt iungere caelo.
Tum genitus Talao victori tigrin inanem ire iubet, fulvo quae circumfusa nitebat margine et extremos auro mansueverat ungues. Gnosiacos arcus habet et vaga tela Menestheus. “at tibi” ait, “Phlegya, casu frustrate sinistro, hunc, quondam nostri decus auxiliaque Pelasgi,

1 certamen P: gestamen ω.
2 Lines 719-721 are only found in late and inferior mss., and are usually bracketed as spurious.

a Hermes; see note on iv. 228.
attempt, and uttering many a prayer to thee, O son of Maia, corrects with dust the slippery surface of the powerful mass. With far better fortune it speeds from his huge hand, nor falls till it has covered no mean extent of the course. They applaud, and an arrow is fixed to mark the spot. Third, Hippomedon with slow and ponderous step advances to the labours of the contest; for deep in his heart he takes warning from the fate of Phlegyas and the good fortune of Menestheus. He lifts the instrument of combat that his hand knew well, and holding it aloft summons up the strength of his unyielding side and vigorous arms, and flings it with a mighty whirl, springing forward after it himself. With a terrific bound the quoit flies through the empty air, and even in its flight remembers the hand that flung it and keeps to its due path, nor attains a doubtful or a neighbouring goal as it passes the defeated Menestheus, but far beyond the rival sign it falls to earth, and makes tremble the green buttresses and shady heights of the theatre, as though they were falling in vast and widespread ruin; even so from smoke-emitting Aetna did Polyphemus hurl the rock, though with hand untaught of vision, yet on the very track of the ship he could but hear, and close to his enemy Ulixes. Thus too the Aloidae, when rigid Ossa already trod Olympus under foot, bore icy Pelion also, and hoped to join it to the frightened heaven.

Then the son of Talaus bids a tiger’s skin go as prize to the victor: all glossy it shone with a yellow border, and its sharp claws were tamed with gold. Menestheus receives a Gnosian bow and errant shafts. “But to thee, Phlegyas,” he cries, “whom unlucky fortune foiled, we give this sword, once the
ferre damus, neque enim Hippomedon inviderit, ensem. nunc opus est animis: infestos tollite caestus eomminus; haec bellis et ferro proxima virtus.” 730

Constitit immanis eern immanisque timeri
Argolicus Capaneus, ac dum nigrantia plumbo tegmina eruda boum non mollior ipse lacertis induitur, “date tot iuvenum de milibus unum hue” ait. “atque utinam potius de stirpe veniret 735 aemulus Aonia, quem fas demittere leto, nec mea crudelis civili sanguine virtus.”

obstipuere animi, fecitque silentia terror. tandem insperatus nuda de plebe Laconum prosilit Aleidamas, mirantur Dorica regum agmina; sed socii fretum Polluce magistro
norant et saeras inter crevisse palaeastras. ipse deus posuitque manus et braceha finxit—materiae suadebat amor;—tune saepe locavit comminus, et simili stantem miratus in ira sustulit exsultans nudumque in pectora pressit. illum indignatur Capaneus ridetque vocantem ut miserans, poscitque alium, tandemque coactus restitit, et stimulus iam languida colla tumescunt. fulmineas alte suspensi corpora plantis 750 erexere manus; tuto procul ora recessu armorum in speculis, aditusque ad volnera clusi. hic, quantum Tityos Stygiis consurgat ab arvis, si torvae patiantur aves, tanta undique pandit membrorum spatia et tantis ferus ossibus exstat. 755 hie paulo ante puer, sed enim maturius aevo

\[a\] “crudelis” here seems to have the meaning of “crudus” (from “cruor”).
\[b\] Cf. iv. 2:29, where the Spartans are said to be trained by Mercury, the patron god of the wrestling-ground, in the modes of naked valour.
glory and aid of our Pelasgus, nor will Hippomedon grudge it thee. And now is courage needed; wield ye the terrible cestus in close conflict: valour here comes nighest to that of battle and the sword."

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

Ut sese permensi oculis et uterque priorem speravere locum, non protinus ira nec ictus: alternus paulum timor et permixta furori consilia, inclinant tantum contraria iactu bracchia et explorant caestus hebetantque terendo. doctior hic differt animum metuensque futuri cunctatus vires dispensat: at ille nocendi prodigus incautusque sui ruit omnis et ambas consumit sine lege manus atque inrita frendit insurgens seque ipse premit. sed providus astu et patria vigil arte Lacon hos reicit ictus, hos cavit; interdum nutu capitisque citati integer obsequio, manibus nunc obvia tela discutiens, instat gressu voltuque recedit: saepe etiam iniustis conlatum viribus hostem— is vigor ingenio, tanta experientia dextrae est— ultro audax animis intratque\(^1\) et obumbrat et alte adsilit. ut praeceps cumulo salit unda minantes in scopulos et fracta redit, sic ille furentem circuit expugnans; levat ecce diuque minatur in latus inque oculos; illum rigida arma caventem avocat ac manibus necopinum interserit ictum

\(^1\) intratque P\(\omega\).: instatque late mss.

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

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

\(c\) E. H. Alton would transpose “intrat” and “instat,”
years, and his youthful vigour gives promise of a mighty manhood; him would none wish to see defeated nor stained with cruel gore, but each man fears the spectacle with eager prayers.

Scanning each other with their gaze and each awaiting the first opening, they fell not at once to angry blows, but stayed awhile in mutual fear, and mingled caution with their rage; they but incline their arms against each other as they spar, and make trial of their gloves, dulling them with mere rubs. The one, more skilfully trained, puts by his fury, and taking thought for the future delays and husbands up his strength; but the other, prodigal of harm and reckless of his powers, rushes with all his might and in wild blows exhausts both arms, and attacks with fruitless gnashing of teeth, and injures his own cause. But the Laconian, prudent and crafty, and with all his country's vigilance, now parries, now avoids the blow; sometimes by the throwing back or rapid bending of his head he shuns all hurt, now with his hands he beats off the aimed assault, and advances with his feet while keeping his head drawn back.

Often again, as his foe engages him with superior power—such strength is in his cunning, such skill in his right hand—with bold initiative he enters his guard and overshadows him, and towering high assails him. Just as a mass of water hurls itself headlong on a threatening rock, and falls back broken, so does he wheel round his angry foe, breaking his defence; look! he lifts his hand and threatens a long time his face or side, and thus by fear of his hard weapons diverts his guard and cunningly plants a sudden blow, contrasting the former with "recedit": "he stands up to him with his footwork, but keeps his head out of reach."
callidus et mediam designat volnere frontem:
iam cruor, et tepido signantur tempora rivo.
nescit adhuc Capaneus subitumque peragminamurmur
miratur; verum ut fessam super ora reduxit
forte manum et summo maeulas in vellere vidit,
non leo, non iaculo tantum indignata recepto
tigris: agit toto eedentem fervidus arvo
praecipitatque retro iuvenem atque in terga supinat,
dentibus horrendum stridens, geminatque rotatas
multiplicatque manus. rapiunt conamina venti,
pars cadit in caestus; motu Spartanus aceto
mille cavet lapsas circum cava tempora mortes
auxilioque pedum, sed non tamen immemor artis
adversus fugit et fugiens tamen icibus obstat.

Et iam utrumque labor suspiriaque aegra fatigant.
tardius ille premit, nee iam hie absistere velox,
defectique ambo genibus pariterque quierunt.
sie ubi longa vagoslassarunt aqueoranautas
et signum de puppe datum, posuere parumper
bracchia: vix requies, iam vox citat altera remos.
cece iterum immodice venientem eludit et exit
sponte ruens mersusque umeris: effunditur ille
in eaput, adsurgentem alio puer improbus ictu
pereulit eventuque impalluit ipse secundo.

clamorem Inachidae, quantum non litora, tollunt,
non nemora. illum ab humo conantem ut vidit
Adrastus

1 absistere Pw: obsistere Baehrens.

a i.e., Capaneus, of course; Alcidamas crouch (for
"mersus umeris" cf. "colla demersere umeris," 1.850) and
rushes at Capaneus, who pitches forward over the Spartan's
and marks the middle of his forehead with a wound; blood flows, and the warm stream stains his temples. Capaneus, yet ignorant, wonders at the sudden murmur of the crowd, but when, as he chanced to draw his weary hand across his face, he saw the stains upon the cowhide, no lion nor tiger feeling the javelin's smart was e'er so mad; hotly he drives the youth before him in headlong retreat over the whole field, and is forcing him on to his back; terribly he grinds his teeth and whirls his fists in countless repeated blows. The strokes are wasted on the winds, some fall on the gloves of his foe; with active movement and aid of nimble feet the Spartan eludes the thousand deaths that shower about his temples, yet not unmindful of his art he flees still fighting, and though fleeing meets blows with blows.

And now both are wearied with the toil and their exhausted panting; slower the one pursues, nor is the other so swift to escape; the knees of both fail them and alike they rest. Thus when long wandering o'er the sea has wearied the mariners, the signal is given from the stern and they rest their arms awhile; but scarce have they taken repose, when another cry summons them to the oars again. Lo! a second time he makes a furious dash, but the other tricks him and goes at him with a rush of his own and sinking into his shoulders; forward he pitches on his head, and as he rises the merciless boy smote him another blow and himself grew pale at his success. The Inachidae raise a shout louder than the noise of shore or forest. But when Adrastus saw him head. This rush of Alcidamas is the "first" blow, and explains "alio," l. 804.
tollentemque manus et non toleranda parantem:
"ite, oro, socii, furit, ite, opponite dextrae,
festinate, furit, palmamque et praemia ferte!
non prius, effracto quam misceat ossa cerebro,
absistet, video, moriturum auferte Lacona."
nec mora, prorumpit Tydeus, nec iussa recusat
Hippomedon; tunc vix ambo conatibus ambas
restringunt cohistentque manus ac plurima suadent:
"vincis, abi; pulchrum vitam donare minori.
noster et hic bellique comes." nil frangitur heros,
ramumque oblatumque manu thoraca repellit
vociferans: "liceat! non has ego pulvere erasso
atque cruore genas, meruit quibus iste favorem
semivir,\(^1\) infodiam mittamque informe sepulcro
corpus et Ocbalio donem lugere magistro?"
dicit; at hunc socii tumidum et vicisse negantem
avertunt, contra laudant insignis alumnus
Taygeti longeque minas risere Lacones.
Iamdudum variae laudes et conscia virtus
Tydea magnanimum stimulis urgentibus angunt.
ille quidem et disco bonus et contendere cursu,
nec caestu bellare minor, sed corde\(^2\) labores
ante alios erat uneta pale. sic otia Martis
degere et armiferas laxare adsueverat iras
ingentes contra ille viros Acheloia circum
litora felicesque deo monstrante palaestras.
ergo ubi luctandi iuvenes animosa citavit

\(^1\) iste favorem semivir \(\omega\): ista iuventa semivir \(P\): ista iuventa semiviri \(Klotz\). Garrod defends \(P\) in J. Ph. lviii.
\(^2\) corde \(P\wedge\): cara Markland: cura Garrod.

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

Long time have the varied deeds of valour and his own conscious worth provoked with urgent stings great-hearted Tydeus; both at the quoit and in speed of foot did he excel, nor less was he a champion of the boxing-glove, but before all other sports the anointed wrestling-match was dear. Thus had he been wont to spend the leisure intervals of fighting and relax his martial ire, and with mighty heroes on the banks of Achelous did he strive, heaven-taught, in many a victorious bout. Therefore when keen ambition called the youths to wrestle, the
gloria, terrificos umeris Aetolus amictus
exuitur patriumque suem. levat ardua contra
membra Cleonaeae stirpis iactator Agylleus,
Herculea nec mole minor, sic grandibus alte
insurgens umeris hominem super improbus exit.
sed non ille rigor patriumque in corpore robur: luxuriant artus, effusaque sanguine laxo
membra natant; unde haec audax fiducia tantum
Oenidae superarc parem. quamquam ipse videri
exiguus, gravia ossa tamen nodisque lacerti
difficiles. numquam hunc animum natura minori
corpore nec tantas ausa est includere vires.
Postquam oleo gavisa cutis, petit aequor uterque
procursu medium atque hausta vestitur harena.
tum madidos artus alterno pulvere sineant,
collaque demersere umeris et brachia late
vara tenent. iam tune astu deducit in aequum
callidus et celsum procurvat Agyllea Tydeus,
submissus tergo et genibus vicinus harenae.
ille autem, Alpini veluti regina cupressus
verticis urgenti cervicem inclinat in austro
vix sese radice tenens, terraeque propinquat,
iamdudum aetherias eadem reditura sub auras:
non secus ingentes artus praeceulsus Agylleus
sponte premit parvumque gemens duplicatur in
hostem,
et iam alterna manus frontemque umerosque latusque

1 in austro Baehrens: in austros Pw.

\[a\] From Cleonae, the scene of Hercules' first exploit, the
Nemean lion; \(i.e.\) =Herculean.
\[b\] "sanguine laxo" seems to express the opposite of
"close-knit," \(i.e.\), flabbiness, softness of flesh.
Aetolian puts off the terrible covering of native boar-hide from his shoulders. Against him Agylleus, who boasts of Cleonaean\(^a\) stock, raises his tall limbs, no less in bulk than Hereules, so loftily he towers with huge shoulders and monstrously surpasses human measure. But he lacks his father’s close-knit strength of body; loose-limbed and overgrown is he, unsteady and soft of muscle\(^b\); hence is Oenides\(^c\) boldly confident to overthrow so mighty an antagonist. Though slight himself to look upon, yet he is heavy of bone and hard and sinewy of arm; never did nature dare enclose so fiery a spirit or so great force in so small a frame.

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

\(^{b}\) Not from pain, but because, as Cicero says, “profun-
denda voce corpus intenditur venitque plaga vehementior” (\textit{Tusc. ii. 23. 56}), \textit{i.e.}, uttering a sound makes the body strained up and taut, and helps the force of the blow (in boxing).
collaque pectoraque et vitantia crura lacessit. 861
interdumque diu pendent per mutua fulti
brachia, nune saevi digitorum vincula frangunt.
non sic ductores gemini gregis horrida tauri
bella movent; medio coniunx stat candida prato 865
victorem exspectans, rumpunt obnixa furentes
pectora, subdit amor stimulos et volnera sanat:
fulmineo sic dente sues, sic hispida turpes
proelia vilosis ineunt complexibus ursi.
vis eadem Oenidae; nec sole aut pulvere fessa 870
membra labant, riget arta cutis durisque laborum
castigata toris. contra non integer ille
flatibus alternis aegroque effictus hiatu
exuit ingestas fluvio sudoris harenas
ae furtim rapta sustentat pectora terrâ. 875
instat agens Tydeus fietumque in colla minatus
crura subit; coeptis non evaluere potiri
frustratae brevitate manus, venit arduus ille
desuper oppressumque ingenti mole ruinae
condidit. haud aliter collis scrutator Hiberi 880
cum subiit longeque diem vitamque reliquit,
si tremuit suspensus ager subitumque fragorem
rupta dedit tellus, latet intus monte soluto
obrustus, ac penitus fractum obtritumque cadaver
indignantem animam propriis non reddidit astra.
acrior hoc Tydeus, animisque et pectore supra est.
nec mora, cum vinclis onerique elapsus iniquo 887
circuit errantem et tergo necopinus inhaeret,

\[a \text{ i.e., makes them not to be felt.}\]

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

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

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

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

There are some, too, who advance to combat with the naked sword. And already were they taking their stand, fully armed, Agreus from Epidaurus, and the Dircaean exile, not yet doomed by fate. But the chieftain, the son of Iasus, forbids them: "Great store of death remains, O youths, preserve your warlike temper and your mad desire for a foe-
sanguinis adversi. tuque o, quem propter avita iugera, dilectas cui desolavimus urbes, ne, precor, ante aciem ius tantum casibus esse fraternisque sinas—abigant hoc numina!—votis.” sic ait, atque ambos aurata casside ditat. tum generum, ne laudis egens, iubet ardua necti tempora Thebarumque ingenti voce citari victorem: dirae recinebant omnia Parcae.

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

Quis fluere occultis rerum neget omnia causis? fata patent homini, piget inservare, peritque venturi praemissa fides: sic omnia casum fecimus, et vires hausit Fortuna nocendi.

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

1 recinebant P: retinebant ω.
2 praemissa P: promissa ω.
3 omnia ω: omnia PB.
4 hausit PS: auxit ω.

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

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

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

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

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b i.e., Cretan.
multa duces errore serunt: hi nubila et altos 
occurrisse notos, adversi roboris ietu 
tela repulsa alii. penitus latet exitus ingens 
monstratumque nefas: uni remeabile bellum 945 
et tristes domino spondebat harundo recursus.
Much talk the princes interchange in error: some say the clouds and the winds on high did meet and drive the shaft, others that the impact of the wood repelled it. Deep hidden lies the mighty issue and the awful truth foretold: to its master only did the arrow vouchsafe survival, and a sad returning from the war.
Atque ea cunctantes Tyrii primordia belli Juppiter haud aequo respexit corde Pelasgos, concussitque caput, motu quo celsa laborant sidera proclamatque adici cervicibus Atlas. tunc ita velocem Tegees adfatus alunnum: ‘i, medium rapido Borean inlabere saltu Bistonias, puer, usque domos axemque nivosi sideris, Oceano vetitum qua Parrhasis ignem nubibus hibernis et nostro pascitur imbri. atque ibi seu posita respirat cuspide Mavors, quamquam invisa quies, seu, quod reor, arma tubasque insatiatus habet\(^1\) caraeque in sanguine gentis luxuriat: propere monitus iramque parentis ede, nihil parens. nempe olim accendere iussus Inachias acies atque omne, quod Isthmius umbo distinct et raucae circumtonat ira Maleae: illi vix muros limenque egressa iuventus sacra colunt; credas bello rediisse, tot instant plusibus, offensique sedent ad iusta sepulcri. hicene tuus, Gradive, furor? sonat orbe recusso

\(^1\) habet P\(\omega\): havet Schrader: obit Baehrens: hiat Garrod.

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

\(^b\) The strange phrase appears to express the love of the
BOOK VII

As thus they tarried at the outset of the Tyrian war, Jupiter turned on the Pelasgians his wrathful gaze and shook his head, at the movement of which the high stars tremble and Atlas cries that his shoulders’ burden is increased. Then thus did he address the speedy Tegean: "Go, boy, and swiftly leaping glide through the North as far as the Bistonian dwellings and the snowy constellations of the pole, where the Parrhasian feeds her Ocean-barred fires on storm-clouds and Heaven’s own rain. And there, whether Mars has laid aside his spear and draws breath again—though repose be hateful to him—or whether, as I think, he has his arms and his trumpets, whereof he never tires, and is wantoning in the blood of his beloved tribe, haste thou to deliver the angry message of his sire, and spare nought. Surely long since was he bidden to inflame the Inachian host, and all that the rock of Isthmus holds apart and the thunderous wrath of echoing Malea encompasses; yet scarce hath their army passed the boundary of their walls and they hold sacred festival; one would deem they had returned from war, so keen is their applause, as they attend the rites of an offended tomb. Is this thy rage, Gradivus? The round War-God for the warrior people (the Thracians), and also his joy in bloodshed for its own sake.
STATIUS
discus et Oebalii coeunt in proelia caestus.
at si ipsi rabies ferrique insana voluptas
qua tumet, immeritas cineri dabit impius urbes
ferrum ignemque ferens, implorantesque Tonantem
sternet humi populos miserumque exhauriet orbem.
nunc lenis belli nostraque remittitur ira. 26
quodni praccipitat pugnas dietoque iubentis
ocius impingit Tyriis Danaa agmina muris—
nil equidem crudele minor—, sit mite bonumque
numen, et effreni laxentur in otia mores,
reddat equos ensemque mihi, nec sanguinis ultra
ius erit : aspiciam terras pacemque iubebo
omnibus; Ogygio sat est Tritonia bello."

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

1 et Pω: at KQ.  2 apta P: arta ω.

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a See note on vi. 822.
b Theban. "Tritonia": i.e., Pallas Athena, the warlike
goddess; the name was derived from a lake in Libya,
where she was born, according to one legend.
c Statius uses "cardo" here not in its literal sense of
"hinge," though "portae" follows, but as="pole" (so
Lucan often). The North is one of the poles or turning-
points of the world, and also a gate or entrance into the
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quoit crashes and reverberates, and the Oebalian gloves meet in the boxing-match. But if he really hath that boasted fury and mad joy in battle, then ruthlessly will he lay innocent towns in ashes, wielding sword and fire, and strike the peoples to the ground while they implore the Thunderer, and exhaust the miserable world. Now he is lenient in warfare and he grows slack though I am angry: but if he hastens not the fight and hurls not, more swiftly than the word of my command, the Danaan ranks against the Tyrian walls—with nought cruel do I threaten him—let his power be all for kindliness and goodness, and his ungoverned rage be slackened to quietness and peace, let him return me his horses and his sword, nor have right of bloodshed any more: I will look upon the earth, and bid all cease from strife; for the Ogygian war Tritonia will suffice."

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

\[d\] *i.e.*, the broad-brimmed hat known as "petasus," regularly worn by Mercury.

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

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

* Mulciber (Vulcan) was the architect and craftsman of the gods (cf. Milton, *P.L.* i. 730 sqq.); he had here given Mars of his best work, because he had not yet been offended
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iron. The rays of Phoebus are weakened when they meet it, the very light fears that dwelling, and its murky glare dismays the stars. Fit sentinels hold watch there: from the outer gate wild Passion leaps, and blind Mischief and Angers flushing red and pallid Fear, and Treachery lurks with hidden sword, and Discord holding a two-edged blade. Threatenings innumerable make clamour in the court, sullen Valour stands in the midst, and Rage exultant and armed Death with blood-stained visage are seated there; no blood but that of wars is on the altars, no fire but snatched from burning cities. All around were spoils of every land, and captured peoples adorned the temple's high front, and fragments of iron-wrought gates and ships of war and empty chariots and faces ground by chariot-wheels, ay, almost even their groans! truly every form of violence and wounds. Himself was everywhere to behold, but nowhere with softened looks; in such wise had Mulciber with divine skill portrayed him: not yet had the adulterer, made manifest by the sun's bright beams, atoned his shameful union in the bed's grasping chains.

Scarce had the winged Maenalian begun to seek the temple's lord—lo! earth trembles, and horned Hebrus bellows and stays his torrent's flow; then all the war-steeds that troubled the valley sped foaming o'er the frightened meads, sure sign of his approach, and the gates barred with everlasting adamant flew open. Glorious in Hyrcanian gore he himself comes riding by; far and wide the dire bespattering changes the aspect of the fields, behind him are borne spoils by Mars' intrigue with Venus, his wife: on that occasion he had caught them together by means of a cunning bed he had made himself, cf. Hom. Od. viii. 266 sqq.
dant silvae nixque alta locum; regit atra iugales
sanguinea Bellona manu longaque fatigat
euspide. deriguit visu Cyllenia proles
submisitque genas: ipsi reverentia patri,
si prope sit, dematque minas nee talia mandet.
"quod Iovis imperium, magno quid ab aethere
portas?"

occupat Armipotens "neque enim hune, germane,
sub axem
sponte venis hiemesque meas, cui roseida iuxta
Maenalae et aestivi elementior aura Lycaei."

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

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

Finierat pugnas honor exsequialis inermes,
needum aberant coetus, cuneisque silentibus heros
vina solo fundens einerem placabat Adrastus
Arhemori: "da, parve, tuum triceteride multa
instaurare diem, nee saueius Areadas aras
malit adire Pelops Eleaque pulset eburna
templa manu, nee Castaliis altaribus anguis,
nee sua pinigero magis adnatiat umbra Lechaeo.

1 irae Peyrared: ira Pw.
2 carinis ω: om. P (quiescunt in margin).

*i.e.*, let not the festivals of Olympia, Delphi, or the
Isthmus be more honoured. For Pelops see n. on iv. 590.
The snake is the Python slain by Apollo, the shade that of
Palaemon.
and weeping throngs; forests and deep snows give him room; with bloody hand dark Bellona guides the team and plies them hard with her long spear. The offspring of Cyllene grew stiff with terror at the sight, and cast down his eyes: ay, even the Father himself would feel awe, were he present, and would forgo his threats nor command so sternly. First spake the Lord of War: "What decree of Jove, what message bringest thou from the vast heaven? For not of thine own will comest thou, O brother, to this clime and to my wintry storms, thou whose home is dewy Maenalus and the kindlier air of warm Lycaeus." He reports his sire's resolve. Nor does Mars long delay, but drives forward his flying steeds, all panting as they were and sweating together 'neath the yoke, himself indignant that the Greeks were sluggish to begin the war. The Father on high beheld, and abating now his anger let his head sink with slow weight: as when the East wind sinks to rest and leaves the waters it has vanquished, yet even in calm the waters swell and the departed storm yet rolls the surface of the deep; not yet have the vessels all their tackling set, nor do the mariners draw a full breath again.

The funeral rites had brought an end to the unarmed combats, but the crowds were not gone away, when amid universal silence the hero Adrastus poured wine upon the ground and propitiated the ashes of Archemorus: "Grant, little one, that this day may be renewed at many a triennial feast; let not maimed Pelops prefer to seek Arcadian altars or knock at Elean temples with his ivory arm, nor the serpent rather glide to the Castalian shrine, nor its own shade to the pine-groves of Lechaeum." We
nos te lugenti, puer, insitiamur Averno, maestaque perpetuis sollemnia iungimus astra, nunc festina cohors. at si Boeotia ferro vertere teeta dabis, magnis tune dignior aris, tune deus, Inachias nec tantum culta per urbes numina, captivis etiam iurabere Thebis.”

dux ea pro cunctis, eadem sibi quisque vovebat.

Iam pronis Gradivus equis Ephyraea premebat litora, qua summas caput Acrocorinthis in auras tollit et alterna geminum mare protegit umbra. inde unum dira comitum de plebe Pavorem quadripedes anteire iubet: non alter anhelos insinuare metus animoque avertere vires

aptior; innumerae monstro vocesque manusque et facies quamecumque velit; bonus omnia eredi auctor et horribilis lymphae incurribus urbes. si geminos soles ruituraque suadeat astra, aut nutare solum aut veteres descendere silvas, a miseris vidisse putant. tune acre novabat ingenium: falso Nemeaeum pulvere campum erigit; attoniti tenebrosam a vertice nubem respexere duces; falso clamore tumultum auget, et arma virum pulsusque imitatur equorum, terribilisque vagas ululatum spargit in auras.

exsiluere animi, dubiumque in murmur vulgus pendet: “ubi iste fragor? ni fallimur aure. sed unde pulvereo stant astra globo? num Ismenius ultro

1 animoque avertere vires P: animumque avertere veris ω.
2 ni Pω: num Wilkins.

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

Already Gradivus with forward-straining steeds was trampling the Ephyrean shores, where Acrocorinthus raises his summit into the airy heights and casts his shadow over the twin seas in turn. Then he orders Panic, one of his fearful train, to go before the horses: none more skilled than he to insinuate gasping terror and to steal courage from the heart; voices and hands innumerable has the monster, and aspects to assume at will; all-persuasive is he, and his onslaughts drive cities mad with horror. If he suggests that there are two suns, or that the stars are falling, or the ground heaving, or ancient forests marching down from the hills, alas! the wretches believe that they have seen it. A new and cunning trick was he then devising: he raises a phantom dust upon the plain of Nemea; astounded the chiefs behold above their heads the darkling cloud; he swells the tumult with unsubstantial clamour and imitates the clank of armour and the tread of horses' hooves, and scatters the terrible war-cry upon the wandering breezes. Their hearts leap in fear, and the crowd wait muttering in suspense: "Whence comes the noise?—unless our ears betray us. But why stands the heaven in a cloud of dust? surely the Isemian soldiery have not dared so far? Ay,
miles? ita est: veniunt. tanta autem audacia
Thebis?
an dubitent—age!—, dum inferias et busta colamus?
hacet Pavor attonitis; variosque per agmina vultus
induitur, nunc Pisaeis e milibus unus,
nunc Pylius, nunc ore Lacon, hostesque propinquos
adiurat turmasque metu consternat inani. 125
nil falsum trepidis. ut vero amentibus ipse
incidit et saerae circum fastigia vallis
turbine praevectus rapido ter sustulit hastam,
ter concussit equos, clipeum ter pectore plausit:
arma, arma insani sua quisque ignotaque nullo
more rapit, mutant galeas alienaque cogunt
ad iuga cornipedes; ferus omni in pectore saevit
mortis amor caedisque, nihil flagrantibus obstat:
praeceipitant redimuntque moras. sic litora vento
incipiente fremunt, fugitur cum portus; ubique
vela fluunt, laxi iactantur ubique rudentes;
iamque natant remi, natat omnis in aequore summo
ancora, iam dulcis medii de gurgite ponti
respicitur tellus comitesque a puppe relictii.
Viderat Inachias rapidum glomerare cohortes
Bacchus iter; gemuit Tyriam conversus ad urbem,
altricemque domum et patrios reminiscitur ignes,
purpureum tristi turbatus pectore vultum:
non erisses, non sera loco, dextramque reliquit
thyrsus, et intactae ceciderunt cornibus uvae. 135
ergo ut erat lacrimis lapsoque inhonoros amictu
ante Iovem—et tunc forte polum secretus habebat—

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

Bacchus had seen the Inachian cohorts gather swiftly for the march; with a groan he turned towards the Tyrian city, and he recalls the home that nurtured him and his father's fires, with sadness in his heart and dismay upon his bright countenance; disordered were his locks and garlands, the thyrsus was fallen from his hand and the untouched grapes from off his horns; tearful then and unsightly as he was with dishevelled robe, he stood before Jupiter—reigning then by chance alone in
constitit, haud umquam facie conspectus in illa—
nec causae latuere patrem—, supplexque profatur:
"exseindisne tuas, divum sator optime, Thebas?

saeva adeo coniunx? nec te telluris amatae
deceptique laris miseret cinerumque meorum?
esto, olim invitum iaculatus nudibus ignem—
credimus—: en iterum atra referis incendia terris,
nec Styge iurata, nec paelicis arte rogatus.

quis modus? an nobis pater iratusque, bonusque
fulmen habes? sed non Danaei limina talis
Parrhasiumque nemus Ledaeasque ibis Amyelas,
scilicet e cunctis ego neglectissima natis
progenies? ego nempe tamen, qui dulce ferenti
pondus eram, cui tu dignatus limina vitae
praeruptumque iter\(^1\) et maternos reddere menses.
adde, quod imbellis rarisque exercita castris
turba meas acies, mea tantum proelia norunt,
nectere fronde comas et ad inspirata rotari
buxa: timent thyrsos nuptarum et proelia matrum.
unde tubas Martemque pati, qui fervidus ecce
quanta parat? quid si ille tuos Curetas in arma
ducat et innocuis iubeat decernere peltis?
quid etiam invisos—sic hostis defuit?—Argos
eligis\(^2\)! o ipsis, genitor, graviora periclis

1 iter P\(^{\circ}\): uterum Barth. iter \(is\) \(helped\) \(by\) limina; still, uterum \(is\) \(extremely\) \(plausible\).

2 eligis Markland (cf. i. 259): elicis P\(^{\circ}\).

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

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

\(^c\) \(i.e.,\) in Bacchic revelling.

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

a i.e., my citizens.

b "hated," because Juno was its patron goddess, the enemy of Thebes and Semele.
iussa: novercales luimus\(^1\) ditare Myeenas!
cedo equidem. quo sacra tamen ritusque peremptae
gentis et, in tumulos si quid male feta reliquit
mater, abire iubes? Thracen silvasque Lyeurgi? 180
anne triumphatos fugiam captivus ad Indos?
da sedem profugo! potuit Latonia frater
saxa—nee invideo—desigere Delon et imis
commendare fretis; eara submovit ab aree
hostiles Tritonis aquas; vidi ipse potentem
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gentibus Eois Epaphum dare iura, nec uallas
Cyllene secreta tubas Minoave curat
Ida: quid heu tantum nostris offenderis aris?
hic tibi—quando minor iam nostra potentia—noetes
Herenuleae placitusque vagae Nycteidos ardor,
hic Tyrium genus et nostro felicior igne
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taurus: Agenoreos saltem tutare nepotes."

Invidiam risit pater, et iam poplite flexum
sternentemque manus tranquillus ad osula tollit
inque vicem placida orsa refert: "non coniugis ista
consiliis, ut rere, puer, nec saeva roganti
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sic expostus ego: immoto deducimur orbe
fatorum; veteres seraeque in proelia causae.
nam cui tanta quies irarum aut sanguinis usus
parcior humani? videt axis et ista per aevom
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\(^1\) luimus \(P\): ruimus \(w\).

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

\(^b\) \textit{i.e.}, anchor it safely there.

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

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

d Antiope, daughter of Nycteus.

e The metaphor here is from spinning, of which "deducere" is a common term; "immoto" must therefore mean "steady," "unshaken."
mecum aeterna domus, quotiens iam torta reponam fulmina, quam rarus terris hie imperet ignis. quin etiam invitus magna uleiseendaque passis aut Lapithas Marti, aut veterem Calydonia Dianae expugnare dedi; maesta est\(^1\) iactura pigetque tot mutare animas, tot reddere corpora vitae. Labdaceos vero Pelopisque a stirpe nepotes tardum abolere mihi; scis ipse—ut erimina mittam Dorica—, quam promptae superos inessere Thebae; te quoque—sed, quoniam vetus exedit ira, silebo. non tamen aut patrio respersus sanguine Pentheus, aut matrem seelerasse toris aut erimine fratres progenuisse reus, lacero tua lustra replevit funere: ubi hi fletus, ubi tune ars tanta precandi? ast ego non proprio diros impendo dolori Oedipodionidas: rogat hoe tellusque polusque et pietas et laesa fides naturaque, et ipsi Eumenidum mores. sed tu super urbe moveri parce tua: non hoc statui sub tempore rebus occasum Aoniis, veniet suspicior aetas uioresque alii: nunc regia Luno queretur." his ille auditis mentemque habitumque recepit; ut cum sole malo tristique rosaria pendent usta noto, si clara dies zephyrique refecit aura polum, redit omnis honos, emissaque lucent germina et informes ornat sua gloria virgas. Nuntius attonitas iamudumum Eteoclis ad aures

\(^1\) maesta est Alton: mea est \(P\)w: nimia est Phillimore: Iovis, nostra conj. Garrod: meaque est late mss., edd.

\(^a\) More literally, "that I have already begun to whirl."

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

Long since has the messenger brought sure tidings

\textit{\textit{i.e.}}, the Epigoni, or perhaps Alexander, whose troops
sacked Thebes.
explorata ferens longo docet agmine Graios
ire duces, nec iam Aoniis procul afore campis; quacumque ingressi, tremere ac miserescere cunctos
Thebarum; qui stirpe, refert, qui nomine et armis.
ille metum condens audire exposcit et odit
narrantem; hine socios dietis stimulare suasque
metiri decernit opes. exciverat omnem
Aoniam Euboeamque et Phocidos arva propinquae
Mars, ita dulce Iovi; longe fugit ordine velox
tessera: propellunt acies, seseque sub armis
ostentant; subeunt campo, qui proximus urbi
dannatus bellis patet exspectatque furores.
nondum hostes contra, trepido tamen agmine matres
conscendunt muros, inde arma nitentia natis
et formidandos monstrant sub casside patres.

Turre procul sola nondum concessa videri
Antigone populis teneras defenditur atra
veste genas; iuxtaque comes, quo Laius ibat
armigero; tunc virgo senem regina veretur.
quaes sic orsa prior: "spesne obstatura Pelasgis
haec vexilla, pater? Pelopis descendere totas
audimus gentes: dic, o precor, extera regum
agmina; nam video, quae noster signa Menoeceus,
quaes noster regat arma Creon, quam celsus aena
Sphinge per ingentes Homoloidas exeat Haemon."
sic rudis Antigone, senior cui talia Phorbas:
"mille sagittiferos gelidae de colle Tanagrae
of discovery to the astounded ears of Eteocles, announcing that the Grecian chiefs are on the march at the head of a long array, and soon will be nigh the Aonian fields; wheresoever they advance, all tremble and pity Thebes; he reports the family and fame of each and their warlike deeds. The king hiding his fear demands to be told and hates the teller; then he decides to send a stirring message to his allies and to take the measure of his own resources. Mars—so it pleased Jove—had stirred up all Aonia and Euboea and the neighbouring lands of Phocis; far flies the rapid signal from town to town; they march forth their hosts and display themselves in arms; they move upon the plain that, doomed to war, spreads near the city and awaits the fury of the fray. They meet no foe as yet, but matrons in an excited throng ascend the walls, and thence show to their children the glittering armour and their sires' formidable helms.

Far removed upon a lonely tower and still withheld from the eyes of the people, Antigone shrouds in a black veil her tender cheeks; with her was an attendant, Laius' squire of old, whom the royal maid reveres. She first addressed him: "Is there hope, O father, that these standards will hold the Pelasgians in check? We hear that all the tribes of Pelops descend upon us; recount, I pray, the princes and their foreign bands, for I see what standards our own Menoeceus, and what troops our Creon hath under command, and how Haemon with towering crest of brazen Sphinx marches out from the mighty Hemonian gates." So spake artless Antigone, and old Phorbas thus replied: "Dryas, look! leads forth a thousand archers from cold Tanagra's hill; he
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promovet ecce Dryas; hic, cui nivea arma tridentem atque auro rude fulmen habent, Orionis alti non falsus virtute nepos: procul, oro, paternum omen et innuptae vetus excidat ira Dianae. iungunt se castris regisque in nomen adoptant Ocalea Medeonque et confertissima lucis Nisa Dionaeisque avibus circumsona Thisbe. proximus Eurymedon, qui pastoralia Fauni arma patris pinoque iubas imitatur equinas, terribilis silvis: reor et Mavorte cruento talis erit. dites pecorum comitantur Erythrae, qui Scelon densamque iugis Eteonon inquis, qui breve litus Hyles Atalantaeamque superbi Schoenon habent notique colunt vestigia campi; fraxineas Macetum vibrant de more sarisas saevaque difficiles exclusere volnera peltas. ecce autem clamore ruunt Neptunia plebes Onchesti: quos pinigeris Mycalessos in agris Palladiusque Melas Hecataeque gurgite nutrit Gargaphie, quorumque novis Haliartos aristas invidet et nimia\(^1\) sata laeta supervenit herba.
tela rudes trunci, galeae vacua ora leonum, arborei dant scuta sinus. hos regis egenos Amphion en noster agit — cognoscere pronum, virgo—, lyra galeam tauroque insignis avito. macte animo iuvenis, medios parat ire per enses nudaque pro caris opponere pectora muris.

\(^1\) nimia \(\omega\): nivea \(P\); Garrod conj. viva.

\(^a\) Various causes are assigned for Diana’s anger with Orion: see Class. Diet.
\(^b\) Thisbe was famous for its doves. All these towns are in Boeotia; a very similar list occurs in Plin. N.H. iv. 7. 12, but Statius also takes hints from Homer’s
whose snow-white armour bears a trident and a fire-brand rudely wrought in gold, is for valour the true son of exalted Orion: heaven forfend the ill omen of his sire, and chaste Diana’s ancient grudge. Ocalea and Medeon join our camps and declare for our monarch’s cause, and thickly-wooded Nisa and Thisbe echoing with Dione’s tuneful birds. Next is Eurymedon who counterfeits the pastoral arms and horsehair crest of his father Faunus with club and leaves of pine; terrible is he in the woodland, and such, I ween, will he be in the bloody conflict. Erythrae rich in flocks is with us, and so are they who hold Scolos, and Eteonos set thick with arduous ridges, and the brief strand of Hyle, and the proud folk of Schoenos, Atalanta’s home, who till the famous plain her feet imprinted: they brandish as of wont the long ashen Macedonian shafts, and targes that scarce can ward off savage blows. But lo! the Neptunian folk of Onchestus rush on with shouts: they whom Mycalessos nourishes beneath her pines, and Melas, Pallas’ stream, and Gargaphie with the waters loved of Hecate, and they on whose young wheat Haliartos looks jealously, o’ergrowing the glad cornlands with too abundant grass. Unfashioned tree-trunks are their weapons, and lions’ empty jaws their helms, the curving bark affords them bucklers. These, as they lack a king, our own Amphion, look! is leading —’tis easy to recognize him, O maid—conspicuous with a lyre and our ancestral bull upon his helm. A blessing on thy courage, youth! he is ready to go where swords are thickest, and protect with naked breast the walls he loves. Ye too come to add your Catalogue, e.g. πολυτρήρωνι Θεόβη, ποιένθι ’Αλιαρτον, see II. ii. 494 sqq.
vos etiam nostris, Heliconia turba, venitis
addere rebus opem; tuque, o Permesse, canoris
et felix, Olmie,\(^1\) vadis armastis alumnos
bellorum resides. patriis concentibus audis 285
exsultare gregem, quales, cum pallida cedit
bruma, renidentem deducunt Strymona cygni.
ite alacres, numquam vestri morientur honores,
bellaque perpetuo memorabunt carmine Musae.”

Dixerat, et paulum virgo interfata loquenti: 290
“illi autem, quanam iunguntur origine fratres?
sie certe paria arma viris, sie exit in auras
cassidis aequus apex; utinam haec concordia nostris!”
cui senior ridens: “non prima errore videndi
falleris, Antigone: multi hos—nam decipit aetas—
dixerunt fratres. pater est natusque, sed aevi 296
confudere modos: puerum Lapithaona nymphe
Dercetis expertem thalami crudumque maritis\(^2\)
ignibus ante diem cupidio violavit amore
improba conubii; nec longum, et pulcher Alatreus
editus, ac primae genitorem in flore iuventae 301
consequitur traxitque notas et miscuit annos.
et nunc sic fratres mentito nomine gaudent,
plus pater; hunc olim iuvat et ventura senectus.
tercentum genitor totidemque in proelia natus 305
exercent equites: hi deseruisse feruntur
exilem Glisanta Coroniamque, feracem
messe Coroniam, Baccho Glisanta colentes.\(^3\)

\(^1\) Olmie Gronovius: hormie \(P\omn\).
\(^2\) maritis late \(\text{mss.}\): mariti \(P\omn\).
\(^3\) colentes \(P\omn\): colenti Ellis.

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

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

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

\[\text{"olim" has the Silver Latin meaning "all this time" (="iamdudum"); "iuvat" seems to be used first impersonally and then with "senectus" as subject.}\]
sed potius celsos umbrantem hunc aspice late
Hypseia quadriiugos, elipei septemplice tauro
laeva, ter insuto servantur pectora ferro,
peccora: nam tergo numquam metus. hasta
vetustum
silvarum decus, emissae cui pervia semper
armaque corporaque et numquam manus inrita voti.
Asopos genuisse datur, dignusque videri
tune pater, abreptis cum torrentissimus exit
pontibus, aut natae tumidus cum virginis ultor
flumina concussit generum indignata Tonantem.
namque ferunt raptam patriis Aeginan ab undis
amplexu latuisse Iovis: fuit annis et astris
infensus bellare parat—nondum ista licebant
nec superis—; stetit audaces effusus in iras,
conseruitque manum, nec quem imploraret habebat,
donec vix tonitru submotus et igne trisulco
cessit. adhuc ripis animosus gurges anhelis
fulmineum cinerem magnaeque insignia poenae
gaudet et Aetnaeos in caelum efflare vapores.
talem Cadmeo mirabimur Hypsea campo,
si modo placavit felix Aegina Tonantem.
ducit Itonaeos et Alalcomenaca Minervae
agmina, quos Midea et quos uvida\(^1\) suggerit Arne,
Aulida qui Graeanque serunt viridesque Plataeas,
et sulco Peteona domant reflexuumque meatu
Euripum, qua noster, habent, teque ultima tractu
Anthedon, ubi gramineo de litore Glauceus
poscentes inrupit aquas, iam crine genisque
eaerulus, et mixtos expavat ab inguine pisces.

\(^1\) uvida *Heinsius (from Hom. Il. ii. 501): vivida P: humida ω.*
at Hypseus casting his shadow far o'er his lofty steeds, his left side guarded by the sevenfold bull's-hide of his shield, his breast by triply woven mail: his breast, for no fear hath he for his back. His spear is an ancient glory of the woodland: once thrown it always cleaves armour and flesh alike, and his hand fails never of its aim. Asopos is deemed his sire, a father worthy to behold, when in full torrent he sweeps past the wreck of bridges, or in swollen wrath and vengeance for his maiden daughter he lashes his waters to fury and scorns the Thunderer her paramour. For they say that Aegina was carried by force from her father's stream and hidden in the embrace of Jove; the river in wild rage prepares fierce war against the stars—not yet had even the gods such licence—; in defiant, quenchless anger he stood and strove, nor had he any whose aid he could implore, till, scarce subdued by the threefold lightning of the brand, he yielded. Even yet doth the proud flood rejoice from out his heaving banks to pant forth 'gainst heaven fiery ashes, the signs of his dire punishment, and Aetnaean vapours. Such fury shall we marvelling see in Hypseus on the Cadmean plain, if but Aegina has happily appeased the Thunderer. He leads the men of Itone and Minerva's Alalcomenaean bands, and those whom Midea furnishes and Arne rich in grapes, the men who sow the fields of Aulis and of Graea and verdant Plataeae, and subdue Peteon with furrows and hold—where it is ours—Euripus whose current ebbs and flows, and thee, Anthedon, remotest of our lands, where from the grassy shore Glaucus plunged beneath the waters that summoned him, sea-green already in face and hair, and started to behold the fish-tail
glandibus et torta zephyros incidere\(^1\) funda cura: Cydoneas anteibunt gaesa sagittas.

\(340\) tu quoque praeclarum forma, Cephise, dedisses

Narcissum, sed Thespiacis iam pallet in agris

trux puer; orbata florem, pater, adluis unda.

quis tibi Phoebeas acies veteremque revolvat

Phocida? qui Panopen, qui Daulida, qui Cyparisson,

et valles, Lebadia, tuas et Hyampolin acri

subnixam scopulo, vel qui Parnasson utrumque

aut Cirrham tauris Anemorianque supinant

Coryciumque nemus, propellentemque Lilaean

Cephisi glaciale caput, quo suetus anhelam

ferre sitim Python amnemque avertere ponto,

omnibus immixtas cono super aspice laurus

armaque vel Tityon vel Delon habentia, vel quas

hic deus innumera laxavit caede pharetras.

Iphitus asper agit, genitor cui nuper ademptus

Naubolus Hippasides, tuus, o mitissime Lai,

hospes; adhue currus securaque lora tenebam,\(^2\)

cum tua subter equos iacuit convulsa eruentis

ictibus, o utinam nostro cum sanguine, cervix!"

Dicenti maduere genae, vultumque per omnem

pallor iit, vocisque repens singultus apertum

intercepit iter; refovet frigentis amicum

pectus alunma senis; redit atque exile profatur:

"o mihi sollicitum deus ac suprema voluptas,

\(350\)

\(1\) incidere \(\omega\): incedere \(P\); incendere \(Postgate\).

\(2\) tenebam \(P\): tenebat \(\omega\).

\(a\) "mixtos" is pregnant, "joined with and growing from."

\(b\) Narcissus, beloved of Echo, fell in love with his own

image while gazing into the water: he remained there till he

died, when he was turned into the flower called after him.

Cephisus is the Boeotian, not the Attic, river of that name

(but cf. Soph. \textit{Oed. Col.} 681 \textit{sqq.}).

\(c\) The Parnassians bear on their shields emblems of

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

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

\(\textsuperscript{a}\) Oedipus, not knowing Laius, his father, met him at the place where three roads meet ("\textit{trifidae in Phocidis arto}," i. 65), and slew him in a quarrel that arose there.
Antigone! seras tibi demoror improbus umbras, 
foris eadem scelera et caedes visurus avitas, 
donec te thalamis habilem integramque resignem: 
hoe satis, et fessum vita dimittite, Parcae. 
sed dum labor iners, quanti—nunc ecce reviso—
transabiere duces: Clonin atque in terga comantes 
non ego Abantiadas, non te, saxosa Caryste, 
non humiles Aegas altumque Capherea dixi.
et iam acies obtunsa negat, cunctique resistunt, 
et tuus armatis iubet ecce silentia frater.”
Vix ea turre senex, cum rector ab aggere coepit: 
“magnanimi reges, quibus haud parere recusem 
ductor et ipse meas miles defendere Thebas, 
non ego vos stimulare parem — nam liber in arma 
impetus, et meritas ultro iurastis in iras,—, 
nec laudare satis dignasque rependere grates 
sufficiam—referent superi vestraeque subacto 
hoste manus—: urbem socia de gente subistis 
tutari, quam non aliis populator ab oris 
belliger externave satus tellure, sed hostis 
indigena adsultat, cui castra adversa regenti 
hic pater, hic genetrix, hic iunctaee stirpe sorores, 
hic erat et frater. cerne en ubicumque nefandus 
excidium moliris avis: venere volentes 
Aoniae populi, nec sum tibi, saeve, relictus. 
quid velit ista cohors, et te sentire decebat: 
reddere regna vetant.” sic fatus, et omnia rite
pleasure, Antigone! 'tis for thee I shamelessly delay my late-arriving death, though perchance I must behold the crimes and murders of thy house repeated, until I deliver thee unharmed and fit for wedlock: that is enough; then, O Fates, let me leave this weary life. But while I am feebly swooning, what mighty champions—ah! now I see them again—have passed before us! Clonis I numbered not, nor the long-haired sons of Abas, nor thy men, rocky Carystus, nor low-lying Aegae and lofty Caphereus. But now my dimmed sight says me nay, and all have halted, while thy brother, look! bids the armed host be silent."

Searce had the old man ended upon the tower, when the prince began from a high mound: "Great-hearted chieftains, whom I your leader would not refuse to obey and fight, a common soldier for my native Thebes, no attempt were mine to stir your zeal—for freely have ye rushed to arms and of your own accord taken oath to champion my righteous anger—nor shall I suffice to praise enough or pay you worthy thanks—the gods and your own victory o'er the foe will make requital; from friendly peoples are ye come to protect a city assailed by no pillaging warrior from foreign shores, no stranger from an alien land, but a native enemy, who as he marshals his opposing camps has here a father and a mother and sisters of one blood, ay, and a brother had he too. Lo! with what guilt thou plottest destruction everywhere against thy father's race; but the Aonian peoples have come willingly to my aid, nor, cruel one, am I left to be thy victim. What yonder army wills, thou too shouldest be feeling: they forbid me to give up the throne." Thus he spoke, and
disponit, qui bella gerant, qui moenia servent, quas in fronte manus, medio quas robore sistat. perspicuas sic luce fores et virgea pastor claustra levat, dum terra recens; iubet ordine primo ire duces, media stipantur plebe maritae; ipse levat gravidas et humum tractura parentum ubera, succiduasque adportat matribus agnas. Interea Danai noctemque diemque sub armis, noctem iterum rursusque diem—sic ira ferebat—ingeminant: contempta quies, vix aut sopor illis aut epulae fecere moram; properatur in hostem more fugae. nec monstra tenent, quae plurima nectit prodigiale canens certi fors praevia fati. quippe serunt diros monitus volucresque feraeque sideraque aversique suis decursibus amnes, infestumque tonat pater et mala fulgura lucent; terrificaeque adytis voces clusaecque deorum sponte fores: nunc sanguineus, nunc saxeus imber, et subiti manes flentumque occursus avorum. tunc et Apollineae tacuere oracula Cirrhae, et non adsuetis pernox ululavit Eleusin mensibus, et templis Sparte praesaga reclusis vidit Amyclaeos—facinus!—concurrere fratres. Arcades insanas latrare Lycaonis umbras nocte ferunt tacita, saevu decurrere campo Oenomaum sua Pisa refert; Acheloon utroque deformem cornu vagus infamabat Acarnan. Perseos effigiem maestam exorantque Mycenaev

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

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

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

b Lycaon was turned into a wolf by Jupiter.

c By Heracles in the struggle for Deianira.

d "exile," i.e. Tydeus.
confusum Iunonis ebur; mugire potentem
Inachon agricolae, gemini maris incola narrat
Thebanum toto planxisse Palaemona ponto.
haec audit Pelopea phalanx, sed bellicus arbor
consiliis obstat divum prohibetque timeri.

Iam ripas, Asope, tuas Boeotaeque ventum
flumina. non ausae transmittere protinus alae
hostilem fluvium; forte et trepidantibus ingens
descendebat agris, animos sive imbrifer arcus,
seu montana dedit nubes, seu fluminis illa
mens fuit obiectusque vado pater arma vetabat.
tunc ferus Hippomedon magno cum fragmine ripae
cunctantem deiecit equum, ducibusque relictis
gurgite de medio frenis suspensus et armis
"ite viri" clamat, "sic vos in moenia primus
duecre, sic clusas voveo perfringere Thebas."
priacipitant cuncti fluvio puduitque secutos.

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

Haud proculinde iugum tutisque adcommodacastris
arva notant, unde urbeu etiam turresque videre¹
Sidoniae; placuit sedes fidique receptus,
colle per excelsum patulo, quem subter aperto
arva sinu, nullique alii a montibus instant
despectus; nec longa labor munimina durus

¹ videre SN: videri PBD.

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

₇ This use of "timor" may be compared with that in
l. 746 of a landslide, "desilit horrendus timor."

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

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

Not far from thence they mark a ridge and suitable
ground for a safe camp, whence too they can behold
the city and the Sidonian towers; the situation
pleased them and offered secure retreat upon a high
and spreading hill, with open swelling fields beneath
nor any other mountains near at hand to overlook;
no weary toil added long lines of earthworks, for
addidit: ipsa loco mirum natura favebat. in vallum elatae rupes devexaque fossis aequa et fortuito ductae quater aggere pinnae; cetera dant ipsi, donec sol montibus omnis erepsit rebusque dedit sopor otia fessis. 

Quis queat attonitas dictis ostendere Thebas? ubrlem in conspectu belli suprema parantis territat insomnem nox atra diemque minatur. discurrunt muris; nil saeptum horrore sub illo, nil fidum satis, invalidaeque Amphionis arces. rumor ubique alios\(^1\) pluresque adnuntiat hostes maioresque timor; spectant tentoria contra Inachia externosque suis in montibus ignes. hi precibus questuque deos, hi Martia tela belligerosque hortantur equos, hi pectora fletu cara premunt miserique regos et crastina mandant funera. si tenuis demisit lumina somnus, bella gerunt; modo lucra moreae, modo taedia vitae attonitis, lucemque timent lucemque precantur. it geminum executiens anguem et bacchatur utrisque Tisiphone castris; fratrem huic, fratrem ingerit illi, aut utrique patrem: procul ille penatibus imis excitus implorat Furias oculosque reposcit. 

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

\(^1\) alios PS: altus \(\omega\): alius Gronovius.

\(^a\) They are so sure of being slain in battle that they order their own funeral pyre for the next day. 
\(^b\) Oedipus had remained secluded in an inner chamber of the palace, cf. i. 49.
nature herself marvellously favoured the spot. Rocks rose to form a rampart, and the shelving earth served for trenches, and four chance mounds made bastions: the rest they themselves provide, until all the light had left the hills, and sleep gave rest to weariness.

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

Already had breaking day put out cold Phoebe and the fading stars, while Ocean was pregnant with dawning fire, and the sea's expanse, revealed by new-born Titan, was sinking to rest beneath his radiant panting steeds: lo! Jocasta, wild-eyed, with hoary unkempt hair falling about her haggard face, her bosom bruised and livid and in her hand a branch
nigra ferens ramunque oleae cum velleris atri
nexibus, Eumenidum velut antiquissima, portis
egreditur magna cum maiestate malorum.
hinc atque hinc natae, melior iam sexus, aniles
praecipitantem artus et plus quam possit euntem
sustentant. venit ante hostes, et pectore nudo
claustra adversa ferit tremulisque ululatibus orat
admitti: "reserate viam! rogat impia belli
mater; in his aliquod ius exsacerabile castris
huie utero est." trepidi visam expavere manipli
auditamque magis; remeat iam missus Adrasto
nuntius: excipiunt iussi mediosque per enses
dant iter. illa duces ut primum aspexit Achivos,
clamorem horrendum luetu furiata resolvit:
"Argolici proceres, eequis monstraverit hostem,
quem peperi? quanam inveniam, mihi dicite, natum
sub galea?" venit attonitae Cadmeius heros
obvius, et raptam lacrimis gaudentibus implet
solaturque tenens, atque inter singula matrem,
matrem iterat, nunc ipsam urgens, nune cara sororum
pectora, eum mixta fletus anus asperat ira:
"quid molles lacrimas venerandaque nomina fingis,
rex Argive, mihi? quid colla amplexibus ambis
invisamque teris ferrato pectore matrem?
tune ille exsilio vagus et miserabilis hospes?
quem non permoveas? longae tua iussa cohortes
exspectant, multoque latus praefulgurat ense.
of olive entwined with sable wool, goes forth from
the gates in all the mighty majesty of sorrow, like
to the most ancient of the Furies. On this side and
on that her daughters, now the better sex, support
her as she hastens her aged limbs and would fain go
faster than her strength allows. She goes to meet
the foe, and baring her breast she strikes upon the
gates and with tremulous wail prays for admittance:
"Unbar the road! it is the guilty mother of the
war who asks you; some right to utter curses in this
camp have I by virtue of this womb." The squadrons
started with alarm beholding her, and hearing
her, yet more; and now the messenger sent to
Adrastus returns; at his command they receive her,
and open a way through the swords' midst. As soon
as she saw the Achaean princes, she uttered a fearful
cry of rage and grief: "Ye Argive chiefs, who will
show me the enemy whom I bore? Under what
helm—tell me—shall I find my son?" Thus frantic
she is met by the Cadmean hero, who clasps her to
him and sheds tears of joy, and holding her in his
arms consoles her, and ever and anon repeats
"mother!" "mother!" entreating now herself, now
his beloved sisters—when the aged dame mingles
sharp anger with her weeping: "Why this pretence
of unmanly tears and venerable names to me, O
Argive prince? Why dost thou put thy arms about
my neck, and crush thy hated mother against this
mail-clad breast? Art thou that wandering exile,
that hapless stranger? Whose heart wouldst thou
not stir? Far-stretching cohorts await thy word
and countless blades glitter at thy side. Ah! we

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

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

Ipse etiam ante oculos nunc matris ad oscula versus,
nunc rudis Ismenes, nunc flebiliora precantis
Antigones, variaque animum turbante procella
eciderat regnum: cupit ire, et mitis Adrastus
non vetat; hic iustae Tydeus memori occupat irae:
"me potius, socii, qui fidum Eteoclea nuper
expertus, nec frater eram, me opposite regi,
cuius adhuc pacem egregiam et bona foedera gesto
pectore in hoc. ubi tunc fidei pacisque sequestra
mater eras, pulchris cum me nox vestra morata est
hospitiis? nempe haec trahis ad commercia natum?
due illum in campum, vestro qui sanguine pinguis
spirat adhuc pinguisque meo. tu porro sequeris,
heu nimium mitis nimiumque oblite tuorum?
scilicet infestae cum te circum undique dextrae
nudabunt enses, haec flebit et arma quiescent?
tene ille, heu demens, semel intra moenia clausum
possessumque odiis Argiva in castra remittet?
ante haec excusso frondescet lancea ferro,
Inachus ante retro nosterque Achelous abibit.

sed mite adloquium et saevis pax quaeritur armis:
haec quoque castra patent, necdum meruere timeri.
an suspectus ego? abscedo et mea volnera dono.

1 in corpore capto $P$: cruore recepto $N$ and written over
in D.
2 flebiliora $P$: flebilis ora $QDN$.

a Tydeus ironically repeats Jocasta's plea for discussion,
and suggests that it might just as well take place in the
Argive camp; cf. l. 509 ("adloquere").
with pious tears. As when lions with furious impact
have strewn men and weapons on the ground,
straightway their wrath abates, and they rejoice to
sate their hunger untroubled on the captured prey:
so the Pelasgians' hearts are swayed and waver, and
their fiery greed of battle grows tame.

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

linge autem pactis evictum excedere regnis,
nempe iterum reddes?" rursus mutata trahuntur
agmina consiliis: subito ee turbine caeli

obvius adversum Boreae Notus abstulit aequor.
arma iterum furiaeque placent; fera tempus Erinys
arripit et primae molit tur semina pugnae.

Errabant geminae Dirceae ad flumina tigres,
mite iugum, belli quondam vastator Eoi

currus, Erythraeis sed nuper victor ab oris
Liber in Aonios meritas dimiserat agros.
illas turba dei seniorque ex more saecelos
sanguinis oblit ar atque Indum gramen olentes
palmite maturo variisque ornare corymbis

cur et alterno maculas interligat ostro.
iamque ipsi colles, ipsa has—quis credat?—amabat
armenta, atque ausae circun mugire iuvenae;
quipp nihil grassata fames: manus obvia pascit,
exceptantque cibos1 fusque horrenda supinant

ora mero, vaga rure quies; si quando benigno
urbem iniere gradu, domus omnis et omnia sacris
templa calent, ipsumque fides intrasse Lyaeum.
has ubi vipereo tactas ter utramque flagello
Eumenis in furias animumque redire priorem

impulit, erumpunt non agnoentibus agris.2

1 cibos PDNQ: dapes BKS.
2 agris Bentley and late mss.: argis Po: antris B.

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

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

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

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*b The “mare Erythraeum” or Red Sea was what we call the Persian Gulf.
ceu duo diverso pariter si fulmina caelo
rupta cadant longumque trahant per nubila erinem:
non aliter cursu rapidae atque immane frementes
transiliunt campos aurigamque impete vasto,
Amphiarae, tuum—nec defuit omen, eriles
forte is primus equos stagna ad vicina trahebat—
corripiunt; mox Taenarium, qui proximus, Idas
Aetolumque Acamanta premunt: fuga torva per agros
cornipedum, visa donec flammatus Aconteus
strage virum, cui sueta feras prostrernere virtus—
Arcas erat—, densis iam fida ad moenia versas
insequitur telis, multumque hostile resumens
ter, quater adducto per terga, per ilia telo
transigit. illae autem longo cum limite fusi
sanguinis ad portas utrimque existantia ducunt
spicula semianimes, gemitusque imitante querellas
saucia dilectis adclinat pectora muris.
templa putes urbemque rapi facilisque nefandis
Sidonios arderi lares, sic clamor apertis
exoritur muris; mallent cunabula magni
Herculis aut Semeles thalamum aut penetrale ruisse
Harmoniae.¹ cultor Baccheus Acontea Phegeus
iam vacuum telis geminque in sanguine ovantem
communis ense petit; subeunt Tegeaea iuventus
auxilio tardi: iam supra sacra ferarum
corpora maerenti iuvenis iacet ultio Baccho.
Rumpitur et Graium subito per castra tumultu
concilium; fugit exsertos² Iocesta per hostes
iam non ausa preces; natas ipsamque repellunt
¹ Harmoniae PKQ: Hermionae DSN.
² exsertos P: externos ω.

¹ The death of Amphiaraus’s charioteer was an omen of
that of his master. “primus”: he happened to be first, and
Idas and the others were following.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The horse of Sidonian Pterelas, untrustworthy in battle, carries his rider, tearing at the reins, through the enemy's lines; and now he is free, so weary is his master's arm, when through his shoulder the spear of Tydeus flies, and pierces the youth's left thigh and nails him swooning to his seat; away he dashes, pinned to his dead lord, and bears him on, though no more he holds weapon or bridle: even as
cum sua Centaurus moriens in terga recumbit. certat opus ferri: sternunt alterna furentes 640
Hippomedon Sybarin, Pylium Periphanta Menoeceus, Parthenopaeus Ityn: Sybaris iacet ense cruento,
cuspidi trux Periphas, Ìtys insidiante sagitta. Caeneos Inachii ferro Mavortius Haemon
colla rapit, cui dividuum trans corpus hiantes 645
truncum oculi quaerunt, animus¹ caput; arma
iacentis
iam rapiebat Abas: cornu deprensus Achiva
dinisit moriens clipeum hostilemque suumque.
Quis tibi Baccheos, Eunaee, relinquere cultus,
quis lucos, vetitus quibus emansisse saecertos,
suasit et adsumet Bromio mutare furem?
quem terrere queas? clipei penetrable textum
pallentes hederae Nysaeaeque serta eoronant,
candida pampineo subneceitum instita pilo,
crine latent umeri, crescent lanugine malae,
et rubet imbellis Tyrio subtemine thorax,
braeiaque in manicis etictae vincula plantae
carbaseique sinus, et fibula rasilis auro
Taenarium fulva mordebat iaspide pallam,
quam super a tergo velox corytus et arcus 660
pendentesque sonant aurata lynce pharetrae.
it lymphante deo media inter milia longum
vociferam: "prohibete manus, haee omine dextra
moenia Cirrhaea monstravit Apollo iuvenca;
pareite, in haec ultro scopuli venere volentes. 665
gens saerata sumus: gener huic est Iuppiter urbi

¹ animus Pw: Garrod conj. umerus.

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

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

Gradivusque socer; Bacchum haud mentimur
alumnum
et magnum Alciden.” iactanti talia frustra
turbidus aeria Capaneus occurrit in hasta.
qualis ubi primam leo mane cubilibus atris
erexit rabiem et saevus speculatur ab antro
aut cervum aut nondum bellantem fronte iuvencum,
it fremitu gaudens, licet arma gregesque lassessant
venantum, praedam videt et sua volnera nescit:
sie tum congressu Capaneus gavisus iniquo
librabet magna venturam mole cupressum.
ante tamen “quid femineis ululatibus” inquit,
“terrificas, moriture, viros? utinam ipse veniret,
cui furis! haec Tyriis cane matribus!” et simul
hastam
expulit; illa volans, ceu vis non ulla moretur
obvia, vix sonuit clipeo et iam terga reliquit.
arma fluunt, longisque crepat singultibus aurum,
eruptusque sinus vicit crur. occidis audax,
occidis Aonii puer altera cura Lyaei.
marcida te fractis planxerunt Ismara thyrsis,
te Tmolos, te Nysa ferax Theseaque Naxos
et Thebana metu iuratus in orgia Ganges.
Nec segnem Argolicae sensere Eteolecia turmae,
parcior ad eives Polynicis inhorruit ensis.
eminet ante alios iam formidantibus arva
Amphiaraus equis ac multo pulvere vertit

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\[a\] Semele was the wife of Jove, and Harmonia the daughter of Mars and Venus.
\[b\] *i.e.*, after Phegeus, l. 603.
Gradivus: Bacchus and great Alcides we truly call our children." Amid boasts so vain fierce Capaneus meets him, a tall spear in his hand. And as at break of day a lion in his gloomy lair stirs up his fresh-awoken fury, and spies from the grim cave a hind or bullock with yet unwarlike forehead, and leaps forth with joyous roar, though assailed by the spears of hunting bands, but he sees his prey and knows not of his wounds: so then did Capaneus exult in the unequal conflict and poised for the throw the great weight of his cypress-spear. Yet first he cries: "Why, doomed one, dost thou affright our troops with womanly howls? Would that he for whom thou ragest would come himself to battle! Go, bawl that message to thy Tyrian dames!" and therewith he flung the spear, which in its flight, as though no force could meet and stay it, scarce rang upon the shield and already had passed clean through his back. His weapons fall, the gold resounds with long choking sobs, blood streams forth and overflows his bosom. Thou art fallen, bold youth; thou too, one favourite more of Aonian Lyaeus, art fallen. Thee languid Ismarus lamented with broken wands, thee Tmolus and fruitful Nyssa mourned, and Naxos of Theseus' fame, and Ganges, that in fear swore fealty to Theban orgies.

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

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*See l. 586.*
campum indignantem: famulo decus addit inane
maestus et extremos obitus inlustrat Apollo.
ille ctiam clipeum galeamque incendit honoro
sidere; nec tarde fratri, Gradive, dedisti, 695
ne qua manus vatem, ne quid mortalia bello
laedere tela qucant: sanctum et venerabile Diti
funus eat. talis medios aufertur in hostes
certus et ipse necis, vires fiducia leti
suggerit; inde viro maioraque membra diesque
laetior et numquam tanta experientia caeli,
si vacet: avertit morti contermina Virtus.
ardet inplexeto saevi Mavortis amore,
et fruitur dextra atque anima flagrante superbit.
hiene hominum casus lenire et demere Fatis
iura frequens? quantum subito diversus ab illo,
qui tripodas laurusque sequi, qui doctus in omni
nube salutato volucrem cognoscere Phoebo!
innumeram ferro plebem, eeu letifer annus
aut iubar adversi grave sideris, immolat umbris
ipse suis: iaculo Phlegyan iaculoque superbam
Phylea, falcato Clonin et Chremetaona curru
comminus hune stantem metit, hune a poplite sectum,
cuspide non missa Chronin Iphinoumque Sagenque
intonsumque Gyan sacrumque Lycorea Phoebo—
inivitus: iam fraxineum demiserat hastae
robur, et excussis apparuit infula cristis—,
Alcaithoum saxo, cui circum stagna Carysti
et domus et coniumx et amantes litora nati
vixerat ille diu pauper scrutator aquarum,
710
716

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

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

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

1 arva ω: arma PS.

\[a\text{ i.e., Argive.}
\[b\text{ For meaning see ll. 315 sqq. The "oaken nursling" is his spear.}

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

Long has Asopian Hypseus beheld from far the slaughter of the scattered rout, and burned to stay the tide of battle, though he himself not less has put to flight Tirynthian forces; but the sight of the augur made him heed the present carnage less: for him his warlike spirit yearns. A dense phalanx of the foe bars his way: then proudly he makes ready a javelin, chosen from his father's banks, and first exclaims: "O bounteous lavisher of Aonian streams, Asopus, yet renowned for the ashes of Giants, give power to this right hand; thy son and the oaken nursling of thy river ask thee; if thou didst strive with the Sire of all the gods, I may despise Phoebus. All his armour will I sink in thy waters, and the sad fillets from the augur's head." His father heard him, but Phoebus would not suffer him, fain though he was, to grant the prayer, and turns the blow aside upon Herses the charioteer. He falls, and the god himself takes up the straying reins, assuming the feigned shape of Haliaecmon of Lerna. Then indeed no squadrons try to resist his fiery course, but flee in terror unallayed, and in their panic they die a coward's death unwounded; 'tis doubtful to the view whether the fierce coursers are retarded or sped onward by the burden. So when a cloud-encompassed mountain-side is loosened by the fresh storms of winter, or by irresistible decay of age, it crashes down upon the plain, a fearful terror, and sweeps away in many a track of ruin fields, husbandmen, and aged oaks, and at length, its furious rush exhausted, either scoops out a vale or bars a river in mid-course.
non secus ingentique viro magnoque gravatus 750
temo deo nunc hoc, nunc illo in sanguine fervet.
ipse sedens telis pariterque ministrat habenis
Delius, ipse docet iactus adversaque flectit
spicula fortunamque hastis venientibus aufert.
sternuntur terra\(^1\) Melaneus pedes, Antiphus alto 755
nil defensus equo, genitusque Heliconide nympha
Action,\(^2\) caesoque infamis fratre Polites,
conatusque toris vittatam attingere Manto
Lampus: in hunc sacras Phoebus dedit ipse sagittas.
et iam cornipedes trepidi ac moribunda reflantes 760
corpora rimantur terras, omnisque per artus
sulcus et incisis altum rubet orbita membris.
hos iam ignorantes terit impius axis, at illi
vulnere semineces—nec devitare—
venturum super ora vident; iam lubrica tabo
frena, nec insisti madidus dat temo, rotaeque
sanguine difficiles, et tardior ungula fossis
visceribus: tunc ipse furens in morte relicta
spicula et e mediis exstantes ossibus hastas
avellit, strident animae currumque sequuntur. 770

Tandem se famulo summum confessus Apollo
"utere luce tua longamque" ait, "indue famam,
dum tibi me iunctum Mors inrevocata veretur.
vincimur: inmites scis\(^3\) nulla revolvere Parcas
stamina; vade, diu populis promissa voluptas
Elysiis, certe non perpessure Creontis
imperia aut vetito nudus iaciture supulcro." ille
refert contra, et paulum respirat ab armis:
"olim te, Cirrhae pater, peritura sedentem 779

\(^1\) terra \(P\omega\): terrae Kohlmann.
\(^2\) Action \(P\omega\): Action LN: Aethion QD.
\(^3\) scis \(P\omega\): fas DN (scis written over in D).
Not otherwise does the chariot, burdened by the great warrior and the mighty god, drive furiously through many a scene of bloodshed. From his seat the Delian guides both reins and weapons, and instructs his aim; he turns aside hostile darts and cheats the flying javelins of their fortune. Menaleus on foot is overthrown, and Antiphus, no whit defended by his lofty steed, and Aëtion, born of a nymph of Helicon, and Polites, ill-renowned for a brother's murder, and Lampus, who tried to defile the couch of the priestess Manto: against him Phoebus with his own hand sped holy arrows. And now the horn-footed steeds snort at the corpses in alarm and probe the ground, and every wheel-track runs o'er bodies and reddens deep with severed limbs. Some the remorseless axle grinds unconscious, but others half-dead from wounds—and powerless to escape—see it as it draws nigh to crush them. Already the reins are wet with gore, the slippery car gives no foothold, blood clogs the wheels and trampled entrails hinder the horses' hooves: then the hero himself madly tears out darts abandoned in the slain and spears projecting from the midst of corpses: ghosts shriek and pursue the chariot.

At length, revealing to his servant all his godhead, Apollo said: "Use the light that is thine, and put on eternal fame, while Death irrevocable fears me in thy company. We are overcome: thou knowest that the cruel Fates unravel no threads; depart, long-promised delight of Elysian peoples, thou who of a surety wilt never bend thy neck to Creon's rule, or lie exposed and barred from burial." The other, taking breath awhile from the fight, makes answer: "Long since knew I, Cirraean father, that thou wert
ad iuga—quis tantus miseris honor?—axe trementi sensimus; instantes quonam usque morabere manes?
audio iam rapidae cursum Stygis atque Ditis flumina tergeminosque mali custodis hiatus.
accipe commissum capiti deus, accipe laurus, quas Erebo deferre nefas. nune voce suprema, 785
si qua recessuro debetur gratia vati, deceptum tibi, Phoebe, larem poenasque nefandae coniugis et pulehrum nati commendo furem.”
desiluit maerens lacrimasque avertit Apollo:
tune vero ingemuit currusque orbique iugales. 790
non aliter caeco nocturni turbinum Cori
scit peritura ratis, cum iam damnata sororis igne Therapnaei fugerunt carbasa fratres.

Iamque recessurae paulatim horrescere terrae
summaque terga quati graviorque effervere pulvis
coeperat; inferno mugit iam murmure campus. 796
bella putant trepidi bellique hunc esse fragorem,
hortanturque gradus; alias1 tremor arma virosque
mirantesque inclinat equos; iam frondea nutant
culmina, iam muri, ripisque Ismenus apertis 800
effugit; exciderunt irae, nutantia figur
tela solo, dubiasque vagi nituntur in hastas
comminus inque vicem viso pallore reecedunt.
sic ubi navales miscet super aequora pugnas
contempto Bellona mari, si forte benigna2 805

1 alias Pw: altus Heinsius and late mss.
2 benigna Pw: maligna BN: Phillimore conj. nigrabit.

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

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

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

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\[ \text{i.e., outraging it by making it the scene of war.} \]

"Kindly," as being safer than battle.
tempestas, sibi quisque cavent, ensesque recondit
mors alia, et socii paeem fecere timores.
talis erat campo belli fluitantis imago.
sive laborantes concepto flamine terrae
ventorum rabiem et clusum eieere fuorem,
exedit seu putre solum carpsitque terendo
unda latens, sive hae volventis machina eaei
incubuit, sive omne fretum Neptunia movit
cuspis et extresem gravius mare torsit in oras,
seu vati datus ille fragor, seu terra minata est
fratribus: ecce alte praeceps humus ore profundo
dissilit, inque vicem timuerunt sidera et umbrae.
illum ingens haurit specus et transire parantes
mergit equos; non arma manu, non frena remisit:
sieut erat, reetos defert in Tartara currus
respexitque cadens caelum campumque coire
ingemuit, donee levior distantia rursus
miseuit arva tremor lucemque exclusit Averno.

\[^1\] terendo later mss.: ferendo \(P\omega\).
befall, all look to their own safety, and another death bids all their swords be sheathed, and common fears make peace among them. Such was the appearance of the heaving combat on the plain. Whether the earth, labouring with imprisoned blasts, expelled the pent-up fury of the raging wind, or whether hidden waters ate away and wore down and sapped the crumbling soil, or the fabric of the rolling sky flung that way its weight, or Neptune’s trident moved all the ocean and flung too vast a sea upon the shore, or whether that uproar was a tribute to the seer, or Earth threatened the brothers—lo! in a gaping chasm the ground yawns sheer and deep, and stars and shades feel mutual terror. Him the huge abyss engulfs, and swallows the horses as they try to leap across it; he drops neither reins nor weapons, but, just as he was, drove his unshaken chariot down to Tartarus, and as he sank looked back at the heavens and groaned to see the plain meet above him, until a fainter shock joined once more the parted fields and shut out the daylight from Avernus.
LIBER VIII

Ut subitus vates pallentibus incidit umbris
letiferasque domos orbisque\(^1\) arcana sepulti
rupit et armato turbavit funere manes,
horror habet cunctos, Stygiis mirantur in oris
tela et equos corpusque movum; nec enim ignibus
artus
conditus aut maesta niger adventabat ab urna,
(e) sed belli sudore calens, clipeumque cruentis
roribus et scissi respersus pulvere campi.
needum illum aut trunca lustraverat obvia taxo
Eumenis, aut furvo\(^2\) Proserpina poste notarat
coetibus adsumptum functis; quin comminus ipsa
Fatorum deprensa colus, visoque paventes
augure tunc demum rumpebant stamina Parcae.
illum et securi circumspexere fragorem
Elysii, et si quos procul ulteriore\(^3\) barathro
altera nox aliisque gravat plaga caeca tenebris.
tunc regemunt pigrique lacus ustaeque\(^4\) paludes,
umbriferaeque frenit suleator pallidus undae
dissiluisse novo penitus telluris hiatu
Tartara et admissos non per sua flumina manes.\(^{20}\)

\(^1\) orbisque \(\omega\): regisque \(P\).
\(^2\) furvo \(\omega\): fulvo \(PS\).
\(^3\) ulteriore \(P\): inferiore \(\omega\).
\(^4\) ustae \(P\) Schol.: vastae \(\omega\).

* Both appear to be modes of initiation to the under-
BOOK VIII

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

world, though nowhere else mentioned as such. The yew belonged specially to Furies, cf. xi. 94. "furvus" is an epithet suitable to the underworld, cf. Silv. v. 1. 155.
Fortem sedem media regni infeliciis in arce
dux Erebi populos posebat crimina vitae,
nil hominum miserans iratusque omnibus umbris
stant Furiae circum variaeque ex ordine Mortes,
saevaque multisonas exsertat Poena catenas;
Fata ferunt animas et eodem pollice damnant:
vincit opus. iuxta Minos cum fratre verendo
iura bonus meliora monet regemque cruentum
temperat; adsistunt lacrimis atque igne tumentes
Coeytos Phlegethonque, et Styx periuria divum
arguit. ille autem supera compage soluta
nec solitus sentire metus expavit oborta
sidera, iunundaque offensus luce profatur:
“quae superum labes inimicem impigit Averno
aethera? quis rupit tenebras vitaeque silentes
admonet? unde minae? uter haec mihi proelia
fratrum?
congregedior, pereant agedum discrimina rerum.
nam cui dulce magis? magno me tertia victum
deiecit Fortuna polo, mundumque nocentem
servo: nec iste meus dirisque en pervius astris
inspicitur. tumidusne meaem reonor Olympi
explorat vires? habeo iam quassa Gigantum
vincula et aetherium cupidos exire sub axem
Titanas miserumque patrem: quid me otia maesta
saevus et implacidam prohibit perferre quietem

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pluto to the underworld. Demeter eventually bargained
with him that she should stay only six months of the year in
Hades.
mandat atrox hostile caput, quique igne supremo arceat examines et manibus aethera nudis commaculet: iuuet ista ferum spectare Tonantem. praeterea ne sola furor mea regna lassassat, quae deis qui bella ferat, qui fulminis ignes infestumque Iovem elipeo fumante repellat. faxo haud sit cunctis levior metus atra movere Tartara, frondenti quam iungere Pelion Ossae." dixerat; atque illi iamdudum regia tristis attremit oranti, suaque et quae desuper urguet nutabat tellus: non fortius aethera vultu torquet et astriferos inclinant Iuppiter axes. "At tibi quos" inquit, "manes, qui limite praeceps non licito per inane ruis?" subit ille minantem iam tenuis visu, iam vanescentibus armis, iam pedes: extincto tamen indeceptus in ore augurii perdurat honos, obscuraque fronti vitta manet, ramumque tenet morientes olivae. "si licet et sanctis hic ora resolvere fas est manibus, o cunctis finitor maxime rerum, at mihi, qui quondam causas elementaque noram, et sator, oro, minas stimulataque corda remulce, neve ira dignare hominem et tua iura timentem, nam nec ad Herculeos—unde haec mihi proelia?:—raptus, nec Venerem inlicitam—crede his insignibus—aus intramus Lethen: fugiat ne tristis in antrum

1 indeceptus Barth: interceptus Pω.
2 proelia P: pectora w.

a Tydeus and Creon, see Bk. VIII. (fin.) and Bk. XII.
b Capaneus, see Bk. X. (fin.).
c "manes," existence in underworld, so doom, fate.
d Pluto may be regarded as the source, as well as the
bestial savagery shall gnaw his foeman's head, and one who shall bar the dead from the funeral fire and pollute the air with naked corpses; let the fierce Thunderer feast his eyes on that! Moreover, lest their fury harm my realms alone, seek one who shall make war against the gods, and with smoking shield repel the fiery brand and Jove’s own wrath. I will have all men fear to disturb black Tartarus no less than to set Pelion on top of leafy Ossa.” He finished, and long since was the gloomy palace quaking at his words, and his own land and that which presses on it from above were rocking: no more mightily does Jupiter sway the heaven with his nod, and bow the starry poles.

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

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

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

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

Interea vittis lauruque insignis opima currus et egregiis modo formidatus in armis luce palam, fusus nulli\(^1\) nullique fugatus, quaeritur: absistunt turmae, suspectaque tellus omnibus, infidi miles vestigia campi circuit, atque avidae tristis locus ille ruinae cessat et inferni vitatur honore sepulcri. nuntius hortanti diversa in parte maniplos Adrasto, vix ipse ratus vidisse, Palaemon advolat et trepidans—steterat nam forte cadenti proximus inspectoque miser pallebat hiatu—"verte gradum, fuge, rector" ait, "si Dorica saltem terra loco patriaeque manent, ubi liquimus, arces. non armis, non sanguine opus: quid inutile ferrum stringimus in Thebas? currus humus impia sorbet armaque bellantesque viros; fugere ecce videtur hie etiam, quo stamus, ager. vidi ipse profundae noctis iter ruptaque soli compage ruentem illum heu, praesagis quo nullus amicior astris, Oecliden, frustraque manus eum voce tetendi.\(^2\) mira loquor, sulcos etiamnum rector equorum fumantemque locum et spumis madida arva\(^3\) reliquit.\(^4\) nec commune malum est: tellus agnoscit alumnos, stat Thebana acies.” stupet haec et credere Adrastus eunetatur; sed Mopsus idem trepidusque ferebat Actor idem. iam\(^5\) fama novis terroribus audax

\(^1\) nulli \(\omega\): media \(P\).
\(^2\) tetendi \(BQC\): tetendit \(P_\omega\).
\(^3\) arva \(\omega\): ora \(P\).
\(^4\) reliquit \(P\): reliqui \(\omega\).
\(^5\) iam \(Sandstroem\): nam \(P_\omega\).
up his anger and his might: but if the foeman fall, to pass over him is enough, and to leave to the vanquished his life.

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

non unum ecidisse refert. sponte agmina retro
non exspectato revocantum more tubarum\(^1\)
priaecipitant: sed torpet iter, falluntque ruentes 155
gena viros; ipsique—putes sensisse—repugnant
cornipedes nulloque truces hortamine parent,
nee celerare gradum nec tollere lumina terra.
fortius incursant Tyrii, sed Vesper opacus
lunaes iam ducit equos; data foedere parvo 160
maesta viris requies et nox auctura timores.

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

\(^1\) tubarum \(\omega\) : ferarum \(P\).

\(^a\) "tibi" may be an ethic dative here.

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

How looks it now, think you, when groans are granted their fill? How fell the tears from the loosened helms? Nought customary delights the weary warriors; they cast down their dripping shields, just as they were, none wiped his spear, or praised his charger, or dressed and decked the plume of his polished helm; scarce do they care to wash their grievous wounds, and stitch up the wide-gaping blows: so great the despair of every heart. Nor could the fear of battle persuade them to take food and due sustenance for war: all sing of thy praises, Amphiaraurus, and of thy mind, unfailing oracle of truth; one speech is heard throughout the tents: that the gods have left them, and their protection is departed from the camp. "Where, alas! the laurelled chariot and the sacred arms and fillet-bearing crest? Is this the faith of Castalian lake and grotto, and holy tripod? Is this Apollo's gratitude? Who now shall explain to me the falling of stars, or the purpose of lightning on the left, or the will divine that leaps in the new-slain entrails? or when to march or tarry, what hour is profitable
quae pacem magis hora velit? quis iam omne futurum
proferet, aut cum quo volucres mea fata loquentur?
hos quoque bellorum casus nobisque tibique
praescieras, et—quanta sacro sub pectore virtus!—
venisti tamen et miseris comes additus armis.
et cum te tellus fatalisque hora vocaret,
tu Tyrias acies adversaque signa vacasti
sternere; tunc etiam media de morte timendum
hostibus infestaque abuentem vidimus hasta.
et nunc te quis casus habet? poterisne reverteri
sedibus a Stygiis altaque erumpere terra?
anne sedes hilares iuxta tua numina Parcas
et vice concordi discis ventura docesque?
an tibi felices lucos miseratus Averni
rector et Elysias dedit inservare volucres?
quidquid es, aeternus Phoebo dolor et nova clades
semper eris mutisque diu plorabere Delphis.
hic Tenedon Chrysenque\(^1\) dies partuque ligatam
Delon et intonsi cludet penetralia Branchi,
nec Clarias hac luce fores Didymaeaque quisquam
limina nec Lyciam supplex consultor adibit.
quin et cornigeri vatis nemus atque Molosso
quercus anhela Iovi Troianaque Thymbra tacebit.
ipsi amnes ipsaeque volent\(^2\) arescere laurus,
ipse nihil certum sagis\(^3\) clangoribus aether

\[^1\] chrisenque \(P\): chrysamque \(BQ\): cyrrhamque \(ο\).
\[^2\] ipsaeque volent \(ω\): ipsaeque viae mallent \(P\): ipsae
malent \(Postgate\).
\[^3\] sagis \(ω\): sacis \(S\): sacris \(P\).

\(^a\) Here, as in the well-known passage from Milton's \textit{Ode on the Nativity}, "the oracles are dumb." The "bringing-
forth" (l. 197) is that of Apollo and Diana.
\(^b\) Tenedos and Chrysa were both sacred to Apollo; he had
an oracle at Claros and at Miletus (that of Branchus, son
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for battle, or rather calls for peace? Who now shall lay bare all the future, or with whom shall birds hold converse of my destiny? The chances of this war thou knewest also, both for thyself and us, and yet—how great the courage in that inspired breast! thou camest and didst join our ill-fated arms. And when the earth and thy fatal hour called thee, thou hadst time to lay low the Tyrian lines and hostile standards; then even in the midst of death we saw thee a terror to the foe, and thy spear still threatening as thou didst depart. And now what fate befalls thee? Wilt thou be able to return from the abodes of Styx, and break forth from the depths of earth? Or sittest thou beside the glad Parcae, thine own deities, and by harmonious interchange dost learn and teach the future? Or hath the lord of Avernus in pity granted thee to watch Elysian birds in the groves of the blest? Whatever thou art, an eternal grief to Phoebus shalt thou be, and a loss that is ever new, and long shalt thou be mourned by a Delphi that is dumb. This day shall silence Tenedos and Chryse, and Delos, made fast for the bringing-forth, and unshorn Branchus’ shrine, nor on this day shall any suppliant draw nigh to the Clarian temple-gates, nor to the threshold of Dindymus, nor consult the Lycian god. Nay, the precinct also of the horned prophet and the panting oak of Molossian Jove and Trojan Thymbra shall be mute. The very streams and laurels shall of their own will fail and wither, the air itself shall utter no certain presage in prophetic

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

Temple of Zeus Ammon in Libya, of Zeus at Dodona, of Apollo at Thymbra.
praecinet, et nulla ferientur ab alite nubes. iamque erit ille dies, quo te quoque conscia fatis templam colant reddatque tuus responsa sacerdos."

talia fatidico peragunt sollemnia regi, ceu flammas ac dona rogo tristesque rependant exsequias mollique animam tellure reponant.

fracta dehinc eunetis aversaque pectora bello : sie fortas Minyas subito cum funere Tiphys destituit, non arma sequi, non ferre videtur remus aquas, ipsique minus iam dueere venti. iam fessi gemitu, paulatim et corda levavit exhaustus sermone dolor, nox addita curas obruit et facilis lacrimis inrepere somnus.

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

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

But elsewhere, throughout the Sidonian city, far different was that night; in various sport before their houses and within they spend the hours of darkness, and even the sentinels on the walls are tipsy; cymbals and the Idaean drums resound, and the pipe that makes its music by varied breathing. Then in honour of their darling gods and every native deity in order sacred paeans everywhere swell high, everywhere are garlands seen and wreathed bowls of wine. Now mock they the witless augur’s death, and again they vie in praising their own Tiresias; now they tell the history of their sires, and sing from its beginnings the ancient tale of Thebes: some tell of the Sidonian sea and the hands that grasped the Thunderer’s horns and the mighty bull that ploughed the deep, others of Cadmus and the weary heifer and the fields pregnant with bloody war, others again of
ad chelyn et duras animantem Amphionia cautes, hi gravidam Semelen, illi Cythereia laudant conubia et multa deductam lampade fratrum Harmoniam: nullis iam deest\(^1\) sua fabula mensis. ceu modo gemmiferum thyrso populatus Hydaspen Eoasque domos nigri vexilla triumphi Liber et ignotos populis ostenderet Indos. Tunc primum ad coetus sociaeque ad foedera mensae semper inaspectum diraque in sede latentem Oedipoden exisse ferunt vultuque sereno canitiem nigrum squalore et sordida fusis ora eomis laxasse manu sociumque benignos adfatus et abacta prius solacia passum, quin hausisse dapes insiccatumque cruorem deieicisse genis. cunctos auditque refertque, qui Ditem et Furias tantum et si quando regentem Antigonem maestis solitus pulsare querellis. causa latet. non hunc Tyrii fors prospera belli; tantum bella iuvant; natum hortaturque probatque, nec vicisse velit; sed primos comminusenses et sceleris tacito rimatur semina voto. inde epulae dulces ignotaque gaudia vultu. qualis post longae Phineus ieiunia poenae, nil stridere domi volucres ut sensit abactas— necdum tota fides—hilaris mensasque torosque nec turbata feris tractavit pocula pinnis. Cetera Graiorum curis armisque iacebat fessa cohors; alto castrorum ex aggere Adrastus lacticos tenui captabat corde tumultus,

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

\(^a\) He was a king in Thrace, who was plagued by Harpies, who snatched away the food from his table.
the boulders that moved to the music of the Tyrian lute and Amphion stirring rocks to life; these celebrate the travail of Semele, those the Cytherean nuptials and the train of brothers' torches that led Harmonia to her home; every table has its story. 'Tis as though Liber of late had ravaged Hydaspes rich in gems and the kingdoms of the East, and were displaying to the folk the banners of his swarthy captive-train and Indians yet unknown. 

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

The rest of the Grecian host lay fordone with care and battle; from a high mound in the camp Adrastus—frail now and old, but forced by the curse of power
quamquam aeger senio, sed agit miserandapotestas
invigilare malis. illum aereus undique clamor
Thebanique urunt sonitus, et amara lacescit
tibia, tum nimio voce marcore superbæ
cincertaeque faces et iam male pervigil ignis.
sie ubi per fluetus uno ratis obruta somno
conticuit, pacique¹ maris secura iuventus
mandavere animas: solus stat puppe magister
pervigil inscriptaque deus qui navigat alno. 265

Tempus erat, iunctos cum iam soror ignea Phoebi
sensit equos penitusque cavam sub luce parata
Oceani mugire domum, seseque vagantem
colligit et leviter moto fugat astra flagello: 274
concilium rex triste vocat, quaequentque gementes,
quis tripodas successor agat, quo provida² laurus
transeat atque orbum vittae decus. haud mora,
euncti
insignem fama sanctoque Melampode creatum
Thiodamanta volunt, quicum ipse arcana deorum
partiri et visas uni sociare solebat 280
Amphiaraus aves, tantaeque haud invidus artis
gaudebat diei similem iuxtaque secundum.
ilum ingens confundit honos inopinaque turbat
gloria et oblatas frondes submissus adorat,
seque oneri negat esse parem cogique meretur: 285
sicut Achaemenius solium gentesque paternas
exceptit si forte puer, cui vivere patrem
tutius, incerta formidine gaudia librat,

¹ pacique Postgate: tantique P, but some dat. is needed
for the verb; it is impossible to understand somno, as Klotz.
² provida Peyrared: prodigia P: prodita ω.

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

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

It was the time when Phoebus’ fiery sister, hearing the sound of his yoked steeds and the roar of Ocean’s cavernous abode beneath the gathering dawn, collects her straying beams and with light flick of whip chases the stars away: the king calls the doleful council, and in dismay they ask who shall take up the duty of the tripod, to whom shall pass the prescient laurel and the widowed glory of the fillet. Straightway all demand holy Melampus’ son, Thiodamas of high renown, with whom alone Amphiaras’ self was wont to share the mysteries of the gods and view the flying birds, nor grudged him so much skill, but rejoiced to hear him called his like and nearest rival. Overwhelmed by the high honour and confounded by the unlooked-for glory he humbly reverences the proffered leaves, and pleads that he is unequal to the task, and must needs for his merit be constrained: even as when perchance a young Achaemenian b prince has succeeded to the throne and all his father’s realms (though safer were it for him that his sire still lived), his delight he balances with uncertain fear, whether his chiefs be
an fidi proceres, ne pugnet volgus habenis, 
cui latus Euphratae, cui Caspia limina mandet; sumere tune arcus ipsumque onerare veretur 
patris equum, visusque sibi nec sceptra capaci 
sustentare manu nec adhuc implere tiaram. 

Atque is ubi intorto signatus vellere erinum 
convenitque deis, hilari per castra tumultu vadit ovans ac, prima sui documenta, sacerdos 
Tellurem placare parat: nec futile maestis 
id visum Danais. geminas ergo ilicet aras 
aroribus vivís et adulto caespite texti 
imperat, innumerose deae, sua munera, flores et cumulos frugum et quicquid novat impiger annus 
addit et intacto spargens altaria lacte 
incipit: "o hominum divomque aeterna creatrix, 
quae fluvios silvasque animarum et semina mundo 
cuncta Prometheasque manus Pyrrhaeaque saxa gignis, et impastis quae prima alimenta dedisti 
mutastique\(^1\) viris,\(^2\) quae pontum ambisque vehisque: 
te penes et peudum gens mitis et iva ferarum 
et volucrum requies; firnum atque immobile mundi 
robur inoccidui, te velox machina caeli 
aacre pendentem vacuo, te currus uterque 
circuit, o rerum media indivisaque magnis 
fratribus! ergo simul tot gentibus alma, tot altis 
urbibus ac populis, subterque ac desuper una

\(^1\) mutastique \(\omega\): multatisque \(P\). 
\(^2\) viris \(P\): viros \(\omega\).
loyal, whether the folk will fight against the reins, to whom he shall entrust the frontier of Euphrates or the Caspian gate; then does he feel awe to wield the bow and to mount his sire’s own steed, nor can he see himself upholding the sceptre with large grasp nor as yet filling the diadem.

He therefore having set upon his locks the emblem of the twisted wool and held intercourse with the gods, proceeds in triumph through the camp amid shouts of joy, and, first evidence of his priestly office, prepares to appease the Earth: nor seemed it vain to the sorrowing Danaans. Therefore he straightway bids altars twain be wreathed with living trees and well-grown turf, and on them, in honour of the goddess, he flings countless flowers, her own bounty, and heaps of fruit and the new produce of the tireless year, and pouring untouched milk upon the altars he thus begins: "O eternal Creatress of gods and men, who bringest into being rivers and forests and seeds of life throughout the world, the handiwork of Prometheus and the stones of Pyrrha,\(a\) thou who first didst give nourishment and varied food to famished men, who dost encompass and bear up the sea; in thy power is the gentle race of cattle and the anger of wild beasts and the repose of birds; round thee, firm, steadfast strength of the unfailing universe, as thou hangest in the empty air the rapid frame of heaven and either chariot doth wheel, O middle of the world, unshared by the mighty brethren!\(b\)

Therefore art thou bountiful to so many races, so many lofty cities and peoples, while from above and from beneath thou art all-sufficient, and with no Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto, took air, sea, and underworld as their portions, and left the earth common to all.
sufficis, astriferumque domos Atlanta supernas
ferre laborantem nullo vehis ipsa labore:
nos tantum portare negas, nos, diva, gravaris?
quod, precor, ignari luimus scelus? an quia plebes
externa Inachiiis huc adventamus ab oris?
onme homini natale solum, nec te, optima, saevo
tamque humili populos deceat distinguere fine
undique ubique tuos; mancas communis et arma
hinc atque inde feras; liceat, precor, ordine belli
pugnaeae efflare animas et reddere caelo.
ne rape tam subitis spirantia corpora bustis,
ne propera: veniemus enim, quo limite euncti,
qua licet ire via; tantum exorata Pelasgis
siste levem campum, celeres neu praecipe Pareas.
at tu, eare dei, quem non manus ulla nec enses
Sidonii, sed magna sinu Natura soluto,
ceu te Cirrhaeo meritum tumularet hiatu,
sic amplexa coit, hilaris des, oro, preeatus
nosse tuos, caeloque et vera monentibus aris
concilies, et quae populis proferre parabas,
me doceas: tibi saera feram praesaga, tuique
numinis interpres te Phoebus absente vocabo.
ille mihi Delo Cirrhaeque potentior omni,
quod ruis, ille adytis melior locus." haec ubi dicta,
nigrants terrae pecudes obscuraque mergit
armenta, ac vivis cumulos undantis harenae
aggerat et vati mortis simulacra rependit.
Talia apud Graios, cum iam Mavortia contra

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

Such things were happening among the Greeks, when already yonder the Martial horns were heard,
STATIUS
cornua, iam saevos fragor aereus excitat enses. addit acerba sonum Tcumesi e vertice crinem incutient acuitque tubas et sibila miscet
Tisiphone: stupet insolito elangore Cithaeron marcidus et turres carmen non tale secutae. iam trepidas Bellona fores armataque pulsat limina, iam multo laxantur cardine Thebae.
turbat eques pedites, currus properantibus obstant, ceu Danai post terga premant: sic omnibus alae artantur portis septemque excursibus haerent. Ogygiis it sorte Creon, Eteoclea mittunt Neistae, celsas Homoloidas occupat Haemon, Hypsea Proetiae,\(^1\) celsum fudere Dryanta
Electrae, quatit Hypsistmas manus Eurymedontis, culmina magnanimus stipat Dircaea Menoeceus. qualis ubi aversi secretus pabula caeli Nilus et Eoas magno bibit ore pruinas, scindit fontis opes septemque patentibus arvis in mare fert liimes; penitus cessere fugatae Nereides dulcique timent occurrere ponto.
Tristis at inde gradum tarde movet Inaeha pubes, praecipue Eleae Lacedaemoniaeque eohortes et Pylii; subitum nam Thiodamanta secuntur augure fraudati, needum accessere regenti. nec tua te, princeps tripodum, sola agmina quaerunt: cuneta phalanx sibi deesse putat; minor ille per alas septimus exstat apex. liquido velut aethere nubes

\(^1\) Proetiae \textit{P\(\omega\):} Proetides et \textit{Lachmann:} Proetiadae (-es) \textit{edd.}

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

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

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

Sed iam bella vocant: alias nova suggere vires,
Calliope, maiorque chelyn mihi tendat Apollo.
fatalem populum ulterior poseuntibus horam 375
admovet atra dies, Stygiisque emissa tenebris
Morsruit caelo bellatoremque volando
campum operit nigroque viros invitat hiatu,
nil vulgare legens, sed quae dignissima vita
funera, praeclipuos annos animisque cruento 380
ungue notat; iamque in miseros pensum omne
Sororum
scinditur, et Furiae rapuerunt licia Parcis.
stat medius campis etiamnum cuspide sicca
Bellipotens, iamque hos clipeum, iam vertit ad illos
arma ciens, aboletque domos, conubia, natos. 385
pellitur et patriae et, qui mente novissimus exit,
lucis amor; tenet in capulis hastisque paratas
ira manus animusque ultra thoraeas anhelus
conatur, galeaeque tremunt horrore comarum.
quid mirum caluisse viros? flammantur in hostem 390
cornipedes niveoque rigant sola putriam nimbo,
corpora eeu mixti dominis irasque sedentum
induerint: sic frena terunt, sic proelia poseunt
hinnitu tolluntque armos equitesque supinant.

1 riget P: nitet o.
2 hiatu Pw: amictu D (hiatu written over), conversely B, hence Wakefield conj. investit amictu.
3 ungue Barth, Bentley: angue Pw.
4 animus . . . anhelus w: -os . . . -os P.
from the clear sky one of the Parrhasian cluster—a—
spoiled is the glory of the Wain, the axle wavers, 
shorn of one fire, and the seamen count their stars in 
doubt.

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

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

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

\[a\] A strange phrase, which seems intended to present the
scene both to eye and ear.
\[b\] *i.e.*, flung back again, as in l. 435.
\[c\] *i.e.*, from their poison as well as their sharpness, or
And now they charge, and the first dust-clouds of the heroes begin to meet in the onset; both sides dash forward an equal space, and see the intervening plain diminish. Then shield thrusts against shield, boss upon boss, threatening sword on sword, foot against foot and lance on lance: in such close struggle they meet; together their groans reek, close-packed crests gleam over helmets not their own. The face of battle is still fair: plumes stand erect, horsemen bestride their steeds, no chariot is without its chief; weapons are in their place, shields glitter, quivers and belts are comely, and gold as yet unsightly with blood. But when fury and valour prodigal of life give rein to passion, Arctos lashes not airy Rhodope so fiercely with hardened snow when the Kids are falling, nor does Ausonia hear so loud an uproar when Jupiter thunders from end to end of heaven, nor are the Syrtes beaten with such hail, when dark Boreas hurls Italian tempests upon Libya. Their darts shut out the day, a steely cloud hangs athwart the sky, and the crowded air has no room for all the javelins. Some perish by flung spears, others by spears returning, stakes meet in the void and rob each other of the wounds they carry, spears meet, and stones rain hissing from the slings, swift bullets, and dread arrows winged with a double death rival the lightning-stroke. No place for weapons earthward, every dart falls on a body; often they slay and are slain unwitting. Chance does the work of valour: now the press retires and now advances, loses ground in turn and wins it. Even so when threatening Jove has loosed the reins of winds and tempests, and sends perhaps by hyperbole their power to kill two together, cf. ii. 637, viii. 538.
Iuppiter alternoque adfligit turbine mundum: stat caeli diversa acies, nunc fortior Austri, 425 nunc Aquilonis hiemps, donec pugnante procella aut nimis hic vicit aquis, aut ille sereno.


¹ pectora P: verbera w.
alternate hurricanes to afflict the world, opposing forces meet in heaven, now Auster's storms prevail, now Aquilo's, till in the conflict of the winds one conquers, be it Auster's overwhelming rains, or Aquilo's clear air.

At the outset of the fight Asopian Hypseus repulsed the Oebalian squadrons—for these in fierce pride of race were thrusting their stout bucklers through the Euboean lines—and slew Menalcas the leader of the phalanx. He, a true-souled Spartan, child of the mountain-torrent, shamed not his ancestry, but pulled back through bones and bowels the spear that would pass beyond his breast, lest his back should show dishonour, and with failing hand hurled it back all bloody at the foe; his loved Taygetus swims before his dying eyes, and his combats, and the strong breast his mother praised. Dircaean Amyntas marks out Phaedimus, son of Iasus, with his bow: ah! the swift Fates! already Phaedimus lies gasping on the field, and not yet has the bow of sure Amyntas ceased to twang. Calydonian Agreus cut the right arm of Phegeus from off its shoulder: on the ground it holds the sword in unyielding grip and shakes it: Acoetes advancing feared it as it lay amid scattered weapons, and struck at it, severed though it was. Stern Acamas pierced Iphis, fierce Hypseus Argus, Pheres laid Abas low, and groaning from their different wounds they lay, horseman Iphis, foot-soldier Argus, chariot-driver Abas. Inachian twins had smitten with the sword twin brothers of Cadmus' blood, hidden by their helms—war's cruel ignorance!—but stripping the dead of all their spoils they saw the horror of their deed, and each in dismay looked on his brother, and cried that they
cultor Ion Pisae cultorem Daphnea Cirrhæ
turbatis prostravit equis; hunc laudat ab alto
Iuppiter, hunc tardus frustra miseratur Apollo. 455

Ingentes Fortuna viros inlustrat utrimque
sanguine in adverso: Danaos Cadmeius Haemon
sternit agitque, furens sequitur Tyria agmina Tydeus;
Pallas huic præsens, illum Tirynthius implet.
qualiter hiberni summis duo montibus amnes
franguntur geminaque cadunt in plana ruina:
contendisse putes, uter arva arbustaque tollat
altius aut superet pontes; eccé una receptas
confundit illum vallis aquas; sibi quisque superbus
ire cupidit, pontoque negant descendere mixti. 460

Ibat fumiferam quatiens Onchestius Idas
lampada per mediós turbabatique agmina Graium,
igne viam rumpens; magno quem comminus ictu
Tydeos hasta feri dispulsa casside fixit.
ille ingens in terga iacet, stat fronte superstes
lancea, conlapsae veniunt in tempora flammae.
prosequitur Tydeus: "saevos ne dixeris Argos,
igne tuo, Thebane—rogum concedimus—arde!"
inde, velut primo tigris gavisa cruore
per totum cupid ire pecus, sic Aona saxo,
ense Pholum, Chromin ense, duos Helicaonas hasta
transigit, Aegaeae Veneris quos Maera sacerdos
ediderat prohibente dea; vos praeda eruenti
Tydeos, it saevas etiamnum mater ad aras.

Nec minus Herculeum contra vagus Haemona ducit

1 Haemon P: heros ω.
2 ecce Pω: et cum Garrod.

a Zeus and Apollo were worshipped at Olympia and
Delphi respectively.
228
were both at fault. Ion worshipper at Pisa overthrew Daphneus worshipper at Cirrha, in the confusion of his steeds: this one Jupiter praises from on high, that one Apollo vainly pities, too late to aid.

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

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

No less on the other side is Haemon, ward of Hercules, led on by restless vigour; with unsated
sanguis: inexpleto rapitur per milia ferro, 481
nunc tumidae Calydonis opes, nunc torva Pylenes
agmina, nunc maestae fundens Pleuronis alumnos,
donec in Olenium fessa iam cuspidé Buten
incidit. hunc turnis obversum et abire vetantem 485
adgreditur; puer ille, puer malasque comamque
integer, ignaro cui tunc Thebana bipennis
in galeam librata venit: finduntur\(^1\) utroque
tempora dividuique cadunt in bracchia crines,
et non hoc metuens inopino limine vita 490
exsiluit. tunc flavum Hypanin flavumque Politen—
ille genas Phoebo, crimem hic pasebat Iaccho:
saevus uterque deus—victis Hyperenora iungit
conversumque fuga Damasum; sed lapsa per armos
hasta viri trans pectus abit parlamque tenenti 495
executit et summa fugiens in cuspidae portat.

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

\(^1\) finduntur *BQ* (*both 2nd hand* *)SN*: funduntur, scinduntur, striduntur *other mss.*
sword he speeds through thousands, now laying low the pride of Calydon, now Pylene's grim array, now sad Pleuron's sons, until with wearied spear he happens on Olenian Butes. Him he attacks, as he turns toward his men and forbids them to retreat; a lad was he, with cheeks yet smooth and hair unshorn, and the Theban battle-axe aimed against his helmet takes him unaware; his temples are cleft asunder, and his locks divided fall upon his shoulders, and he, not fearing such a fate, passed from life unwitting on its threshold. Then he slays fair-haired Hypanis and Polites—this one was keeping his beard for Phoebus, that one his hair for Iacchus; but cruel was either god—and joins Hyperenor to his victims, and Damasus who turned to flee; but the hero's lance sped through his shoulders and passed out by his heart, and tearing his buckler from his grasp, carried it on the lance-point as it flew.

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

\[i.e.,\] Pallas and Hercules, whom Statius describes as actually present to support their rival champions.
quantum haec diva manus, quotiens sudaverit aegis
ista mihi, duris famulus dum casibus omnes
lustro vagus terras; ipsa heu! comes invia mecum
Tartara, ni superos Acheron excluderet,isses.
tu patriam caelumque mihi, quis tanta relatu
aequet? habe totas, si mens excidere,\textsuperscript{1} Thebas. 515
cedo equidem veniamque precor." sic orsus abibat.
Pallada muleet honos: rediit ardore remisso
voltus et erecti sederunt pectoris angues.
Sensit abesse deum, levius Cadmeius Haemon
tela rotat nulloque manum cognoseit in iictu. 520
tune magis atque magis vires animusque recedunt,
nec pudor ire retro; cedentem Acheloius heros
impetit,\textsuperscript{2} et librans uni sibi missile telum
direxit iactus, summae qua margine parmae
ima sedet galea et iuguli vitalia lucent. 525
nec frustrata manus, mortemque invenerat hasta;
sed prohibit paulumque umeri libare sinistri
praebuit et merito parcit Tritonia fratri.
ille tamen nec stare loco nec comminus ire
amplius aut voltus audet perferre cruenti
Tydeos; aegra animo vis ac fiducia cessit:
qualis saetigeram Lucana cuspide frontem
strictus aper, penitus cui non infossa cerebro
volnera, nec felix dextrae tenor, in latus iras
frangit, et expertae iam non venit obvius hastae. 535
Ecce ducem turmae certa indignatus in hostem
spicula felici Prothoum torquere lacerto,

\textsuperscript{1} excidere Kohlmann: exscindere \textomega: excedere P.
\textsuperscript{2} impetit \textomega: impedit P.
remember everlastingly, how much that godlike hand, how oft that aegis of thine hath laboured for me, while, a thrall to hardship, I roamed through every land; yea! thou wouldst have gone thyself to pathless Tartarus with me, did not Acheron exclude the gods. Thou gavest me my home, ay, heaven—who could name a service so great? All Thebes is thine, if thou hast a mind to destroy it. I yield and crave pardon." So he spake, and departed. Pallas is soothed by the praise; her countenance is calm again, the anger spent, and the snakes erect upon her bosom sank to rest.

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

Lo! now, indignant that Prothous the leader of a squadron is hurling sure darts with happy aim against
turbidus Oenides una duo corpora pinu, cornipedemque equitemque, ferit: ruit ille ruentem in Prothoum lapsasque manu quaerentis habenas 540 in voltus galeam elipeumque in pectora calcat, saucius extremo donec cum sanguine frenos respuit et iuncta domino cervice recumbit. sic ulmus vitisque, duplex iactura colenti, Gaurano de monte cadunt, sed maestior ulmus 545 quae rutrumque nemus, nec tam sua bracchia labens quam gemit adsuetas invitaque proterit uvas. sumpserat in Danaos Heliconius arma Corymbus, ante comes Musis, Stygii cui conscia pensi ipsa diu positis letum praedixerat astris Uranie. cupid ille tamen pugnasque virosque, forsitan ut caneret; longa iacet ipse canendum laude, sed amissum mutae\(^1\) flevere sorores.

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

\(^1\) mutae \(\omega\) : musae *PDS.*

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

Atys, betrothed from childhood to Ismene, offspring of Agenor, went his way, a youth no stranger to the wars of Thebes, though Cirrha was his home, nor had he shunned his bride's kinsmen for their evil deeds; nay, her misery undeserved and chaste humility commend her to her lover's favour. He too was noble, nor was the maiden's heart turned from him, and they were pleasing in each other's sight, had only Fortune suffered it. But war forbids his marriage, and hence the youth's fiercer wrath against the foe; among the foremost he rushes on, and now afoot with errant sword, now grasping the reins aloft, as though at some spectacle, he drives before him the ranks of Lerna. With threefold
surgentes etiamnum uerlos et levia mater pectora; nunc auro phaleras auroque sagittas cingulaque et manicas, ne coniuge vilior iret, presserat et mixtum cono crispaverat aurum. talibus heu! fidens vocat ultro in proelia Graios. ac primum in faciles grassatus cuspide turmas arma refert sociis et in agmina fida peracta caede redit. sic Hyrcana leo Caspius umbra nudus adhuc nulloque iubae flaventis honore terribilis magnique etiamnum sanguinis insons, haud procu a stabulis captat custode remoto segne pecus teneraque famem consumit in¹ agna. mox ignotum armis ac solo corpore mensus Tydea non timuit, fragilique lascere telo saepius infrendentem alis aliosque sequentem ausus erat. tandem invalidos Aetolus ad ictus forte refert oculos et formidabile ridens: "iamdum video, magnum cupis, improbe, leti nomen" ait; simul audacem non ense nec hasta dignatus leviter digitis imble solutis abiccit iaculum: latebras tamen inguinis alte missile, cee totis intortum viribus, hausit. praeterit haud dubium fati et spoliare superbit Ocnides. "neque enim has Marti aut tibi, bellica Pallas, exuvias figemus" ait, "procul arceat² ipsum ferre pudor; vix, si bellum comitata relictis, ¹ consumit in Pw: depascitur N, and written over in D. ² arceat o: habeat P: asuat conj. Garrod.
robe of purple had his mother clothed his yet growing shoulders and smooth breast, and now, lest he should go in meainer raiment than his spouse, she had plated with gold his harness and with gold his arrows and his belt and armlets, and had encrusted his helm with inlay of gold. Trusting alas! in such things as these he challenges the Greeks to combat, and first assailing a weak company with his spear he brings back spoil of arms to his comrades, and the slaughter accomplished returns to the friendly lines. So a Caspian lion beneath Hyrcanian shade, still smooth nor terrible yet in the yellow glory of his mane, and guiltless of great carnage, raids the slow-moving flock not far from their fold while the shepherd is away, and sates his hunger on a tender lamb. Soon he feared not to attack Tydeus, knowing not his prowess but judging only by his stature, and dared to vex him with his frail weapon, as oft he shouted taunts at some and pursued others. At length the Aetolian turned his gaze by chance upon his feeble efforts, and with a terrible laugh: "Long since," he cries, "I have seen, insatiate one, 'tis a famous death that thou desirest!" and forthwith, deeming the bold youth worthy of neither sword nor spear, with careless fingers lightly flung an unwarlike shaft; yet the missile drained deep the recesses of the groin, as though hurled with all his might. His death assured, Oenides passes him by, and is too proud to plunder. "For not such spoils as these," says he, "will I hang up to Mars, or to thee, warlike Pallas; shame keep me far from taking them for my own pleasure; a scarcely had Deipyle b left her bower and come with

b She was the daughter of Adrastus, and had married Tydeus, see ii. 201 sqq.
Deipyle thalamis, illi inludenda¹ tulissem."  
sic ait, et belli maiora ad praemia mente  
ducitur: innumeris veluti leo forte potitus  
caedibus imbellis vitulos mollesque iuvencas  
transmittit: magno furor est in sanguine mergi, 595  
nec nisi regnantis cervice recumbere tauri.  
at non semianimi clamore Menoecea lapsus  
fallit Atys: praeventit equos curruque citato  
desilit: instabat pubes Tegeaea iacenti,  
nec prohibent Tyrii. " pudeat, Cadmea iuventus,  
terrigenas mentita patres! quo tenditis" inquit, 601  
"degeneres? meliusne iacet pro sanguine nostro  
hospes Atys? tantum hospes adhuc et coniugis ultor  
infelix nondum iste suae; nos pignora tanta  
prodimus?" insurgunt iusto firmata pudore 605  
agmine, cuique suae rediere in pectora curae.  

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

¹ inludenda ω: inlaudanda P.  
² miseri Pω: misti Barth, edd., from later mss.  

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¹ i.e., as he sucks its blood.  
² Nightingales, from Philomela, daughter of Pandion, 
   king of Athens, changed into a nightingale. She grieves
me to the war, would I have borne her spoils that she might mock at." So saying, he is led on to dream of nobler prizes of the fight: as when a lion by chance hath slaughter innumerable in his power, he passes by the unwarlike calves and heifers: he is mad to drench himself in some mighty victim's blood, nor to crouch a save on the neck of a chieftain bull. But Menoeceus fails not to hear the dying wail of fallen Atys: thither he turns his horses, and leaps down from his swift chariot; the Tegean warriors were drawing nigh him where he lay, nor did the Tyrians hold them off. "For shame, Cadmean youth," he cries, "that belie your earthborn sires! Whither fly ye, degenerate ones? Hath he not fallen more nobly for our folk, the stranger Atys? Ay, still but a stranger, nor yet, hapless one, hath he avenged his spouse; shall we betray a pledge so great?" Heartened by righteous shame they rally, and each bethinks himself of those he loves.

Meanwhile in the seclusion of their chamber the sisters—innocent pair, guiltless offspring of unhappy Oedipus—mingle their converse with varying complaint. Nor grieve they for their present ills, but starting from the far origins of their fate, one laments their mother's marriage, the other their father's eyes, this one the brother that reigns, that one him that is an exile, and both lament the war. Long do they hesitate in their unhappy prayers: fear sways them either way, in doubt whom they wish defeated in the fight, and whom victorious: but in their silent hearts the exile wins the day. So when Pandion's birds b seek once more trusty welcome and the homes for her son Itys, whom she slew to avenge his father, Tereus's, cruelty to her sister Procne.
hospitia atque larem bruma pulsante relictum, 
stantque super nidos veterisque exordia fati 
adenarrant tectis, it\(^1\) truncum ac flebile murmur; 
verba putant, voxque illa tamen non dissona verbis. 
atque ibi post laerimas et longa silentia rursus 
incohat Ismene: "quisnam hic mortalibus error? 
quae decepta fides? curam invigilare quieti 
claraque per somnos animi simulacra reverti? 
ecce ego, quae thalamos nec si pax alta maneret, 
tractarem sensu—pudet heu!—conubia vidi 
octe, soror; sponsum unde mihi sopor attulit amens 
vix notum visu? semel his in sedibus illum, 
dum mea nescio quo spondentur foedera pacto, 
respexi non sponte, soror. turbata repente 
omea cernebam, subitusque intercidit ignis, 
meque sequebatur rabido elamore reposeens 
mater Atyn. quae nam haec dubiae praesagia cladis? 
nec timeo, dum tuta domus milesque recedat\(^2\) 
Doricus et tumidos liceat componere fratres."

Talia nectebant, subito cum pigra tumultu 
expavit domus, et multo sudore receptus 
fertur Atys, servans animam iam sanguine nullo, 
cui manus in plaga, dependet languida cervix 
externa elipeo, crinesque a fronte supini. 

prima videt caramque tremens Iocesta vocabat 
Ismenen: namque hoc solum moribunda precatur 
vox generi, solum hoc gelidis iam nomen inerrat 
faucibus. exclamant famulae, tollebat in ora

\(^1\) it Markland: et \(P\)w. 
\(^2\) recedat \(w\): superstes \(P\).

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

Such was their converse, when the quiet house started at a sudden tumult, and Atys, rescued at great labour's cost, bloodless but still living, is borne in; his hand is on his hurt, outside the shield the neck droops languid, and the tresses hang backward from his forehead. Jocasta saw him first and trembling called his beloved Ismene; for that prayer alone do the dying accents of her son-in-law utter, that name alone hovers on his parched mouth. The women shriek, and the maiden lifts her hands to her face;
virgo manus, tenuit saevus pudor; attamen ire cogitur, indulget summum hoc Iocasta iacenti, ostenditque offertque. quater iam morte sub ipsa ad nomen visus defectaque fortiter ora sustulit; illam unam negleto lumine caeli aspicit et vultu non exsatiatur amato. tunc quia nec genetrix iuxta positisque beata morte pater, sponsae munus miserabile tradunt declinare genas; ibi demum teste remoto fassa pios gemitus lacrimasque in lumina fudit.


1 defectaque Heinsius (xii. 325): defecataque Pω.
2 totidem, totidem heia Kohlmann: totidem heia P: totidem totidemque ω.

* Goddess of war.
fierce shame restrains her, yet she must needs go to him, Jocasta grants the dying man this final boon, and shows her and sets her before him. Four times at the very point of death he bravely raised his eyes and failing vision at her name; at her alone, neglecting the light of heaven, he gazes, and cannot gaze enough on the face he loves. Then because his mother is not near and his father is laid in blissful death, they give to his betrothed the sad office of closing his eyes; there at last unwitnessed and alone, she gave utterance to wisely grief and drowned her eyes in tears.

While these things were happening in Thebes, Enyo, a fire with torch fresh-charged and other serpents, was restoring the fight. They yearn for battle, as though they had but lately borne the opening shock of combat hand to hand, and every sword still shone bright and clear. Oenides is pre-eminent; though Parthenopaeus draw an unerring shaft, and Hippomedon trample the faces of the dying with furious steed, though the spear of Capaneus fly even from far with a message to Aonian troops, that day was the day of Tydeus: from him they flee and tremble, as he cries out: "Whither turn ye your backs? Lo! thus can ye avenge your slain comrades, and atone for that sad night. I am he who took fifty lives in unsated carnage; bring as many, ay, as many squadrons in swarms! Are there no fathers, no loving brothers of the fallen? Why such forgetfulness of sorrow? Shame on me that I departed content to Inachian Mycenae! Are these all that stand for Thebes? Are these your monarch's strength? And where can I find that noble chieftain?" Therewith he spies him on the left of the array, encouraging his columns and conspicuous by the flash.
neither Argive nor Theban deities wished the war to end in this way.
of haughty helm; not less swiftly does he rush to meet him all afire, than the bird that yields the flame swoops on the frightened snow-white swan and enfolds him in his mighty shadow. Then he first speaks: "Most righteous king of the Aonian people, meet we in open fight, and show we our swords at last, or doth it please thee to await the night and thy wonted darkness?" Nought spake he in reply, but the whizzing cornel-shaft comes flying against his foe, bearing the chieftain's message: the prudent hero strikes it aside just as it reached its mark, and himself eagerly hurled a mighty weapon with strength unknown before: on was the angry lance flying, to end the war. On it the gods, Sidonian and Greek, who favoured either side, turned their eyes; a cruel Erinys checks its course, and preserves Eteocles for a brother's impious deed; the erring spear-point lighted on Phlegyas the charioteer. Then a great fight arose of heroes, for the Aetolian, drawing his sword, charged more fiercely, while Theban warriors protected the retreating king. So in the murk of night a crowd of shepherds forces away a wolf from the bullock he has seized; but he relentlessly rises up against them, nor cares to attack those who bar his way; him, him only, whom he had once assailed, does he pursue. Just so does Tydeus ignore the lines arrayed against him and the lesser throng, and pass them by in the fight; yet he wounds the face of Thoas, the breast of Deilochus, Clonius in the flank, stern Hippotades in the groin; now he throws back their limbs to mutilated trunks, or whirls heads and helms together through the air. And now he had enclosed himself with the spoils and corpses of the
clauserat; unum acies circum consumitur, unum omnia tela voent: summis haec ossibus haerent, pars frustrata cadunt, partem Tritonia vellit, multa rigent clipeo. densis iam consitus\(^1\) hastis ferratum quatit umbo nemus, tergoque fatiscit atque umeris gentilis aper; nusquam ardua coni Gloria, quique apicem torvae Gradivus habebat cassidis, haud laetum domino ruit omen: inusta\(^2\) temporibus nuda aera sedent, circumque sonori vertice percusso volvuntur in arma molares.

iam cruir in galea, iam saucia proluit ater pectora permixtus sudore et sanguine torrens. respicit hortantes socios et Pallada fidam, longius opposita celantem lumina parma: ibat enim magnum lacrimis inflectere patrem.

Ecce secat zephyros ingentem fraxinus iram fortunamque ferens, teli non eminet auctor: Astacides Melanippus erat, nec prodidit ipse, et vellet latuisse manum, sed gaudia turmae monstrabant trepidum; nam flexus in ilia Tydeus submissum latus et clipei laxaverat orbem.

clamorem Aonii miscent gemitumque Pelasgi, obiectantque manus indignantemque tuentur. ille per oppositos longe rimatus amarum Astaciden, totis animae se cogit in ictum relliquis telumque iacit, quod proximus Hopleus praebuerat: perit expressus conamine sanguis.

tunc tristes socii cupidum bellare—quis ardor!—et poscentem hasse mediaque in morte negantem exspirare trahunt, summique in margine campi

\(^1\) consitus \(\omega\): constitit \(P\).
\(^2\) inusta \(\omega\): inulta \(P\).

\(^a\) i.e., of his helm.
fallen; the ring of foes spends itself on him alone, at him alone all darts aspire; some lodge within his limbs, some fall amiss, others Tritonia tears away, many stand stiffly in his shield. Thick-planted already with spears, his buckler is a quivering grove of steel, and his native boarskin is torn upon his back and shoulders; gone is the towering glory of the crest, and the Mars that held the peak of his grim helmet falls, no happy omen to its lord. The bare bronze is fixed and welded in his temples, stones strike his head and fall rattling about his armour. His helm now fills with blood, and now his wounded breast is drenched by a dark mingling torrent of blood and sweat. He looks round upon his applauding comrades and on faithful Pallas, who conceals from afar her face behind her shield; for she was on her way to soften with her tears her mighty sire.

Lo! an ashen spear charged with mighty wrath and fate cleaves the zephyrs, its author unperceived: Melanippus it was, the son of Astacus, and he betrayed not his own work and would fain have been hidden, but the joy of his troop revealed him all affrighted; for Tydeus bending o'er his groin had sunk upon his side and let go his round shield. Aonians and Pelasgians mingle their shouts and groans, and form a barrier, and protect the indignant hero. He spying afar through the foe the hated Astacides, summons for a stroke all the vital forces that remain, and hurls a dart that Hopleus who stood by had given him; the effort makes the blood spout and flow. Then his grieving comrades drag him away, eager yet to fight—what fiery zeal!—and calling for spears, and even in death's agony refusing to die, and set him on the farthest margin.
STATIUS

effultum gemina latera inclinantia parma ponunt, ac saevi rediturum ad proelia Martis promittunt flentes. sed et ipse recedere caelum ingentesque animos extremo frigore labi sensit, et innixus terrae "miserescite" clamat, "Inachidae: non ossa precor referantur ut Argos Aetolumve larem; nec enim mihi cura supremi funeris: odi artus fragilemque hunc corporis usum, desertorem animi. caput, o caput, o mihi si quis adportet, Melanippe, tuum! nam volveris arvis, fido equidem, nec me virtus suprema fefellit. i, precor, Atrei\(^1\) si quid tibi sanguinis umquam, Hippomedon, vade, o primis puer inclyte bellis Arcas, et Argolicae Capan eu iam maxime turmae."

Moti omnes, sed primus abit primusque repertum Astaciden medio Capan eu e pulvere tollit spirantem laevaque super cervice reportat, terga cruentantem concussi vulneris unda: quals ab Arcadio rediit Tirynthius antro captivumque suem clamantibus intulit Argis.

Erigitur Tydeus voltuque occurrit et amens laetitiaque iraue, ut singultantia vidit ora trahique oculos seseque adgnovit in illo, imperat abscisum porgi, laevaque receptum spectat atrox hostile caput, gliscitque tepentis lumina torva videns et adhuc dubitantia figi. infelix contentus erat: plus exigit ultrix Tisiphone; iamque inflexo Tritonia patre venerat et misero decus immortale ferebat, atque illum effracti perfusum tabe cerebri

\(^1\) Atrei \(P\omega\): Arcadii \(BQ\): Argei Schroder.

\(^a\) Of Erymanthus.
of the field, propped against shields on either side, and promise with tears a return to the conflicts of fierce Mars. But he too now felt the light of heaven fail him and his mighty spirit yield to the final chill, and lying on the ground he cries: "Have pity, sons of Inachus: I pray not that my bones be taken to Argos or my Aetolian home; I care not for funeral obsequies; I hate my limbs and my body so frail and useless, deserter of the soul within it. Thy head, thy head, O Melanippus, could one but bring me that! for thou art grovelling on the plain, so indeed I trust, nor did my valour fail me at the last. Go, Hippomedon, I beg, if thou has aught of Atreus' blood, go thou, Arcadian, youth renowned in thy first wars, and thou, O Capaneus, mightiest now of all the Argive host!"

All were moved, but Capaneus first darts away, and finding the son of Astacus lifts him still breathing from the dust, and returns with him on his left shoulder, staining his back with blood from the stricken wound: in such wise did the Tirynthian return from the Arcadian lair, when he brought home to applauding Argos the captive boar.a

Tydeus raises himself and turns his gaze upon him, then mad with joy and anger, when he saw them drag the gasping visage, and saw his handiwork therein, he bids them cut off and hand to him his foe's fierce head, and seizing it in his left hand he gazes at it, and glows to see it still warm in life and the wrathful eyes still flickering ere they closed. Content was the wretched man, but avenging Tisiphone demands yet more. And now, her sire appeased, had Tritonia come, and was bringing immortal lustre to the unhappy hero: when lo! she sees him befouled with
aspicit et vivo scelerantem sanguine fauces—
nec comites auferre valent—: stetit aspera Gorgon
erinibus emissis rectique ante ora cerastae
velavere deam; fugit aversata iacentem,
nec prius astra subit, quam mystica lampas et insons
Elisos multa purgavit lumina lympha.

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a This hideous scene was imitated by Dante in the
Inferno (canto xxxii. ll. 125 sq.), where Count Ugolino gnaws
his enemy’s skull. Other parallels between the Divina
Commedia and the Thebaid will be found in Inf. ix. 82
(Theb. ii. 55), Inf. xiv. 46 (Theb. x. fin.), Inf. xxvi. 52 (Theb.
i. 33, xii. 429), Purg. ix. 34 (Ach. i. 228, 247).
the shattered brains' corruption and his jaws polluted with living blood—a—nor can his comrades wrest it from him—: fierce stood the Gorgon with outstretched snakes, and the horned serpents upreared before her face o'ershadowed the goddess; with averted face she flees from him where he lies, nor enters heaven ere that the mystic lamp and Elisos with plenteous water has purged her vision.

* The Gorgon is the head of Medusa with snakes for hair, that Pallas carried on her breastplate. The "mystic lamp" refers to the fire which was one of the means of ceremonial purification. "Elisos" is the river Ilissus at Athens.
Liber IX

Asperat Aonios rabies audita cruenti
Tydeos; ipsi etiam minus ingemuere iacentem
Inachidae, culpantque virum et rupisse queruntur
fas odii; quin te, divum implacidissime, quamquam
praecipuum tunc caedis opus, Gradive, furebas, 5
offensum virtute ferunt, nec comminus ipsum
ora, sed et trepidos alio torsisse iugales.

ergo profanatum Melanippi funus acerbo
volnere non aliis ultum Cadmeia pubes
insurgunt stimulis, quam si turbata sepuleris
ossa patrum monstrisque datae crudelibus urnae.

accendit rex ipse super: "quisquamne Pelasgis mitis
ad hue hominemque gerit? iam morsibus uncis—
pro furor! usque adeo tela exsatiavimus!—artus
dilacerant. nonne Hyrcanis bellare putatis
tigribus, aut saevos Libyae contra ire leones?
et nune ille iacet—pulchra o solacia leti!—

ore tenens hostile caput, dulcique nefandus

1 furebas ω: ferebas P.
2 offensum virtute Pω: offensa conj. Garrod, feritate
3 ipsum Pω: isse Koch.
4 Pelasgis Pω: -um Imhof: -us Owen.
BOOK IX

The news of the mad fury of blood-stained Tydeus exasperates the Aonians; even the Inachidae themselves grieve but little for the fallen warrior, and blame him, complaining that he has transgressed the lawful bounds of hatred; nay, thou too, O Gradivus, most violent of gods, though at that time the furious work of slaughter did most occupy thee, thou too wert offended, as they relate, by such hardihood, nor turned thy own gaze thereon, but drove another way thy affrighted steeds. Therefore the Cadmean youth rise up to avenge the shameful profanation of Melanippus' corpse, as much inflamed as though their father's bones had been disturbed from their sepulchres and their urns flung a prey to cruel monsters. The king himself infuriates them still further: "Who any more is merciful or humane to the Pelasgians? Why, with hooked fangs they rend our limbs—shame on such madness! Have we then so glutted their weapons?—Do ye not think ye are making war on Hyrcanian tigers or facing angry Libyan lions? And now he lies—O! noble solace of death!—his jaws fastened in his enemy's head, and meets his unhallowed end in welcome gore.

"virtus" in an unfavourable sense is found in Val. Flacc. ii. 647, "efferas virtus"; cf. also Theb. xi. 1, "iniqua virtus": but in both cases the epithet helps.
immoritur tabo; nos ferrum immite\(^1\) facesque, illis nuda odia, et feritas iam non eget armis. 20
sic pergant rabidi claraque hac laude\(^2\) fruantur, dum videas haec, summe pater. sed enim his cere campos conquesti terracque fugam mirantur; an istos vel sua portet humus? " magno sic fatus agebat procursu fremituque viros, furo r omnibus idem Tydeos invisi spoliis raptoque potiri corpore. non aliter subt exunt astra catervae incestarum avium, longe quibus aura no centem aera desertasque tulit sine funere mortes; illo avidae cum voce ruunt, sonat arduus aether plausibus, et caelo volucres essere minores.

Fama per Aonium rapido vaga murmur campum spargitur in turnas, solito pernicior index cum lugenda refert, donec, cui maxima fando damna vehit, trepidas lapsa est Polynicis ad aures. 35 deriguit iuvenis lacrimaeque haesere paratae, et cunctata fides; nimium nam cognita virtus Oenidae credi letum suadetque vetatque. sed postquam haud dubio clades auctore reperta est, nox oculos mentemque rapit; tum sanguine fixo 40 membra simul, simul arma ruunt: madet ardua fletu iam galea atque ocreae elipeum excepere cadentem. it maestus genua aegra trahens hastamque sequentem, vulneribus eeu mille gravis totosque per artus saucius, absistunt socii monstrantque gementes. 45

\(^{1}\) immite \(P\) : mite \(w\). Emended in various ways by edd. Supply, not, as Klotz, putamus, but pro telis habemus; the translation makes it clear.

\(^{2}\) laude \(P\) : luce \(w\), cf. i. 319.
Our weapons are ruthless steel and brands of fire, but theirs is naked hate, and savagery that needs no arms. May they continue in their frenzy and enjoy a renown so glorious, do thou but look upon it, O Father supreme! But they complained that the battle-field gaped and they marvel that the earth fled: would even their own soil bear such as them? So speaking, he led his men forward in a fierce onset shouting loud, and all alike furious to seize the corpse of the hated Tydeus and to gain his spoils. Not otherwise do swarms of obscene birds veil the stars, when the breezes have told them afar of tainted air and bodies left unburied; thither in clamorous greed they haste, the lofty sky is loud with flapping of wings, and lesser fowl withdraw from heaven.

Fame, travelling in swift rumours about the Aonian plain, is spread from troop to troop, a more rapid messenger than of wont when her tidings are evil, until she glides into the affrighted ears of Polynices, to whom her tale brings most grievous news of loss. The youth stiffened with horror, his ready tears stood congealed, and slow was he to give credence; for Oenides' well-known valour now prompts and now forbids him to believe his death. But when the disaster was confirmed on undoubted warrant, his mind and vision are whelmed in night; his blood stands still; together his arms, together his limbs sink down, his lofty helm is already moist with tears, and his greaves caught the shield as it fell. Sadly he goes, dragging faint knees and trailing spear, as though burdened by a thousand wounds and maimed in every limb; his comrades shrink from him and point to him with groans. At length he
tandem ille abiectis, vix quae portaverat, armis nudus in egregii vacuum iam corpus amici procidit et tali laerimas cum voce profudit:

"hasne tibi, armorum spes o suprema meorum, Oenide, grates, haec praemia digna rependi, nudus ut invisa Cadmi tellure iaceres sospite me? nunc exsul ego aeternumque fugatus, quando alius misero ac melior mihi frater ademptus. nec iam sortitus veteres regnique nocentis periuurum diadema peto: quo gaudia tanti empta mihi aut scepturn, quod non tua dextra tradet?

ite, viri, solumque\(^1\) fero me linquite fratri: nil opus arma ultra temptare et perdere\(^2\) mortes; ite, precor; quid iam dabis mihi denique maius? Tydea consumpi! quanam hoc ego morte piabo? 60 o socer, o Argi! et primae bona iurgia noctis, alternaeque manus et longi pignus amoris ira brevis; non me ense tuo tunc, maxime Tydeu,— et poteras—nostri mactatum in limine Adrasti! quin etiam Thebas me propter et impia fratris tecta libens, unde haud alius remeasset, adisti, ceu tibimet sceptra et proprios laturus honores. iam Telamona pium, iam Thesea fama tacebat— qualis et cecce iaces! quae primum vulnera mirer? quis tuus hic, quis ab hoste cruor? quae te agmina quive innumeris stravere globi? num fallor, et ipse invidit pater et tota Mars impulit hasta?"

\(^1\) solumque ω: totumque P.  
\(^2\) perdere ω: pergere P.

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\(^a\) i.e., than Tydeus, whom he has “wasted” by allowing him to be slain.  
\(^b\) See i. 401 sqq.
throws away the armour he scarce has power to carry, and falling naked on the now lifeless body of his peerless friend speaks thus with streaming tears: "Oenides, last hope of my emprise, is this my gratitude, is this my due reward and recompense to thee, that thou shouldst lie bare on Cadmus' hated earth and I be unharmed? Now for ever am I an exile and for ever banished, since my other, ay and truer, brother has, alas, been taken from me. No more do I seek the old decrees of lot or the perjured diadem of a guilty throne: to what purpose are joys so dearly bought, or a sceptre that thy hand will not place in mine? Depart from me, ye warriors, and leave me to face my cruel kinsman alone: nought avails it to try further battle and be wasteful of deaths. Depart, I pray you; what greater thing can ye give me now? I have squandered Tydeus. By what death can I atone for that? O father of my bride! O Argos! and that first night's honest quarrel, and our mutual blows, and the short wrath that was the pledge of long affection! Ah! why was I not then slain by thy sword, great Tydeus—thou wert able—on the threshold of our host Adrastus? Nay more, on my account thou didst go to Thebes, and willingly enter my brother's impious palace, whence none other would have returned, as though to win a sceptre and honours for thyself alone. Already of devoted Telamon, already of Theseus fame ceased to tell—and lo! in what plight thou liest here! Which wounds shall I first marvel at? Which is thy blood, which thy foe's? What troops, what countless bands o'erthrew thee? Nay, the Father himself, an I mistake not, envied thee, and Mars smote thee with all the force of his
sic ait, et maerens etiamnum lubrica tabo ora viri terget lacrimis dextraque reponit.

"tune meos hostes hucusque exosus, et ultra sospes ego?" exuerat vagina turbidus ensem aptabatque neci: comites tenuere, socerque castigat bellique vices ac fata revolvens solatur tumidum, longeque a corpore caro paulatim, unde dolor letique animosa voluntas, amovet ac tacite ferrum inter verba reponit. dueitur amisso qualis consorte laborum deserit inceptum media inter iugera sulcum taurus iners colloque iugum deforme remisso parte trahit, partem lacrimans sustentat arator.

Ecce autem hortatus Eteoclis et arma securi, lecta manus, iuvenes, quos nec Tritonia bello, nec prope conlata sprevisset cuspide Mavors, adventant; contra conlecta ut pectora parmae fixerat atque hastam longe protenderat, haeret arduus Hippomedon: ceu fluctibus obvia rupes, cui neque de caelo metus et fracta aequora cedunt, stat cunctis immota minis, fugit ipse rigentem pontus et ex alto misereae novere carinae. tunes prior Aonides—validam simul eligit hastam—"non pudet hos manes, haec infirmantia bellum funera dis coram et caelo inspectante tueri? seilicet egregius sudor memorandaque virtus hane tumulare feram, ne non macremitibus Argos

1 inspectante ω: insectante P.

a "troubled," because they know their danger.
spear.” So he speaks and weeping cleanses with his tears the hero’s face that still runs blood, and composes it with his own hand. “Didst thou then hate my foes thus far, and do I outlive thee?”—in his blind passion he had pulled the sword from its sheath, and was pointing it for death—his friends restrained him, and his father-in-law rebukes him, and calling to his mind the chances of war and the will of fate consoles his swelling heart, and from that dear body, whence comes his grief and eager will for death, little by little he drags him far away, and mid his converse silently puts back the weapon. He is led like a bull that having lost the partner of his toils deserts in numb despair the furrow he has begun among all the acres round, and on his drooping neck drags part of the unsightly yoke, while part the weeping ploughman bears.

But see! rallying to the battle-cry of Eteocles a chosen band of warriors advances, who neither Tritonia would have despised in the fray nor Mavors in the encounter with the lance: against them, when he had set his protecting shield before his breast and thrust forth his long spear tall Hippomedon stands his ground: even as a rock that fronts the waves, and hath no fear from heaven, and the waters are broken and give way before it: firm it stands, unmoved by threats; the very sea flees from its stark face, and from afar the troubled a barks recognize it. Then first the Aonian—choosing withal a stalwart spear: “Hast thou no shame in the presence of the gods and with heaven as witness to guard this ghost, this corpse that defames our warfare? Surely ’tis a glorious task and a memorable exploit to compass burial for this wild beast, in
exsequiis lacrimandus eat mollique feretro infandam eiectans saniem! dimittite curam; nullae illum volucres, nulla impia monstra nec ipse, si demus, pius ignis edat.” nec plura, sed ingens intorquet iaculum, duro quod in aere moratum transmissumque tamen clipei stetit orbe secundo. inde Pheres acerque Lycus; sed cassa Pheretis hasta redit, Lycus excelso terrore comantem perstringit galeam; convulsae cuspide longe diffugere iubae patuitque ingloria cassis. ipse nec ire retro, nec in obvia concitus arma exsilit, inque eadem sese vestigia semper obversus cunctis profert recipitque, nec umquam longius indulget dextrae motusque per omnes corpus amat, corpus servans circumque supraque vertitur. imbellem non sic amplexa iuvenecum infestante lupo tune primum feta tuetur mater et ancipiti circumfert cornua gyro; ipsa nihil metuens sexusque oblita minoris spumat et ingentes imitatur femina tauros. tandem intermissa iaculantum nube potestas reddere tela fuit; iamque et Sicyonius Alcon venerat auxilio, Pisaeaque praepetis Idae turma subit cuneumque replent. his laetus in hostes Lernaeam iacit ipse trabem, volat illa sagittis aequa fuga mediumque nihil cunctata Politen transabit et iuncti clipeum cavat improba Mopsi. Phocea tum Cydona Tanagreumque Phalanthum atque Eryceem, hunc retro conversum et tela petentem,

1 cunctis $P\omega$: cuneis Heinsius.
2 (h)is laetus $P$: his fretus $\omega$. 

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fear he go not to Argos to win his meed of tears and obsequies, nor on the soft bier spew out his cursed gore! Dismiss your care; him no birds nor foul monsters will devour, not even the sacred fire itself, were we to grant it.” No more he spake, but hurled a huge javelin, that, checked by the hard bronze, yet passing through, is stayed in the second layer of the shield. Then Pheres aims, and vigorous Lycus; but the dart of Pheres falls vainly to earth, while Lycus cleaves the casque with its terrible streaming plume; torn by the lance-point the crest is scattered far, and lays bare the inglorious helm. He himself neither retires, nor leaps out to attack the foeman, but ever turning in his own ground to every side now advances and now draws back, nor ever for long gives his right arm play, but in all his movements keeps nigh the body, keeps the body in view, hovering over and around it. Not so jealously does its mother shield and protect a helpless calf, her first-born, when a wolf is threatening, and wheel round in perplexity with lowered horns; for herself she has no fear, but forgetful of her weaker sex foams at the mouth, and, female as she is, imitates mighty bulls. At last the cloud of darts grew less, and they could hurl weapons back again; and by now Alcon of Sicyon had come in succour, and the Pisaean squadron of fleet Idas arrives, and they reinforce the phalanx. Rejoicing thereat he flings a Lernaean shaft against the foe: it flies with all an arrow’s speed, and tarrying not a whit pierces Polites through the middle, and still persistent passes through the shield of Mopsus his close comrade. Then he transfies Cydon the Phocian, and Phalanthus of Tanagra, and Eryx, and latter as he turns rearward in search of
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dum spes nulla necis, crinito a vertice figit;
faucibus ille cavis hastam non ore receptam
miratur morti, pariterque et murmure plenus
sanguis et expulsi salierunt cuspide dentes.
Ausus erat furto dextram eiectare\(^1\) Leonteus,
pone viros atque arma latens, positumque trahebat
prento crine caput: vidit, quamquam undique
cerebrae,
Hippomedon, ante ora minae, saevoque protervam
abstulit ense manum; simul increpat: "hanc tibi
Tydeus,
Tydeus ipse rapit; post et confecta virorum
fata time magnosque miser fuge tangere manes!"
ter Cadmea phalanx torvum abduxere cadaver,
ter retrahunt Danai: Siculi velut anxia puppis
seditione maris nequiquam obstante magistro
errat et averso redit in vestigia velo.
Non ibi Sidoniac valuissent pellere coepti
Hippomedonta manus, non illum impacta moverent
tormenta oppositum, formidatique superbis
turribus impulsus temptare umbone redissent.
sed memor Elysii regis noxasque recensens
tydeos in medios astu subit impia campos
Tisiphone: sensere acies subitusque cucurrit
sudor equis sudorque viris, quamquam ore remisso
Inachium fingebat Halyn; nusquam impius ignis
verberaque, et iussi tenuere silentia crines.
arma gerit iuxtaque feri latus Hippomedontis

\(^1\) eiectare \(PN\): iniecat \(\omega\).

\(^a\) Pluto had given special commands to Tisiphone, cf.
\(^a\)iii. 65 sqq.
\(^a\) . the Fury puts off her torch and scourge and hissing

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with no thought of death, through the long tresses of his head; the other expiring marvels that he has received the lance not in his face but in his hollow throat, and therewith the blood gushes forth, full of his dying wail, and the teeth that the spear-point has dislodged. Leonteus, lurking behind the battle of the heroes, stealthily dared to put forth his right hand, and pulled at the prostrate corpse, seizing its hair: Hippomedon spied him, though faced by many a threat on every side, and with his grim blade lopped off the impudent hand, taunting him withal: "'Tis Tydeus, Tydeus, himself who robs thee of it! Have fear of heroes even when they are slain and touch not, miserable man, the mighty dead!"

Thrice did the Cadmean phalanx pull away the dreadful corpse, thrice do the Danaans drag it back again: just as an anxious vessel strays in a lawless tumult of the Sicilian sea, despite the helmsman's fruitless efforts, and then returns on her path with canvas backward-blown.

No Sidonian forces would there have availed to drive Hippomedon from his purpose, no engine-hurled missiles were like to move his stout resistance, and the blows that proud battlements dreaded had fallen baffled from the buckler they assailed. But, mindful of the Elysian monarch, and recounting the crimes of Tydeus, impious Tisiphone craftily draws nigh to the middle of the field: the armies felt her presence, and horses and men alike were seized by a sudden sweat, although, laying aside her own aspect, she counterfeited Halys the Inachian: absent was the unhallowed torch and the scourge, while her locks at her command held their peace. As warrior, and with flattering looks and voice, she comes near to
STATIUS

blanda genas vocemque venit, tamen ille loquentis
extimuit vultus admiraturque timorem. 156
illa autem laerimans " tu nunc " ait, " inclyte, frustra
exanimes socios inhumataque corpora Graium—
scilicet is nobis metus, aut iam cura sepulcri ?—
protegis; ipse manu Tyria tibi captus Adrastus 160
raptatur, teque ante alios, te voce manuque
invocat; heu qualem lapsare in sanguine vidi,
exitum canos lacero diademate crines!
nec procul hine, adverte oculos; ubi plurimus ille
pulvis, ubi ille globus." paulum stetit anxius heros
librabetque metus; premit aspera virgo: " quid
haeres?
imus? an hi retinent manes, et vilior ille
qui superest?" miserum sociis opus et sua mandat
proelia et unanimi vadit desertor amici,
respiciens tamen et revocent si forte paratus. 170
inde legens turbata trucis vestigia divae
huc illuc frustra ruit avius, impia donec
Eumenis ex oculis reiecta caerula parma
fugit et innumerí galeam rupere cerastae.
aspicit infelix discussa nube quietos
Inachidas currumque nihil metuentis Adrasti.

Et Tyrii iam corpus habent, iam gaudia magnae
testantur voces, victorque ululatus aderrat
auribus occultoque ferit praccordia luctu.
decitur hostili—pro dura potentia fati !— 180
Tydeus ille solo, modo cui Thebana sequenti
agmina, sive gradus seu frena effunderet, ingens

a i.e., is Adrastus less worth rescuing than the dead body
("manes") of Tydeus?
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fierce Hippomedon, yet he feared her countenance as she spoke, and marvelled at his fear. Weeping she says: "In vain, O man of renown, thou guardest thy dead comrades and the unburied bodies of the Greeks—is that then our fear, do we yet care for a sepulchre?—Lo! Adrastus is being dragged along, the captive of a Tyrian band, and to thee before all else, to thee he cries and beckons. Alas! in what plight I saw him slip and fall in blood, his diadem torn and the white locks streaming free! Nor far from here, look! where all that cloud of dust is, all that mass of men." Awhile the hero stood perplexed, balancing his fears; the ruthless maid urges him: "Why dost thou hesitate? Shall we go forward? Or does this dead body keep us back, and is he more worthless who survives?" To his comrades he entrusts the forlorn task and the fight that should be his, and strides away, deserting his loyal friend, yet looking behind him, and ready, should they perchance recall him. Then following the impetuous footsteps of the relentless goddess he rushes here and there in aimless, pathless course, till the wicked Fury, casting her shield behind her, vanishes darkly from his sight, and snakes innumerable break forth from her helmet. The cloud disperses, and the unhappy man beholds the Inachidae unperturbed, and Adrastus in his chariot, fearing nought.

And now the Tyrians possess the body, and by loud cries attest their joy; the triumphant shout steals upon the ear and strikes the heart with secret dismay. He is dragged on hostile soil—alas! fate's cruel power!—that very Tydeus for whom of late a mighty space on either hand was left as he pursued the ranks of Thebes, whether on foot or shaking out
STATIUS

limes utrimque datus; numquam arma manusque quiescunt,
nulla viri feritas: iuvat ora rigentia leto
et formidatos impune laessere vultus. 185
hic amor, hoc una timidi fortesque sequuntur
nobilitare manus, infectaque sanguine tela
coniugibus servant parvisque ostendere natis.
sic ubi Maura diu populatum rura leonem, 189
quem propter clausisque greges vigilantque magistri,
pastorum lassae debellavere cohortes:
gaudet ager, magno subeunt clamore coloni,
praecerpuntque iubas immaniaque ora recludunt
damnaque commemorant, seu iam sub culmine fixus
excubat, antiquo seu pendet gloria luco. 195

At ferus Hippomedon quamquam iam sentit inane
auxilium et seram rapto pro corpore pugnam,
it tamen et caecum rotat inrevocabilis ensem,
vix socios hostesque, nihil dum tardet euntem,
secernens: sed caede nova iam lubrica tellus
armaque seminecesque viri currusque soluti\(^1\)
impedient laevumque femur, quod cuspide fixum
regis Echionii, sed dissimulaverat ardens,
sive ibi nescierat. maestum videt Hoplea tandem;
Tydeos hic magni fidus comes et modo frustra
armiger alipedem prona cervice tenebat
fatorum ignarum domini solumque frementem,
quod vacet inque acies audentior ille pedestres.
hunc aspernantem tumido nova pondera tergo—
unam quippe manum domitis expertus ab annis—
corripit adfaturque: "quid o nova fata recusas, 211

\(^1\) soluti \(\omega\): seuti \(P\).
his chariot-reins; never still are hands or weapons
or any savagery of man: they delight to wound with
impunity those features rigid in death and that visage
that they feared. This is their passion, by this deed
they strive, both brave and cowards, to gain ennable-
ment, and they keep the blood-stained weapons to dis-
play to their young children and their wives. So when
weary troops of shepherds have warred down a lion
that has long devastated Moorish fields, and caused
flocks to be penned up and guardians to be watchful,
the countryside exults, the husbandmen come with
loud cries of joy, and pluck at the mane and open
the mighty jaws and tell of all their losses, whether
he now keeps vigil nailed up beneath the roof, or
hangs the glory of some ancient grove.

But fierce Hippomedon, although he sees now his
help is of no avail and he is too late to fight for the
stolen corpse, nevertheless goes on and blindly whirls
his relentless sword, scarce knowing friend from foe,
so that nought delay his advance; but the ground
now slippery with recent slaughter, and arms and
dying men and shattered chariots impede him, and
his left thigh, which the spear-point of the Echionian
monarch pierced, but in his fury he had dissembled
the wound or known not of it. At length he sees
Hopleus sorrowing: he, the trusty comrade of great
Tydeus and lately, but all in vain, his squire, was
holding the wing-footed steed, who, with bowed neck
and ignorant of his master's fate, was impatient only
of his idleness, and because his lord was more adven-
turous in the fray of infantry. Him, though he scorns
a new weight on his proud back—for since his taming
he knew but one hand only—the hero seizes and
thus bespeaks: “Why refusest thou thy new destiny,
infelix sonipes? numquam tibi dulce superbi regis onus; non iam Aetolo satiabere campo gaudentemque iubam per stagna Acheloia solves. quod superest, caros, i, saltem ulciscere manes aut sequere, extorrem ne tu quoque laeseris umbram captivus tumidumque equitem post Tydea portes.” audisse accensumque putes: hoc fulmine raptum abstulit et similes minus indignatur habenas. semifer aeria talis Centaurus ab Ossa desilit in valles, ipsum nemora alta tremiscunt, campus equum. trepidi cursu glomerantur anhelo Labdacidae, premit ille super, necopinaque ferro colla metens linquit truncoe post terga cadentes. Ventum erat ad fluvium; solito tune plenior alveo—signa mali—magna se mole Ismenus agebat. illa brevis requies, illo timida agmina lassam de campis egere fugam; stupet hospita belli unda viros claraque armorum incenditur umbra. insiluere vadis, magnoque fragore solutus agger et adversae latuerunt pulvere ripae. ille quoque hostiles saltu maiore per undas inruit attonitis—longum dimittere habenas—sicut erat, tantum viridi defixa parumper caespite populeo commendat spicula trunco. tune vero exanimes tradunt rapientibus ultro arma vadis: alii demissa casside, quantum tendere conatus animae valuere sub undis,

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*a* “hoc” here=“tali.” “fulmen” is occasionally used by Statius for a sudden shock or violent movement.

*b* *i.e.*, at that part of the Centaur which was human.

*c* The word “umbra” is sometimes used by Statius in the sense of “reflection”; here of the light reflected from a thing: see n. on viii. 116.
unhappy charger? Never more for thee is the burden of thy haughty lord; no more shalt thou sate thy hunger on the Aetolian meads, or shake free thy exultant mane about the streams of Acheulous. This remains for thee—go and at least avenge thy dear master's death, or come with me, lest thou too in captivity vex his vanished shade, and after Tydeus bear some boastful rider.” One would have said he heard and was enkindled: so violently\(^a\) does he whirl him away in wild career, resenting less the similar reins. Even so the half-brute Centaur leaps down into the vale from the airy height of Ossa: at himself\(^b\) the lofty forests quake in fear, at the horse the plain shakes. Alarmed and breathless the sons of Labdacus flock together, on them Hippomedon bears down, and shearing with the sword their unwitting necks leaves behind their falling trunks.

They had reached the river: with channel fuller than of wont Ismenos was running then in mighty spate, an omen of disaster. There a short respite was given, thither the columns urged their weary flight in terror from the field; the waves, their refuge from the fray, are spellbound at the warriors, and are lit up by the bright sheen\(^c\) of armour. Into the water they leapt, and with a great crash the bank gave way and the opposite shores lay hid in dust. He too with mightier leap plunges through the hostile stream against his astonished foe, just as he was—no time for dismounting—, only his javelins, fixed in the green turf, he entrusts for a while to a poplar tree. Then, indeed in deadly terror, of their own accord they fling their weapons on the waves that carry them away; some doff their helms and lie basely hid, so long as they can maintain their
turpe latent; multi fluvium transmittere nando adgressi, sed vincla tenent laterique repugnat balteus et madidus deducit pectora thorax. qualis caeruleis tumido sub gurgite terror piscibus, arcani quotiens devexa profundi scrutantem delphina vident; fugit omnis in imos turba lacus viridesque metu stipuntur in algas; nec prius emersi, quam summa per aequora flexus emicet et visis malit certare carinis:
talis agit sparsos mediisque in fluctibus heros frena manu pariter, pariter regit arma, pedum quem\(^1\) remigio sustentat equus\(^2\); consuetaque campo fluctuat et mersas levis ungula quaerit harenas.
sternit Iona Chromis, Chromin Antiphos, Antiphon Hypseus, Hypseus Astyagen evasurumque relicito amne Linum, ni fata vetent et stamine primo ablatum tellure mort. premit agmina Thebes Hippomedon, turbat Danaos Asopius Hypseus: amnis utrimque timet, crasso vada mutat uterque sanguine, et e fluvio neutri fatale reverti. iam laceri pronis volvuntur cursibus artus oraeque et abscisae redeunt in pectora dextrae, spicula iam clipeosque leves arcusque remissos unda vehit, galeasque vetant descendere cristae: summa vagis late sternuntur flumina\(^3\) telis,

\(^1\) pedum quem \textit{Housman}: pedumque \textit{P}\(\omega\): pedum se \textit{Jortin}.  
\(^2\) equus \textit{Housman}: equum \textit{P}\(\omega\).  
\(^3\) sternuntur flumina \(\omega\): spernuntur fulmina \textit{P}.  

\(\text{\textsuperscript{a}}\) Obviously not of metal, but the linen corselet (\textit{\textlambda\nuο\texttheta\omegaρη}\(\xi\) Hom. \textit{II.} ii. 529, 830), used sometimes by the Romans, \textit{e.g.} Suet. \textit{Galba}, xix. “loricam induit linteam.”
lives beneath the waters; many tried to swim the river, but their fastenings grip them, the belts impede their breathing, and the soaked corslets weigh down their bodies. Even as beneath the swelling flood the dark blue fishes are afraid, when so'er they see a dolphin probing the secret lairs of the deep; the whole swarm flees to the lowest pools and huddles frightened in the green seaweed: nor come they forth till through the surface waves he darts his curving body and prefers to race the ships that meet his sight: even so the hero drives them pell-mell before him, and in mid-stream both guides the rein and aims the shaft, upheld by his swimming horse, whose nimble hoof, accustomed to the plain, now treads the wave and seeks the deep-sunk sands. Chromis lays Ion low, Antiphos Chromis, and Hypseus Antiphos, Hypseus also Astyages, and Linus, who is about to leave the river and flee away, were it not that the Fates forbid, and early in his life's thread he is doomed to a watery death. Hippomedon presses hard the ranks of Thebes, Asopian Hypseus throws the Danaans into confusion; on either side the river is affrighted, each stains the waters thick with blood, from that stream each is fated never to return. And now mangled limbs are rolled down on the flowing current, and heads and severed arms rejoin their bodies, and now the wave bears lances and light targes and slackened bows, and plumes suffer not their casques to sink. Far and wide the surface of the stream is strewn with floating weapons, and its

\[b\] It is not clear whether “ablatum” governs “stamine primo” or “illo” understood; in either case the sense is the same: “it was taken away from him,” i.e., forbidden him, “to die on land.”

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ima viris; illic luctantur corpora leto, efflantesque animas retro premit obvius amnis. 265
Flumineam rapiente vado puer Argipus ulnum prenderat, insignes umeros ferus ense Menoeceus amputat; ille cadens, nondum conamine adempto, truncus in excelsis spectat sua bracchia ramis. Hypseos hasta Tagen ingenti vulnere mersit, ille manet fundo, rediit pro corpore sanguis. desiluit ripis fratrem rapturus Agenor heu! miser et tenuit, sed sauciis ille levantem degravat amplexu: poterat resolutus Agenor emersisse vadis, piguit sine fratre reverti. 275 surgentem dextra Capetum vulnusque minantem sorbebat rapidus nodato1 gurgite vertex; iam voltu, iam crine latet, iam dextera nusquam, ultimus abreptas ensis descendit in undas. mille modis leti miseros mors una fatigat. 280 induit a tergo Mycalesia cuspis Agyrten; respexit: nusquam auctor erat, sed concita tractu gurgitis effugiens invenerat hasta cruorem. Figitur et validos sonipes Aetolus in armos, exsiluitque alte vi mortis et aera pendens 285 verberat; haud tamen est turbatus fulmine2 ductor, sed miseratur equum, magnoque ex volnere telum exuit ipse gemens et sponte remisit habenas. inde pedes repetit pugnas gressuque manuque certior, et segnem Nomium fortemque Mimanta 290 Thisbaeumque Lichan Anthedoniumque Lycetum

1 nodato Q.V: nudato P: notato, montano, vadato, etc., MSS.
2 fulmine P: flumine o.

a i.e., of Tydeus, now ridden by Hippomedon.
b See note on line 218 above.

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depths with men; there bodies wrestle with death, and the confronting stream chokes back their forth-issuing breath.

The lad Argipus had grasped a river-side elm-tree in the rushing flood; savage Menoeceus with his sword shears through those comely shoulders; he, as he falls, still striving, gazes, a trunk, at his own arms on the high boughs. The spear of Hypseus sank Tages with a mighty wound: he remains at the bottom, and in place of his body his blood returns. To rescue his brother Agenor leapt down from the bank, and grasped him—alas! poor wretch!—but the wounded man weighs him down in his embrace, as he tries to lift him. Agenor could have freed himself and come forth from the water, but liked not to return without his brother. Capetus rises to his right and threatens a blow, but is sucked down by the entangling eddies of the rapid current; now his face goes under, now his hair, now his right arm is gone, last of all his sword sinks beneath the headlong waters. One death in a thousand shapes of dying torments the wretches. A Mycalesian spear-point sheathes itself in Agyrtes' back: he looks round, but there was none who hurled it; urged by the torrent's flow the spear had sped and found his blood.

The Aetolian charger too is pierced in his strong shoulders, and at the deadly shock rears up and prances, beating the air: yet the chief is no whit upset by the plunge, but pities the horse, and groaning pulls the dart from the deep wound with his own hand, and of his own accord lets go the reins. Then he rejoins the fray afoot, surer both in step and hand, and, one after the other, slays tardy Nomius and valiant Mimas and Lichas of Thebes and
continuat ferro geminisque e fratribus unum Thespiaden; eadem poscenti fata Panemo: "vive superstes" ait, "diraeque ad moenia Thebes solus abi, miseris non deeepure parentes. di bene, quod pugnas rapidum deiecit in amnem sanguinea Bellona manu: trahit unda timentes gurgite gentili, nuda nee flebilis umbra stridebit vestros Tydeus inhumatus ad ignes; ibitis aequoreis crudelia pabula monstris, illum terra vehit suaque in primordia solvet." sic premit adversos et acerbat vulnera dictis ac nunc ense furit, nunc tela natantia captans ingerit: innuptae comitem Therona Dianae, ruricolamque Gyen cum fluentivago Ergino, intonsumque Hersen contemptoremque profundi Crethea, nimbosam qui saepe Caphereos areem Euboicasque hiemes parva transfugerat alno. quid non fata queant? traiectus pectora ferro volvitur in fluctus, heu euis naufragus undae! te quoque sublimi tranantem flumina curru, dum socios, Pharsale, petis, resupinat ademptis Dorica cuspis equis; illos violentia saevi gurgitis infelixque iugi concordia mergit.

Nunc age, quis tumidis magnum inelinarit in undis Hippomedonta labor, cur ipse excitus in arma Ismenos, doctae nosse indulgete sorores: vestrum opus ire retro et senium depellere famae. gaudebat Fauno Nymphaque Ismenide natus maternis bellare tener Crenaeus in undis,

a Who could now no longer mistake him for his brother.

274
Lycetus of Anthedon and Thespiades, one of twin brothers; to Panemus begging a like fate he cries: "Live on, and to the walls of accursed Thebes depart alone, no more to deceive thy unhappy parents." Thanks be to Heaven that Bellona's gory hand has driven the fight into the rapid stream; the wave sweeps away the cowards on their native flood, and the naked ghost of unburied Tydeus shall not moan and shriek around your pyres; ye shall go down to feed the cruel monsters of the deep, but him the earth doth carry and shall resolve into her own elements." So harries he the foe, and with taunts adds bitterness to his blows; and now he rages with the sword, now snatches up floating javelins and flings them back; Theron he slays, the friend of chaste Diana, and Gyas, dweller in the country, and wave-wandering Erginus, and unshorn Herses, and Cretheus, contemner of the deep, who oft in a tiny craft had weathered Caphereus' stormy promontory and the Euboean squalls. Behold the power of fate! a lance pierces his breast, and he is carried on the stream, alas on what waters shipwrecked! Thee too Pharsalus, crossing the river in thy lofty car to join thy companions, the Doric spear-point overthrows and slays thy horses: the violence of the angry flood engulfs them, and the ill-starred union of the yoke.

Come now, ye learned Sisters, grant me to know what toil laid low Hippomedon in the heaving billows, and why Ismenos himself was roused to join the fray; for your task it is to search out the past, and let not fame grow old. Crenaeus, the youthful son of Faunus and the nymph Ismenis, rejoiced to fight in his mother's waters—Crenaeus, who first saw the
Crenaeus, cui prima dies in gurgite fido
et natale vadum et virides cunabula ripae.

ergo ratus nihil Elysias ibi posse Sorores,
laeetus adulantem nunc hoc, nunc margine ab illo
transit avum: levat unda gradus, seu defluus ille, 325
sive obliquus eat; nec cum subit obvius, uallas
stagna dedere moras pariterque revertitur amnis.
non Anthedonii tegit hospitis inguina pontus
blandior, aestivo nec se magis aequore Triton
exserit, aut carae festinus ad oscula matris

cum remeat tardumque ferit delphina Palaemon.
arma decent umeros, elipeusque insignis et auro
lucidus Aoniae caelatur origine gentis.
Sidonis hic blandi per candida terga iuvenci,
iam secura maris, teneris iam cornua palmis
non tenet, extremis adludunt aequora plantis;
ire putes eliceo fluctusque secure iuvencum.
adivat unda fidem pelago nec discolor amnis.
tunc audax pariter telis et voce proterva
Hippenedonta petit: "non haec fecunda veneno 340
Lerna, nec Herculeis haustae serpentibus undae:
sacrum amnem, sacrum—et miser experiere!—
deumque
altrices inrumpis aquas." nihil ille, sed ibat
comminus; opposuit cumulo se densior amnis
tardavitque manum, vulnus tamen illa retentum
345
pertulit atque animae tota in penetralia sedit.

a Glaucus, who was turned into a fish from the waist
down, cf. vii. 337.
b Often referred to by Statius; he was the infant son of
Leucothea, a daughter of Cadmus, who with his mother was
worshipped as a deity at the isthmus of Corinth; cf. i. 13, 121,
vii. 421.
light in the trusted stream and was cradled in the
green banks of his native river. So thinking that
there the Elysian Sisters had no power, merrily, now
from this bank now from that, he crosses his caressing
grandsire: the wave supports his footsteps, whether
he go downstream or athwart the flood; nor when he
goes counter does the river one whit delay him, but
flows backward likewise. No more winningly does the
sea cover the waist of the stranger from Anthedon,\(^a\)
nor Triton rise higher from the summer waves, nor
yet Palaemon,\(^b\) when he hastes back to his darling
mother's kisses, and smites his tardy dolphin. Gay
harness decks his shoulders, and his splendid buckler
gleaming with gold is engraved with the ancient tale
of the Aonian race. Here the Sidonian maid\(^c\) rides on
the white back of the enticing steer; now fears she
not the sea, now clings not to the horns with tender
hands; around the margin of her feet the waves play
sportively; one would think that the bull moved upon
the shield, and cleft the billows. The river-waves,
of the same colour as the sea,\(^d\) assist belief. Then
bold alike with weapons and saucy speech he chal-
lenges Hippomedon: "This is no poisonous Lerna,
no Herceulan Hydras drink these waters, 'tis a sacred
river that thou art defiling, ay, sacred,—so shalt
thou find it to thy cost, thou wretch!—and gods
have been nourished by its streams." Nought said
the other, but advanced upon him; in a denser mass
the flood resisted him, and checked his hand, but
yet he drave home the wound for all his hindering,
and pierced utterly life's secret chambers. The river

\(^a\) Europa.

\(^b\) Alton suggests "umbra" = reflection, for "unda":
\(^d\) cf. note on viii. 116.
horrruit unda nefas, silvae flevistis utraeque,
et graviora cavae sonuerunt murmura ripae.
ultimus ille sonus moribundo emersit ab ore:
"mater!" in hanc miseri ceciderunt flumina vocem.
At genetrix coetu glaucarum cincta sororum
protinus icta malo vitrea de valle solutis
exsiluit furibunda comis, ac verbere crebro
oraque pectoraque et viridem scidit horrida vestem.
utque erupit aquis iterumque iterumque trementi
ingeminat "Crenaee" sono: nusquam ille, sed index
desuper, a misere nimium nosecenda parenti,
parma natat; iacet ipse procul, qua mixta supremum
Ismenon primi mutant confinia ponti.
fluctivagam sic saepe domum madidosque penates
Aleyone deserta gemit, cum pignora saevus
Auster et algentes rapuit Thetis invida nidos.
mergitur orba iterum, penitusque occulta sub undis
limite non uno, liquidum qua subter eunti
lucet iter, miseri nequaquam funera nati
vestigat, plangitque tamen; saepe horridus amnis
obstat, et obducto caligant sanguine visus.
illa tamen praeceps in tela offendit et enses
scrutaturque manu galeas et prona reclinat
corpora; nec ponto submota intrabat amaram
Dorida, possessum donee iam fluctibus altis
Nereidum miseratacohors ad pectora matris
impulit. illa manu ceu vivum amplexa reportat
instermitque toris riparum atque umida siccat

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shuddered at the horrid deed, ye woods on either shore lamented, and deeper groans resounded from the hollow banks. From his dying lips came the last cry: "Mother!" As he uttered it, the waters choked the poor lad's voice.

But his mother, amid her company of silvery-gleaming sisters, leapt up straightway from the sea-green valley at the shock of doom, frenzyed, with loosened hair, and in wild grief rent with many a blow her face and bosom and green robe. Forth from the waves she burst, and with trembling voice again and again cries out "Crenaeus": nowhere was he to be seen, but on the flood there floats his shield, a mark, alas! his unhappy parent must recognize too well; he himself lies far off, where on the bounds of mingling sea and river Ismenos suffers his last change. Often thus does Alcyone deserted make lament for her wave-wandering, spray-drenched home, when savage Auster and envious Thetis have scattered her darlings and their shivering nests. Once more the bereaved mother sinks, and hidden in the watery depths she searches in vain for her dead son by many a track, where the path shines clear before her as she goes—searches and yet bewails; ofttimes the bristling river checks her, and a bloody haze obscures her vision. Yet in mad haste she flings herself on weapons and swords, and thrusts her hand into helmets and turns over prostrate corpses; nor drawing nigh the deep did she enter the bitter brine of Doris, until a band of Nereids pitying her wafted his body, now in the keeping of the ocean-billows, to his mother's breast. Embracing him as though he lived she brings him home and lays him on the sloping bank and with soft tresses dries his wet

1 l. 378 only in PDN.
2 mansure Baehrens: mansura Pw.

a Leucothea's infant son Palaemon was drowned (cf. Thèb. i. 14), and subsequently worshipped as Melicertes at the 280
face, and cries amid loud lament: "Is this the gift thy half-divine parents and thy immortal grandsire have given thee? Is it thus thou reignest in our flood? Unhappy boy! gentler was the discordant alien earth, gentler the ocean wave, which brought back thy body to the river and seemed to await thy hapless mother's coming. Are these my lineaments? Are these the eyes of thy fierce sire? Are these thy billowy grandsire's tresses? Once wert thou the pride and glory of wave and woodland, and whilst thou livedst I was held a greater goddess and the queen of Nymphs. Where alas! is that late crowd of courtiers round thy mother's halls, where are the Maidens of the Glen that prayed to serve thee? Why do I now bring thee home, Crenaeus, in my sad embrace, not for myself but for thy burial, who hadst better remained there in the cruel deep? Hard-hearted father, hast thou not pity nor shame for such a death? What lake profound and inescapable hath engulfed thee in the river's depths, so that nor thy grandson's cruel fate nor my own weeping can reach thee there? Lo! Hippomedon rages and boasts himself the master in thy flood, and banks and waves tremble before him; his was the stroke that made the water drink our blood; but thou art sluggish, and the fierce Pelasgians' acquiescent slave! Come at least, cruel sire, to the ashes and last obsequies of thy own, for 'tis not thy grandson only whose pyre thou shalt kindle here." With her words she mingles wailing, and stains with blood her innocent bosom, while the caerulean sisters re-echo her lament; so, men say, did Leucothea, a not yet a Isthmus of Corinth. Before his mother was made a Nymph, she was Ino, daughter of Cadmus.
Leucothean planxisse ferunt, dum pectore anhelo frigidus in matrem saevum mare respuit infans. 
At pater arcano residens Ismenos in antro, unde aurae nubesque bibunt atque imbrifer arcus pascitur et Tyrios melior venit annus in agros, ut lamenta procul, quamquam obstrepit ipse, novos que accipit natae gemitus, levat aspera musco colla gravisque gelu crinem, 410 ceciditque soluta pinus adulta manu dimissaque volvitur urna. illum per ripas annoso scrupea limo ora exs dispersit silvae fluviique minores mirantur: tantus tumido de gurgite surgit, spumosum attollens apicem lapsuque sonoro pectora caeruleae rivis manantia barbae. obvia cognatos gemitus casumque nepotis Nympharum docet una patrem monstratque cruentum auctorem dextramque premit: stetit arduus alto amne, manuque genas et nasa virentibus ulvis cornua concutiens sic turbidus ore profundo incipit: "huncne mihi, superum regnator, honorem, quod totiens hospesque tuis et conscius actis— nec memorare timor—falsa nunc improba fronte cornua, nunc vetitam currus deinomere Phoeben, dotalesque rogos deceptaque fulmina vidi praecipuosque alui natorum? an vilis et illis gratia? ad hunc certe repsit Tirynthius amnem, haec tibi flagrantem Bromium restinximus unda.

\[a\] Jupiter's amours with Europa, Alcmene, and Semele are thus alluded to; Hercules and Bacchus were the sons of the two last-named.

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Nereid, wail in Isthmus' haven, when her cold babe
with gasping breast spewed out upon his mother the
angry sea.

But father Ismenos, reclining in that secret cavern
whence winds and clouds do drink and the rain-
bringing bow is nourished, and whence comes a
fuller harvest to the Tyrian fields, when from afar,
spite of his own waters' roar, he caught the sound
of lamentations and his daughter's earliest groans,
uplifted his moss-grown neck and his ice-weighted
hair; the tall pine fell from his loosened grasp,
and the urn dropped and rolled away. Along
the banks the woods and lesser rivers marvel at
him as he thrusts forth his face encrusted with
age-long mire; so majestically he rises from the
flood, lifting his foamy head and his breast astream
with the echoing fall of rivulets from his dark-
blue beard. One of the Nymphs meets her
father and tells him of his daughter's tears and
his grandson's fate, and shows him the blood-
stained author of the deed and seizes his right
hand; high he stands in the deep river, and smiting
his face and horns entwined with green sedge, thus
begins sore troubled with deep-mouthed utterance:
"Is this thy reward, O ruler of the gods above, for
that so oft I played the accomplice-friend to thy
adventures, and saw—I fear not to recall it—the
shameless horns on thy false visage, then Phoebe
forbidden to unyoke her car, or the dowry-gift of a
funeral-pyre and the lightning's trickery? And
that I have nurtured the foremost of thy sons? Do
they too feel so mean a gratitude? Of a truth the
Tirynthian crawled an infant by this river; with
these waters I quenched thy Bromius as he burned.
aspice, quas fluvio caedes, quae funera portem, 430
omne vadum belli series tenet, omnis anhelat
unda nefas, subterque animae supraque recentes
errant et geminas iungunt caligine ripas.
ille ego clamatus sacris ululatibus amnis,
qui molles thyrsos Baccheaque cornua puro 435
fonte lavare feror, stipatus caedibus artas
in freta quaero vias; non Strymonos impia tanto
stagna cruore natant, non spumifer altius Hebrus
Gradivo bellante rubet. nee te admonet altrix
unda tuasley manus, iam pridem oblite parentum
Liber? an Eous melius pacatur Hydaspes? 441
at tu, qui tumidus spoliis et sanguine gaudes
insontis pueri, non hoc ex amne potentem
Inachon aut saevas victor revehere Mycenas,
ni mortalis ego et tibi ductus ab aethere sanguis.”

Sic ait infrendens et sponte furentibus undis 446
signa dedit: mittit gelidus montana Cithaeron
auxilia antiquasque nives et pabula brumae
ire iubet; frater tacitas Asopos eunti
conciliat vires et hiulcis flumina venis 450
suggerit. ipse cavae scrutatur viscera terrae
stagnaque torpentesque lacus pigrasque paludes
executit, atque avidos tollens ad sidera voltus
umentes nebulas exhaurit et aera siccat.
iamque super ripas utroque exstantior ibat 455
aggere, iam medium modo qui superaverat amnem

\[a\] *i.e.*, so easily that you must needs fight here? References
to the Eastern exploits of Bacchus are frequent.
\[b\] The rivers have a common dwelling-place underground,
whence they can secretly reinforce one another; “venis”
refers to channels underground, “hiulcis” seems to imply
See the carnage and the corpses I carry on my stream, choked utterly with weapons as it is and hidden beneath unwonted heaps. Continuous warfare besets my channel, every wave breathes horror, and souls new-slain wander above me and beneath, and join bank to bank in darkness. Yet I, that river invoked with holy cries, I, whose praise it is to lave in my pure fount the soft wands and horns of Bacchus, am blocked with dead, and seek a difficult passage to the sea; so great a stream of gore fills not the impious meres of Strymon, and foaming Hebrus reddens not so deeply when Gradivus is at war. Does not thy fostering wave rebuke thee and thy violence, O Liber, who hast long forgotten thy parents? Is Eastern Hydaspes more easily subdued? But thou who boastfully exultest in the spoils and slaughter of an innocent lad, thou shalt not return in triumph from this stream to mighty Inachus of fierce Mycenae, unless it be that I am mortal and thou of heavenly race."

So spake he, gnashing his teeth, and gave the sign to his already raging waters: cold Cithaeron sends succour from the hills, and bids his ancient snows and stores of frost be moving; to the flood his brother Asopos unites his secret stores, and supplies streams from wide-open veins. He himself explores the hollow earth's recesses, and tries torpid lakes and pools and lazy fens, and lifting skyward his greedy countenance sucks down the moisture of the clouds and drains dry the air. Already he flowed with a tide that rose above either lofty bank, already Hippomedon, who of late stood higher than mid-

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THEBAID, IX. 429-456

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Hippomedon intactus aquis umerosque manusque, miratur crevisse vadum seseque minorem. hinc atque hinc tumidi fluctus animosaque surgit tempestas instar pelagi, cum Pliadas haurit aut nigrum trepidis impingit Oriona nautis. non secus acquoreo iactat Teumesius amnis¹ Hippomedonta salo, semperque umbone sinistro tollitur et clipeum migrante supervenit aestu spumeus adsultans, fractaque refunditur unda et cumulo maiores redit; nec mole liquenti contentus carpit putres servantiā ripas arbusta annosasque trabes eiectaque fundo saxa rotat. stat pugna impar amnisque virique, indignante deo; nec enim dat terga nec ullis frangitur ille minis, venientesque obvius undas intrat et obiecta dispellit flumina parma. stant terra fugiente gradus, et poplite tenso lubrica saxa tenet, genibusque obnixus et haerens subruta fallaci servat vestigia limo, sic etiam incerpitans: "unde haec, Ismene, repente ira tibi? quove has traxisti gurgite vires, imbelli famulate deo solumque cruorem femineis experte choris, cum Bacchica mugit buxus et insanae maculant trieterida² matres?" dixerat; atque illi sese deus obtulit ultr turbidus imbre genas et nube³ natantis harenae, nec saevit dictis, trunca sed pectora quercu

¹ amnis ω: ignis P. ² trieterida PBQ: trieterica DNS. ³ nube PBN: mole ω.

a The sea is described as (i.) draining the Pleiads, i.e. of their rain, cf. iv. 120, (ii.) hurling Orion against the sailors (by inversion, for the sailors, i.e. ships, against Orion), a
channel's depth, with unmoistened arms and shoulders, is marveling that the stream has grown above his stature. All round him the billows swell and the angry tempest rises high, like the sea when it drains the Pleiads or flings darkened Orion against trembling mariners. Not otherwise does the Teumesian river batter Hippomedon with its seething flood and ever is hurled back by the shield on his left arm, and anon the dark tide in its foaming onslaught surges over his buckler, pours back with shattered wave and returns in greater volume; moreover, not content with the watery mass, it plucks at the trees that support the crumbling banks and whirls along aged boughs and stones torn from its bed. River and hero are locked in unequal combat, and furious grows the god; for the other retreats not, nor is weakened by any threats, but advancing attacks the oncoming billows, and holding out his shield divides the stream. His feet stand firm though the ground recedes, and with straining sinews he holds fast to slippery rocks, and by struggling and clinging with his knees he maintains the foothold that the treacherous mud undermines, and thus he taunts besides: "Whence, Ismenos, this sudden wrath? Or from what deeps hast thou drawn these forces, slave of an unwarlike god, who knowest nought of blood save in women's revels, when the Bacchic pipe is bleating, and frenzied matrons defile the three-yearly festival?" He spoke, and on the instant the god assailed him, his visage a welter of rain and clouded by floating sand; nor was he fierce in speech, but with an oak-

common hyperbole in storm-descriptions; cf. Lucan, v. 625, 642. Both Orion and the Pleiades set in November, i.e., the stormy season.
ter quater oppositi, quantum ira deusque valebat, 
impulit adsurgens: tandem vestigia flexit 485
excussumque manu tegimen, conversaque lente
terga refert. instant undae sequiturque labantem
amnis ovans; nec non saxis et grandine ferri
desuper infestant Tyrii geminoque repellunt
aggere. quid faciat bellis obsessus et undis? 490
nec fuga iam misero, nec magnae copia mortis.

Stabat gramineae producta crepidine ripae
undarum ac terrae dubio, sed amicior undis,
fraxinus ingentique vadum possederat umbra.
huius opem—nam qua terras invaderet?—unca
arripuit dextra: nec pertulit illa trahentem;
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sed maiore super, quam stabat, pondere victa
solvitur, et qua stagna subit radice quibusque
arentem mordebat humum, demissa1 superne
iniecit sese trepido ripamque, nec ultra
passa virum2 subitae vallavit ponte ruinae.
huc undae coeunt, et ineluctabile caeno
verticibusque cavis sidit crescitque barathrum.
iamque umeros, iam colla ducis sinuosa vorago
circuit: hic demum victus suprema fateri 500
exclamat: "fluvione—pudet!—Mars inclyte, merges
hanc animam, segnesque lacus et stagna subibo
ceu pecoris custos, subiti torrentis iniquis
interceptus aquis? adeone occumbere ferro 509

1 demissa ω: dimissa PL.
2 passa virum Barth: passurum Pω.

— Statius is here trying to concentrate his description into
one effective phrase. He has in mind Hom. II. xxi. 288 sqq.,
the battle between Achilles and Scamander, especially 242 sqq.,
where the elm-tree that Achilles grasps falls into the river.
trunk thrice and four times smote his adversary's breast with all the might of a god's wrath, rising to the blow; he at last turned his steps, the buckler stricken from his arm, and beat a slow retreat. The waters press after him, and the river follows in triumph as he gives ground; the Tyrians too vex him from above with stones and iron hail, and drive him back from either bank. What can he do, beset by flood and battle? No flight is there now for the unhappy man, no room for a glorious death.

Rising from the grassy brim there stood an ash-tree, on the doubtful verge of land and waters but more friendly to the waters, and held the stream in the dominion of its mighty shadow. The succour of this tree—for where could he attempt the land?—he grasped with clutching fingers, nor did it endure the strain, but, overcome by a weight too great for its hold, gave way, and, torn from the roots whereby it entered the river and gripped the thirsty ground, dropped from on high and hurled itself and the bank together on the dismayed hero, nor brooking him further, bridged and dammed the stream with sudden downfall. Hither all the waves come surging, and an inescapable whirlpool of mud and hollow eddies rises and falls. And now the tortuous flood surrounds the shoulders, now the neck of the warrior; compelled at last to confess despair he exclaims: "For shame! great Mars! wilt thou drown this life of mine in a river? Must I then sink beneath sluggish lakes and meres like a shepherd caught in the cruel waters of a sudden torrent? Have I verily not deserved to fall by the sword?" Moved by his and "stemmed (γεφύρωσεν, lit. bridged) the River himself falling all within him" (Lang, Leaf, and Myers).
non merui? tandem precibus commota Tonantem Ino subit: "quonam miseris, sator inclyte divum, Inachidas, quonam usque premes? iam Pallas et odit Tydea, iam rapto tacuerunt augure Delphi:
en meus Hippomedon, cui gentis origo Mycenae
Argolicique lares numenque ante omnia Ino—
sie ego fida meis?—pelagi crudelibus ibit
pracea feris? certe tumulos supremaque victis
iusta\(^1\) dabas; ubi Cecropiae post proelia flammas, 
Theseos ignis ubi est?" non spernit coniugis aequas
ille preces, leviterque oculos ad moenia Cadmi
rettulit, et viso sederunt flumina nutu.
illius exsangues umeri et perfossa patescunt
pectora: ccu ventis alte cum elata resedit
tempestas, surgunt scopuli quaesitaque nautis
terra, et ab infestis descendunt aequora saxis. 
quid ripas tenuisse iuvat? premit undique nimbo
telorum Phoenissa cohors, nec tegmina membris
ulla, omnisque patet leto; tune vulnera manant,
quique sub amne diu stupuit cruer, aere nudo
solvitur et tenues venarum laxat hiatus,
incertique labant undarum e frigore gressus.
procumbit, Getico qualis procumbit in Haemo
seu Boreae furiis putri seu robore quercus
caelo mixta comas, ingentemque aera laxat:
ilam nutantem nemus et mens ipse tremiscit,
qua tellure cadat, quas obruat ordine silvas.
non tamen aut ensem galeamve audacia cuiquam

\(^1\) insta Heinshius: busta Pw.

\(^a\) Theseus, the champion of humanity, allowed his enemies
to burn their dead after a battle; in Book XII. he compels
Creon to give the Argives the same right.
prayers Juno at length accosts the Thunderer: "How long, glorious sire of gods, how long wilt thou press the hapless sons of Inachus? Already Pallas holds Tydeus in detestation, already Delphi is silent, its prophet slain; lo! my Hippomedon, whose home is Argos and Mycenae the cradle of his race, who worships Juno before all other gods—is it thus I am faithful to my own?—shall my Hippomedon go to feed the cruel monsters of the deep? Surely thou didst once allow the conquered to have the last rites of the tomb? Where are the flames that followed the Cecropian fray? Where is Theseus' fire?" He spurns not his consort's righteous plea, but lightly glanced towards Cadmus' walls: the waters beheld his nod and sank to rest. The shoulders and breast of the hero are revealed, those drained of blood, that pierced with wounds: as when a stormy sea, made mountainous by the winds, abates, the rocks and the land the sailors sought for rise into view, and the waters subside from the threatening crags. What avails it to have gained the bank? The Phoenician host presses him on every side with a storm of darts, his limbs are without covering, all exposed is he to death; then his wounds stream, and the blood that was staunched beneath the water flows in the open air and breaks the tender apertures of the veins, and the cold of the river makes him reel and stagger in his gait. He falls, even as on Getic Haemus, whether from Boreas' rage or its own strength's decay, an oak that blended its foliage with the sky falls forward and leaves a void in the wide air; as it totters, the forest and the very mountain tremble, for fear where it may fall, what stretch of woodland it may shatter. Yet none dares touch his sword or
tangere; vix credunt oculis ingentiaque horrent funera, et adstrictis accedunt comminus armis.

Tandem adiit Hypseus capulumque¹ in morte tenenti
extrahit et torvos laxavit casside vultus;
itque per Aonios alte mucrone corusco
suspensam ostentaus galeam et clamore superbit:
"hie ferus Hippomedon, hic formidabilis utor
Tydeos infandi debellatorque cruenti
gurgitis!" agnovit longe pressitque dolorem
magnanimus Capaneus, telumque immane lacerto²
hortatur librans: "ades o mihi, dextera, tantum
tu praesens bellis et inevitabile numen,
te voco, te solam superum contemptor adoro."
sic ait, et voti sese facit ipse potentem.
it tremibunda abies clipeum per et aerea texta³
loricae tandemque animam sub pectore magno
depremit: ruit haud alio quam celsa fragore
turris, ubi innumerous penitus quassata per ictus
labitur effractamque aperit victoribus urbem.
cui super adsistens "non insitiamur honorem
mortis" ait, "refer huc oculos, ego vulneris auctor;
laetus abi multumque aliis iactantior umbris!"
tunc ensem galeamque rapit clipeumque revellit
Hypseos⁴; examinumque tenens super Hippomedonta
"accipe" ait, "simul hostiles, dux magne, tuasque
exuvias, veniet cineri decus et suus ordo
manibus; interea iustos dum reddimus ignes,
hoc utor Capaneus operit tua membra sepulcro." 565

¹ capulum ω: caelum P: telum Garrod.
² lacerto: receptum P: (from -to) lacertum Kohlmann.
³ texta Gronovius: terga Pw.
⁴ Hypseos Markland: ipsius Pw.

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helmet; scarce believe they their eyes, but shudder at the monstrous corpse, and approach it with drawn swords.

At length Hypseus went near and wrenched the sword-hilt from his deathly grip, and freed the grim visage of its casque: then he goes through the Aonian ranks, displaying the helmet balanced aloft on his glittering blade, and crying exultantly: "Behold the fierce Hippomedon, behold the dread avenger of impious Tydeus, and the subduer of the gory flood!" Great-hearted Capaneus a knew him from afar, and mastered his rage, and poising a huge javelin with his arm thus prays: "Help me now, right arm of mine, my only present aid in battle and deity irresistible! On thee I call, thee only I adore, despising the gods above." So he speaks, and himself fulfils his own prayer. The quivering fir-shaft flies through shield and corslet's brazen mail, and finds out at last the life deep in the mighty breast; he falls with the thunderous crash of a lofty tower when pierced and shaken with innumerable blows it sinks in ruin, and opens the breached city to the conquerors. Then standing over him: "We deny thee not," says he, "thy death's renown; look hither, 'twas I that dealt the wound. Depart in joy, and boast thee far beyond the other shades!" Then he seizes the sword and casque of Hypseus, and tears away his shield; and holding them over the dead Hippomedon: "Receive, O mighty chief," he cries, "thy own and thy enemy's spoils together; thy ashes shall have their glory and thy shade its rightful rank. Meanwhile, till we pay thee the flame that is thy due, Capaneus thy avenger hides thy limbs in

sie aneeps dura belli vice mutua Grais
Sidoniisque simul nectebat vulnera Mavors:
hic ferus Hippomedon, illic non segnior Hypseus
fletur, et alterni praebent solacia luctus.

Tristibus interea somnum turbata figuris
torva sagittiferi mater Tegeatis ephebi,
trine dato passim plantisque ex more solutis,
ante diem gelidas ibat Ladonis ad undas
purgatura malum fluvio vivente soporem.
namque per attonitas curarum pondere noctes
saepe et delapsas adytis, quas ipsa dicarat,
exuvias, seque ignotis errare sepulcris
extorrem nemorum Dryadumque a plebe fugatam,
saepe novos nati bello rediisse triumphos,
armaque et alipedem notum comitesque videbat,
numquam ipsum, nunc ex umbris fluxisse pharetras,
effigiesque suas simulacraque nota cremari.
praccipuos sed enim illa metus portendere visa est
nox miserac totoque erexit pectore matrem.
nota per Arcadias felici robore silvas
quercus erat, Triviæ quam desacraverat ipsa
electam turba nemorum numenque colendo
fecerat: hic arcus et fessa reponere tela,
armaque curva suum et vacuorum terga leonum
figere et ingentes aequantia cornua silvas.
vix ramis\(^1\) locus, agrestes adeo omnia cingunt

\(^1\) ramis \(P\omega\) : radiis Barth.

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\(^a\) Atalanta, an Arcadian maiden, vowed to chastity, until,
according to one legend, she became the mother of Partheno-
paeus by Ares, according to another, by Milanion, who
married her after defeating her in the famous footrace;
other legends again make her of Boeotian origin. Tegea is
in Arcadia. Statius seems to follow the first form of the
this sepulchre.” Thus impartial Mars in the cruel vicissitudes of war gave interchange of mutual slaughter to Greeks and to Sidonians alike: here they mourn fierce Hippomedon, there Hypseus, no slower to the fray, and each gain solace from their foes’ distress.

Meanwhile the stern-eyed mother of the Tegean archer-lad, a troubled in her sleep by gloomy dreams, with flying hair and feet duly unsandalled was going before day-break to Ladon’s chilly stream, that she might cleanse her from her tainted slumbers in its living waters. For throughout many a distracted, care-worn night she would often see spoils that she herself had dedicated fallen from the shrines, and herself, a fugitive from the woodlands and chased away by Dryad folk, wandering by unknown tombs, and often new-won triumphs of her son brought home from the war, his armour, his well-known steed, his comrades, but himself never; or again she would see her quiver fallen from her shoulders, and her own images and familiar likenesses aflame. But that night seemed to the unhappy woman to portend surpassing terrors, and disturbed all her mother’s heart. Well-known throughout the forests of Arcadia was an oak of fertile growth, which she herself had chosen from a multitude of groves and made sacred to Diana, and by her worship endued with power divine; here she would lay by her bow and weary shafts, and fasten the curved weapons of boars and the flayed skins of lions, and antlers huge as woodland boughs. Scarce have the branches room, so closely set is it with spoils of the country-side, and the story (cf. l. 613 and “culpam,” l. 617), but he speaks of “parents” in l. 780 without any allusion to Ares.
exuviae, et viridem ferri nitor impedit umbram. hane, ut forte iugis longo defessa redibat venatu, modo rapta ferox Erymanthidos ursae ora ferens, multo proscissam vulnere cernit deposuisse comam et rorantes sanguine ramos exspirare solo; quaerenti Nympha cruventas Maenadas atque hostem dixit saevisse Lyaeum. dum gemit et planetu circumdat pectus inani, abruptere oculi noctem maestroque cubili exsilit et falsos quaerit per lumina fetus.

Ergo ut in amne nefas merso ter crine piavit verbaque sollicitas matrum solantia curas addidit, armatae ruit ad delubra Dianae tore sub Eoo, notasque ex ordine silvas et quercum gavisa videt. tunc limina divae adstitit et tali nequiquam voce precatur:

"virgo potens nemorum, cuius non mollia signa militiamque truæcum sexum indignata frequento more nihil Graio—nec te gens aspera ritu Colchis Amazoniaeve magis coluere catervae—:
si mihi non umquam thiasi ludusve protervae noctis et, inviso quamvis temerata cubili, non tamen ant teretes thyrsos aut mollia gessi pensa, sed in tetricis et post conubia lustris sic quoque venatrix animunque innupta remansi:
nee mihi secretis culpam occultare sub antris cura, sed ostendi prolem posuique trementem ante tuos confessa pedes; nec degener ille sanguinis inque meos reptavit protinus arcus,

\[\text{a} \quad \text{For this use of "impedit" may be compared Hor. Od. i. 4. 9 "viridi nitidum caput impedire myrto."}\\ \text{b} \quad \text{Ominous of her son's fate in the Theban war.}\\ \text{c} \quad \text{i.e., of Theban Bacchanals.}\\ \]

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sheen of steel mingles with the green shade. This oak-tree, when once she was returning from the uplands tired with the long chase, and carrying in proud triumph the head late-severed of an Erymanthian bear, she beheld all hacked and torn with many a wound, its foliage fallen, and its branches dripping blood and dying on the ground; in answer to her question a Nymph told of the violence of cruel Maenads and her foe Lyaeus. While she moaned and beat her breast with imaginary blows, her eyes cast off their darkness; from her sorrowing couch she leaps, and searches o'er her cheeks for the phantom tears.

So when by dipping thrice her hair in the river she had atoned the sacrilege, and added words that comfort a mother's troubled heart, she hastened to armed Diana's shrine while the morning dew was falling, and rejoiced to see the familiar woodland and the oak-tree all unharmed. Then standing at the threshold of the goddess she prays thus, to no avail: "Maiden Queen of the forests, whose ungentle standards and ruthless warfare I follow, scorning my sex, in no Grecian manner—nor are the barbarous-fashioned Colchians or troops of Amazons more truly thy votaries—if I have never joined revelling bands or the wanton nightly sport, if, although stained by a hated union, I have nevertheless handled not the smooth wands nor the soft skeins, but even after wedlock remained in the rough wilds, a huntress still and in my heart a virgin; if I took no thought to hide my fault in some secret cave, but showed my child and confessed and laid him trembling at thy feet—no puny weakling was he, but straightway crawled to my bow, and as a babe he cried for arrows
tela puer lacrimis et prima voce poposcit:
hune mihi—quid trepidae noctes somnusque minantur?
hune, precor, audaei qui nunc ad proelia voto
heu nimium tibi fisus abit, da visere belli
victorem, vel, si ampla peto, da visere tantum!  
625  
hic sudet tuaque arma ferat. preme dira malorum
signa; quid in nostris, nemoralis Delia, silvis
Maenades hostiles Thebanaque numina regnant?
ei mihi! cur penitus—simque augur cessa futuri!—
cur penitus magnoque interpretor omine quereum?
quod si vera sopor miserae praesagia mittit,
631  
per te maternos, mitis Dictynna, labores
fraternumque decus, cunctis hune fige sagittis
infelicem uterum; miserae sine funera matris
audiat ille prior! dixit, fletuque soluto
635  
aspekt et niveae saxum maduisse Dianae.

Illam diva ferox etiamnum in limine sauco
expositam et gelidas verren tem erinibus aras
linquit, et in mediis frondentem Maenal on astris
exsuperat saltu gressumque ad moenia Cadmi
640  
destinat, interior caeli qua semita lucet

dis tantum, et cunctas iuxta videt ardua terras.
iamque fere medium Parnassi frondea praeter
colla tenebat iter, cum fratrem in nube corusea
aspekt haud solito visu: remeabat ab armis
645  
maestus Echioniis, demersi funera lugens

1 This line is not in P, and is condemned by some edd.
2 In some late mss. after this line follows "si non victorem,
da tantum cernere victum," "grant me to behold him, if not
victor, at least vanquished."
3 cunctis P: iustis w.  
4 lucet w: ducit P.

a Different regions of the sky were apportioned to
in his first tearful accents: for him I pray—ah! what mean these nights of terror, these threatening dreams?—for him, who now in confident hope, trusting overmuch, alas, in thee, is gone to battle; grant me to see him victorious in the war, or if I ask too much, grant me but to see him! Here let him labour and bear thy arms. Make the dire signs of ill to cease; what power, O Diana of the woods, have Maenads and Theban deities in our glades? Woe is me! why in my own heart—may my augury be vain!—why in my own heart do I find a dreadful omen in the oak? But if sleep sends true presagings to my unhappy mind, I beseech thee, merciful Dictynna, by thy mother's travail and thy brother's splendour, pierce with all thine arrows this unblest womb! Let him first hear of his wretched mother's death!" She spoke, and beheld even cold Diana's marble moist with falling tears.

The stern goddess leaves her still stretched upon the sacred doorway and brushing the cold altar with her tresses, and with a bound crosses the leafy summit of Maenalos in mid-air and directs her steps to Cadmus' walls, where the inner path of heaven shines for gods alone, and high uplifted views all the earth together. And now, near half-way on her road, she was passing the forest-clad ridges of Parnassus, when in a glittering cloud she saw her brother not as she was wont to see him: for he was returning sadly from the Echionian fray, mourning different grades of supernatural beings; cf. Phars. ix. 5, where Lucan speaks of demigods ("semidei manes") having the space between earth and moon allotted to them (also Silv. ii. 7. 109). The "interior semita" would refer to some loftier zone.
STATIUS

auguris. inrubuit caeli plaga sidere mixto, occursuque sacro pariter iubar arsit utrimque, et coiere arcus et respondere pharetrae.\(^1\) ille prior: “scio, Labdacias, germana, cohortes et nimium fortes ausum petis Arcada pugnas. fida rogat genetrix: utinam indulgere precanti fata darent! en ipse mei—pudet!—inritus arma cultoris frondesque sacras ad inania vidi Tartara et in memet versos descendere vultus; nec tenui currus terraeque abrupta coegi, saevus ego immeritusque coli. lugentia cernis antra, soror, mutasque domos: haec sola rependo dona pio comiti; nec tu peritura movere auxilia et maestos in vanum perge labores. finis adest iuveni, non hoc mutate fatum, nec te de dubiis fraterna oracula fallunt.” “sed decus extremum certe\(^2\)” confusa vicissim virgo refert, “veraeque licet solacia morti quaerere, nec fugiet poenas, quicumque nefandam insontis pueri scelerarit sanguine dextram impius, et nostris fas sit saevire sagittis.” sic effata movet gressus libandaque fratri parcius ora tulit, Thebasque infesta petivit.

At pugna ereptis maior crudescit utrimque regibus, alternosque ciet vindicta furores. Hypseos hinc turmae desolatumque magistro agmen, at hinc gravius fremit Hippomedontis adempti

\(^1\) Lines 648-9 omitted in P.  
\(^2\) certe P: misero ω.

a Some commentators think that Statius means to describe an eclipse of the sun in this meeting of Diana and Apollo.

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the death of the engulfed augur. The region of the sky glowed red as their rays mingled; at the divine conjunction the beams of each shone out, their bows met, and quiver rang to quiver. He first began: "I know, my sister, 'tis the Labdacian ranks thou seest, and the Arcadian who dares a fight too valiant for him. His faithful mother begs thee: would that the Fates might grant her prayer! Lo! I myself have availed not—ah! for shame!—but seen my votary's arms and consecrated laurels go down to the void of Tartarus, and his face turned toward me as he went, nor did I check his car or close the chasm of the earth, heartless that I am and unworthy to be worshipped. Thou seest how my caverns mourn, O sister, and the silence of my shrine; this is my sole recompense to my loyal friend. Nor do thou continue to summon aid that can but fail, nor pursue thy sad task in vain; the youth is near his end, 'tis fate immutable, nor do thy brother's oracles deceive thee on a doubtful matter."

"But I may surely obtain glory for him at the last," the maiden in dismay replies, "and find a solace for his death, if indeed it so must be, nor shall that man escape unpunished, whoever shall impiously stain his guilty hand with the blood of an innocent boy, and may my shafts wreak a dire revenge!" With these words she moved upon her way, and suffering her brother but a scant embrace sought Thebes in hostile mood.

But on either side after the slaying of the chiefs the fight waxed fiercer, and the lust of vengeance aroused mutual rage. Here the squadrons of Hypseus shout and the troop that has lost its leader, there with deeper roar the bereft cohort of the dead
orba cohors; praebent obnixi corpora ferro, idem ardur rabidis externum haurire cruorem ac fudisse suum, nec se vestigia mutant: stat cuneo defixa acies, hostique cruento dant animas et terga negant¹: cum lapsa per auras vertice Dircae velox Latonia montis adstitit; adgnoscunt colles notamque tremiscit silva deam, saevis ubi quondam exserta sagittis fecundam lasso Nioben consumperat areu. 

Illum acies inter coepta² iam caede superbum nescius armorum et primas tunc passus habenas venator raptabat equus, quem discolor ambit tigris et auratis adverberat unguibus armos. colla sedent nodis et castigata iubarum libertas, nemorisque notae sub pectore primo iactantur niveo lunata monilia dente. ipse bis Oebalio saturatam murice pallam lucentesque auro tunicas—hoc neverat unum mater opus—tenui collectus in ilia vinclo, cornipedis laevo clipeum demiserat armo, ense gravis nimio: tereti iuvat³ aurea morsu fibula, pendentes circum latera aspera cinctus, vaginaeque sonum tremulumque audire pharetrae murmure et a cono missas in terga catenas; interdum cristas hilaris iactare comantis et pictum gemmis galeae iubar. ast ubi pugna cassis anhela calet, resoluto vertice nudus

¹ negant ὥ: natant P: vetant Postgate.  
² coepta Kohlmann: coeptas P: medias ὥ.  
³ iuvat ὥ: iubet P: ligat, levat, vorat edd.
Hippomedon; fiercely struggling they expose their bodies to the sword, and with equal ardour drain the foe's blood and shed their own, nor do they budge a step: the lines stand locked, column against column, and they yield their lives, but will not turn their backs, to the cruel foe—when gliding through the air the swift Latonian takes her stand on the Dircaean height; the hills know her, and the forest trembles at the well-known goddess, where once bare-breasted with cruel arrows she had slain Niobe and all her brood, out-wearying her bow.

But the lad, exultant now that the slaughter has begun, was darting between the lines on a hunter steed, untrained to war and suffering then his earliest bridle; about him was cast a striped tiger-skin, and the gilded talons beat upon his shoulders: his knotted mane in controlled luxuriance lies close against his neck, and upon his breast tosses a crescent chain of snow-white tusks, tokens of the woodland. The boy wore a cloak twice steeped in Oebalian dye, and a glittering gold-embroidered tunic—only this had his mother woven—gathered about his waist by a slender girdle, and, burdened by a huge sword, he had let drop his shield on the left shoulder of his horse; the golden buckle of the belt that hangs by his armed side delights him with its polished clasp, and he joys to hear the rattle of the scabbard and the rustling murmur of the quiver and the sound of the chains that fall behind him from his crest; sometimes he gaily tosses his flowing plume and his glancing jewel-studded casque. But when his panting helm grows hot in the fight, he frees him of the covering

\[a i.e., \text{Laconian (from Oebalus, once king of Sparta): cf. Hor. Od. ii. 18. 8. It was the purple dye from shell-fish.}\]
exoritur¹: tune dulce comae radiisque trementes² dulce nitent visus et, quas dolet ipse morari, nondum mutatae rosea lanugine malaes. nec formae sibi laude placet multumque severis asperat ora minis, sed frontis servat honorem ira decens. dat sponte locum Thebana iuventus, natorum memores, intentaque tela retorquent, sed premit et saevas miserantibus ingerit hastas. illum et Sidoniae iuga per Teumesia³ Nymphae bellantem atque ipso sudore et pulvere gratum laudant, et tacito ducunt suspiria voto.

Talia cernenti mitis subit alta Dianae corda dolor, fletuque genas violata "quod" inquit, "nunc tibi, quod leti quaeram dea fida propinquii effugium? haecne ultro properasti in proelia, saeve ac miserande puer? cruda heu festinaque virtus suasit et hortatrix animosi gloria leti.

scilicet angustum iamdudum urgentibus annis Maenalium tibi, parve, nemus, perque antra ferarum vix tutae sine matre viae, silvestria cuius nondum tela procax arcumque implere valebas.

et nunc illa meas ingentem plangit ad aras invidiam surdasque fores et limina lassat: tu dulces lituos ululataque proelia gaudes felix et miserae tantum moriture parenti." ne tamen extremo frustra morientis honorì adfuerit, venit in medios caligine furva

¹ nudus exoritur Pω: vultus exseritur conj. Garrod.
² trementes BDQ: frementes P: meantes, micantes, etc., MSS.
³ iuga per T. ω: Teumesi e vertice P (from viii. 344).

*i.e.*, he would die so nobly that only his mother would weep.
and appears bare-headed; then sweetly shine his locks and his countenance, all a-quiver in the sunbeams, and the cheeks whose tardiness he himself laments, not yet changed by rosy down. Nor does he find pleasure in the praise of his own fairness, but puts on a harsh severity of look; yet anger becomes him and preserves the beauty of his brow. Freely do the Theban warriors yield him place, remembering their own sons, and relax their straining bows, but he pursues and plies them with ruthless javelins, for all their pity. Even the Sidonian Nymphs along Teumesian ridges praise him as he fights; his very dust and sweat are in favour, and sighing they breathe unspoken prayers.

Tender sorrow steals to the depth of Diana's heart as she beholds this sight, and staining her cheeks with tears she cries: "What escape from approaching death can thy faithful goddess find thee now? Was it to battles such as these thou hastenedst, fierce, ill-fated lad? Alas! thy rash and untried spirit drove thee, and the love of fame that prompts to a glorious death. Too scant already, forsooth, was the Maenalian forest for thy impetuous years, and the paths that lay through lairs of beasts, scarce safe for thee, child, without thy mother, to whose bow and woodland spears, impudent boy, thy strength was yet unequal. And she now is making loud and bitter complaint about my altars, and wearies the unhearing doors and thresholds; in the well-loved clarions and the battle's outcry thou art rejoicing, happy thou, and thou shalt die making but thy mother wretched." a Yet lest as he dies she fail to bring him her last honour, she advances into the midst of the array, hemmed about
saepta globos, primumque leves furata sagittas
audacis tergo pueri caelestibus implet
coryton telis, quorum sine sanguine nullum
decidit; ambrosio tum spargit membra liquore,
spargit equum, ne quo violetur\(^1\) vulnere corpus
ante necem, cantusque sacros et conscia miscet
murmura, secretis quae Colchidas ipsa sub antris
nocte docet monstratque feras quaerentibus herbas.

Tune vero exserto circumvolat igneus arcu
nec se mente regit, patriae matrisque suique
inmemor, et nimium caelestibus utitur armis:
ut leo, cui parvo mater Gaetula cruentos
suggerit ipsa cibos, cum primum crescere sensit
colla iubis torvusque novos respexit ad ungues,
indignatur ali, tandemque effusus apertos
liber amat campos et nescit in antra reverti.
quos, age, Parrhasio sternis, puer improbe, cornu?
prima Tanagraeum turbavit harundo Coroebum
extremo galeae primoque in margine parmae
angusta transmissa via, stat faucibus unda
sanguinis, et saeri facies rubet igne veneni.
saevius Eurytion, cui luminis orbe sinistro
callida\(^2\) tergeminis acies se condidit uneis.
ille trahens oculo plenam labente sagittam
ibat in auctorem: sed divum fortia quid non
tela queant? alio geminatum lumine volnus
explevit tenebras; sequitur tamen improbus hostem,
qua meminit, fusum donec prolapsum in Idan
decidit: hic saevi miser inter funera belli
palpitat et mortem sociosque hostesque precatur.

\(^1\) violetur \textit{P}: temeretur \textit{o}.
\(^2\) callida \textit{PB}: aspera \textit{o}.
with dusky mist, and first stealing the light shafts from the back of the bold lad, she fill his quiver with celestial arrows, whereof none falls unstained with blood; then she sprinkles his limbs with ambrosial liquor, and his steed also, lest their bodies be profaned by any wound before his death, and murmurs many a sacred charm and conscious spell, which she herself teaches the Colchian maids at night in secret caves, and as they search shows them cruel herbs.

Then indeed uncovering his bow he darts in fiery course about the field, nor is controlled by caution, forgetful of his native land, his mother and himself, and uses overmuch his heavenly weapons: just as a lion, whose Gaetulan dam brings him herself in his infancy gory food, as soon as he feels his neck swell with muscles and grimly looks at his new talons, scorns to be fed, and at last breaks forth to freedom and loves the open plains, and can no more return to his cave. Whom now slayest thou, ruthless boy, with thy Parrhasian horn? Coroebus of Tanagra, did thy first shaft lay low, sped on a narrow path between the lowest margin of the helm and the uppermost of the shield; the blood wells up into his throat, and his face glows red with the sacred fiery venom. More cruelly Eurytion falls, in the orb of whose left eye the cunning point buries itself with triple barb. Pulling out the arrow that brings the melting eyeball with it, he dashes at his assailant; but what cannot the brave weapons of the gods perform? A second wound in the other orb makes his darkness complete; yet he yields not but pursues the foe by memory's aid, until he trips and falls o'er prostrate Idas: there wretchedly he lies gasping amid the victims of the cruel fight, and entreats friend
addit Abantiadas, insignem erinibus Argum et male dilectum miserae Cydona sorori.1 759
luic geminum obliqua traiecit harundine tempus, 761
exsilit haec ferrum, velox haec pinna remansit:
fluxit utrimque cruror. nulli tela aspera mortis
dant veniam, non forma Lamum, non infula Lygdum,
non pubescentes texerunt Aeolon anni: 765
figitur ora2 Lamus, flet saucius inguina Lygdus,
perfossus3 telo niveam gemis, Aeole, frontem.
te praeceps Euboea tulit, te candida Thisbe
misert, hune virides non excipietis Erythrae.4 769
numquam cassa manus, nullum sine numine5 fugit
missile, nec reqiiies dextrae, sonitumque priori
iungit harundo sequens. unum quis crederet arcum
aut unam saequire manum? modo derigit ictus,
nunc latere alterno dubius conamina mutat,
nunc fugit instantes et solo respiciet arcu. 775
Et iam mirantes indignantesque coibant
Labdacidae, primusque Iovis de sanguine claro
Amphion ignarus adhuc, quae funera campis
ille daret: "quonam usque moram lucrabère fati,
o multum meritos puer orbature parentes? 780
quin etiam menti tumor atque audacia glisceit,
congressus dum nemo tuos pugnamque minorem
dignatur bellis, iramque relinqueris infra.
i, repete Arcadiam mixtusque aequalibus illis,

1 After 759 follows "illi perfossum telo patefecerat
inguen," not found in Pw, only in later mss., and clearly
spurious.
2 ora ω: ilia P: ile Garrod. Klotz suggests that ilia was
a gloss on inguina.
3 perfossus Bentley: perfossam Pw.
4 Erythrae Koestlin: Amyclae Pw, which must be wrong,
as Thebans are spoken of: Hyrides . . . amicae Phillimore.
5 numine P: vulnere ω.
and foe to slay him. To these he adds the sons of Abas, Argus of the noble locks, and Cydon, guiltily loved by his unhappy sister. Him did he pierce through both his temples with transverse-flying shaft: from one temple the point protrudes, at the other the feathers' flight was stayed, from both the blood came flowing. None do his angry darts excuse from death, Lamus is not shielded by his beauty, nor Lygdus by his fillet, nor Aeolos by his budding manhood. Lamus is pierced in the face, Lygdus bewails a wounded groin, thou, Aeolus, dost bemoan the dart that transfixed thy snow-white brow. Thee rocky Euboea bore, thee Thisbe shining white had sent, this warrior, green Erythrae, thou wilt not receive again. No blow but tells, no missile flies unfavoured of heaven, his right hand rests not, and the next arrow's twang follows hard upon the last. Who could believe that one bow, one arm was dealing death? Now aims he forward, now shifts from side to side in bewildering change of attack, now flees when they assail and turns nought but his bow to face them.

And now in wonder and indignation the sons of Labdacus were rallying, and first Amphion, of Jove's famous seed, ignorant still what deaths the lad was dealing on the battle-field: "How long shalt thou still make profit of death's delaying, thou boy that shalt be a sore loss to thy goodly parents? Nay, even yet thy spirit swells high and thy rashness grows, while none deigns to meet thy onset and thy too feeble might, and thou art left as beneath their wrath. Go, return to thy Arcadia and mingling with thy equals
dum ferus hie vero desaevit pulvere Mavors, 785
proelia lude domi: quodsi te maesta sepulcri
fama movet, dabimus leto moriaret virorum!"
iamdudum hune contra stimulus gravioribus ardet
trux Atalantiades—needum ille quierat—et infit:
"sera etiam in Thebas, quarum hic exercitus, arma
profero; quisnam adeo puer, ut bellare reeuset 791
talibus? Arcadiae stirpem et fera semina gentis,
non Thebana vides: non me sub nocte silenti
Thyias Echionio genetrix famulata Lyaeo
edidit, hauad umquam deformis vertice mitras 795
induimus turpemque\(^2\) manu iactavimus hastam.
protinus adstrictos didiei reptare per amnes
horrendasque domos magnarum intrare ferarum
et—quid plura loquar? fenum mea semper et arcus
mater habet, vestri feriunt cava tympana patres." 800
non tuit Amphion vultumque et in ora loquentis
telum immane rotat; sed ferri lumine diro
turbatus sonipes sese dominunque retorsit
in latus atque avidam transmisit devius hastam.
acrior hoc iuvenem stricto mucrone petebat 805
Amphion, cum se medio Latonia campo
iecit et ante oculos omnis stetit obvia vultu.
Haerebat iuveni devinctus amore pudico
Maenalius Dorceus, cui bella suumque timorem
mater et audaces pueri mandaverat annos. 810
huius tum vultu dea dissimulata profatur:
"hactenus Ogygias satis infestasse catervas,
Parthenopae, satis; miseræ iam parce parenti,

\(^{1}\) moriare *Housman*: moriere *Pw.*
\(^{2}\) turpemque *Klotz*: turpique *Pw.*
there, while fierce Mars exhausts his fury here in the real dust of war, play thy soldier games at home! But if the melancholy glory of the tomb doth move thee, we will grant thee to die a hero's death." Long had the truculent son of Atalanta raged with yet bitterer taunts against him, and ere yet the other had ended thus begins: "Nay, I am even late in making war on Thebes, if this is all your host! What boy so tender as to refuse to fight with such as these? No Theban offspring seest thou here, but the war-like stock of the Arcadian race; no Thyiad mother, slave to Echionian Lyaeus, bore me in the silence of the night, never have we put unsightly turbans on our heads, nor brandished dishonourable spears. From childhood I learnt to crawl on frozen streams, and to enter the dread lairs of monsters, and—but why should I say more? My mother has ever the sword and bow, your fathers beat hollow drums!" Amphion brooked this not, but hurled a mighty spear at his face while he spoke; but his charger, affrighted by the terrible gleam of the steel, swung round with his master to one side, and swerving sent the greedy javelin flying wide of the mark. Amphion was attacking the youth with drawn sword the more fiercely, when the Latonian\(^a\) leapt down into mid-plain, and stood clear to see before the eyes of all.

Dorceus of Maenalus, bound by the ties of chaste affection, was keeping close to the lad's side: to him the queen had entrusted her son's rash youth and her own fears and all the chances of war. Disguised in his features the goddess then addressed the boy: "Enough, Parthenopaeus, to have routed the Ogygian bands so far; enough, now spare thy un-

\(^a\) i.e., Diana (=Artemis, daughter of Latona).
parce deis, quicumque favent.” nec territus ille:
“hunc sine me—non plura petam—fidissime Doreeu, sternere humi, qui tela meis gerit aemula telis et similes cultus et frena sonantia iactat. frena regam, cultus Triviae pendebitis alto limine, captivis matrem donabo pharetris.” audiit et mixto risit Latonia fletu.

happy mother, spare the gods who favour thee." But he unterrified: "Suffer me, faithful Dorceus—no more will I ask—to slay this man who bears weapons that rival mine, and boasts like apparel and resounding reins. These reins I will handle, the apparel shall hang on Trivia's lofty door, and his captured quiver shall be a present to my mother." The Latonian heard him, and smiled amid her tears.

Long time from a distant quarter of the sky had Venus, in the embrace of Mars, beheld her, and while she anxiously commended Thebes and Cadmus and her dear Harmonia's progeny to her lord, she stirred with timely utterance the grief that lay hidden in his silent breast: "Seest thou not, O Gradivus, yonder wanton maid who goes to and fro among the troops of warriors? And with what boldness she is ordering the lines and the Martial standards? Lo! she even presents and offers to the slaughter all these men of our own race! Hath she then valour? Hath she the rage of battle? Nought then remains for thee but to hunt the woodland deer!" Moved by these just complaints the lord of war sprang down into the fight: as he sped through the paths of air Anger alone was his companion: the other Madonesses were busy in the sweat of war. Without delay he stands by Lato's sorrowing daughter and chides her with harsh reproof: "Not such battles as these does the Father of the gods allow thee: leave forthwith the field of arms, thou shameless one, or thou shalt learn that not even Pallas is a match for this right hand." What can she do against him? On one side the spear of Mavors threatens her, on the other, child, is thy distaff, full already, yonder the stern countenance of Jove: then she departs, yielding to reverence alone.
At pater Ogygias Mavors circumspicit alas horrendumque Dryanta movet, cui sanguinis auctor turbidus Orion, comitesque odisse Dianae (inde furit) patrium. hic1 turbatos arripit ense Arcadas examatque ducem; cadit agmine longo Cyllenes populus Tegeesque habitator opacae, 846 Aepytiique duces Telphusiaecaeque phalanges. ipsum autem et lassa fidit prosterne dextra, nec servat vires: etenim huc iam fessus et illuc mutabat turmas; urgent praesagia mille 850 funeris, et nigrae praecedunt nubila mortis. iamque miser rarios comites verumque videbat Doreca, iam vires paulatim abseedere sensit, sensit et exhaustas umero leviore pharetras; iam minus atque minus fert arma puerque videtur 855 et sibi, cum torva clipei metuendus obarsit luce Dryas: tremor ora repens ac viscera torsit Arcados; utque feri vectorem fulminis albus cum supra respexit olor, cupit hiscere ripam Strymonos et trepidas in pectora contrahit alas: 860 sic iuvenem saevi conspecta mole Dryantos iam non ira subit, sed leti nuntius horror, arma tamen, frustra superos Triviamque precatus, molitur Pallens et surdos expedit arcus. iamque instat telis et utramque obliquus2 in ulnam3 cornua contingit muerere et pectora nervo, 866 cum duces Aonii magno cita turbine eupsis

1 patrium hic Alton: primum P. w, hic DNS and Q (with n over), hinc B.
2 obliquus ο: oblitus P: obnixus Phillimore.
3 ulnam ω: urnam P.

*a* For this use of "patrium" *cf.* Val. Fl. ii. 157 "adde cruenteris quod patrium saevire Dahis," and *Théb.* xi. 33.

*b* Diana in l. 811 is mentioned as having taken the shape of Dorceus.

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But father Mavors looks round upon the Ogygian ranks, and rouses up the terrible Dryas, who had turbulent Orion as the author of his blood, and an inherited hatred of Diana's followers—hence came his fury. Sword in hand he leaps upon the disheartened Arcadians, and robs their leader of his arms: in long lines fall the folk that dwell in Cyllene and shady Tegea, and the Aepytian chieftains and the Telphusian cohorts. Their prince himself he is confident to slay, though his arm be tired, nor does he husband his strength; for the other, already weary, was wheeling his squadrons here and there: a thousand presentiments of doom crowd on him, and the black clouds of death float before his eyes. And now the wretched lad could see but few companions and the true Dorceus, now he felt his force ebb little by little, and his shoulder lighten as the shafts diminished; already less and less can he support his armour, and even to himself he seems now but a boy, when Dryas blazed terribly before him with fiercely-flashing shield; a sudden tremor shook the countenance and the frame of the Arcadian, and, just as when a white swan sees above him the bearer of the angry thunderbolt he wishes that Strymon's bank would gape and gathers his trembling wings about his breast, so the youth, perceiving the great bulk of savage Dryas, felt wrath no longer, but a thrill that heralded death. Yet he plies his weapons, pale-faced and praying vainly to Trivia and the gods, and makes ready the bow that will not answer. Already he is on the point to shoot, and with both elbows held aslant he is touching the bow with the arrow-head and his breast with the string—when, mightily whirled, the Aonian chieftain's spear flies
fertur in adversum nervique obliqua sonori vincla secat: pereunt ictus manibusque remissis vana supinato ceciderunt spicula cornu.

tunc miser et frenos turbatus et arma remisit, vulneris impatiens, umeri quod tegmine dextri intrarat facilemque cutem: subit altera cuspis cornipedisque fugam succiso poplite sistit.
tunc cadit ipse Dryas—mirum—nec vulneris umquam conscius: olim auctor teli causaeque patebunt.  

At puer infusus sociis in devia campi
tollitur—heu simplex actas!—moriensque iacentem flebat equum; cecidit laxata casside vultus, aegraque per trepidos exspirat gratia visus, et prenisis concussa comis ter colla quaterque stare negant, ipsisque nefas lacrimabile Thebis, ibat purpureus niveo de pectore sanguis.
tandem haec singultu verba incidente profatur: "labimur, i, miseram, Dorceu, solare parentem.
illa quidem, si vera ferunt praesagia curae, aut somno iam triste nefas aut omine vidit. tu tamen arte pia trepidam suspende diuque decipito; neu tu subitus neve arma tenenti veneris, et tandem, cum iam cogere fateri, dic: merui, genetrix, poenas invita capesse; arma puer rapui, nec te retinente quievi, nec tibi sollicitae tandem inter bella peperci. vive igitur potiusque animis irascere nostris, et iam pone metus. frustra de colle Lycaeci

1 patebunt P: patebant w: latebant Grotius.

^ The word is perhaps intended to refer to the ends of the bow that sprang back when the string was cut.  
^ i.e., in their endeavour to rouse him.
straight upon him, and cuts the slanted fastenings of the echoing bowstring: the shot is lost, his hands relax, and the arrow falls fruitless from the backward falling \(^a\) bow. Then in confusion and distress he drops both reins and weapons, reckless of the wound that had pierced the harness and the soft skin of his right shoulder; another javelin follows and checks the charger's flight, cutting the tendons of his leg. Then Dryas himself falls—strange!—nor ever knows who wounds him; one day the author of the deed and its cause will be revealed.

But the lad is carried from the field in his comrades' arms—alas, for his tender years!—and dying bewails his fallen steed; relieved of the helm his head sinks back, and a sickly charm plays about his quivering eyes; thrice and four times, grasping his hair, they shake the neck \(^b\) that refuses to stay upright, and—a horror whereat Thebes itself might weep—the purple blood came welling from the snow-white breast. At last he speaks, with sobs that break his utterance: "I am dying, Dorceus: go, solace my poor mother. Already, if care doth bring true presage, she hath seen this calamity in dream or omen. Yet do thou with loyal craft keep her fears in suspense, and long deceive her; nor come upon her of a sudden, nor when she holds a weapon in her hand; and when at last thou art forced to admit the truth, say this to her: Mother, I confess my fault; exact thy unwilling punishment; I rushed to arms, though a mere boy, nor, though thou didst hold me back, would I be still, nor, despite thy trouble, war once begun did I spare thee at the last. Live then thou and be angry rather at my impetuous spirit and now be done with fears. In vain dost thou
anxia prospectas, si quis per nubila longe
aut sonus aut nostro sublatus ab agmine pulvis:
frigidus et nuda iaceo tellure, nec usquam
tu prope, quae voltus efflantiaque ora teneres.
hunc tamen, orba parens, crinem” dextraque
secandum
praebuit “hunc toto capies pro corpore crinem,
comere quem frustra me dedignante solcebas.
huic dabis exsequias, atque inter iusta memento,
ne quis inexpertis hebetet mea tela lacertis
dilectosque canes ullis agat amplius antris.\(^1\)

haec autem primis arma infelicia castris
ure, vel ingratae crimen\(^2\) suspende Dianae.”

\(^1\) Lines 903-5 not in P.
\(^2\) crimen Imhof: crinem P: munus crimen B: munus DNS.
look forth anxiously from Lycaeus' hill, if perchance sound or dust of my cavalcade rise to thee through the air afar; cold on the bare earth I lie, and thou art nowhere near me, to hold my face and catch my parting breath. Yet take this tress, O mother bereaved," and with his hand he offered it to be cut, "take this tress in place of my whole body; once thou wert wont to trim it in spite of my vain scorn." To it give burial, and amid the rites remember to let none blunt my weapons with inexperienced hands, or lead my beloved hounds to the hunting-grounds any more. But burn these ill-fated arms of my first warfare, or hang them up as a reproach to ungrateful Diana.

"Or taking "frustra" with "comere," "which thou wert wont to trim, though I scorned it, in vain."
LIBER X

Obruit Hesperia Phoebum nox umida porta, imperiiis properata Iovis; nec castra Pelasgum aut Tyrias miseratus opes, sed triste, tot extra agmina et immeritas ferro decrescere gentes. panditur immenso deformis sanguine campus: illic arma et equos, ibant quibus ante superbi, funeraque orba rogis neglectaque membra relinquent. tune inhonora cohors laceris insignibus aegras secernunt acies, portaeque, ineuntibus arma angustae populis, latae cepere reversos. par utrimque dolor; sed dant solacia Thebis quattuor errantes Danaum sine praeside turmae: cenu mare per tumidum viduae moderantibus alni, quas deus et casus tempestatiaque gubernant. inde animus Tyriis non iam sua castra, sed ultimo hostilem servare fugam, ne forte Mycenas contenti rediisse petant: dat tessera signum excubiis, positaeque vices; dux noctis opertae sorte Meges ul troque Lycus. iamque ordine iusso arma, dapes ignemque ferunt; rex firmat euntes: "victores Danaum—nee enim lux crastina longe, 320
BOOK X

Dewy Night overwhelmed Phoebus in the gateway of the West, hastened by the commands of Jove; nought pitied he the Pelasgian camp nor the Tyrian forces, but he grieved that beside the warriors so many innocent folk should fall by the sword. Far stretches the plain, a vast unsightly sea of blood; there they leave their arms, and the steeds whereon before they went so proudly, and the corpses deprived of their pyres and the neglected limbs. Then, an unsightly troop with tattered ensigns, they withdraw their exhausted lines, and the gates that were so narrow as they thronged to battle are all too broad as they return. Each side is alike distressed, but Thebes has solace in the four Danaan bands wandering without a chief: like alder vessels on the billowy deep that are widowed of their helmsmen and steered by God and Chance and all the storms. Therefore the Tyrians are emboldened to keep watch no more on their own camp, but rather on their foes' retreat, lest haply they seek to return with all speed to Mycenae; the watchword gives the signal to the sentinels, and posts are set; Meges by lot, and Lycus at his request are leaders of the night's enterprise. And now in marshalled ranks they bring arms and food and fire; the king cheers them as they go: "Conquerors of the Danaans—for to-
nec quae pro timidis intercessere tenebrae
semper erunt—augete animos et digna secundis
pectora ferte deis. iacet omnis gloria Lernae
praecipuaeque manus: subiit ultricia Tydeus
Tartara, Mors subitam nigri\(^1\) stupet auguris umbram,
Ismenos raptis tumet Hippomedontis opimis,
Arcada belligeris pudet adnumerare tropaeis.
in manibus merces, nusquam capita ardua belli
monstrataeque duce septena per agmina cristaet;
scilicet Adrasti senium fraterque iuventa
peior et insanis Capaneus metuendus in armis.
ite age et obsessis vigilem circumdate flamman!
nulli ex hoste metus: praedam adservatis opesque
iam vestras.” sic ille truces hortatibus implet
Labdacidas, iuvat exhaustos iterare\(^2\) labores:
sicut erant—pulvis sudorque cruorque per artus
mixtus adhuc—vertere gradum; vix obvia passi
conloquia, amplexus etiam dextrasque suorum
excussere umeris. tum frontem aversaque terga
partiti laterumque sinus, vallum undique cingunt
ignibus infestis. rabidi sic agmine multo
sub noctem coiere lupi, quos omnibus agris
nil non ausa fames longo tenuvit hiatu:
iam stabula ipsa premunt, torquet spes inrita fauces,
balatusque tremens pinguesque ab ovilibus aurae\(^3\);
quod superest, duris adfrangunt postibus ungues,
pectoraque et siccos minuunt in limine dentes.

\(^1\) nigri \(P\omega\): Garrod conj. integri, and \(cp.\) viii. 6 and x. 204.
\(^2\) iterare \(P\omega\): tolerare \(D\).
\(^3\) aurae (agnae written over) \(P\): conversely \(D\).

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\(^a\) Inconsistent with l. 204, but he supposes that the seer's body has been burnt, and that therefore his shade will be charred black, \textit{cf.} viii. 6 “niger ab urna,” “black from the ashes of the urn.”
\(^b\) \textit{i.e.}, Parthenopaeus.
morrow's dawn is near, and the darkness that saved the cowards will not last for ever—raise your spirits high and let your hearts be worthy of heaven's favour. All the glory of Lerna, all her foremost might lies low: Tydeus is gone to avenging Tartarus; Death starts to behold the black augur's sudden shade; a Ismenos is swollen with the plunder of Hippomedon's spoils; the Arcadian b we are ashamed to count among the trophies of war. Our reward is in our hands, gone are the proud leaders of the host, and the chieftains' crests displayed along the sevenfold array; formidable indeed is Adrastus' dotage, and my brother's more cowardly manhood, and Capaneus' frenzied arms! Forward then, and set your wakeful fires about their beleaguered camp. Ye need not fear the foe; 'tis booty ye watch, and wealth that at last is yours.” Thus does he heap encouraging words upon the fierce Labdacidae: they rejoice to repeat the toils already endured. Just as they were, with dust and sweat and blood still caked upon their limbs, they turned to go, scarce heeding the farewells that would stay them, but shaking off the embracing arms and hand-clasps of their friends. Then sharing between them front and rear and curving flanks they ring round the rampart with hostile flame. So gathers at night-fall a herd of ravening wolves, whom over all the country-side hunger that brings reckless daring has starved with long privation: already they are near the very sheep-folds, hope unfulfilled and the feeble bleatings and juicy scents from the pens torture their throats; at last they break their claws against the cruel stakes, and bruise their bodies and blunt their unfleshed fangs upon the doors.
At procul Argolici supplex in margine templi
coetus et ad patrias fusae Pelopeides aras
secpriferae Iunonis opem reditumque suorum
exposcunt, pictasque fores et frigida volutu
saxa terunt parvosque docent procumbere natos.
condiderant iam vota diem; nox addita euras
iungit, et ingestis vigilant altaria flammis.
peplum etiam dono, cuius mirabile textum
nulla manu sterilis nec dissociata marito
versarat, calathis castae velamina divae
haud spernenda ferunt, variis ubi plurima floret
purpura pieta modis mixtoque incenditur auro.
ipsa illic magni thalamo desponsa Tonantis,
expers conubii et timide positura sororem,¹
lumine demisso pueri Iovis oscula libat
simplex et nondum furtis offensa mariti.
hoc tunc Argolicae sanctum velamine matres
induerant ebur, et lacrimis questuque rogabant:
"aspice sacrilegas Cadmæae paelicis arces,
siderei regina poli, tumulumque rebellem
disice et in Thebas aliud—potes—execute fulmen."
quid faciat? scit Fata suis contraria Grais
aversumque Iovem, sed nec periisse precatus
tantaque dona velit; tempus tamen obvia magni
fors dedit auxilii. videt alto ex aethere elusa
moenia et insomni vallum statione teneri:
horruit irarum stimulus motaque verendum
turbavit diadema coma: non saevius arsit

¹ sororem Pω: pudorem D: furorem (corrected from sororem) B.

a Semele.
THEBAID, X. 49-76

But far away a suppliant train of Pelopean dames, prostrate before their native altars and on the threshold of the Argolic fane, implore the help of sceptred Juno and the return of their loved ones, and press their faces to the cold stones and painted doors, and teach their little children to kneel. The day was already spent in entreaties: night comes and adds its cares, and the altars keep vigil with high-piled fires. They bear too a gift in a basket, a robe whose marvellous texture no hand of childless wife nor of any parted from her husband had wrought, a garment full worthy of the chaste goddess: thereon was much purple, gaily embroidered in manifold design and blazing with interwoven gold. She herself was there, promised in marriage to the great Thunderer, but not yet a bride and timidly putting off her sisterhood; with downcast eyes she kisses the youthful Jupiter, a simple maid, nor yet offended by the secret loves of her husband. With this robe the Argive matrons at that time veiled the sacred ivory image, and with tears and supplications made their prayer: "Look upon the sacrilegious towers of the Cadmean harlot," O Queen of the starry pole, shatter that rebel hill, and hurl—for thou canst—another thunderbolt against Thebes." What can she do? She knows the Fates are adverse to her Grecians, and Jove's favour is turned away, but she would that such prayers and gifts were not wasted; nevertheless, a ready chance gave occasion for potent aid. From lofty heaven she sees the city-gates closed and the rampart guarded by sleepless sentinels; the stings of anger thrilled her frame, and stirred her hair and shook the awful diadem: no more fiercely did she rage, when alone in heaven she felt
Herculeae cum matris onus geminosque Tonantis
secubitus vacuis indignaretur in astris.

ergo intempesta somni dulcedine captos
destinat Aonios leto praebere, suamque
orbibus accingi solitis iubet Irin et omne
mandat opus. paret iussis dea clara polumque
linquit et in terras longo suspenditur arcu.

Stat super occiduae nebulosa cubilia noctis
Aethiopasque alios, nulli penetrabilis astro,
lucus iners, subterque cavis grave rupibus antrum
it vacuum in montem, qua desidis atria Somni
securumque larem segnis Natura locavit.

limen opaca Quies et pigra Oblivio servant
et numquam vigili torpens Ignavia voltu.

Otia vestibulo pressisque Silentia pinnis
muta sedent abiguntque truces a culmine ventos
et ramos errare vetant et murmura demunt
alitibus. non hic pelagi, licet omnia clament
litora, non ullus caeli fragor ; ipse profundis
vallibus effugiens speluncae proximus amnis
saxa inter seopulosque tacet1 : nigrantia circum
armenta, omne solo recubat pecus, et nova marcent
germina,2 terrarumque inclinat spiritus herbas.
mille intus simulacra dei caelaverat ardens

Mulciber : hic haeret lateri redimita Voluptas,
hic comes in requiem vergens Labor, est ubi Baccho,
est ubi Martigenae socium pulvinar Amori
obtinet. interius tecti in penetralibus altis

1 tacet ω : iacet P.
2 germina Pω : gramina late mss. and edd.

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\(a\) Because the night was prolonged to twice its length.

\(b\) The Aethiopians of the far West; they were usually spoken of as being in the East or South.

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wrath against Alcmeene for her offspring and for the Thunderer's twofold adultery. Therefore she determines to make the Aonians, sunk in the timeless bliss of slumber, a prey to death, and bids her own Iris gird herself with her wonted circles, and commits to her all her task. Obedient to command, the bright goddess leaves the pole and wings her way down her long arc to earth.

Beyond the cloud-wrapt chambers of western gloom and Aethiopia's other realm there stands a motionless grove, impenetrable by any star; beneath it the hollow recesses of a deep and rocky cave run far into a mountain, where the slow hand of Nature has set the halls of lazy Sleep and his untroubled dwelling. The threshold is guarded by shady Quiet and dull Forgetfulness and torpid Sloth with ever drowsy countenance. Ease, and Silence with folded wings sit mute in the forecourt and drive the blustering winds from the roof-top, and forbid the branches to sway, and take away their warblings from the birds. No roar of the sea is here, though all the shores be sounding, nor yet of the sky; the very torrent that runs down the deep valley nigh the cave is silent among the rocks and boulders; by its side are sable herds, and sheep reclining one and all upon the ground; the fresh buds wither, and a breath from the earth makes the grasses sink and fail. Within, glowing Muleciber had carved a thousand likenesses of the god: here wreathed Pleasure clings to his side, here Labour drooping to repose bears him company, here he shares a couch with Bacchus, there with Love, the child of Mars. Further within, in the secret places of the palace he
et cum Morte iacet, nullique ea tristis imago\(^1\) cernitur. hae species. ipse autem\(^2\) umentia subter antra soporifero stipatos flore tapetas incubat; exhalant vestes et corpore pigro strata calent, supraque torum niger efflat anhelo ore vapor; manus haec fusos a tempore laevo sustentat crinis, haec cornu oblita remisit. adsunt innumero circum vaga Somnia vultu,\(^3\) vera simul falsis permixtaque tristia blandis,\(^4\) noctis opaca cohors, trabibusque aut postibus haerent, aut tellure iacent. tenuis, qua circuit aulam, invalidusque nitor, primosque hortantia somnos languida succiduis exspirant lumina flammis. Huc se caeruleo libravit ab aethere virgo discolor: effulgent silvae, tenebrosaque Tempe adrisere deae, et zonis lucentibus icta evigilat domus; ipse autem nec lampade clara nec sonitu nec voce deae perculsus eodem more iacet, donec radios Thaumantias omnis impulit inque oculos penitus descendit inertes. tune sic orsa loqui nimborum fulva creatrix:

"Sidonios te Iuno duces, mitissime divum Somne, iubet populumque trucis defigere Cadmi, qui nunc eventu belli tumefactus Achaenum pervigil adservat vallum et tua iura recusat. da precibus tantis, rara est hoc posse facultas placatumque Iovem dextra lunone mereri.\(^5\)"

\(^1\) Lines 100-5 only in P and some late mss.
\(^2\) cernitur. hae (haec Klotz) species. ipse autem Vollmer: cernitur haec species autem P: ipse autem vacuus curis w.
\(^4\) tristia blandis edd.: flumina flammis P (from 117), various conjectures by edd.
\(^5\) mereri w: vereri P: merere late mss., Gronovius.
lies with Death also, but that dread image is seen by none. These are but pictures: he himself beneath humid caverns rests upon coverlets heaped with slumbrous flowers, his garments reek, and the cushions are warm with his sluggish body, and above the bed a dark vapour rises from his breathing mouth. One hand holds up the locks that fall from his left temple, from the other drops his neglected horn. Vague dreams of countless shapes stand round about him, true mixed with false, flattering with sad, the dark brood of Night, and cling to beams and doorposts, or lie on the ground. The light about the chamber is weak and fitful, and languid gleams that woo to earliest slumbers vanish as the lamps flicker and die.

Hither from the blue sky came in balanced flight the varicoloured maid; the forests shine out, and the shady glens smile upon the goddess, and smitten with her zones of radiance the palace starts from its sleep; but he himself, awoken neither by the bright glow nor by the sound or voice of the goddess, lay motionless as ever, till the Thaumantian shot at him all her splendours and sank deep into his drowsy vision. Then thus began to speak the golden fashioner of clouds: "Sleep, gentlest of the gods, Juno bids thee bind fast the Sidonian leaders and the folk of ruthless Cadmus, who now, puffed up by the issue of the fight, are watching in ceaseless vigil the Achaean rampart, and refuse thy sway. Grant so solemn a request—rarely is this opportunity vouchsafed, to win the favour of Jove with Juno on thy

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a Elsewhere alluded to by Statius, ii. 145, vi. 27, never, apparently, by other poets. b Iris, daughter of Thaumas. c "fulvus" is a regular epithet of gold: Iris seems to be regarded as creating the clouds on which she shines.
STATIUS

dixit, et increpitans languentia pectora dextra, ne pereant voces, iterumque iterumque monebat. ille deae iussis vultu, quo nutat, eodem adnuit; excedit gravior nigrantibus antris. Iris et obtusum multo iubar excitat imbri.

Ipse quoque et volucrem gressum et ventosa citavit tempora, et obscuri sinuatuam frigore caeli implevit chlamydem, tacitoque per aethera cursu fertur et Aoniis longe gravis imminet arvis. illius aura solo volucres pecudesque ferasque explicat, et penitus, quemcumque supervolat orbem, languida de scopulis sidund freta, pigrius haerent nubila, demittunt extrema cacumina silvae, pluraque laxato ecciderunt sidera caelo. primus adesse deum subita caligine sensit campus, et innumerae voces fremitusque virorum submisere sonum; cum vero uentibus alis incubuit piceaque baud umquam densior umbra castra subit, errare oculi resolutaque colla, et medio adfatu verba imperfecta relinqui. mox et fulgentes cripeos et saeva remittunt pila manu, lassique cadunt in pectora voltus. et iam cuncta silent: ipsi iam stare recusant cornipedes, ipsos subitus cinis abstulit ignes.

At non et trepidis eadem sopor otia Grais suadet, et adiunctis arcet sua nubila castris noctivagi vis blanda dei: stant undique in armis

1 vultu quo nutat eodem P: dubium mixtumque sopori w.
2 quemcumque PD: quacumque w, quacumque N.

* i.e., nodding as he ever does in slumber.
* Sleep is sometimes represented with wings upon his temples, as may be seen in a well-known bronze figure of 330
side.” She spoke, and with her hand beat upon his languid breast, and charged him again and yet again, lest her message be lost. He with his own nodding visage a nods assent to the goddess’ command; o’er-weighted with the caverns’ gloom Iris goes forth, and tricks out her beams, made dim by showers of rain.

Himself too he bestirred both swift progress and his wind-torn temples, b and filling his mantle’s folds with the chill dark air is borne in silent course through heaven, and from afar swoops down in might upon the Aonian fields. The wind of his coming sets birds and beasts and cattle prostrate on the ground, and, whatsoever region of the world he passes in his flight, the waves slide languidly from the rocks, more lazily cling the clouds, the forests bow their summits, and many a star drops from the loosened vault of heaven. The plain first felt the god’s presence by the sudden coming of a mist, and the countless voices and cries of men were hushed; but when he brooded with dewy wings and entered the camp, unsubstantial as a pitchy shadow, eyes wavered and heads sank, and words were left unfinished in mid-speech. Next shining bucklers and cruel spears are dropped from their hands, their faces fall in weariness upon their breasts. And now universal silence reigns: even the horn-footed steeds refuse to stand, even the fires are quenched in sudden ashes.

But slumber woos not the anxious Greeks to the same repose, and the night-wandering, persuasive deity keeps his mists from the camp hard by; on Hypnos (Greek Bronzes, A. S. Murray, p. 72). Cf. also Theb. v. 433.
foedam indignantes noctem vigilesque superbos.
ecce repens superis animum lymphantibus horror
Thiodamanta subit formidandoque tumultu
pandere fata iubet, sive hanc Saturnia mentem,
sive novum comitem bonus instigabat Apollo.
prosilit in medios, visu audituque tremendus
impatiensque dei, fragili quem mente receptum
non capít: exundant stimuli, nudusque per ora
stat fúror, et tremidas incerto sanguine tendit
exhauritque genas—acies huc errat et illuc—
sertaque mixta comis sparsa cervice flagellat.
sie Phryga terríscis genetrix Idaea cruentum
elicit ex adyxis consumptaque bracchia ferro
scire vetat; quatit ille sacras in pectora pinus
sanguineosque rotat crines et vulnera cursu
exanimat: pavet omnis ager res persaque cultrix¹
arbó, et attoniti currum erexerc leones.
Ventum ad consilii penetrale domumque verendam
signorum, magnis ubi dudum cladibus aeger,
erum extrema movens, frustra consultat Adrastus.
stant circuin subiti proceres, ut quisque perempto
proximus, et magnis loca desolata tuentur
regibus haud laeti seque huc crevisse dolentes.
non secus amisso medium cum praeside puppis
fregit iter, subit ad viduí² moderamina clavi
aut laterum custos, aut quem penes obvia ponto
prora fuit: stupet ipsa ratis tardeque sequuntur
arma, nec accedit domino tutela minori.

¹ cultrix PN: cultris w.
² vidui w: dubii P.
THEBAID, X. 159–186

every side they stand to arms, in wrath at the hateful gloom and their foes' proud sentinels. Lo! a sudden frenzy, heaven-inspired, seizes Thiodamas, and in awful tumult bids him show forth the fates, whether Saturnia a fired him with this resolve, or kindly Apollo incited his new attendant. He rushes into the midst, fearful to see and to hear, and impatient of the god, whom his frail mind had received but could not contain; his pangs overwhelm him, stark madness reigns upon his visage, and the uncertain blood now distends, now ebbs from his trembling cheeks; his gaze darts here and there, he shakes and scatters on his shoulders the wreaths entwined in his locks. Thus does the Idaean mother summon from the terrible shrine the blood-stained Phrygian and make him unconscious of his knife-hacked arms; he beats the holy pine-brands against his breast, and tosses his gory hair and deadens his wounds by running; all the country-side and the bespattered votary tree b feels terror, and the panic-stricken lions rear the chariot high.

Now had he reached the inner council-chamber and the revered home of the standards, where Adrastus, long distressed by the dire disasters, takes fruitless counsel for their desperate plight: the new-appointed chiefs stand about him, each the next successor to the slain, and gaze at the empty places of the mighty princes, feeling no joy but rather grief that they are raised so high. Even so when a bark has lost its helmsman and stopped in mid-voyage, either the watchman of the sides or of the wave-breasting prow succeeds to the guidance of the widowed helm; the ship herself is all aghast, and the very tackling is slow to obey the word, nor does she brook the protection of a lesser
ergo alacer trepidos sic erigit augur Achivos:
"magna deum mandata, duces, monitusque verendos
advehimus, non hae nostro de pectore voces:
ille canit, cui me famulari et sumere vittas
vestra fides, ipso non discordante, subegit.
nox fecunda operum pulchraeque accommoda fraudi
panditur augurio divom; vocat obvia Virtus,
et poscit Fortuna manus. stupet obruta somno
Aonidum legio: tempus nunc funera regum
ulcisci miserrumque diem; rapite arma morasque
frangite portarum: sociis hoc subdere flammæ,
hoc tumulare suos. equidem haec et Marte diurno
dum res infractae pulsique in terga redimus—
per tripodas iuro et rapti nova fata magistri—
vidi, et me volucres circum plauere secundae.
sed nunc certa fides. modo me sub nocte silenti
ipse, ipse adsurgens iterum tellure soluta,
qualis erat—solos infecerat umbra iugales—,
Amphiaraus adit: non vanæ monstra quietis,
nec somno comperta loquor. 'tune' inquit, 'inertes
Inachidas—redde haec Parnassia serta meosque
redde deos—tantam patiere amittere noctem,
degener? haec egomet caeli secreta vagosque
edocui lapsus? vade heia, ulciscere ferro
nos saltem!' dixit, meque haec ad limina visus
cuspide sublata totoque impellere curru.
quare agite, utendum superis; non comminus hostes
lord. Therefore with spirited words the prophet rouses the hearts of the downcast Achaeans: "Chief-tains, it is the high commands and awful counsels of the gods that I bring you; these words come not from my own breast; he gives the oracle, whom your solemn word, he too consenting, constrained me to serve and to assume his fillets. The divine augury reveals a night fruitful in achievement and well fitted for glory-winning guile; Valour meets and beckons us, and Fortune implores our arms. The Aonian legions are sunk 'neath the spell of slumber: now is the time to avenge our princes' deaths and that unhappy day; snatch up your weapons and break through the hindering gates! This means the lighting of our comrade's pyres, this means their burial. This saw I during the battle of the day, when our arms were stricken and we fled defeated to the rear—I swear it by the tripods and the strange fate of my lost master— I saw it, and the birds around me sang a favouring strain. But now my belief is sure. Only now beneath the silent night he himself—himself, Amphiaraus!—rose up again from the chasm of earth, even as he was—the shades had touched his team alone—and came towards me: 'tis of no vain phantom of night, or vision of sleep that I tell. 'Wilt thou allow the idle sons of Inachus, ' he cries, '—restore then those Parnassian wreaths, give me back my own gods!—to lose so favourable a night, degenerate one? Was it thus I taught thee all the secrets of the sky and the wandering flight of birds? Begone! for me at least take vengeance with the sword.' He spake, and seemed to raise his lance, and to drive me with all his chariot's force unto these doors. Arouse you, then, and use heaven's favour; this is
STERNENDI: bellum iacet, et saevire potestas.
ecqui aderunt, quos ingenti se adtollere fama 215
non pigeat, dum fata sinunt? iterum ecce benigne
noctis aves; sequor, et comitum licet agmina cessent,
solus eo! atque adeo venit ille et quassat habenas."

Talia vociferans noctem exturbabat, euntque1
non secus accensi proceres, quam si omnibus idem 220
corde deus: flagrant comitari et iungere casus.
ter denos numero, turmarum robora, iussus
ipse legit; circa fremit indignata iuventus
cetera, cur maneant castris ignavaque servent
otia: pars sublime genus, pars facta suorum, 225
pars sua, sortem alii clamant, sortem undique poscunt.
gaudet in adversis animoque adsurgit Adrastus.
vertice sic Pholoes volucrum nutritor equorum,
cum fetura gregem pecoroso vere novavit,
laetatur cernens hos montis in ardua niti,
hos innare vadis, certare parentibus illos;
tunc vacuo sub corde movet, qui molle domandi
ferre iugum, qui terga boni, quis in arma tubasque
natus, ad Eleas melior quis surgere palmas:
talis erat turmae ductor longaevus Achivae. 230
nee deest inceptis2: "unde haec tam sera repente
numina? qui fractos superi rediistis ad Argos?
estne hic infelix virtus? gentique superstes
sanguis, et in miseris animorum semina durant?
laudo equidem, egregii iuvenes, pulchraque meorum

1 euntque ω: eumque PD.
2 deest inceptis Ellis, Garrod: deest coeptis Pω; cf. viii.

236.
no hand-to-hand slaying of the foe; his men lie prostrate, and ye may take your revenge. Will any come forward, ready to exalt themselves to mighty fame, while the Fates allow? Lo! once again the birds of night are auspicious; I follow them, and though my comrades' troops lie idle, I go alone! Ay, and there he too comes, shaking his reins!"

With such cries did he disturb the night: the chiefs pour forward, fired as though the same god inspired the hearts of all: they burn to accompany him, and share his fortunes. By command he chooses thirty himself, the flower of all the host; the rest of the youth demand in wrathful clamour, why remain they in the camp ingloriously at ease; some plead their noble birth, some their kinsmen's deeds, others their own, others again shout for the lot, and all take up the cry. Adrastus exults that they oppose him, and his spirits rise. Thus upon Pholoë's height a rearer of swift coursers rejoices when the breeding-time of prolific spring has renewed his stud, and he beholds some straining up steep mountain-paths, some swimming the stream, others vying with their sires; then in idle thought he ponders which he shall tame to bear a gentle yoke, which will make good riders, which are born for trumpets and arms, which best fitted to win the palm of Elis: such was the aged chieftain of the Achaean host. Nor does he fail the enterprise: "Whence of a sudden comes so late the favour of heaven? What gods are ye, who have turned again to Argos in her distress? Is this the valour born of misfortune? Does the vigour of our race still survive, and seeds of courage endure in spite of adversity? Yea, I praise you, heroic youths, and enjoy my warriors' glorious mutiny; but it is
seditione fruor; sed fraudem et operta paramus proelia, celandi motus: numquam apta latenti turba dolo. servate animos, venit ultor in hostes ecce dies; tune arma palam, tune ibimus omnes.

his tandem virtus iuvenum frenata quievit: non aliter moto quam si pater Aeolus antro portam iterum saxo premat imperiosus et omne claudat iter, iamiam sperantibus aequora ventis.

Insuper Herculeum sibi iungit Agyllea vates Actoraque: hic aptus suadere, hic robore iactat non cessisse patri; comites tribus ordine deni, horrendum Aoniis et contra stantibus agmen. ipse novi gradiens furta ad Mavortia belli ponit adoratas, Phoebea insignia, frondes, longaevique ducis gremio commendat honorem frontis, et oblatam Polynicis munere grato loricam galeamque subit. ferus Actora magnense gravat Capaneus, ipse haud dignatus in hostem ire dolo superosque sequi. permutat Agylleus arma trucis Nomii: quid enim fallentibus umbris arcus et Herculeae iuvissent bella sagittae?

Inde per abruptas castrorum ex aggere pinnas, ne gravis exclamet portae mugitus aenae, praecipitant saltu; nec longum, et protinus ingens praeda solo ceu iam examines multoque peracti ense iacent. "ite, o socii, quacumque voluptas caedis inexhaustae, superisque faventibus, oro, sufficite!" hortatur clara iam voce sacerdos,

1 sperantibus ω: spirantibus PBLQ.
fraud and a hidden assault that we devise, our movements must be concealed; a crowd ill fits a secret ruse. Nurse then your rage, lo! dawn will bring vengeance on our foes; then shall the fight be open, and all take the field!" These words at length restrained and allayed their ardour: even so might father Aeolus, when the cave is in a tumult and the winds are already yearning for the deep, sternly set another rock against the door, and wholly bar their passage.

Beside the rest the seer takes with him Agylleus, son of Hercules, and Actor: persuasive of speech is Actor, the other boasts strength equal to his sire's; with each go ten companions, a troop that even in open fight the Aonians would fear. He himself, since he goes to unwonted battle and a ruse of war, lays down the sacred leaves, the emblems of Phoebus, and entrusts the glory of his brow to the bosom of the aged prince, and dons helm and corslet, the welcome gift of Polynides. Fierce Capaneus fastens his heavy sword on Actor, not deigning himself to go by stealth against the foe, or to follow where heaven leads. Agylleus borrows the arms of truculent Nomius; for what would the bow and shafts of Hercules have availed him, battling amid deceiving shades?

Then, lest the brazen hinges groan too loudly, they leap down from the steep battlements of the fortress wall; nor is it long before lo! their prey lies vast upon the ground, as though already lifeless and slain by many a sword. "Forward, friends, whither-soe'er delight in carnage unsated takes you, and have strength for the work I pray, since heaven shows us favour!" Now with loud voice the seer exhorts
"cernitis expositas turpi marcore cohortes? pro pudor! Argolicas hine ausi obsidere portas, 270
hi servare viros?" sic fatus, et exuit ensem fulmineum rapidaque manu morientia transit
agmina. quis numeret caedes, aut nomine turbam exanimem signare queat? subit ordine nullo
tergaque pectoraque et galeis inclusa relinquit 275
murmura permiscetque vagos in sanguine manes:
hunc temere explicitum stratis, hunc sero remissis
gressibus inlapsum clipeo et male tela tenentem,
coetibus hos mediis vina inter et arma iacentes,
adelines clipeis alios, ut quemque ligatum 280
infelix tellure sopor supremaque nubes
obruerat. nec numen abest, armataque Iuno
lunarem quatiens exserta lampada dextra
pandit iter firmatque animos et corpora monstrat.
sentit adesse deam, tacitus sed gaudia celat 285
Thiodamas; iam tarda manus, iam debile ferrum
et caligantes nimiiis successibus irae.
Caspia non aliter magnorum in strage iuvenicum
tigris, ubi immenso rabies placata cruore
lassavitque genas et crasso sordida tabo 290
confudit maculas, spectat sua facta doletque
defecisse famem: victus sic augur inerrat
aeibus Aoniis; optet nune bracchia centum
centenasque in bella manus; iam taedet inanes
exhaurire minas, hostemque adsurgere mallet. 295
Parte alia segnes magno satus Hercule vastat
Sidonios Actorque alia, sua quemque cruento
limite turba subit: stagnant nigrantia tabo

* Seems to mean a torch kindled from the lunar fires (cf. x. 370).
them, "See ye the cohorts lying in base torpor? Shame on them! Dared these beleaguer Argive gates, and keep watch on heroes?" So spake he, and drew his flashing sword, and with swift hand passed over the doomed lines. Who could reckon up the slaughter, or give names to all the crowd of corpses? At random he goes o'er backs and breasts, and leaves behind him groans stifled in their helms, and mingled all his victims in a welter of blood; one stretched carelessly upon a couch, another slipping with reeling steps upon his shield, too late, and fumbling with his arms, others lying in a throng amid wine and weapons, others propped against their shields—each one just as ill-fated slumber and the night that was their last had bound and cast them to the ground. Nor lack they divine power, but armed Juno frees her right hand and brandishing a lunar torch makes clear their path and strengthens their courage and displays the bodies. Thiodamas feels her presence, but conceals his joy in silence; already his hand grows slow, and his blade weak, and his fury is dimmed by too much success. Not otherwise does a Caspian tigress, amid a mighty slaughter of bullocks, when fury appeased by streams of gore has wearied out her jaws and stained her stripes in foul clotted corruption, behold her work, and grieve that her appetite fails; so wanders the augur fordone among the Aonian corpses: now would he have a hundred arms, a hundred hands to fight with; already it irks him to squander menaces in vain, and he could wish the foe would rise against him.

Here the son of mighty Hercules, there Actor destroys the sluggish Sidonians, each followed by his own band along a path of slaughter; the grass is
gramina, sanguineis nutant tentoria rivis;
fumat humus, somnique et mortis anhelitus una volvitur; haud quisquam visus aut ora iacentum erecit: tali miseris deus aliger umbra incubat et tantum morientia lumina solvit. traxerat insomnis cithara ludoque suprema sidera iam nullos visurus Ialmenus ortus, Sidonium paena canens; huic languida cervix in laevum cogente deo mediaque iacebant colla replicta\(^1\) lyra: ferrum per pectus Agylleus exigit aptatamque cava testudine dextram pereudit et digitos inter sua fila trementes. proturbat mensas dirus liquor: undique manant sanguine permixti latices et Bacchus in altos crateras paterasque redit. ferus occupat Actor implicitum fratri Thamyrin, Tagus haurit Echetli terga coronati, Danaus caput amputat Hebri: nescius heu rapitur fatis, hilarisque sub umbras vita fugit mortisque ferae lucrata dolores. stratus humo gelida subter iuga fida rotasque Calpetus Aonios gramen gentile metentes proflatu ter rebat equos: madida ora redundant accensusque mero sopor aestuat; ecce iacentis Inachius vates iugulum fodit, expulit ingens vina crur fractumque perit in sanguine murmum. fors illi praesaga quies, nigrasque gravatus per somnum Thebas et Thiodamanta videbat.

Quarta soporiferae superabat tempora nocti, cum vacuae nubes et honor non omnibus astris,

\(^1\) replicta Heinsius: relict\(\alpha\): relapsa \(N\): reclina Gronovius.
black and stagnant with gore, the tents totter and sway in streams of blood, the earth reeks, and the breathing of sleep is mingled with the gasps of death; none of the slumberers lifts his head or turns his gaze, so deep the shade wherewith the winged god broods over the wretched ones, and unseals their eyes but as they die. Talmenus had spent his last night in unsleeping merriment and with the lute, never to behold to-morrow's dawn, and was singing a Sidonian paean; under the influence of the god his languid neck sank leftward, and his lyre pillowed his drooping head: through his breast Agyileus drives the blade, and pierces the right hand that grasps the tortoise-shell, and the fingers trembling among their well-known strings. The tables are flooded by the dreadful stream; everywhere flow blood and water mingled, and the wine returned to the goblets and deep mixing-bowls. Fierce Actor catches Thamyris in his brother's embrace, Tagus stabs garlanded Echetlus in the back, Danaus shears off the head of Hebrus: unwitting alas! he meets his fate, and mirthfully his life passes to the shades, saving the pains of cruel death. Calpetus, lying on the cold ground beneath his trusty chariot-wheels, scared with his heavy breathing his Aonian steeds as they cropped their native grass: his mouth o'erflows with liquor, and his slumber wine-inflamed grows agitated; lo! the Inachian prophet pierces his throat as he lies: the wine is forced out in a great rush of blood, and his murmurs perish in the stream. Perchance his sleep foretold his doom, and in his dream he saw with dismay Thiodamas and a black ruin that was Thebes.

The fourth period of slumbrous night remained, when the clouds have shed their dew and not all the
adflatusque fugit curru maiore Bootes.
iamque ipsum defecit opus, cum providus Actor
Thiodamanta vocat: "satis haec inopina Pelasgis 330
gaudia: vix ullos tanto reor agmine saevam
effugisse necem, ni quos deformis in alto
sanguine degeneres occultat vita; secundis
pone modum: sunt et diris sua numina Thebis.
forsitan et nobis modo quae favere, recedunt." 335
paruit, et madidas tollens ad sidera palmas:
"Phoebe, tibi exuivas monstratae praemia noctis
nondum ablutas aquis—tibi enim haec ego sacravitavi—
trado ferus miles tripodum sidusque sacerdos.
si non dedecui tua iussa tulique prementem,
saepe veni, saepe hanc dignare inrumpere mentem.
nune tibi crudus honos, trunca arma cruoque
virorum:
at patrias si quando domos optataque, Paean,
templa, Lyce, dabis, tot ditia dona sacra
cibus et totidem voti memor exige tauros." 340
dixerat, et laetis socios revocabat ab armis.
Venerat hos inter fato Calydonius Hopleus
Maenaliusque Dymas, dilecti regibus ambo,
regum ambo comites, quorum post funera maesti
vitam indignantur. prior Arcada concitat Hopleus:
"nullane post manes regis tibi cura perempti,
clar Dyma, teneant quem iam fortasse voluere
Thebanique canes? patriae quid deinde feretis,

1 recedunt Pw, which Klotz defends by Silv. i. 3. 63,
ii. 6. 101, v. 3. 185 (cf. also i. 447 inf.): recedant Jortin.
2 teneant Pw: temerant Baehrens, because only here does
Statius use fortasse with subj.
stars shine bright, and Boötes flies before the pantings of a mightier car. And now, the task itself failing them, prudent Actor calls Thiodamas: "Sufficient for the Pelasgians is this unhoped-for triumph; scarce any, methinks, of so large a company have escaped cruel death, save the base cowards whom the gory flood conceals, polluted but alive; set a limit to success: dread Thebes too hath her deities. Perchance we too may lose those who late have favoured us." He consented, and raising his dripping hands to the stars: "These spoils, O Phoebus, the trophies of the night thou didst reveal, I present to thee, I, the bold champion of thy tripods and thy faithful priest, not yet cleansed with water, for this is my sacrifice to thee. If I have not disgraced thy commands and have borne thy instancy, come often to me, often deign to take possession of my mind. Rude is thy guerdon now, maimed limbs and human blood, but if ever, O Paean, thou wilt bestow on me my native home and the temples that I long for, O Lycian god, forget not my vow, but demand as many sumptuous gifts and as many bulls for thy sacred portals." He spoke, and recalled his comrades from the glad work of arms.

Among these by the will of Fate had come Calydonian Hopleus and Maenalian Dymas, both favourites and close companions of their princes, after whose deaths they grieve and think scorn of living. First Hopleus incites the Arcadian: "Renowned Dymas, hast thou no care for thy hapless prince once slain, though perchance already birds and Theban dogs possess him? What then will ye bring home to your country, ye Arcadians? Lo! his
Arcades ? en reduces contra venit aspera mater :
funus ubi ? at nostro semper sub pectore Tydeus 355
saevit inops tumuli, quamvis patientior artus
ille nee abruptis adeo lacrimabilis annis.
ire tamen saevumque libet nullo ordine passim
scrutari campum, mediasve inrumpere Thebas.”
excipit orsa Dymas; “per ego haec vaga sidera iuro,
per ducis errantes instar mihi numinis umbras, 361
idem animus misero ; comitem circumspectit olim
mens humilis luctu, sed nunc prior ibo”—viamque
incohatat et maesto conversus ad aethera voltu
sic ait : “ arcanae moderatrix Cynthia noctis, 365
si te tergeminis perhibent variare figuris
numen et in silvas alio descendere voltu,
ille comes nuper nemorumque insignis alumnus,
ille tuus, Diana, puer—nunc respice saltem—
quaeritur.”  incendit1 pronis dea cornibus2 almum
sidus et ad moto monstravit funera curru.3 371
apparent campi Thebaeque altusque Cithaeron :
sic ubi nocturnum tonitru malus aethera frangit
Iuppiter, absiliunt nubes et fulgure claro
astra patent, subitusque oculis ostenditur orbis. 375
accepit radios et eadem percitus Hopleus
Tydea luce videt ; longe dant signa per umbras
mutua laetantes, et amicum pondus uterque,
ceu reduces vitae saevaque a morte remissos,
subiecta cervice levant ; nee verba, nee ausi
380
flere diu : prope saeva dies indexque minatur

1 incendit Pw : intendit Barth and late mss.
2 cornibus Markland : curribus Pw.
3 curru P : cornu w, and N (curru written over), con-
versely D.
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stern mother meets you returning, and asks "Where is his body?" But in my heart unburied Tydeus gives me no rest, though more enduring of limb nor so worthy of lament for an untimely death. Yet fain would I go and search everywhere, high and low, over the ruthless plain, or break into the midst of Thebes." Dymas makes reply: "I swear by these moving stars, by my chieftain's wandering shade, to me a power divine, my grief inspires a like resolve; my downcast mind hath long looked for a companion, but now I will lead the way"—and straight he starts upon the road, and turning his sad face to heaven thus speaks: "Cynthia, queen of the mysteries of night, if as they say thou dost vary in threefold wise the aspect of thy godhead, and in different shape comest down into the woodland, 'tis he who was lately thy companion and the glorious nursling of thy groves, 'tis thine own boy, Diana—now at least look upon us!—'tis he we search for." The goddess stooped her horns and made bright her kindly star, and illumined the battle-field with near-approaching chariot. The plain appears and Thebes and lofty Cithaeron: so when fell Jupiter cleaves the sky at night with thunder, the clouds divide and the bright flash reveals the stars, and the world is suddenly shown to watching eyes. He caught the rays, and by the same piercing light Hopleus sees Tydeus; from afar they joyfully beckon to each other through the darkness, and each lifts his beloved burden on his bowed shoulders, as though it were restored to life and rescued from cruel death; no word do they utter, nor for a long while dare to weep; unfriendly day is nigh at hand, and the sunrise that threatens to
ortus. eunt taciti per maesta silentia magnis passibus exhaustasque dolent pallere tenebras.

Invida fata piis et fors ingentibus ausis rara comes. iam castra vident animisque propinquant, et decrescit onus, subiti cum pulveris umbra et sonus a tergo. monitu ducis acer agebat Amphion equites, noctem vigilataque castra explorare datus, primusque per avia campi usque procul—needum totas lux solverat umbras—nescio quid visu dubium incertumque moveri corporaque ire videt; subitus mox fraude reperta exclamat: “cohibete gradum quicumque!” sed hostes esse patet: miseri pergunt anteire timentque non sibi; tunc mortem trepidis minitatur et hastam expulit, ac vanos alte levat eminus ictus, adfectans errare manum. stetit illa Dymantis ante oculos, qui forte prior gressumque repressit. at non magnanimus curavit perdere iactus Aepytus, et fixo transverberat Hoplea tergo pendentisque etiam perstrinxit Tydeos armos. labitur egregii nondum ducis immemor Hopleus, exspiratque tenens—felix, si corpus ademptum nesciat—et saevas talis descendit ad umbras.

Viderat hoc retro conversus et agmina sentit iucta Dymas, dubius precibusne subiret an armis instantes; arma ira dabat, fortuna precari, non audere iubet: neutri fiducia coepito. distulit ira preces; ponit miserabile corpus ante pedes, tergoque graves, quas forte ferebat,
betray. Mute they go with long strides through the sad silences and grieve that the exhausted gloom is paling to the dawn.

Fate is envious of devoted souls, and good luck goes rarely with great ventures. Already they see the camp and in thought are at the gates, and lighter grows the burden, when there is a sudden cloud of dust and a sound behind them. It was bold Amphion at the head of his troop, bidden by his chief to explore the night and the guarded camp; he is the first to see far away on the pathless plain—not yet had the light dispersed all the shadows—something stirring faint and doubtful to the sight and bodies moving; then on a sudden he discovers the fraud and cries: "Halt, whoe'er ye be!" but 'tis plain they are the foe; on go the hapless ones, and fear, though not for themselves; then he threatens the anxious pair with death, and flings his spear, but, aiming in purposed error, sends it high and far beyond them. Before the eyes of Dymas it fell, who by chance was in front: he halted; but Aepytus, proud of soul, cared not to lose his throw, and transfixed the back of Hopleus, grazing thereby the shoulder of Tydeus as he hung. Hopleus falls, not yet forgetful of his peerless chieftain, and dies still clutching him—happy were he ignorant that the corpse was lost—and in such wise descends to the cruel shades.

Dymas had turned and seen, and knew that battle was joined, and doubted whether to use arms or prayers against the oncoming foe: wrath urges arms, fortune bids him try prayer not daring; neither resource brings confidence. Anger forbade entreaty; before his feet he places the hapless body, and flings on his left arm a heavy tiger's hide that
tigridis exuvias, in laevam torquet et obstat
exsertum obiectans mucronem, inque omnia tela
versus et ad caedem iuxta mortemque paratus:
ut lea, quam saevo fetam pressere cubili
venantes Numidae, natos erecta superstat
mente sed\textsuperscript{1} incerta, torvum ac miserabile fremdens;
illa quidem turbare globos et frangere morsu
tela queat, sed prolis amor crudelia vincit
tectora, et a media catulos circumspicit ira.
et iam laeva viro, quamvis saevire vetaret
Amphion, erepta manus, puerique trahuntur
ora supina comis. serus tunc denique supplex
demisso mucrone rogat: “moderatius, oro,
ducite, fulminei per vos cunabula Bacchi
Inoamque fugam vestriue Palaemonis annos!
si cui forte domi natorum gaudia, si quis
hie pater, angusti puero date pulveris haustus
exiguamque facem! rogat, en rogat ipse tacentis\textsuperscript{2}
voltus: ego infandas potior satiare volucres,
me praebete feris, ego bella audere coegi.”
“immo” ait Amphion, “regem si tanta cupidó
condere, quae timidis belli mens, ede, Pelasgis,
quid fracti exsanguésque parent; cuncta oecis effer,
et vita tumuloque ducis donatus abito.”
horruit et toto praeordia protinus Arcas
implevit capulo. “summumne hoc cladibus” inquit,
“deerat, ut adflectos turparem ego proditor Argos?
nil emimus tanti, nec sic velit ipse\textsuperscript{3} cremari.”

\textsuperscript{1} sed Garrod: sub \textit{Pw}: sui Heinsius.
\textsuperscript{2} tacentis Markland: iacentis \textit{Pw}.
\textsuperscript{3} sic . . . ipse \textit{ω}: si . . . iste \textit{P}.
he wore by chance upon his back, and holding out his bared blade he stands on guard, and turns to face every dart, prepared both to slay and to be slain: as a lioness lately whelped, beset by Numidian hunters in her savage lair, stands above her young, erect but doubting in her mind, and utters a wild and melancholy roar; full well could she scatter their array and snap their weapons in her jaws, but love of her offspring overcomes the fierceness of her heart, and from the midst of her rage she looks round upon her cubs. And now the hero’s left hand has been cut away, though Amphion bade them use no violence, and the boy is dragged along by his hair with face upturned. Then at last, too late a suppliant, he lets fall his blade and makes entreaty: “Carry him less roughly, I pray you, by the cradle of lightning-born Bacchus and the flight of Ino and your own Palaeemon’s tender years; if any of you know at home the joy of children, if any here is a father, grant the lad some few handfuls of dust, and a little fire: lo! he implores, he implores you with mute countenance; better that I should sate the accursed fowls, cast me to the wild beasts, ’twas I that made him dare the fight.” “If so great be thy desire to bury thy prince,” Amphion cried, “tell us, what plan of war have the scared Pelasgians, what purpose they in their broken, heartless state? Quick, out with it all, and we grant thee to depart alive and give burial to thy chief!” The Arcadian shuddered, and on the instant plunged his sword up to the hilt in his own breast. “Was this then lacking,” he cried, “to crown our woes, that I should dishonour and betray Argos in her hour of need? That were too dearly bought, nor would he himself wish for the pyre at
STATIUS

sic ait, et magno proscissum volnere pectus
iniecit puero, supremaque murmura volvens:

"hoc tamen interea mecum\(^1\) potiare\(^2\) sepulcro." 

tales optatis regum in complexibus ambo,
par insigne animis, Aetolus et inclytus Arcas,
egregias efflant animas letoque fruuntur.

vos quoque sacrati, quamvis mea carmina surgant
inferiore lyra, memores superabitis annos.

forsitan et comites non aspernabitur umbras
Euryalus Phrygiique admittet gloria Nisi.

At ferus Amphion, regi qui facta reportent
edoceantque dolum captivaque corpora reddant,
mittit ovans; clusis ipse insultare Pelasgis
tendit et abscisos sociorum ostendere voltus.

interea reducem murorum e culmine
Thiodamanta vident nec iam erumpentia celant
gaudia. ut exsertos enses et caede recenti
arma rubere notant, novus adsilit aethera magnum
clamor, et e summo pendent cupida agmina vallo
noscere quisque suos. volucrum sic turba recentum,
cum reducem longo prospexit in aere matrem,
ire cupid contra summique e margine nisi

exstat hians, iamiamque cadat, ni pectore toto
obstet aperta parens et amantibus increpet alis.
dumque opus arcanum et taciti compendia Martis
enumerant laetisque suos complexibus implent
Hopleaque exquirunt tardumque Dymanta queruntur:
ecce et Dircaee iuxta dux concitus alae

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\(^1\) mecum Garrod: et tu P: claro ω: saltem conj. Klotz:
sed tu Vollmer: dedero conj. Alton.

\(^2\) potiare ω: potiere D: potiore P (with a written over).

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such a cost.” So speaking, he tore a mighty gash in his breast, and casting him down upon the lad with his last breath murmured: “Yet receive meanwhile this burial with me!” Thus in the longed-for embraces of their chiefs do both the noble-minded pair, Aetolian alike and famed Arcadian, breathe out their peerless souls and taste of death. Ye too are consecrate, though my songs soar for a less lofty lyre, and will go down the unforgotten years. Perchance too Eurvalus will not spurn his comrade shades, and the glory of Phrygian Nisus will not say them nay.

But fierce Amphion sends in triumph heralds to report his doings to the king, and inform him of the crafty attack, and deliver back the captured bodies; he himself proceeds to insult the beleaguered Pelasgians, and to display their comrades’ severed heads. Meanwhile from the summit of the walls the Greeks perceive Thiodamas returning, nor conceal any more their joyous outbursts. But when they saw their naked swords and arms all red with recent carnage, a fresh shout leaps upward to the broad sky, and eager throngs hang from the rampart’s top, while each one looks for his own. Even so a crowd of nestlings, seeing their mother returning through the air afar, would fain go to meet her, and lean gaping from the edge of the nest, and would even now be falling, did she not spread all her motherly bosom to save them, and chide them with loving wings. And while they recount their hidden deeds and the swift work of silent war, and clasp their friends in a long embrace, they look for Hopleus and complain of Dymas’ slowness: and lo! Amphion, the commander of the Theban band, had drawn nigh in
venerat Amphion; non longum caede recenti laetatus videt innumeris fervere catervis tellurem atque una gentem exspirare ruina. qui tremor elicita¹ caeli de lampade tactis, hic fixit iuvenem, pariterque horrore sub uno vox, acies sanguisque perit, gemitusque parantem ipse ultro convertit equus; fugit ala retorto pulvere. nondum illi Thebarum claustra subibant, et iam Argiva cohors nocturno freta triumpho prosilit in campos; per et arma et membra iacentum taetraque congerie sola semianimumque cruorem cornipedes ipsique ruunt: gravis exterit artus ungula, sanguine lavat imber et impedit axes. dulce viris hac ire via, ceu tecta superbi Sidonía atque ipsas calcet in sanguine Thebas. hortatur Capaneus: “satis occultata, Pelasgi, delituit virtus: nunc, nunc mihi vincere pulchrum teste die; mecum clamore et pulvere aperto ite palam, iuvenes: sunt et mihi provida dextrae omina² et horrendi stricto mucrone furores.” sic ait; ardentes alacer succendit Adrastus Argolicusque gener, sequitur iam tristior augur. iamque premunt muros—et adhuc nova funera narrat Amphion—miseramque intrarant protinus urbem, ni Megareus specula citus exclamasset ab alta: “claud, vigil, subeunt hostes, claud undique portas!” Est ubi dat vires nimius timor: oculs omnis porta coit; solas dum tardius artat Echion

² omena ω: omnia P: Menke conj. numina (iii. 615).

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haste; no long delight had he of his late bloodshed, when he saw the ground a heap of countless bodies, and a whole race in the death-throes of one universal doom. Such a tremor as falls on those whom the brand called forth from heaven has smitten, seized now the warrior, and in one spasm voice, sight, and blood all fail, and as he still attempts a groan his charger unbidden wheels him round; 'mid a whirl of dust the troop flees back. Not yet had they entered the barred gates of Thebes, when the Argive band, flushed with their nocturnal triumph, leapt forth into the plain; over weapons and prostrate bodies and earth befouled by heaps of slain, and blood still warm with life men and horn-footed steeds go rushing: the heavy hoof crushes the limbs, and a rain of gore bathes and clogs the axles. Sweet is it to the heroes to go by such a road, as if they proudly trampled Sidonian homes and Thebes herself in blood. Capaneus cheers them on: "Long enough, Pelasgians, has our valour lain in hiding; now, now is victory fair in my eyes, in the full blaze of day! On, men, with me to open conflict! Raise the dust and shout your battle-cry! Sure is the omen of my right hand, terrible the fury of my drawn sword!" So he speaks; Adrastus and the Argive prince with eagerness inflame their ire, and the augur follows in sadder mood. Already they are nigh the walls—and still Amphion is telling of the new disaster—and would straight have entered the hapless city, had not Megareus from a high watchtower exclaimed in haste: "Shut the gates, sentry, everywhere! the enemy comes."

Overmastering fear sometimes gives strength: quick closes every gate; only while Echion is slow
STATIUS

Ogygias, audax animis Spartana iuventus inrupit, caesique ruunt in limine primo incola Taygeti Panopeus rigidique natator Oebalus Eurotae; tuque, o spectate palaestris omnibus et nuper Nemeaeo in pulvere felix, Alcidama, primis quem caestibus ipse ligarat Tyndarides, nitidi moriens convexa magistri respicis: averso pariter deus occidit astro. te nemus Oebalium, te lubrica ripa Lacaenae virginis et falso gurges cantatus olori flebit, Amyclaei Triviae lugebere Nymphis, et quae te leges praeceptaque fortia belli erudiit genetrix, nimium didicisse queretur. talis Echionio Mavors in limine saevit. Tandem umeris obsnis Acron et pectore toto pronus Ialmenides aeratae1 robora portae torserunt: quanta pariter cervice gementes profringunt inarata diu Pangaea iuvenci. par operis iactura lucro, quippe hoste retento exclusere suos; cadit intra moenia Graius Ormenus, et pronas tendentis Amyntoris ulnas fundentisque preces penitus cervice remissa verba solo voltusque cadunt, colloque decorus torques in hostiles cecidit per vulnus harenas. solvitur interea vallum, primaeque recusant stare morae; iam se peditum iunxere catervae moenibus: at patulas saltu transmittere fossas horror equis, haerent trepidi atque immane paventes abruptum mirantur agi2; nunc impetus ire

1 aeratae Klotz: ferratae ω. 2 agi ω: iter P.

*i.e.*, the Eurotas, where Jupiter feigned to be a swan (proverbially tuneful) and deceived Leda.
to bar the Ogygian, courageous Spartan warriors break in, and fall in the threshold slain, Panopeus, dweller upon Taygetus, and Oebalus, swimmer of rough Eurotas; thou too, Alcidamas, who didst prove thy worth in every wrestling-ground, and of late win victory in Nemean dust, thou for whom the son of Tyndareus himself fastened thy first gloves: dying thou lookest toward the vault where thy master shines; straightway the god sinks with averted star. Thee the Oebalian woodland, thee the Laconian maiden's deceitful river-bank shall mourn, and the flood a that the feigned swan once sang of; thou shalt be wept by Trivia's Amyclaean Nymphs, and thy mother who taught thee the laws and valiant rules of war shall lament that thou wert too apt a scholar. Thus does Mavors wreak his fury on the threshold of Echion's town.

At length Acron, heaving with his shoulders, and Ialmenides, leaning all his body's weight, forced to the bronze-clad doors: with such strength do groaning bullocks cleave side by side the long-unploughed fields of Pangaeum. Yet equal is the loss to their labour's gain, for they have kept the foe within, and shut out their own countrymen. Ormenus the Grecian is slain within the walls, and while Amyntor stretches imploring arms and pours out prayers, his head is severed, and words and face alike fall to earth, and at the blow a shapely necklace drops from his neck into the hostile dust. Meanwhile the rampart is breached, the first lines give way, and already troops of infantry are at the walls; but the horses fear to leap the wide trenches and shrink back in alarm, and panic-struck at the vast abyss marvel that they are driven on; now they start forward from the
marginae ab extremo, nunc sponte in frena recedunt. hi praefixa solo vellunt munimina, at illi portarum objectus minuunt et ferrea sudant claustra remoliri, trabibusque atque aere\(^1\) sonoro pellunt saxa loco; pars ad fastigia missas exsultant haesisse faces, pars ima lacessunt scrutinaturque cavas caeca testudine turres. 525

At Tyrii, quae sola salus, caput omne coronant murorum, nigrasque suides et lucida ferro spicula et arsuras caeli per inania glandes saxaque in adversos ipsis avolsa rotabant moenibus: exundant saevae fastigia nimbo, armataeque vomunt stridentia tela fenestrae. qualiter aut Malean aut alta Ceraunia supra cessantes in nube sedent nigrisque locantur\(^2\) collibus et subitae saliunt in vela procellae: talis Agenoreis Argivom exercitus armis\(^3\) obruitur; non ora virum, non pectora flectit imber atroc, rectosque tenent in moenia voltus immemores leti et tantum sua tela videntes. Anthea falcato lustrantem moenia curru desuper Ogygiae pepulit gravis impetus hastae; 535 lora excussa manu, retroque in terga volutus semianimos artus ocreis retinentibus haeret; mirandum visu belli scelus: arma trahuntur, fumantesque rotae tellurem et tertius hastae sulcus arat; longo sequitur vaga pulvere cervix, 540 et resupinarum patet orbita lata comarum.

\(^1\) trabibusque atque aere Postgate: trabibusque artata \(\omega\), trabibus et ariete \(P\): trabibusque aut aere Kohlmann, tr. atque assere duro Owen: fidibusque artata sonoris conj. Garrod.

\(^2\) locantur Bury: locuntur \(P\): leguntur S: leguntur \(\omega\): teguntur \(D\) (with le- written over).

\(^3\) armis \(\omega\): orans \(P\).
edge, now of their own accord recoil upon the reins. Some tear from the ground the planted palisades, others hack at the defences of the gates and sweat to force away the iron barriers, and with beams and sounding bronze drive stones from their places; some hurl torches roofwards and exult when they stick fast, others assail the foundations and with the blind tortoise sap the base of hollow towers.

But the Tyrians—their only means of safety—crown the summit of the battlements, and hurl charred stakes and shining darts of steel against the foe, and stones torn from their own walls, and missiles that catch fire as they go through the void of air; a fierce deluge streams from the roof-tops, and the barred windows spew forth hissing javelins. As when the tempests sit motionless in the clouds over Malea or tall Ceraunia's mount and are ranged about the darkened hills, then suddenly swoop upon the sails beneath: so is the Argive host overwhelmed by the Agenorean arms; yet the relentless rain turns aside neither face nor breast, the warriors keep their gaze steady upon the walls, forgetful of death and seeing nought but their own weapons. While Antheus drives his scythed car round the Theban walls the violent impact of an Ogygian spear strikes him from above; the reins are torn from his grasp, and, scarce alive, he is hurled to the rear upon his back, but stays caught by his greaves; strange sight and horrible fate of war! his arms are dragged along, the smoking wheels and the spear with third furrow ploughing the earth; tossed to and fro the head follows in a long wake of dust, and the broad track of the outspread locks shows clear.
STATIUS

At tuba luctificis pulsat clangoribus urbem obsaepitasque fores sonitu perfringit amaro. divisere aditus, omnique in limine saevus signifer, ante omnes sua damna et gaudia portans. dira intus facies, vix Mavors ipse videndo 556 gaudeat ; insanis lymphatam horroribus urbem scindunt dissensu vario Luctusque Furorque et Pavor et caecis Fuga circumfusa tenebris. bellum intrasse putes : fervent discursibus arces, miscentur clamore viae, ferrum undique et ignes 561 mente vident, saevas mente accepere catenas. consumpsit ventura timor : iam tecta replerunt templaque et ingratae vallantur planetibus arae. una omnes eademque subit formido per annos : 565 poseunt fata senes, ardet palletque iuventus, atria femineis trepidant ululata querellis. flent pueri et flendi nequeunt cognoscere causas attoniti et tantum matrum lamenta trementes. illas cogit amor, nec habent extrema pudorem : 570 ipsae tela viris, ipsae iram animosque ministrant, hortanturque unaque ruunt, nec avita gementes limina nec parvos cessant ostendere natos : sic ubi pumiceo pastor rapturus ab antro armatas erexit apes, fremit aspera nubes, 575 inque vicem sese stridore hortantur et omnes hostis in ora volant, mox deficientibus alis amplexae flavamque domum captivaque plangunt mella laboratasque premunt ad pectora ceras.

\[a\] i.e., the standard, emblem of each one's fate, whether sad or glorious.
\[b\] "shame," i.e., of appearing in public.

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But now the trumpet's clangour smites the city with dismay, and its harsh sound penetrates the barricaded doors. They divide the approaches, and in every gate there stands a fierce ensign-bearer, raising high for all to see their sufferings or their joys. Dreadful is the sight within, scarce Mars himself would rejoice to behold it; Grief and Fury and Panic, and Rout enwrapped in blinding gloom rend with many-voiced discord the frenzied, horror-stricken town. One would think the battle was within; men are hurrying to and fro about the citadel, the streets are full of clamour, everywhere they see in imagination sword and fire, everywhere cruel chains. Fear anticipates the future; already houses and temples are thronged, and the ungrateful shrines are ringed with lamentation. Old and young alike are in the grip of one universal terror; the old men pray for death, the young flush with ardour and grow pale by turns, the houses rock with the shriek of women's wailing. Children weep, nor know the cause of their weeping, but stand aghast and tremble at their mothers' sobs. Them love constrains, nor does utmost need admit of shame; with their own hands they give weapons to the men, with their own voices they fire them to wrath and valour, and exhort them, and rush with them to battle, nor cease amid their tears to show them their ancestral homes and helpless babes. So when a husbandman, on plunder bent, has aroused the armed bees from their rocky cavern, the angry swarm is in an uproar, inciting each other with loud buzzing, and all fly in the enemy's faces; but soon with failing wings they clasp their waxen home, and bewail the rifled store of honey, and press to their bosoms the laboured combs.
Nee non ancipitis pugnat sententia volgi discordesque serit motus: hi reddere fratrem—nee mussant, sed voce palam claroque tumultu—, reddere regna inbent; perit reverentia regis sollicitis: "veniat pactumque hic computet annum, Cadmeosque lares exsul patriasque salutet infelix tenebras; cur autem ego sanguine fraudes et periura luam regalis crimina noxae?" inde alii: "sera ista fides, iam vincere mavult." Tiresian alii lacrimis et supplice coetu orant, quodque unum rebus solamen in artis, nosse futura rogant. tenet ille inelusa premitque fata deum: "quiane ante duci bene eredita nostro consilia et monitus, cum perfida bella vetarem? te tamen, infelix," inquit, "perituraque Thebe, si taceam, nequeo miser exaudire cadentem Argolicumque oculis haurire vacantibus ignem. vincamur, Pietas; pone heia altaria, virgo, quae ramus superos." facit illa, acieque sagaci sanguineos flammarum apices geminumque per aras ignem et clara tamen mediae fastigia lucis orta docet; tune in speciem serpentis inanem ancipiti gyro volvi frangique ruborem demonstrat dubio, patriasque inluminat umbras. ille coronatos iamdudum amplectitur ignes, fatidicum sorbens vultu flagrante vaporem. stant tristes horrore comaee, vittasque prementes caesaries insana levat: diducta putares

1 fratrem Pw: fratri late mss., Sandstroem.

a i.e., "do ye ask my counsel now because . . . ."

b i.e., lit by Argives.

c The goddess of devotion to country, etc.; see n. on l. 780.

d "ancipiti" here may mean "doubtful," i.e., not clear to the sight, or "two-headed," literally. "frangi" is to be broken or moulded into a shape.

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The crowd also is filled with the strife of opposing tongues, and spreads discordant passions; some, with no muttered voice, but outspokenly and in open tumult, bid the brother restore the kingdom; in their distress all reverence for their prince is lost: "Let him come, and here make up the count of his bargained year, and salute—unhappy exile!—his Cadmean home and his father's blindness; why should my blood atone the fraud and the royal miscreant's traitorous crime?" Then others: "Too late is good faith now, he would rather conquer." Others in a tearful suppliant throng implore Tiresias, and ask—the only solace in adversity—to learn the future. But he withholds and keeps hidden the destinies of heaven: "Is it because our monarch so trusted my warning counsels before, when I forbade pernicious warfare? Yet, unhappy Thebes," he cries, "that art doomed to destruction should I be dumb, I cannot endure miserably to hear of thy fall and with these empty eyes to drink in Argolic flames. Let me yield, O Piety! ho! maiden, set the altars, let us inquire of the gods above." She obeys, and keenly gazing informs him of blood-red points of flame and a twofold fire upon the altar, and how the middle blaze yet rises high and clear; then she teaches her doubting sire that the ruddy flame is rolled and shaped with double coil into the ghostly likeness of a serpent and illuminates her father's gloom. He straightway spreads his arms about the garlanded fire, and absorbs the prophetic vapours with glowing countenance. His hair rises in horror and dismay, and the grey locks madly lift high the covering fillets: one would think his eyes were open,
lumina consumptumque genis rediisse nitorem. tandem exundanti permisit verba furori:
“audite, o sones, extrema litamina divum,
Labdacidae: venit alma salus, sed limite duro.
Martius inferias et saeva efflagitat anguis
sacra: cadat generis quicumque novissimus exstat
vipers, datur hoc tantum victoria pacto.
felix, qui tanta lucem mercede relinquet.”

Stabat fatidicii prope saeva altaria vatis
maestus, adhuc patriae et tantum communia lugens
fata, Creon: grandem subiti cum fulminisictum,
non secus ac torta traiectus cuspid pectus,
accipit examinis sentitque Menoeceoa posci.

monstrat enim suadetque timor; stupet anxius alto
corda metu glaciante pater: Trinacria qualis
ora repercussum Libyco mare sumit ab aestu.
mox plenum Phoebo vatem et celerare iubentem
nunc humilis genua amplectens, nunc ora canentis
nequiquam reticere rogat; iam fama sacratam
vocem amplexa volat, clamantque oracula Thebae.

Nunc, age, quis stimulos et pulehrae gaudia mortis
addiderit iuveni—neque enim haec absentibus
umquam
mens homini transmissa deis—memor incipe Clio,
saeacula te quoniam penes et digesta vetustas.

Diva Iovis solio iuxta comes, unde per orbem
rara dari terrisque solet contingere, Virtus,
seu pater omnipotens tribuit, sive ipsa capacis
elegit penetrare viros, caelestibus ut tunc

a Sicilian.
and the lost glow had returned again to his cheeks. At length he gave vent in words to the flood of his frenzy: "Listen, ye guilty sons of Labdacus, and hear the last sacrifice of all! Kindly salvation cometh, but by a hard path. The snake of Mars demands a victim and a cruel offering: the latest born of the serpent-brood must fall, at this price alone can victory come. Happy is he whose death shall win so great a guerdon!"

Creon, sad at heart and mourning as yet only for his country and the common fate, stood by the stern altar of the prophetic seer: when with the shock of a sudden blow, as if a flung lance had pierced his breast, he heard, near dead with horror, and knew Menoeceus was demanded. Fear points the truth, nor suffers doubt: he is benumbed by anguish, and an icy dread assails the father's heart; even so does the Trinacrian "coast sustain the sea hurled back from the Libyan surge. Then humbly clasping the knees of the seer, who, full of Phoebus, bids him make speed, and touching the lips that chant the oracle, he entreats him to be silent, all in vain; already rumour has seized the word and flies abroad, and Thebes proclaims the oracle.

Come, now, tell who fired the youth with joy in a noble death—for never without heaven's aid is this mind given to men—begin thou, unforgetting Clio, for the ages are in thy keeping, and all the storied annals of the past.

The goddess Virtue, close companion of the throne of Jove, whence rarely she is wont to be vouchsafed to the world and to bless the earth, whether the almighty Father hath sent her, or she herself hath chosen to dwell in men worthy of her—how gladly
STATIUS

desiluit gavisa plagis! dant clara meanti
astra locum quosque ipsa polis adfixerat ignes.
iamque premit terras, nec vultus ab aethere longe;
se placuit mutare genas, fit provida Manto,
responsis ut plena¹ fides, et fraude priores
exuitur voltus. abiit horrorque vigorque
ex oculis, paulum decoris permansit honosque
mollior, et posito vatum gestamina ferro
subdita; descendent vestes, torvisque ligatur
vitta comis—nam laurus erat—tamen aspera produnt
ora deam nimiique gradus. sic Lydia coniunx
Amphitryoniaden exutum horrentia terga
perdere Sidonios ueris ridebat² amictus
et turbare colus et tympana rumpere dextra.
Sed neque te indecorem sacris dignumque iuberti
talia Dirceae stantem pro turre, Menoeeeu,
invenit; immensae researto limine portae
sternebas Danaos, pariter Mavortius Haemon.
sed consanguinei quamvis atque omnia fratres,
tu prior: examines circum cumulantur acervi;
omne sedet telum, nulli sine caedibus ictus—
necdum aderat Virtus—non mens, non dextra quiescit,
non avida arma vacant, ipsa insanire videtur
Sphinx galeae custos, visque animata cruore
emicat effigies et sparsa orichalca reident:

¹ plena Pω : plana L Gronovius.
² ridebat w : redimibat P.

ª i.e., the spirits who for their virtue had been made divine.
The stars were supposed to be the abode of such, or even
the spirits themselves.

*b Apparently a rendering of Homer's description of Eris,
Il. iv. 443 οὐφανε ἐστήριξε κάρη καὶ ἐπὶ χθονὶ βαῖνει.
then did she leap down from the heavenly places! The shining stars gave way before her, and those fires that she herself had fixed in heaven; already she treads the earth, nor is her countenance far distant from the sky; but it pleased her to change her aspect, and she becomes sagacious Manto, that her speech might have full credence, and by deceit puts off her former mien. The look of awe, the austerity were gone, something of charm remained, and a softer beauty; the sword was laid aside, and she took instead the prophet's wand; her robe falls to her feet, and on her stern brow the wool is bound, where before was laurel; yet her grave aspect and more than mortal strides betray the goddess. Even so at Amphitryon's son did his Lydian mistress laugh, when putting off the bristling hide he marred the Sidonian raiment with his vast shoulders, and wrought confusion in the distaff and smashed the timbrels with his hand.

Nor does she find thee, O Menoeceus, an unworthy victim, nor unfit to receive so solemn a behest, as thou standest before the Dircaean tower; the huge gate unbarred, thou wert slaying the Danaans, and Martian Haemon in like manner. But though ye were of one blood, and in everything brothers, thou hadst first place: heaps of dead are piled around thee, every dart finds its mark, no stroke but a victim falls—nor yet had Virtue come to aid—neither mind nor hand is idle, the eager weapons are never still, even the Sphinx, the guardian of his casque, appears to rage, the image, animated by the sight of blood, flashes out, and the bespattered brass gleams:

\[ i.e., \text{Omphale.} \]
\[ a \text{ His brother.} \]
cum dea pugnantis capulum dextramque repressit:
"magnanime o iuvenis, quo non agnoerit ullam
certius armiferum Cadmi de semine Mavors,
linque humiles pugnas, non haec tibi debita virtus:
astra vocant, caeloque animam, plus concipe, mittes.
iamdudum hoc ilares genitor bacchatur ad aras, 666
hoc ignes fibraeque volunt, hoc urget Apollo:
terrigenam uncto patriae pro sanguine poseunt.
fama canit monitus, gaudet Cadmeia plebes
certa tui1; rape mente deos, rape nobile fatum.  670
i, precor, adcelera, ne proximus occupet Haemon."
sic ait, et magna cunctantis pectora dextra
permulsit tacite seseque in corde reliquit.
fulminis haud citius radiis adflata cupressus
combibit infestas et stirpe et vertice flammam, 675
quam iuvenis multo possessus numine pectus
erexit sensus letique invasit amorem.
ut vero aversae gressumque habitumque notavit
et subitam a terris in nubila crescere Manto,
obstipuit.  "sequimur, divum quaeceumque vocasti,
nec tarde paremus," ait; iamiamque recedens  681
instantem vallo Pylium tamen Agrea fixit.
armigeri fessum excipiunt; tum vulgus euntem
auctorem pacis servatoremque deumque
conclamant gaudens atque ignibus implet honestis.
iamque iter ad muros cursu festinus anhelo  686
obtinet et miseris gaudet vitasse parentes,
cum genitor—steteruntque ambo et vox haesit
utrique,2

1 certa tui w: certatim P.
2 utrique KQ: utrimque Pw.
when the goddess stays the warrior's hand upon the sword-hilt: "Great-hearted youth, than whom none were more surely known of Mars to be of Cadmus' fighting seed, leave these mean affrays, such is not the prowess reserved for thee: the stars are calling thee, thou shalt send thy soul to heaven—conceive a nobler destiny! This it is that inspires my father's frenzy at the joyful altars, this the flames and the fibres demand, this doth Apollo urge: they call for an earth-born one on behalf of our country's common life. Rumour repeats the counsel, the folk of Cadmus, certain of thee, rejoice; take the gods' word to heart, and snatch a glorious fate. Go, I pray thee, and hasten, lest Haemon by thy side forestall thee." So speaking she assured his wavering mind with the silent touch of her mighty hand, and left herself within his heart. No more swiftly does the cypress blasted by the lightning flash drink up the deadly flame from stem to summit than did the youth, possessed by the mighty deity, raise high his spirit and fall straight in love with death. But when he marked her gait and habit as she turned, and beheld Manto on a sudden rise from earth into the clouds, he was astounded. "I follow thee," he cries, "whoever of the gods hast called me, nor am I slow to obey:" yet even as he retired he pierced Agreus of Pylos, who was threatening the rampart. His squires receive him, weary from the battle; then, as he proceeds, the mob in joy hails him as peace-bringer, preserver and god, and kindles within him a noble flame.

And now he is making his way to the city in breathless haste, rejoicing to have avoided his unhappy parents, when his father—both stopped, with
deiectaeque genae. tandem pater ante profatus:
"quis novus inceptis rapuit te casus ab armis?
quae bello graviora paras? dic, nate, precanti,
cur tibi tora acies? cur hic truculentus in ore
pallor, et ad patrios non stant tua lumina voltus?
audisti responsa, palam est. per ego oro tuosque,
nate, meosque annos miseraequ per ubera matris,
ne vati, ne crede, puer! superine profanum
dignantur stimulare senem, cui vultus inanis
extinctique orbes et poena simillima diro
Oedipodae? quid si insidiis et fraude dolosa
rex agit, extrema est cui nostra in sorte timori
nobilitas tuaque ante duces notissima virtus?
illius haec forsan, rem quae verba deorum;
ille monet! ne frena animo permitte calenti,
da spatium tenuemque moram, male cuncta ministrat
impetus; hoc, oro, munus concede parenti.
sic tua maturis signentur tempora canis,
et sis ipse parens et ad hunc, animose, timorem
pervenas: ne perge meos orbare penates.
externi te nempe patres alienaque tangunt
pignora? si pudor est, primum miserere tuorum.
haec pietas, hic verus honos; ibi gloria tantum
ventosumque decus titulique in morte latentes.
nec timidus te flecto parens: i, proelia misce,
i Danaas acies mediosque per obvius enses;
non teneo: liceat misero tremibunda lavare
vulnera et undantem lacrimis siccare cruorem,
teque iterum saevis iterumque remittere bellis.
hoc malunt Thebae." sic colla manusque tenebat
speech cut short and eyes downcast. At length his sire began: "What new chance has taken thee from a battle lately joined? What design hast thou, that is weightier than war? Tell me, my son, I entreat thee, why is thy look so fierce? Why this angry pallor in thy face, why do thy eyes meet not thy father's gaze? 'Tis plain, thou hast heard the oracle. By thy years and mine, my son, and by thy wretched mother's breast, I pray thee, lad, listen not to the seer! Do the gods deign to inspire an impious dotard, with sightless face and blinded eyes, stricken even as dread Oedipus? What if the king be using treachery and deceitful fraud, fearing in his desperate case our noble blood and thy valour that is renowned above our chieftains? Perchance they are his words, which we deem to be the gods'; 'tis he that gives this counsel! Suffer not thy hot blood to carry thee away, but delay a trifling space, passion is ever a bad guide; grant this boon, I entreat thee, to thy father. So may thy temples be marked with the grey hairs of age, and thyself be a parent, and come, rash boy, to fear like me: lay not my home desolate. Do other sires and the babes of strangers move thee? If thou hast any shame, pity first thine own. This is duty, this is true honour; there lies but empty glory and wind-blown renown and a name that will be lost in death. Nor is it from a father's fears that I urge thee: go, join in the fray, go, force thy way through the Danaan lines where swords are thickest: I do not hold thee back; let me but cleanse thy quivering wounds and stanch with my tears thy welling blood, and send thee back again and yet again to the cruel battle. This does Thebes rather choose." So spake he, with his arms in close
implicitus; sed nee laerimae nec verba movebant dis votum iuvenem; quin et monstrantibus illis 720 fraude patrem tacita subit avertitque timorem: "falleris heu verosque metus, pater optime, nescis. non me ulli monitus, nec vatum exorsa furentum sollicitant vanisque\(^1\) movent: sibi callidus ista Tiresias nataeque canat; non si ipse reclusis 725 comminus ex adytis in me insaniret Apollo. sed gravis unanimi casus me fratris ad urbem sponte refert: gemit Inachia mihi saucius Haemon cuspide; vix illum medio de pulvere belli inter utrasque acies, iamiamque tenentibus Argis—sed moror; i, refove dubium turbaeve ferenti\(^2\) 731 die, parcant leviterque vehant; ego vulnera doctum iungere supremaque fugam revocare cruoris Aetiona petam." sic imperfecta locutus effugit; illi atra mersum caligine pectus 735 confudit sensus; pietas incerta vagatur discordantque metus, impellunt credere Parcae.

Turbidus interea ruptis venientia portis agmina belligeri Capaneus agit acquore campi, cornua nunc equitum, cuneos nunc ille pedestres, et proculcantes moderantum funera currus; 741 idem altas turres saxis et turbine crebro laxat, agit turmas idem atque in sanguine fumat. nunc spargit torquens volucri nova vulnera plumbo, nunc iaculum excusso rotat in sublime lacerto, 745 nullaque tectorum subit ad fastigia, quae non deferat hasta virum perfusaque caede recurrat.

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1 vanisque \(P\): manesque \(\omega\).
2 ferenti \(P\): furenti \(BLD\).
THEBAID, X. 719–747

embrace about his son's neck, but the youth, once vowed to the gods, was moved by neither tears nor words; nay, at their prompting he met his sire with secret fraud and turned his fears: "Good father, thou art mistaken, thy fears are vain. No warning or speech of frenzied seers disturbs me, or troubles me with empty terrors; let crafty Tiresias keep his chanting for himself and his own daughter; nought should I care, if Apollo himself were to open his shrine and confront me with his ravings. No, 'tis the sore hurt of my loved brother that takes me back of my own will to the city; my Haemon groans from the wound of an Inachian spear; scarce out of the dust of battle, from between the lines—the Argives had already seized him—but I waste time; go, cheer his distress, and tell his bearers to spare him and carry him gently; I go to find Aëtion who is skilled to join up wounds and recall the life-blood's ebbing stream." He breaks off and speeds away; in the other's breast confusion reigns and a dark cloud of woe; he wavers uncertainly between devoted love and harsh, discordant fears; but Fate impels him to believe.

Meanwhile impetuous Capaneus drives o'er the battle-plain the troops that issue from the breached gates, now squadrons of horse, now regiments of foot, now chariots that trample the corpses of their own charioteers; he it is that rends high towers with stones and many a whizzing dart, he it is that routs the cohorts and reeks in gore. Now he whirls the winged bullet and scatters strange wounds all around, now he swings his arm aloft and sends the javelin flying, nor ever a lance mounts the roof-top, that brings not down its man, and falls back streaming with blood.
nee iam aut Oeniden aut Hippomedonta peremptos
aut vatem Pelopea phalanx aut Areada eredunt:
quìn socium eoiisse animas et corpore in uno
stare omnes, ita cuneta replet. non ullius aetas,
non eultus, non forma movet; pugnantibus idem
supplicibusque furit; non quisquam obsistere contra,
non belli temptare vices: proeul arma furentis
terribilesque iubas et frontem cassidis horrent.

755
At pius electa murorum in parte Menoeceus
iam saeer aspectu solitoque augustior ore,
eeu subito in terras supero demissus ab axe,
constitit, exempta manifestus casside nosei,
despexitque acies hominum et elamore profundo
convertit campum iussitque silentia bello.
"‘armorum superi, tuque o qui funere tanto
indulges mihi, Phoebe, mori, date gaudia Thebis,
quae pepigi et toto quae sanguine prodigus emi.
ferte retro bellum captaeque impingite Lernae
relliquias turpes, confixaque terga foventes
Inachus indecores pater aversetur alumnos.
at Tyriis templas, arva, domos, conubia, natos
reddite morte mea: si vos placita hostia iuvi,
si non attonitis vatis consulta recepi
auribus et Thebis nondum credentibus hausi,
haee Amphioniis pro me persolvite tectis
ae mihi deceptum, preexor, exorare parentem."
sie ait, insignemque animam mucrone eorusco
dedignantem artus pridem maestamque teneri
arripit atque uno quaesitam vulnere rumpit.
sanguine tune spargit turres et moenia lustrat,
THEBAID, X. 748–777

No longer does the Pelopean phalanx believe Oenides or Hippomedon slain, or the bard or yet the Arcadian, but rather that their comrades’ souls are all rejoined in his one frame, so fills he all the battle-field. Nor age, nor dress, nor beauty moves him; alike on those that fight and those that entreat he pours his fury; none dare resist, or try the chances of war; afar as he rages they shudder at his armour and terrible crest and helmet’s front.

But the devoted Menoeceus stood on a chosen part of the wall, sacred already to behold, and majestic in mien beyond his wont, as though suddenly descended to earth from heaven above, bareheaded and manifest to view; he gazed down upon the lines of warriors, and stilled the clamours of the field and bade the war be silent. “Ye gods of battle, and thou, O Phoebus, who grantest me a death so glorious, vouchsafe to Thebes the joys which I have covenanted for and bought with all my lavish life-blood. Roll back the tide of war, and hurl against captive Lerna her base remnants; let father Inachus turn away from his dishonoured sons as they nurse the spear-wound in their backs. But restore to the Tyrians by my death their temples, fields and homes, children and wives; if I, your chosen victim, have pleased you, if I heard the prophet’s oracle with no panic-stricken ear, and took it to my heart ere ever Thebes believed it, reward Amphion’s town in my stead, and reconcile, I pray, the sire whom I deceived.”

So he speaks, and with his glittering blade tears at the noble soul that long has disdained its body and grieved to be held fast, and probes for the life and rends it with one wound. Then with his blood he sprinkled the towers and purified the walls, and
seque super medias acies, nondum ense remisso, iecit et in saecvos cadere est conatus Achivos. ast illum amplexae Pietas Virtusque ferebant leniter ad terras corpus; nam spiritus olim ante Iovem et summis apicem sibi poscit in astris. Iamque intra muros nullo sudore receptum gaudentes heroa ferunt: abscesserat ultro Tantali dum venerata cohors; subit agmine longo colla inter iuvenum, laetisque favoribus omni concinitur vulgo Cadmum atque Amphionem supra conditor; hi sertis, hi veris honore solutos\(^1\) adcumulant artus patriaque in sede reponunt corpus adoratum. repetunt mox bella peractis laudibus; hic victa genitor lacrimabilis ira congerrit, et tandem matri data flere potestas: "lustralemne feris ego te, puer inclyte, Thebis devotumque caput vilis ceu mater alebam? quod molita nefas, cui tantum invisa deorum? non ego monstrifero coitu revoluta novavi\(^2\) pignora, nec nato peperi funesta nepotes. quid refert? potitur natis\(^3\) Iocasta ducesque regnantesque videt: nos saeva piacula bello demus, ut alterni—placet hoc tibi, fulminis auctor—Oedipodionii mutent diademata fratres! 801 quid superos hominesve queror? tu, saeve Menoeceu, tu miseram ante omnes properasti extinguere matrem.

\(^1\) solutos late mss., Peyrared: soluto \(\omega\) : solito \(P\).
\(^2\) novavi \(DQ\), Heinsius: notavi \(\omega\), natavi \(P\).
\(^3\) potitur natis \(P\) : habet ecce suos \(\omega\).

\(a\) The Latin "Pietas" has a somewhat wider significance, including the ideas of Loyalty, Devotion, Affection, which it is impossible to express in one English word.
grasping still his sword hurled himself into the midst of the lines and strove to fall upon the fierce Achaeans. But Piety and Virtue clasped and bore his body lightly to the earth; for his spirit long since is at the throne of Jove, and demands for itself a crown 'mid highest stars.

And now rejoicing they bear the hero within the walls, recovering his body with no labour: of its own accord the Tantalid host in reverence withdrew; he is borne on the necks of youths in a long train, and is acclaimed by the glad praise of all the populace as patron of the town above Cadmus and Amphion; with garlands and all the honour of the spring they heap his lifeless limbs, and lay his venerated body in his forefathers' tomb. Then when their lauds are finished they resume the fight, and his sire, his wrath appeased, sheds tears and joins in the lament, and his mother can weep her fill at last: "Was it then to make atonement and devote thy life for cruel Thebes that I nourished thee, illustrious boy, as though I were some worthless mother? What crime then had I wrought, what god so hated me? No incestuous offspring have I borne in unnatural intercourse, nor given unhallowed progeny to my own son. What matters that? Jocasta hath her sons, and sees them leaders and kings: but we must make cruel expiation for the war, that the brothers, sons of Oedipus, may exchange their diadems—doth this please thee, O author of the blow? But why complain I of men and gods? Thou, cruel Menoeceus, thou before all didst haste to slay thy unhappy

For the use of "fulmen" see note on ix. 218; for the phrase cf. Ovid, Met. viii. 349 "auctor teli." Jupiter is presumably meant.
unde hie mortis amor? quae sacra insania menti?
quosve ego conceptus aut quae male pignora fudi
tam diversa mihi? nimirum Martius anguis,
quaeque novis proavum tellum effloruit armis —
hinc animi tristes nimiusque in pectore Mavors,
et de matre nihil. sponte en ultroque peremptus
inrumpis maestas Fatis nolentibus umbras.

Diceret infelix etiamnum et cuncta repleret
questibus: abducunt comites famulaeque perosam
solantes thalamoque tenent, sedet eruta multo
ungue genas; non illa dicm, non verba precatum
respicit aut visus flectit tellure relictos,
iam vocis, iam mentis inops. sic aspera tigris
fetibus abreptis Scythico deserta sub antro
accubat et tepidi lambit vestigia saxi;
nusquam irae, sedit\(^1\) rabidi\(^2\) feritasque famesque
oris, eunt praeter secura armena gregesque:
aspicit illa iacens; ubi enim, quibus ubera pascat
aut quos ingenti prenat exspectata rapina?

Hactenus arma, tubae, ferrumque et vulnera: sed
nunc
comminus astrigeros Capaneus tollendus in axis.
non mihi iam solito vatun de more canendum\(^3\);

\(^1\) sedit \(P\omega\): cedit \(Q\).
\(^2\) rabidi \(Vollmer\): rapidi \(P\): rabies \(\omega\).
\(^3\) canendum \(\omega\): canentum \(P\).
mother! Whence came this love of death? What cursed madness seized thy mind? What did I conceive, what misbegotten child did I bear, so different from myself? Verily 'tis the snake of Mars, and the ground that burgeoned fresh with our armed sires—thence comes that desperate valour, that o'er-mastering love of war: nought comes of his mother. Lo! of thine own will and pleasure slain, ay, even against the will of Fate, thou forcest an entrance to the gloomy shades. I was fearing the Danaans and the shafts of Capaneus: 'twas this hand, this hand of thine I should have feared, and the sword I myself once gave thee in my folly. See how the blade is wholly buried in his throat! None of the Danaans could have made a deeper thrust."

Even yet would the unhappy woman be speaking and making her sorrow known on every side; but her companions and her handmaids bear her away, hating those who would console her, and keep her in her chamber; there she sits, her cheeks deep ploughed by her nails, nor looks towards the light, nor listens to entreaties, nor turns her face that is ever fixed on the ground—her voice, her reason lost. So a fierce tigress robbed of her cubs lies desolate in her Scythian lair and licks the traces on the warm stone; her fury is gone, the savagery and hunger of her ravenous jaws are abated, and the flocks and herds go careless by: she sees them and lies still, for where are they for whom she should feed her dugs, or, long-awaited, heap up the abundant prey?

So far of arms and trumpets, of swords and wounds I tell; but now Capaneus must be raised high to do battle with the star-bearing vault. No more may I sing after the wonted way of bards; a mightier
STATIUS


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1 “magnae data fata neci” seems hardly Latin, but I have kept the ms. reading; “fama” merely repeats the idea of “gloria praeeceps”; “necis,” Klotz’s suggestion, may be right.

2 A strange expression by which Statius means a ladder (the κλημασις προαμβάσεις of Aeschylus, Sept. 466).
frenzy must be summoned from the Aonian groves. Dare with me, goddesses all: whether that madness of his was sent from deepest night and the Stygian sisters dogged the banner of Capaneus and forced him to the assault against Jove, or whether 'twas valour that brooked no bounds, or headlong love of glory, or utter destruction's appointed doom, or success that goes before disaster and heaven luring to ruin in its wrath.

Now earthly battles grow mean in the hero's eyes, he is tired of the endless slaughter; long ago have his own weapons and those of the Greeks been spent, his right arm grows weary, he looks up to the sky. Soon with frowning gaze he measures the lofty battlements, and gets him a skyward leading path of steps innumerable, a tree guarding its either flank, and terribly from afar he brandishes a flaring torch of oaken faggots: his armour glows red, and a blaze is kindled on his shield. "By this road," he cries, "by this road my lofty valour bids me go to Thebes, where yonder tower is slippery with Menoeceus' blood. I shall try what sacrifice avails, and whether Apollo be false." He speaks, and climbs with alternate step exultant against the captured wall: even as the vault beheld the Aloidae amid the clouds, when impious earth rose high and was like to look down upon the gods; not yet had mighty Pelion been added and Ossa already touched the affrighted Thunderer.

Then indeed aghast, upon the utmost verge of doom, as though the last destruction threatened, or Bellona with blood-stained brand drew nigh to raze their towers to the ground, from every roof in

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"Otus and Ephialtes, Giants who tried to storm heaven."
omnibus e tectis certatim ingentia saxa
roboraque et validas fundae Balearis habenas—
nam iaculis caeloque vagis spes unde sagittis ?—
verum avidi et tormenta rotant et molibus urgent.
ille nee ingestis nee terga sequentibus umquam 860
detrahitur telis, vacuoque sub aere pendens
plana velut terra eertus vestigia figat,
tendit et ingenti subit occurrente ruina :
amnis ut incbens longaevi robora pontis
adsiduis oppugnat aquis, iam saxa fatiseunt 865
emotaequa trabes ; tanto violentior ille—
sentit enim—maiore salo quassatque trahitque
molem aegram, nexus donee eeler alveus omnis
abseidit et eursu victor respirat aperto.
ute petita diu eelsus fastigia supra
eminuit trepidamque adsurgens desuper urbem
vidit et ingenti Thebas exterruit umbra,
increpat attonitos : “humilesne1 Amphionis arees,
pro pudor ! hi faciles carmenque imbelle secuti,
hi, mentita diu Thebarum fabula, muri ? 875
et quidnam egregium prosternere moenia molli
structa lyra ? ” simul insults gressuque manuque
molibus obstantes cuneos tabulataque saevus
restruit2 : absiliunt pontes, teetique prementis
saxea frena labant, dissaeptisque aggere rursus
utilit et truncae rupes in tempa domosque
praeceiptat frangitque suis iam moenibus urbem.
Iamque Iovem circa studis diversa fremebant

1 humilesne $P_w$: haene illae $N_2$, Barth, Bentley.
x. 527, claustra remoliri.
emulous haste they hurl huge stones and stakes, and whirl the strong lash of the Balearic sling—what hope is there in javelins and the vague flight of arrows?—nay, they eagerly ply their engines and impel great rocks against him. But he, unmoved by missiles assailing him in front or rear, hovers aloft in empty air, yet sure as though he planted his steps on the flat earth, and strives onward, and draws nigh in the teeth of fell destruction: just as a river pressing upon the timbers of an ancient bridge assaults it with unresting waters, and now the stones gape and the beams are loosened; with the more violence—for he knows it—and greater surge he shakes and drags at the weakening mass, till the swift current has burst all the fastenings, and triumphantly draws breath again, and flows on with unhampered course. And when he stood out high above the long-attempted summit, and in towering height looked down upon the trembling city, and terrified Thebes with his huge shadow, he taunted the astounded folk: “Are these Amphion’s insignificant towers—for shame!—are these the compliant walls that followed an unwarlike song?—that ancient, lying tale of Thebes? And what glory is there in overthrowing a fortress built by a feeble lyre?” Therewith he falls with foot and hand upon the masonry, and fiercely destroys the jointing and the flooring that would stay him; connecting bridges fall, the stone curbs of the covering roof give way, and again he uses the dismembered mass, and hurls down rocky fragments on temples and on houses, and now he is shattering the city with its own fortress-walls.

Meanwhile about Jove’s throne the Argive and
Argolici Tyriique dei; pater aequus utrisque 
aspicit ingentes ardentum comminus iras
seque obstare videt. gemit inservantem1 noverca 
Liber et obliquo respectans lumine patrem:
“nunc ubi saeva manus, meaque heu cunabula
flammae,
fulmen, io ubi fulmen?” ait. gemit auctor Apollo,
quas dedit ipse, domos; Lernam Thebasque rependit 
maestus et intento dubitat Tirynthius arcu;
maternos plangit volucer Danaeius Argos;
flt Venus Harmoniae populos metuensque mariti 
stat procul et tacita Gradivum respicit ira.
increpat Aonios audax Tritonia divos, 
Iunonem tacitam furibunda silentia torquent.
non tamen haec turbant pacem Iovis: ecce quierunt 
iurgia, cum mediis Capaneus auditus in astrict.
“nullane pro trepidis” clamabat, “numina Thebis 
statis? ubi infandae segnes telluris alumni,
Bacchus et Alcides? pudet instigare minores.
tu potius venias—quis enim concurrere nobis
dignior? en cineres Semeleaque busta tenentur—,
nunc age, nunc totis in me conitere flammis,
Iuppiter! an pavidas tonitru turbare puellas 
fortior et soceri turres excindere Cadmi?”
Ingemuit dictis superum dolor; ipse furentem 
risit et incussa sanctarum mole comarum,
“quaeam spes hominum tumidae post proelia
Phlegrae!

1 inservantem PN: infestante KQ marg. of B.

a i.e., Juno.
b The references here are to the oracle given by Apollo 
at Delphi to Cadmus, which led to the founding of Thebes, 
cf. vii. 664, and to the fact that Hercules was connected
the Tyrian deities were clamouring in diverse factions: the impartial sire beholds their wrath blaze high around him, and marks that he restrains it. Beneath his stepmother's gaze Liber regards his sire askance, and makes lament: "Where now is that ruthless hand?" he cries, "where alas! is my cradle of fire, the thunderbolt, ay, where the thunderbolt?"

Apollo too laments the homes which once his command appointed; the Tirynthian weighs Lerna against Thebes, and hesitates with ready-strung bow; the winged Danaan grieves for his mother's Argos; Venus weeps for Harmonia's folk, and fearing her husband stands apart and gazes at Gradivus in silent anger. Bold Tritonia blames the Tyrian gods, while speechless rage tortures the heart of silent Juno. Yet undisturbed is the peace of Jove; and lo! their quarrels ceased when in mid-heaven Capaneus was heard: "Are there no gods among you," he cries, "who stand for panic-stricken Thebes? Where are the sluggard sons of this accursed land, Bacchus and Alcides? Any of lesser name I am ashamed to challenge. Rather come thou—what worthier antagonist? For lo! Semele's ashes and her tomb are in my power!—come thou, and strive with all thy flames against me, thou, Jupiter! Or art thou braver at frightening timid maidens with thy thunder, and razing the towers of thy father-in-law Cadmus?"

Loud rose the gods' indignant clamour at his words; Jove himself laughed at the madman, and shaking the thick mass of his sacred locks: "What hope has man after Phlegra's arrogant assault?" he says, both with Thebes and Argos (Lerna) by descent. The Danaan is Perseus, son of Danaë.
tune etiam feriendus?" ait. premit undique lentum turba deum frendens et tela ultricio poscit, 911 nec iam audet fatis turbata obsistere coniunx. ipsa dato nondum caelestis regia signo sponte tonat, coeunt ipsae sine flamme nubes adeurruntque imbres: Stygias rupisse catenas 915 Iapetum aut vinctam¹ supera ad convexa levari Inarimen Aetnamve putes. pudet ista timere caelicolas; sed cum in media vertigine mundi stare virum insanasque vident deposcere pugnas, mirantur taciti et dubio pro fulmine pallent. 920 coeperat Ogygiae supra fastigia turris arcanum mugire polus caelumque tenebris auferri: tenet ille tamen, quas non videt, arces, fulguraque attritis quotiens micuere procellis, "his" ait, "in Thebas, his iam decet ignibus uti, 925 hinc renovare faces lassamque accendere quercum." talia dicentem toto Iove fulmen adactum corripuit: primae fugere in nubila cristae, et clipei niger umbo cadit, iamque omnia lucent membra viri. cedunt acies, et terror utrimque, 930 quo ruat, ardenti feriat quas corpore turmas. intra se stridere facem galeamque comasque sentit,² et urentem thoraca repellere dextra conatus ferri cinerem sub pectore tractat.³
stat tamen, extremumque in sidera versus anhelat,⁴

¹ vinctam K², Peyrared: victam BDNQK: victum PS. aut after victum Kohlmann.
² sentit Imhof: quaeit mss.: questus Garrod: saevit Klotz.
³ Lines 932-4 only in DS (between lines) B (in marg.) and late mss.
⁴ anhelat ω: adhaesit PN2.

¹ Lapietus was a Titan, imprisoned below the earth; volcanoes such as Aetna were thought to contain fettered giants and Titans.

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"and must thou too be struck down?" As he hesitates the gods throng round him, gnashing their teeth and crying for the avenging weapons, nor any longer dared his anxious consort resist the Fates. The heavenly palace itself thunders, though no sign is given, the clouds themselves gather and the storms collect without the blast of any wind: one would think Iapetus had burst his Stygian chains, and that fettered Inarime or Aetna had been lifted to the heights above. Such things the denizens of heaven feel shame to fear; but when they see the hero stand midway in the dizzy height of air, and summon them to insane battle, they marvel in silence, and grow pale, doubting the thunderbolt's power. Then above the summit of the Ogygian tower the vault began to bellow strangely, and the sky to be lost in darkness; yet still he grasps the battlements he no longer sees, and as often as the lightnings flashed through the rent storm-clouds: "Ay here," he shouts, "here at last are the fires 'tis right to use against Thebes! From them I may renew my torch, and awaken my smouldering oaken brand." Even as he spoke, the thunderbolt struck him, hurled with the whole might of Jove: his crest first vanished into the clouds, the blackened shield-boss dropped, and all the hero's limbs are now illumined. The armies both give way, in terror where he may fall, what squadrons he may strike with his burning body. He feels the flame hissing within him and his helmet and hair afire, and trying to push away the galling cuirass with his hand, touches the scorched steel beneath his breast. He stands nevertheless, and turning towards heaven
pectoraque invisis obicit fumantia muris, ne caderet: sed membra virum terrena relinquunt, exuiturque animus; paulum si tardius artus cessissent, potuit fulmen sperare\(^1\) secundum.

\(^1\) sperare \textit{PD}N\textit{2}: meruisse \(\omega\).
pants out his life and leans his smoking breast on the hated battlements, lest he should fall; but his earthly frame deserts the hero, and his spirit is released; yet had his limbs been consumed a whit more slowly, he might have expected a second thunderbolt.
LIBER XI

Postquam magnanimus furias virtutis iniquae consumpsit Capaneus exspiravitque receptum fulmen, et ad terras longē comitata cadentem signavit muros ultricis semita flammæ: componit dextra victor concussa plagarum 5 Iuppiter et vultu caelumque diemque reducit. gratantur superi, Phlegrææ cæu fessus anhelat proelia et Enceladō fumantem impresserit Aetnæ. ille iacet lacerae complexus frægmina turris, torvus adhuc visu memorandaque facta relinquent gentibus atque ipsi non inlaudata Tonanti. quantus Apollinaeæ temeraror matris Averno tenditur; ipsae horrent, si quando pectore ab alto emergunt, volucres immensaque membra iacentis spectant, dum miserae crescent in pabula fibræ: 15 sie gravat iniectus terras hostiliaque urit arva et anhelantem cælesti sulfure campum. respirant Thebæ, templisque iacentia surgunt agmina; iam finis votis finisque supremis planctibus, et natos ausae deponere matres. 20

At vaga palantes¹ campo fuga volvit Achivos. nee iam hostes turmae aut ferrum mortale timetur: ¹ palantes ω: pallentes PQ.

ₐ Tityos.
BOOK XI

When great-souled Capaneus had spent the fury of his unrighteous valour and gasped forth the levin-fire that lodged within him, and when the long track of avenging flame that marked his fall to earth had left its brand upon the walls: victorious Jove with his right hand composed the shaken vault, and with his countenance restored the light of heaven. The gods welcome him, as though he were breathless and weary after Phlegra's fight, or had piled smoking Aetna upon Enceladus. Grasping the fragment of a shattered tower the hero lies, with a scowl yet upon his face, and leaving deeds for all the world to tell of, deeds that even the Thunderer might praise. As vast as in Avernus lies outstretched the defiler of Apollo's mother, whom even the birds behold aghast when they emerge from his cavernous breast and view his huge extended limbs, while the wretched fibres grow again to feed them: so burdens he the earth, flung prostrate, and scars the hostile fields and the plain that gasps with the heavenly sulphur. Thebes draws breath once more, and the bowed suppliants rise in the temples; vows and desperate wailing have an end, and the mothers dare to put down their little ones.

But the Achaeans are swept over the plain in scattered, aimless rout. No more do they fear the
omnibus ante oculos irae Iovis, omnibus ardent arma metu galeaeque tonant,\textsuperscript{1} visusque paventes
ipse sequi et profugis opponere Iuppiter ignes. \textsuperscript{25}
instat Agenoreus miles caelique tumulu
utitur: indomitos ut cum Massyla per arva
armenti reges magno leo fregit hiatu
et contentus abit ; rauci tunc comminus ursi,
tunc avidi venere lupi, rabieque remissa
lambunt degeneres alienae vulnera praedae.
hine premit Eurymedon, cui rusticus horror in armis,
rustica tela manu, patriumque agitare tumultus : 
Pan illi genitor ; tener hine conatibus annos
egreditur iuvenemque patrem puer aequat Alatreus:
felices ambo, sed fortunatior ille,
quem genuisse iuvat ; nec iam dignoscere promptum,
quae magis arma sonent, quo plus eat hasta lacerto.

Artatur denso fugientum examine vallum,
quas volvis, Gradive, vices ? modo moenia Cadmi
scandebant: sua nunc defendunt tecta Pelasgi !
ecu redeunt nubes, ceu circumflantibus austris
alternus procumbit ager, ceu gurgite cano
nunc retegit bibulas, nunc induit aestus harenas.
exspirat\textsuperscript{2} late pubes Tirynthia, alumni
exuvias imitata dei ; trux maeret ab austris
Amphitryoniades Nemeae in sanguine terga
et similes ramos similesque videre pharetras.
stabat in Argolicae ferrato culmine turris
egregius lituo dextri Mafortis Enyeus\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1} tonant P\omega : tremunt Q : tonant D (\textit{with tremunt written over}).
\textsuperscript{2} exspirat P : procumbit \omega : exspirat (cumbit \textit{written over}) D.
\textsuperscript{3} Enyeus P : enipeus \omega .
squadrons of the foe or mortal steel: all have the
anger of Jove before their eyes, all in their terror see
their armour blazing and hear his thunder ringing
in their helmets; Jove himself seemed to pursue
and to oppose his fires to their flight. The warriors
of Agenor press hard upon them, and use the tumult
of the sky: as when upon Massylian meads a lion
has crushed within his mighty jaws the untamed
monarchs of the herd, and departs, his hunger sated;
then growling bears draw nigh and greedy wolves,
and with abated rage cowardly lap the blood of an
alien prey. Here Eurymedon pursues, with armour
rustic and uncouth and rustic weapons in his hand
and native skill to arouse panic terrors—his sire
was Pan; there goes Alatreus forth, tender in years
for such emprise, and though a boy, matching his
youthful father: fortunate both, but happier he who
delights in such progeny; nor is it easy to discern
whose weapons ring the louder, from whose arm
more mightily flies the spear.

The ramparts are thronged with a dense mass of
fugitives. What changes dost thou bring, Gradivus!
But lately the Pelasgians were climbing Cadmus' walls,
now they defend their own! Even so the clouds
return, so when the south winds are blowing field
after field is swept by the blast, so the surge now
uncovers, now clothes with its white foam the thirsty
sand. Far and wide perish the Tirynthian soldiery,
that counterfeit the spoils of their native god; the
stern son of Amphitryon mourns from the stars above
to see the Nemean skins and the clubs and quivers
like his own all drenched in blood. Upon the iron-
clad summit of the Argive tower stood Enyeus,
foremost to cheer to prosperous battle with the
hortator; sed tunc miseris dabat utile signum suadebatque fugam et tutos in castra receptus: cum subitum obliquo descendit ab aere vulnus, urgentisque sonum laeva manus aure retenta est; sicut erat; fugit in vacuas iam spiritus auras, iam gelida ora tacent, carmen tuba sola peregit.

Iamque potens scelerum geminaeque exercitata gentis sanguine Tisiphone fraterna cludere quae rit bella acie: nec se tanta in certamina fidit sufficere, inferna comitem ni sede Megaeram et consanguineos in proelia suscitat angues. ergo procul vacua concedit valle solumque ense fodit Stygio terraeque immurmurat absens nomen et—Elysii signum indubitabile regnis—crinalem attollit longo stridore cerasten:

eaeruleae dux ille comae, quo protinus omnis horruit audito tellus pontusque polusque, et pater Aetnaeos iterum respexit ad ignes. accipit illa sonum; stabat tunc forte parenti proxima, dum coetu Capaneus laudatur ab omni Ditis et insignem Stygiis fovet amnibus umbram. protinus abrupta terrarum mole sub astris constitit, exsultant manes, quantumque profundae rarescunt tenebrae, tantum de luce recessit. excipit atra soror dextraeque innexa profatur: "hac, germana, tenus Stygii metuenda parentis imperia et iussos potui tolerare furores,

1 Line 54 omitted by P.
3 concedit PBL: consedit w, which is unsuitable in sense; vacua concedit valle may be paralleled by ibam via sacra.
trumpet, but then he was giving welcome signal to the distressed, and urging their flight and safe retirement to the camp: when suddenly through the air fell a sidelong blow, and as he sped the sound his hand, just as it was, was fixed to his left ear; already his spirit flies forth upon the empty breeze, already his frozen lips are silent, the trumpet completed its call alone.

And now Tisiphone, having wrought her crimes and weary of the bloodshed of two peoples, seeks to conclude the fight with the brothers’ conflict; nor trusts she her own strength for so dire a fray, unless she can rouse from her infernal abode her companion Megaera and her kindred snakes to battle. Therefore she withdrew to an empty vale afar, and dug into the ground her Stygian blade, and muttered into the earth the name of the absent one, and—a sign indubitable to the Elysian realm—raised aloft a horned serpent from her hair with long-drawn hisses: he was the prince of her caerulean tresses, and straightway hearing him earth shuddered and sea and sky, and the Father glanced again at his Aetnaean fires. The other heard the sound: by chance she was standing near her sire, while Capaneus was belauded by the whole train of Dis, and refreshed his glorious shade in the Stygian streams. Forthwith she broke through the massive earth, and stood beneath the stars; the ghosts rejoice, and as the nether darkness grows less thick, so wanes the light above. Her fell sister receives her, and clasps her hand and speaks: “Thus far, my sister, have I been able to sustain our Stygian father’s dread commands and

a *i.e.*, he looks again for his thunderbolts, after using one against Capaneus.
sola super terras hostilique obvia mundo, dum vos Elysium et faciles compescitis umbras. nec pretium deforme morae cassique labores: hoc quodcumque madent campi, quod sanguine fumant stagna, quod in numero Lethaea examine gaudet ripa, meae vires, mea laeta insignia. sed quid haec ego? Mars habeat, volgataque iactet Enyo. vidisti—Stygiis certe manifestus in umbris—sanguine foedatum rictus atroque madentem ora ducem tabo: miser insatiabilis edit me tradente caput. modo nempe horrendus ab astris descendit vos usque fragor: me sacra premebat tempestas, ego mixta viri furialibus armis bella deum et magnas ridebam fulminis iras. sed iam—effabor enim—longo sudore fatiscunt corda, soror, tardaeque manus; hebet infera caelo taxus et insuetos angues nimia astra soporant. tu, cui totus adhuc furor exsultantque recentes Coleyi de fonte comae, da iungere vires. non solitas acies nec Martia bella paramus, sed fratrum—licet alma Fides Pietasque repugnet, vincentur—fratrum stringendi comminus enses. grande opus! ipsae odiis, ipsae discordibus armis aptemur. quid lenta venis? agedum eliges, cuius signa feras. ambo faciles nostrique; sed anceps volgus et adfatus matris blandamque precatu Antigonen timeo, paulum ne nostra retardent

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\textsuperscript{a} She despises such mean triumphs, and proceeds to compare her own. \textsuperscript{b} From which her torch was made.
the frenzy laid upon me, alone upon the earth and
exposed to a hostile world, while ye in Elysium con-
strain the unresisting ghosts. No mean reward is
mine for my pains, my labours are not vain: this
deep-drenched battle-field, these waters that reek
with blood, the countless swarms that gladden
Lethe's bank—these are the tokens of my power,
my signs of triumph. But what care I for these? Let Mars enjoy them, let Enyo boast and spread
the story.\(^a\) Thou sawest—manifest surely was he
in the Stygian shades—the chief whose jaws were
fouled with blood, whose face dripped back corrup-
tion; insatiable, he ate the head of his hapless foe,
which I did give him. Just now—was it not so?—
the sound of a terrible din came down to you from
the stars: me did that awful storm assail, 'twas I who
mingling with the hero's fury-stricken arms laughed
at the warring gods and the levin's mighty wrath.
But now, sister, long toil—I confess it—has wearied
out my spirit, and my arm is slow; the infernal yew\(^b\)
languishes in the air of heaven, and the too strong
influence of the stars drowses my unaccustomed
snakes. Thou who still hast all thy rage, whose
tresses are still riotous and fresh from Cocytus' fount,
join thou thy strength to mine. 'Tis no common
fray or Martian battle that we prepare, but brothers
—though kindly Faith and Duty resist, they will be
o'ercome—ay, brothers shall draw the sword in
combat hand-to-hand. A noble work! Gird we our-
selves with deadly hate, with armed discord. Dost
thou hesitate? Nay, choose which banner thou wilt
bear. Both are compliant and will do our will; but
the mob is double-minded, and I fear his mother's
words and Antigone's persuasive tongue, lest they
consilia. ipse etiam, qui nos lassare precando

suetus et ultrices oculorum exposcere Diras,

iam pater est: coetu fertur iam solus ab omni

flere sibi. atque adeo moror ipsa inrumpere Thebas

adsuetumque larem. tibi pareat impius exsul,

Argolicumque impelle nefas; neu mitis Adrastus praevaleat plebesque, cave, Lernaea moretur.

vade, et in alternas inimica revertere pugnas."

Talia partitae diversum abiere sorores:
ut Notus et Boreas gemino de cardine mundi,
hic nive Rhipaea, Libycis hic pastus harenis,
bella cient: clamant amnes, freta, nubila, silvae,
iamque patent strages; plangunt sua damna coloni,
et tamen oppressos miserantur in aequore nautas.
illas ut summo vidit pater altus Olympo
incestare diem, trepidumque Hyperionis orbem
subfundi maculis, torvo sic incohat ore:
"vidimus armiferos, quo fas erat usque, furores,
caelicola, licitasque acies, etsi impia bella
unus init aususque1 mea procumbere dextra.
nunc par infandum miserisque incognita terris
pugna subest: auferte oculos! absentibus ausint
ista dei lateantque Iovem; sat funera mensae
Tantaleae et sontes vidisse Lycaonis aras
et festina polo ducentes astra Mycenas.
nunc etiam turbanda dies: mala nubila, tellus,

1 aususque P\(\omega\): dignusque QC and (written over
aususque) D.

\(^a\) An imaginary mountain range at the N. limit of the world.

\(^b\) Tantalus cut up and boiled Pelops his son, and set him before the gods as a meal; Lycaon, father of Callistus, offered human meat to Jove; the sun turned away from

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somewhat hinder our design. Ay, even he, who is wont to weary us with his entreaties and call on the Furies to avenge his eyes, already feels his fatherhood; already they say he weeps alone, far from the haunts of men; ay, verily, I like not to invade Thebes and the abode I know so well without thy succour. Command thou the impious exile, incite the Argive to the crime; see that the mild Adrastus prevail not, nor the Lernean host delay thee. Go, and return to the mutual fray—my foe!"

Their duties thus assigned, the sisters went their different ways: as from the two poles of the world South wind and North make war, one nurtured on Rhipean a snows, the other on Libyan sands: rivers, seas, clouds and woods resound, and soon is the ruin seen, the husbandmen lament their losses, yet pity the sailors welmed upon the deep. When from Olympus' top the exalted Sire beheld them pollute the air, and saw Hyperion's frightened orb beflecked and tainted, with stern utterance he thus began: "Ye heavenly ones, we have seen armed fury pushed to the uttermost bound of right, and a war that yet was lawful, though one man engaged in impious conflict and dared to fall by my right hand. But now a duel unspeakable approaches, a combat yet unknown to miserable earth: look not upon it! Let no gods countenance such a crime, let it be hid from Jove; enough is it to have seen the deadly feast of Tantalus and the guilty altars of Lycaon, and Mycenae bringing the stars in hurried train upon the sky. Now once again must day be troubled; accept, O Earth, these baleful clouds, and let the sky Mycenae when Atreus set the flesh of Thyestes' sons before their father; hence the sudden appearance of the stars.
accipe, secedantque poli: stat parcerе mundo caelitibusque\textsuperscript{1} meis; saltem ne virginis aliae sidera, Ledaei videant neu talia fratres."

Iamque per Argolicas Erebo sata virgo cohor\textsuperscript{2}ōs vestigat Polynicis iter portisque sub ipsis inventum leto tot iniqua fugane exeat. et dubios turbarant omina sensu:\n
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viderat, obseura vallum dum nocte pererrat aeger consilii eurisque novissima volvens, coniugis Argiae laceram cum lampade maesta effigiem—sunt monstra deum, sie ire parabat, has latura viro taedas erat!—: ergo roganti, quae via quisve dolor, cur maesta insignia, tantum\textsuperscript{3} fleverat atque manu taeitos averterat ignes.

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scit mentem vidisse nefas; etenim unde Mycenis adforet et vallum coniunx inopina subiret? sed fati monitus vicinaque funera sentit, ac sentire timet. eum vero Acherontis aperti\textsuperscript{4} Dira ter admo\textsuperscript{5}to tetigit thorae\textsuperscript{6}a flagello, ardet inops animi, nee tam considere regno, quam seclus et caedem et perfossi\textsuperscript{2} in sanguine fratris\textsuperscript{3} exspirare cupid, subitusque adfatur Adrastum:

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"sera quidem, extremus socium gentisque superstes Argolicae, consulta, pater, iam rebus in artis

\textsuperscript{1} caelitibusque \textit{P\textasci\textcircled{ω}}: sideribusque \textit{B and D (with caelesti-busque written over)}.

\textsuperscript{2} perfossi \textit{in P\textasci\textcircled{ω}}: perfossum (fusus \textit{written over}) \textit{D}: perfusus \textit{conj. Housman}.

\textsuperscript{3} fratris \textit{P\textasci\textcircled{ω}}: \textit{D has fratrem written over}.

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be veiled; it is my will to spare heaven and my own deities; let not at least the star of the kindly maid a behold such deeds, nor the Ledaean brethren.” So spake the omnipotent Sire and turned his gaze away from the guilty fields, and the earth lacked its joyous light serene.

Meanwhile the daughter of Erebus hastes on the track of Polynices through the Argolic cohorts, and finds him even at the gate, uncertain whether to avoid so many horrors by death or flight. Omens too had troubled his doubting mind: wandering by the rampart in the hours of darkness, distressed at heart and brooding in deep despair, he had seen the phantom of his wife Argia, with tresses torn and a doleful torch in her hand—a sign from heaven! ay, that was her intent, such were the torches she was to bring her spouse!—so, when he asked why she was come and what her grief, what meant these emblems of woe, she did but weep and hide the flame in silence. He knows ’twas but a mental vision of ill, for how could his spouse have come from Mycenae and draw nigh the wall, nor any know? But he is aware of Fate’s admonishing and his approaching doom, and fears to be aware. But when the Fury of yawning Acheron thrice smote her lash against his corslet, he raged without restraint, and yearned not to be seated on his throne, but for crime and carnage and to expire in his slaughtered kinsman’s blood, and suddenly he accosts Adrastus: “Late though it be, O father, and in our extremity, I am at length resolved, who am the last survivor of my comrades and the folk of Argos: then had been the

a Astraea, cf. Silv. i. 4. 2 “videt alma pios Astraea,” and note ad loc. She was frequently identified with Justice.
adgrederior; tunc tempus erat, cum sanguis Achivum integer, ire ulro propriamque capessere pugnam, non plebis Danaee florem regumque verendas obiectare animas, ut lamentabile tantis urbibus induerem capiit deus. aspera quando praeteriit virtus, nunc saltem exsolvere fas sit, quae merui. scis namque, socer, licet alta recondas volnera et adflictum generi verere pudorem: ille ego sum, qui te pacem et pia iura regentem—infelix utinamque aliis datus urbibus hospes!—extorrem patria regnoque aliis datu urbibus hospes!—sed exige tandem supplicium: fratrem suprema in bella—quid horres? decretum est fixumque—voco; desiste morari, nee poteris. non si atra parens miseraeque sorores in media arma cadant, non si ipse ad bella ruenti obstet et extinctos galeae pater ingerat orbes, deficiam. anne bibam superest quodcumque cruos Inachii et vestris etiamnum mortibus utar? vidi ego me propter ruptos telluris hiatus, nec subii; vidi examinum fecique nocentem Tydea; me Tegea regem indefensa reposcet, orbaque Parrhasiis ululat mihi mater in antris. ipse nec Ismeni ripas, dum stagna cruentat Hippomedon, Tyrias potui nec scander turres, dum tonat, et tecum, Capaneu, miscere furores. quis tantus pro luce timor? sed digna repandam. conveniant ubi quaeque1 nurus matresque Pelasgae longaevique patres, quorum tot gaudia carpsi orbavique domos: fratri concurro, quid ultra est?

1 ubi quaeque Heinsius: ubicumque Pω, see Aen. vii. 400, Theb. xii. 23.

a The construction (i.e., “now behold thee exiled,” etc., or some such word) is deliberately broken off to mark his excitement.
time, when the Achaean blood was yet unshed, to step boldly forth and venture single combat, nor expose the Danaan flower and the sacred lives of princes, that I might crown me with a glory that was the woe of mighty cities. But now since the stern hour of valour is past, now at least let me be allowed to pay what I deserve. For well thou knowest, father, though deep thou dost hide thy wounds and dost revere thy son-in-law's misery and shame: I am he, who, while thou wert ruling in peace and justice—ah! wretch that I am, would some other city had been my host!—exiled from country and throne—but exact thy punishment at last: I challenge my brother—why dost thou start? I am resolved—to the death! nay, hinder me not, nor wilt thou be able. Not if my sad mother and unhappy sisters were to fling themselves between our weapons, not even if my sire were to oppose me as I rushed to battle and cast his sightless orbs upon my helm, should I give way. Shall I drink all that remains of Inachian blood, and even yet draw profit from your deaths? I saw the earth yawn and gape on my account, nor went I to the rescue; I saw Tydeus dead and caused his guilt; defenceless Tegea demands of me her prince, and his bereaved mother cries out against me in Parrhasian caves. I had not the spirit to scale Ismenos' banks while Hippomedon stained its streams with gore, nor the Tyrian towers amid the thunder and join my rage to thine, O Capaneus. Why such craven fear for my own life? But I will make due recompense. Let all the Pelasgian brides and mothers and aged sires assemble, all whom I have robbed of so many joys, and whose homes I have despoiled—I fight my brother!
spectent et votis victorem Eteoclea poscant. 186
iamque vale, coniunx, dulcesque valete Mycenae!
at tu, care socer—nec enim omnis culpa malorum
me penes, et superi mecum Parcaeque nocentes—,
sis lenis cineri, meque haec post proelia raptum 190
alitibus fratrique tegas\(^1\) urnamque reportes—
hoc tantum—et natae melius conubia iungas.”

Ibant in lacrimas, veluti cum vere reverso
Bistoniae tepuere nives, submittitur ingens
Haemus et angustos Rhodope descendit in amnes.
coeperat et leni senior mulcere furentem 196
adloquio: scidit orsa novo terrore cruenta
Eumenis, alipedemque citum fataliaque arma
protinus, Inachii voltus expressa Pherecli,
obtulit ac fidas exclusit casside voces. 200
ac super haec: “abrumpe moras, celeremus! et illum
adventare ferunt portis.” sic omnia vicit,
conreptumque iniecit equo; volat aequore aperto
pallidus instantemque deae circumspicit umbram.

Sacra Iovi merito Tyrius pro fulmine ductor 205
nequiquam Danaos ratus exarmasse ferebat.
nec pater aetherius divomque has ullus ad aras,
sed mala Tisiphone trepidis inserta ministris
adstat et inferno praevertit vota Tonanti.
“summe deum, tibi namque meae primordia Thebae—
liveat infandum licet Argos et aspera Iuno— 211
debent, Sidonios ex quo per litora raptor

turbasti thiasos, dignatus virgine nostra

\(^1\) tegas \(Pw\): negas \(Q\): neges \(N\) (both written over tegas).

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\(a\) The dative after “tegas” may be explained by the same
use of analogy that we have seen before (here = dat. after
verbs of rescuing from).

\(b\) *i.e.*, Pluto.
what more remains to do? Let them look on, and pray for Eteocles' victory. And now farewell, my wife, and farewell, sweet Mycenae! But thou, beloved sire—for mine is not all the blame for these ills, but Fate and the gods share the guilt with me—be gentle to my ashes, rescue my body after the battle and shield it from the birds and from my brother, and bring home my urn, 'tis all I ask, and, for thy daughter, unite her in worthier wedlock."

They fell to weeping, as when with returning spring the Bistonian snows are warmed and mighty Haemus melts and Rhodope is all dissolved into the straitened rivers. And the aged king had begun to soothe his rage with gentle words: but the cruel Fury broke off his speech with new terrors, and straightway, in the shape of Inachian Phereclus, brought his swift wing-footed steed and fatal arms, and with his helmet closed his ears to trusty counsels. Then "Haste!" she cried, "delay not! He too, so they say, is marching on the gates!" Thus, all scruples overcome, she seizes him and sets him upon his steed; ashen pale, he scours the open plain, and glances back to desery the looming shadow of the goddess.

The Tyrian chieftain was offering in vain to Jove the sacrifice that his lightning stroke had won, thinking that the Danaans were disarmed. But neither the celestial sire nor any of the gods were at his altars, but baneful Tisiphone mingling with the affrighted attendants stands near, and to the infernal Thunderer turned aside his prayers. "Supreme of gods, to whom my Thebes owes its origin—though accursed Argos and angry Juno be jealous—since thou as a ravisher didst break up the revels on the Sidonian shore, and deign to bear on thy back a maiden of
terga premi et placidas falsum mugire per undas!
nec te vana fides iterum Cadmeia adeptum
couibia et Tyrios nimium inrupisse penates:
tandem, inquam, soceros diletque moenia gratus
respicis adsertorque tonas; eeu regia caeli
adtemptata tui, sic te pro turribus altis
vidimus urgentem nubes, laetique benignum
fulmen et auditos proavis adgnoscimus ignes.
accipec nunc pecudes et magni turris acervos
votivumque marem; dignas sed pendere grates
haud mortale opus est; certent tibi reddere Bacchus
noster et Alcides, illis haec moenia servas.”

dixerat: ast illi niger ignis in ora genasque
prosiluit raptumque comis diadema cremavit.
tune ferus ante ietum spumis delubra cruentat
taurus et obstantum mediis e coetibus exit
turbidus insanoque ferens¹ altaria cornu.
diffuguient famuli, et regem solatur haruspex.
ipse instaurari sacrum male fortis agique
imperat, et magnos dicto premit ore timores.
qualis ubi implicitum Tirynthius ossibus ignem
sensit et Oetaeas membris accedere vestes,
vota incepta tamen libataque tura ferebat
durus adhuc patiensque mali; mox grande coactus
ingemuit, victorque furit per viscera Nessus.
Nuntius examini suspensus pectora cursu

¹ -que ferens PB: feriens o.

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a With Semele; the same reference in i. 220-221.
b i.e., the poison of Nessus’s shirt, given by him in treachery
to Deianira, and by her as a love-charm to Hercules.  Nessus
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our race and to utter feigned lowings over the tranquil seas! Nor vainly do we believe that thou a second time didst enjoy Cadmean wedlock and invade the Tyrian dwellings in overpowering might: at length, at length thou dost gratefully regard thy kinsmen and the walls thou lovest, and sendest thy thunder to avenge; as though the heavenly palace had suffered assault, we saw thee rolling cloud on cloud to succour our lofty towers, and gladly we recognize thy kindly brand, and the lightnings that our sires once heard of old. Receive now our flocks and high-piled incense and our votive bull; worthy recompense is not in mortal power; let our own Bacchus and Alcides strive to repay thee, for them thou dost preserve these walls." He spoke, but the murky flame leapt forth against his face and cheeks, and seized and burnt the diadem on his locks. Then still unsmitten the angry bull beflecked the shrine with bloody foam, and dashed wildly through the opposing concourse, bearing the altar upon his frenzied horns. The ministers scatter, and the soothsayer strives to console the king. Faint-heartedly he commands the rite to be renewed and carried through, and with feigned countenance screens his anxious fears. As when the Tirynthian felt the fire enwrap his bones and the Oetaean robe cling to his limbs, he continued the offering he had begun and poured the incense, still resolute and enduring the agony; soon beneath the stress he groaned aloud, while triumphant Nessus raged throughout his vitals.

Aepytus, in excited breathless haste, comes run-
Aepytus ad regem portae statione relicta

tendit et haec trepido vix intellectus anhelat:
"rumpe pios cultus intempestivaque, rector,
sacra deum: frater muris circum omnibus instat
portarumque moras frenis adsultat et hastis,
nomine te crebro, te solum in proelia poscens."

flent maesti retro comites, et uterque loquenti
adgemit et pulsis exercitus obstrepit armis.

ille vocat: "nunc tempus erat, sator optime divom!
quid meruit Capaneus?" turbatus inhorruit altis
rex odiis, mediaque tamen gavisus in ira est.
sie ubi regnator post exsulis otia tauri
mugitum hostilem summa tulit aure iuvencus
adgnovitque minas, magna stat fervidus ira
ante gregem spumisque animos ardentibus efflat,
nunc pede torvus humum, nunc cornibus aera findens;
horet ager, trepidaeque exspectant proelia valles.

Nec desunt regni comites: "sine, moenia pulset
inritus." "ille autem fractis hue audeat usque
viribus?" "hic miseris furor est instare periculo,
nec librare metus et tuta odisse." "resiste
hic fretus solio, nos propulsabimus hostem,
nos bellare iube." sic proxima turba, sed ardens
ecce aderat luctu dicturusque omnia belli
libertate Creon: urit fera corda Menoeceus;
nulla patri requies, illum quareritque tenetque;
illum sanguineos proflantem pectore rivos
aspicit et saeva semper de turre cadentem.

ut dubium et pugnas cunctantem Eteoclea vidit:

a i.e., to hurl the thunderbolt. It should have been kept
for Polynices, in comparison with whom Capaneus had done
nothing.
ning with news to the king, his post by the gate abandoned, and scarcely understood pants out these words to the anxious prince: "Break off thy pious worship and the untimely sacrifice, O king! Thy brother rides threatening round thy walls, and with spear and bridle assails thy hindering gates, and flinging many a challenge calls thee, thee alone to battle." Behind him his sorrowing comrades weep, each echoing the speaker with their groans, while the host clash arms and rage against the foe. The monarch prays: "Now was the time, a most righteous sire of the gods! What did Capaneus deserve?" A thrill of profound hatred shook the king, yet he rejoices in mid rage: as when a chieftain-bull after the repose of his rival's exile hears with ear alert the bellow of his enemy, and knows his challenge, he stands consumed with mighty wrath before the herd, and pants forth his valour in hot foam, now fiercely tearing the ground with his hoof, now the air with his horns; the meadows quake, and the affrighted vales await the conflict.

Nor are his friends less moved: "Let him batter the walls in vain!" "Can he dare so far with shattered forces?" "Tis madness prompts the wretches to court danger, weigh no fears and detest safety." "Stay thou assured upon thy throne, we will repulse the foe, bid us make war!" So speak those near him, but lo! Creon was at hand, aflame with grief and claiming for his tongue a warrior's licence; Menoeceus galls his heart to fierceness, no peace does the father know; him he seeks and clutches, him he beholds panting the bloody stream from his breast, and ever falling from the cruel tower. And when he saw Eteocles in doubt and shrinking
STATIUS

"ibis," ait, "neque te ulterius fratremque duceemque, pessime, funeribus patriae lacrimisque potentem, Eumenidum bellique reum, patiemur inulti. 271

sat tua non aequis luimus periurias divis.

urbem armis opibusque gravem et modocivibus artam, ceu caelo deiecta\(^1\) lues inimicave tellus,\(^2\) hausisti vacuamque tamen sublimis obumbras? 275
deest tibi\(^3\) servitio plebes: hos ignis egentes fert humus, hos pelago patrius iam detulit amnis;

hi quuerunt artus, illi anxia vulnera curant.

redde agedum miseris fratres natosque patresque, redde arvis domibusque viros! ubi maximus Hypseus finitimusque Dryas, ubi Phocidos arma sonorae 281

Euboicique duees? illos tamen aquea duelli fors tuit ad manes: at tu, pudet! hostia regni, hostia, nate, iaces, ceu nutus et e grege sanguis,

ei mihi! primitiis ararum\(^4\) et rite nefasto 285
libatus iussusque mori: et cunctabitur ultra

iste nec adverso nunc saltem Marte vocatus stabit? an in pugnas alium iubet ire profanus

Tiresias iterumque meos oracula nectit 289

in gemitus? quid enim misero super unicus Haemon?

ille iube subeat, tuque hinc spectator ab alta
turre sede! quid saeva fremis familamque cohortem

respectas? hi te ire volunt, hi pendere poenas;

ipsa etiam genetrix ipsaeque odere sorores.

\(^1\) deiecta P: demissa ω: deiecta (demissa written over) D, cf. Silv. i. 2. 154.
\(^2\) tellus Pω: labes, tabes edd. Garrod conj. inhiulcave t. unnecessarily.
\(^3\) deest tibi Owen: deest Pω: iam deest Weber.
\(^4\) ararum PB: armorum, annorum ω.
from the fight: "Thou shalt go," he cries, "not, villain, shall we unavenged endure thee longer, thee the brother and the prince, made powerful by thy country's tears and sufferings, guilty of Heaven's Furies and the war. Long enough have we atoned thy perjuries to the angry gods. This city, once full of arms and wealth, and thronged with citizens, hast thou like a heaven-sent pestilence or plague of earth drained to nothing, yet castest thy tall shadow o'er its emptiness? Folk are lacking to be thy slaves: some lie on earth unburnt, others their native stream has already borne down to the sea; some seek their limbs, others tend anxious wounds. Come, restore to our wretched people their brothers, fathers, sons, restore husbands to their homes and farmsteads! Where now is mighty Hypseus, where is our neighbour Dryas, where are the arms of echoing Phocis and the Euboean chiefs? Yet them the impartial fate of war hath slain, but thou, my son—O shame!—liest the victim, ay, the victim of the throne, like some mute beast of the herd, alas! sprinkled with the first-fruits at the altar's unhallowed rite and bidden die: and doth he still waver, and now at least when summoned refuse the challenge? or does the wicked Tiresias bid another go to battle, and devise a second oracle to bring me woe? Yes, why is Haemon alone left to his unhappy sire? Command him to go, and sit thou on a lofty tower to watch the spectacle! Why dost thou rage and look round upon thy retinue? These would have thee go, ay, and pay the penalty; even thy mother and thy sisters hate thee. Thy brother
in te ardens frater ferrum mortemque minatur

saevaque portarum convellit claustra, nec audis\(^1\)?”

Sic pater infrendens, miseraque exaestuat ira. ille sub haec “non fallis,” ait, “nec te inclyta nati fata movent : canere illa patrem et iactare decebat. sed spes sub lacrimis, spes atque occulta cupido

his latet : insano prætendis funera voto, meque premis frustra vacuae ceu proximus aulae. non ita Sidoniam Fortuna reliquerit urbem, in te ut sceptr a cadant, tanto indignissime nato. nec mihi difficilis praecens vindicta; sed arma,

arma prius, famuli! coeant in proelia fratres. vult gemitus lenire Creon : lucrare furorem ; victori mihi cuncta lues.” sic iurgia paulum

distulit atque ense m, quem iam dabat ira, repressit. ictus ut incerto pastoris vulnere serpens

erigitur gyro longumque e corpore toto virus in ora legit; paulum si devius hostis
torsit iter, cecidere minae tumefactaque frustra colla sedent, irasque sui bibit ipse veneni.

At genetrix primam funestae sortis ut amens

expavit famam—nec tarde credidit—ibat

scissa comam voltusque et pectore nuda cruento, non sexus decorisve memor : Pentheia qualis mater ad insani scandebat culmina montis, promissum saevo caput adlatura Lyaeo. 320

\(^1\) audis P\(\omega\): audes BLK.

\(^{a}\) Agave, who tore her son, the king of Thebes, in pieces for trying to suppress the Bacchic worship.
THEBAID, XI. 295–320

hotly threatens thee with the sword and death, and rends the stern barriers of thy gates—dost thou not hearken?

Thus spoke the father, gnashing his teeth, in transports of misery and rage. The other in reply: "Thou dost not fool me, nor art thou moved by thy son's renowned death: that song of woe, those vaunts did but befit a father. But ambition lurks beneath those tears, ambition and concealed desire: thou art making his death a mask for thy mad hopes, and dost press me hard, as though succeeding to the vacant throne. Not so utterly has Fortune left the Sidonian city that the sceptre should fall to thee, O most unworthy of so brave a son! Nor would revenge be difficult even now, but first—arms, arms, my servants! Let the brothers meet in battle. Creon would have some balm for his sorrow: take advantage of my rage; when I am victorious thou shalt pay me all." Thus for a while he put off the quarrel, and thrust back the sword that wrath had put into his hand. As a serpent, struck at a venture and wounded by a shepherd, lifts up its coils erect, and from all its length of body draws the poison to its mouth: but should the foe bend his course but a little, the threats abate, the vainly swollen neck subsides, and it swallows back the venom of its own anger.

But when his mother heard the first news of the calamity in appalled dismay—nor was she slow to believe it—she went with face and tresses torn, and naked, blood-stained breast, reckless of sex and dignity: just as the mother of Pentheus a climbed the heights of the frenzied mount to bring the promised head to fierce Lyaeus. Neither her
non comites, non ferre piae\( ^1 \) vestigia natae
aeque valent: tantum miserae dolor ultimus addit
robur, et exsangues crudescunt luetibus anni.
iamque decus galeae, iam spicula saeva ligabat
ductor et ad lituos hilarem intrepidumque tubarum
prospiciebat equum, subito cum apparuit ingens 326
mater, et ipse metu famulumque expalluit omnis
coetus, et oblatam retro dedit armiger hastam.
"quis furor? unde iterum regni integrata resurgit
Eumenis? ipsi etiam post omnia, comminus ipsi 330
stabilis? usque adeo geminas duxisse cohortes
et facinus mandasse parum est? quo deinde redibit
victor? in hosne sinus? o diri coniugis olim
felices tenebrae! datis, improba lumina, poenas.
hace spectanda dies? quo, saeve, minantia flectis
ora? quid alternus voltus pallorque ruborque 336
mutat, et obnixi frangunt mala murmura dentes?
me miseram, vinces! prius haec tamen armanecesse est
experiare domi: stabo ipso in limine portae
auspicium infelix scelerumque immanis imago. 340
haec tibi canities, haec sunt calcanda, nefande,
ubera, perque uterum sonipes hic matris agendus.
pare: quid oppositam capulo parmaque repellis?
non ego te contra Stygiis feralia sanxi
vota deis, caeco nec Erinyas ore rogavi. 345
exaudi miseram: genetrix te, saeve, precatur,
non pater; adde moram secleri et metire, quod audes.
sed pulsat muros germanus et impia contra

\( ^1 \) piae \( P \): ipsae \( \omega \): piae \( D \) (with ipsae written over).

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maidens nor her devoted daughters can keep pace with her, such strength does despair lend to the unhappy woman, her enfeebled years grow vigorous with grief. And already the chief was fastening on him the glory of his helm, and taking his sharp javelins, and regarding his steed that rejoiced at the trumpets nor feared the bugle’s blast, when on a sudden his mother appeared, mighty to behold, and he and all his company grew pale with fear, and his squire took back the spear he was proffering. “What madness is this? Whence hath returned the Evil Spirit of this realm, restored again to life? Must ye then fight each other at the last? Is it too little to have led rival hosts and given the word for slaughter? And afterwards, what home awaits the victor? these arms of mine? O my dread spouse, blest hereafter in thy blindness! now pay ye the penalty, my guilty eyes! Must I then see this day? Whither, ruthless one, turnest thou thy threatening gaze? Why do flush and pallor alternate on thy countenance, and thy clenched teeth stifle angry mutterings? Ah, woe is me! thou wilt prevail! yet first must thou test thy arms at home: I will stand in the threshold of the gate, a baneful omen and dread image of calamity. These hoary locks, these breasts must needs be trampled by thee, accursed one, and o’er thy mother’s womb this steed be driven. Ah! spare! why dost thou repel me from thy path with shield and sword? No solemn curses have I uttered against thee to the Stygian gods, nor invoked the Furies with sightless prayer. Hear me in my distress! ’tis thy mother, not thy sire entreats thee, cruel one! Stay thy guilt, and take the measure of such madness. But thy brother—dost thou say?
bella ciet. non mater enim, non obstat eunti
ulla soror; te euncta rogant, hic plangimus omnes.
ast ibi vix unus pugnas dissuadet Adrastus,
aut fortasse iubet: tu limina avita deosque
linquis et a nostris in fratrem amplexibus exis?"

At parte ex alia taeitos obstante tumultu
Antigone furata gradus—nee casta retardat
virginitas—volat Ogygii fastigia muri
exsuperare furens; senior comes haeret eunti
Actor, et hic summas non duraturus ad arces.
utque procul visis paulum dubitavit in armis,
adgnovitque—nefas!—iaculis et voce superba
tecta incessentem, magno prius omnia planetu
implet et ex muris ceu descensura profatur:
"comprime tela manu paulumque hanerespice turrem,
frater, et horrendes refer in mea lumina cristas!
agnoscisne hostes? sic annua pacta fidemque
poscimus? hi questus, haec est bona causa modesti
exsulis? Argolicos per te, germane, penates—
nam Tyriis iam nullus honos—per si quid in illa
dulce domo, submitte animos: en utraque gentis
urba rogant ambaeque acies; rogat illa suorum
Antigone devota malis suspactaque regi,
et tantum tua, dure, soror. saltem ora trucesque
solve genas; liceat voltus fortasse supremum
noscere\(^1\) dilectos et ad haec lamenta videre,
anne fleas. illum gemitu iam supplice mater
frangit et exsertum dimittere dicitur ensem:
tu mihi fortis adhuc? mihi, quae tua nocte dieque

\(^1\) noscere \(\omega\): nosce (i written over) \(P\): nosci Housman.
beats at the walls, and raises impious war against thee. Ay, for no mother, no sister doth prevent him; but thee all beseech, here all make lament. Yonder scarce Adrastus alone dissuades from battle, or perchance doth urge it; wilt thou leave thy ancestral gate and the gods, and from my very embrace go forth against thy brother?"

But in another region Antigone glides silently by stealth through all the tumult—nor does maidenly chastity delay her—and hastes in eagerness to climb to the summit of the Ogygian wall; old Actor follows close behind, though his strength avails not to reach the tower's height. Awhile she hesitated at the sight of the host afar, then recognized him, alas! as with proud taunt and javelin he assailed the city; first her wailings fill the air, then, as though about to leap down from the wall, she cries: "Put up thy weapons and look but a moment at this tower, my brother, and turn thy bristling crest to face my eyes! Is it enemies thou findest? Is it thus we demand good faith and yearly pact? Is this an innocent exile's just complaint and righteous cause? By thy Argive home, O brother—for thy Tyrian home thou slightest—by any joy thou hast therein, be softened: lo! both the armies, either folk entreat thee! Antigone, faithful to her kinsmen's sufferings and suspected by the king, and sister but to thee, hard-hearted one, entreats thee! Remit at least thy frowning looks; let me perchance for the last time behold the face I love, and see whether thou dost weep at my lament. Him even now doth our mother urge with suppliant tears, and doth put back, they say, his naked blade: art thou still stubborn to me, to me who night and day weep for
exsilia erroresque fleo, iamiamque tumentem placavi tibi saepe patrem? quid crimine solvis germanum? nempe ille fidem et statas foedera rupit, ille nocens saevusque suis; tamen ecce vocatus non venit.” his paulum furor elanguescere dictis coeperat, obstreperet quamquam atque obstaret Erinys;

iam submissa manus, lente iam flectit habenas, iam tacet; erumpunt gemitus, lacrimasque fatetur cassis; hebent irae, pariterque et abire nocentem et venisse pudet: subito cum matre repulsa Eumenis eiecit fractis Eteoclea portis clamantem: “venio solumque, quod ante vocasti, invideo; ne incesse moras, gravis arma tenebat mater; io patria, o regum incertissima tellus, nunc certe victoris eris!” nec mitior ille “tandem” inquit, “scis, saeve, fidem et descendis in aequum?

o mihi nunc primum longo post tempore, frater, congrederet: hae leges, haec foedera sola supersunt.” sic hostile tuens fratrem; namque uritur alto corde, quod innumeris comites, quod regia cassis instratusque ostro sonipes, quod fulva metallo parma micet, quamquam haud armis inhonorus et ipse nec palla volgare nitens: opus ipsa novarat Maenoniis Argia modis ac pollice docto stamina purpureae sociaverat aurea telae.

Iamque in pulvereum Furiis hortantibus aequor prosiliunt, sua quemque comes stimulatque monetque. frena tenent ipsae phalerasque et lucida comunt

a i.e., by one of the Furies.
thy wandering exile, and have ofttimes appeased thy father's wrath even as it rose against thee? Why dost thou free thy brother of guilt? Verily he broke faith and his sworn word, guilty is he and cruel to his own; yet lo! he comes not to thy challenge." At these words his rage began somewhat to grow faint though the Fury upbraided and resisted; already he has relaxed his arm, now he wheels his horse less sharply, now he falls silent; groans burst from him, his casque confesses tears, his ire is blunted, and he feels shame both to depart and to have come in guilt: when suddenly the Fiend, thrusting his mother aside, shatters the gate and hurls forth Eteocles crying: "I come, and only grudge thee thou wert the first to challenge; chide not my delay, my mother hung upon my arms and stayed me; what ho! my country, land of thy monarchs most unsure, now assuredly thou shalt be the victor's!" The other in no milder strain: "At last, ruffian, dost thou keep faith, and come down into fair field? O once again after many a day my brother, engage! no law, no treaty but this remains." So spoke he, seowling at his kinsman in hostile mood; for in his heart he chafes at the other's numerous train, and his royal helm and the purple trappings of his charger, and his buckler's glancing gold—though he himself was not meanly armed, and his cloak shone with no common lustre: Argia herself had wrought it in Maenonian fashion, and with skilled finger had woven strands of gold in the purple web.

And now at the Furies' impulse, they dash forward to the dusty plain, each goaded and inspired by his companion. These guide the reins themselves, and arrange the trappings and the shining arms, and
arma manu mixtisque iubas serpentibus augent. stat consanguineum campo scelus, unius ingens bellum uteri, coeuntque pares sub casside voltus. signa pavent, siluere tubae, stupefactaque Martis cornua; ter nigris avidus regnator ab oris intonuit terque ima soli concussit, et ipsi armorum fugere dei: nusquam inclyta Virtus, restinxit Bellona faces, longeque paventes Mars rapuit currus, et Gorgone cruda virago abstitit, inque vicem Stygiae subiere sorores. prominet excelsis volgus miserabile tectis, cuneta madent lacrimis et ab omni plangitur arce. hinc questi vixisse senes, hinc pectore nudo stant matres parvosque adtendere natos. ipse quoque Ogygios monstra ad gentilia manes Tartareus rector porta iubet ire reclusa. montibus insidunt patriis tristique corona infeceret diem et vinci sua crimina gaudent.

Illos ut stimuli ire in discerim apertis audiit et sceleri nullum iam obstare pudorem, advolat et medias immittit Adrastus habenas, ipse quidem et regnis multum et venerabilis aevo. sed quid apud tales, quis nec sua pignora curae, exter honos? tamen ille rogat: "spectabimus ergo hoc,
Inachidae Tyriique, nefas? ubi iura deique, bella ubi? ne perstate animis. te deprecor, hostis—

1 abstitit ω: obstitit PBNK.
2 subiere Bentley: rubuere P: rediere Schrader.
3 exter honos PNK late mss.: externos ω.
entwine their snakes amid the horses' manes. Set there upon the field is the crime of kindred blood, the dread conflict of one womb, beneath their helms the faces of brothers meet in battle. The banners quake, the trumpets are silent, and the Martian horns are struck dumb; thrice from the regions of gloom thundered their impatient monarch and shook the depths of earth, and even the deities of battle fled; renowned Virtue was nowhere seen, Bellona put out her torches, Mars drove afar his affrighted chariot, and the Maid\(^a\) shrank away with her fierce Gorgon-head, and into their places came the Stygian sisters. The wretched common folk stand high upon the house-tops, no place but is wet with tears, no tower but sounds with lamentations. Here old men complain that they have lived so long, there mothers stand with bosoms bare, and forbid their little ones to view the fray. The king of Tartarus himself orders the gates to be set open, and the Ogygian ghosts to attend their kindred's monstrous deeds. Seated upon their native hills they pollute the day with grisly band, and rejoice that their own crimes should be surpassed.

When Adrastus heard that the princes were rushing to the perilous fight with open taunts, and that shame could no longer hinder the ghastly deed, he hastens to the spot and himself drove between them, himself full-reverend both in monarchy and years. But what could a stranger's influence avail with those who recked not even of their loved ones? Yet he entreats: "Shall we then behold this horror, sons of Inachus and Tyre? In the name of justice and the gods, in the name of war—persist not in your

\(^a\) Pallas.
quamquam, haec ira sinat, nec tu mihi sanguine longe—,
te, gener, et iubeo; sceptri si tanta cupidio est,
exu regales habitus, i, Lernan et Argos
solus habe!" non verba magis suadentia frangunt
accensos, sumptisque semel conatibus obstant,
quam Scytha curvatis erectus fluctibus umquam
Pontus Cyaneos vetuit concurrere montes.
ut perisse preces geminoque ad proelia fusos
pulvere cornipedes explorique furentum
in digitis amenta videt, fugit omnia linquens,
castra, viros, generum, Thebas, ac fata monentem
conversumque iugo propellit Ariona: qualis
demissus curru laevae post praemia sortis
umbrarum custos mundique novissimus heres
palluit, amisso veniens in Tartara caelo.
Non tamen indulsit pugnae cunctataque primo
substitit in scelere et paulum Fortuna morata est.
bis cassae periere viae, bis comminus actos
avertit bonus error equos, puraeque nefandi
sanguinis obliquis ceciderunt icitibus hastae.
tendunt frena manu, saevis calcaribus urgent
immeritos; movet et geminas venerabile divom
prodigium turmas, alternaque murmura volvont
mussantes: iterare acies, procurrere saepe
impetus et totum miseris opponere bellum.
IAMDUDUM TERRIS COETUQUE OFFENSA DEORUM
aversa caeli Pietas in parte sedebat,
non habitu, quo nota prius, non ore sereno,²

1 actos w: ictos P. 2 l. 459 omitted in some mss.

a To prevent the horses from swerving.
b For the translation of this word see note on x. 780. Here it has reference to the ties of natural affection (hence her appeal to Nature), which the brothers are breaking.
fury! Thee, foeman, I beseech—although, did thy rage suffer thee, thou too art not far from me in blood—thee, son-in-law, I command as well; if thy lust of power is so great, I put off this royal robe, go take Lerna and Argos for thyself alone!" But his persuasion no more abates their kindled rage, or checks their once-determined purpose, than did the Scythian Pontus ever stay the Cyanean rocks from clashing, though it rose high with arching waves. When he sees his prayers are fruitless, and the teams galloping in twofold dust to battle, and the frenzied princes feeling their hold on the javelin-strap, he flees away leaving all, camp, army, son-in-law and Thebes, and drives Arion forward, though he turn him in the yoke and give fateful warning: even as the warden of the shades and the third heir of the world, after the lot's unkind apportioning, leapt down from his chariot and grew pale, for he was come to Tartarus and heaven was lost for ever.

Yet would not Fortune suffer the fray, but halted at the opening of the crime, and delayed awhile. Twice were their onslaughts wasted, twice did a kindly mischance divert their charging steeds, and their flung darts fell aside pure of unnatural blood. They strain at the reins, with savage goads they incite their innocent teams; then too an awful prodigy of heaven stirs the armies, and from this side and that roll murmurs through the muttering hosts; often do they burn to renew the fight, to dash forward and to set their whole array in the wretches' path.

Long time, offended alike by earth and the company of the gods, had Piety been sitting in a remote region of the heavens, with unwonted
sed vittis exuta comam, fraternaque bella, 460
ceu soror infelix pugnantum aut anxia mater,
deflebat, saevumque Iovem Parcasque nocentes
vociferans, seseque polis et luce relictā
descensuram Erebo et Stygiōs iam malle penates.
"quid me," ait, "ut saevis animantum ac saepe deorum
obstaturam animis, princeps Natura, creabas?
nil iam ego per populos, nusquam reverentia nostri.
o furor, o homines diraeque Prometheos artes!
quam bene post Pyrrham tellus pontusque vacabant1!
en mortale genus!" dixit, speculatāque tempus 470
auxilio "temptemus," ait, "licet inrita coner."
desiluitque polo, niveus sub nubibus atris2
quamquam maesta deae sequitur vestigia limes.
vix steterat campo, subita mansuescere pace
agmina sentirique nefas; tunc ora madescent 475
pectoraque, et tacitus subrepsit fratribus horror.
arma etiam simulata gerens cultusque viriles,
nunc his, nunc illis "agite, ite, obsistite," clamat,
"quis nati fratresque domi, quis pignora tanta!
hic quoque—nonne palam est ultro miserescere
divos?—
tela cadunt, cunctantur equi, Fors ipsa repugnat."
Nonnihil impulerat dubios, ni torva notasset
Tisiphone fraudes caelestique oior igne
adforet increpitans: "quid belli obverteris ausis,

1 vacabant ω: vocabat P: vacarent DN.
2 atris Schrader: altis Pw.
dress and troubled countenance, and fillets stripped from off her hair: she bewailed the fraternal strife, as though a hapless sister or anxious mother of the fighters, and loudly chiding cruel Jove and the guilty Fates protested she would leave heaven and the light of day, and descend to Erebus, for already she preferred the abodes of Styx. "Why, sovereign Nature, didst thou create me to oppose the passions of living folk and often of the gods? Nought am I any more among men, nowhere am I reverenced. Ah! what fury! alas! mankind, alas! dread Promethean skill! How blessed was the vacancy of earth and sea after Pyrrha's time! Behold the race of mortals!" She spoke, and watching an occasion for her aid: "Let me but try," she cried, "though my attempt be fruitless." Down from the pole she leapt, and beneath the darkened clouds a snow-white track followed the footsteps of the goddess, sad though she was. Scarce had she set foot upon the plain, when a sudden peace stilled the fury of the warriors, and they were conscious of their crime; then tears bedewed faces and breasts, and a silent horror stole upon the brethren. Clad in feigned armour also and manly dress she cries now to these, now to those: "Forward! be moving! withstand them! ye who have sons at home or brothers, or pledges held so dear. Even here—is it not plain, the gods unasked are pitiful?—weapons are falling, steeds wavering, and Chance herself resists."

She had somewhat stirred the doubting lines, had not grim Tisiphone marked her deceit, and swifter than fire from heaven darted to her side, reproaching her: "Why hinderest thou the bold deeds of war, O
numen iners pacique datum? cede, improba: noster hic campus nosterque dies; nunc sera nocentes defendis Thebas. ubi tunc, cum bella cieret Bacchus et armatas furiarent orgia matres? aut ubi segnis eras, dum Martius impia serpens stagna bibit, dum Cadmus arat, dum victa cadit Sphinx,1
dum rogat Oedipoden genitor, dum lampade nostra in thalamos Ioesta venit? ’’ sic urget, et ultro vitantem aspectus etiam pudibundaque longe ora reducentem premit adstridentibus hydris intentatque faces; deiectam in lumina pallam diva trahit magnoque fugit questura Tonanti.
Tunc vero accensae stimulus maioribus irae: arma placent, versaeque volunt spectare cohortes. instaurant crudele nefas; rex impius aptat tela et funestae casum prior occupat hastae. illa viam medium clipei conata per orbem non perfert ictus atque alto vincitur auro.
tunc exsul subit et clare funesta precatur:
“di, quos effosso non inritus ore rogavit Oedipodes flammare nefas, non improba posco3 505 vota: piabo manus et eodem pectora ferro rescindam, dum me moriens hic sceptræ tenentem linquat et hunc seecum portet minor umbra dolorem.”
hasta subit velox equitis femur inter equique ilia, letum utrique volens4; sed plaga sedentis 510 laxato vitata genu, tamen inrita voti

1 dum victa cadit Sphinx ω: dum victa cadit P1: dum semina surgunt P2.
2 flammare late mss., Heinsius: flammate ω.
3 posco ω: poscet P.
4 letum utrique volens ω: lentum utrimque volans P.
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sluggard, peace-devoted deity? Hence, shameless one! this battle-field, this day is mine; too late now defendest thou guilty Thebes. Where wert thou then when Bacchus made war and the orgies drove the matrons to arms and madness? Where wert thou idling, while the snake of Mars drank the unhallowed flood, while Cadmus ploughed, while the Sphinx fell defeated, while Oedipus was questioned by his sire, a while by my torch's light Jocasta was entering the marriage-chamber?" So she upbraids, and threatens her with hissing hydras and brandished torch, as she shrinks from her gaze and far withdraws her shamefast face; down over her eyes the goddess draws her mantle and flees to lay her complaint before the mighty Thunderer.

Then verily are they kindled to yet more fiery wrath; battle pleases, and the armies, changed once more, are willing to look on. They begin anew the savage work: the impious monarch aims his dart, and first dares the fortune of the deadly spear; but striving to find a way through the middle of the shield it strikes not home, but is baffled by the solid gold. Then the exile advances, and utters loud a deadly prayer: "Ye gods, whom blinded Oedipus besought not vainly to blow the blaze of crime, I make no wrongful plea; with this same steel will I atone my deed and rend my breast, so that my rival die and leave me with the sceptre in my grasp, and, my vassal in the shades, take that sorrow with him to the tomb." The swift javelin flies between horseman's thigh and horse's flank, willing death for both, but the blow was foiled by the rider's bent

a When they met at the cross-roads. The serpent of Mars was slain by Cadmus after it had killed some of his men.
cuspis in obliquis invenit volnera costis.
it praeceps sonipes strictae contemptor habenae
arvaque sanguineo scribit rutilantia gyro.
exsultat fratris credens hune ille cruorem:
credit et ipse metu; totis iamque exsul habenis
indulget, caecusque avidos inlidit in aegrum
cornipedem cursus. miscentur frena manusque
telaque, et ad terram turbatis gressibus ambo
praecipitans. ut nocte rates, quas nubilus auster
implicuit, frangunt tonsas mutantque\textsuperscript{1} rudentes,
luctataeque diu tenebris hiemique sibique,
sicut erant, imo pariter sedere profundo:
haec pugnae facies. coeunt sine more, sine arte,
tantum animis iraque, atque ignescentia cernunt
per galeas odia et voltus rimantur acerbo
lumine: nil adeo mediae telluris, et enses
impliciti innexaeque manus, alternaque saevi
murmura eeu lituos rapiunt aut signa tubarum.
fulmineos veluti praeceps cum comminus egit
ira sues strictisque erexit tergora\textsuperscript{2} saetis:
igne tremunt oculi, lunataque dentibus uncis
ora sonant; spectat pugnas de rupe propinqua
venator pallens canibusque silentia suadet:
sic avidi incurrunt; needum letalia miscent
volnera, sed coeptus sanguis, facinusque peractum est.
nec iam opus est Furiis; tantum mirantur et adstant
laudantes, hominumque dolent plus posse furores.
fratris uterque furens cupit adfectatque cruorem
et neseit manare suum; tandem inruit exsul,

\textsuperscript{1} mutantque $P$: nectuntque \textit{Wilkins}:
miscentque \textit{Slater}.
\textsuperscript{2} tergora \textit{Heinsius}: pectora $P\omega$. 

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knee, yet the spear-point baffled of its vow found a wound slantwise in the horse's ribs. Scorning the tightened rein the steed darts headlong away, and traces a bloody curve along the reddened field. The other exults, thinking it his brother's gore, and so thinks he himself in fear; and now the exile shakes free all his rein, and dashes in blind, impetuous onslaught against the wounded charger. Arms, bridles, weapons are all mingled in confusion, both horses lose their footing and are thrown to earth. Even as at night two ships that the cloudy South wind has locked together break oars, entangle ropes, and, struggling with each other and the storm through the long darkness, sink even as they are together to the depths: such was the appearance of the fight. Without skill or fashion, only in wrath and fury they engage, and see through their helms the flames of hate, and search with fiery glance each other's countenance: no interval of ground divides them, swords are entangled, arms interlocked, and they catch the sound of each other's cries like bugle or trumpet-call. As when rage has set lightning-swift boars rushing headlong to the fight, and raised the bristles erect upon their backs, fire quivers in their eyes, and the curved tusks of crescent shape ring loud; from a neighbouring height the anxious hunter watches the fray, and bids his hounds be silent: so bloodthirstily do they attack, nor yet do they deal mortal wounds, but the blood flows, the crime is accomplished. No more need is there of Furies: they only marvel and praise as they watch, and grieve that human rage exceeds their own. Each in furious lust seeks his brother's life-blood, nor knows his own is flowing; at last the exile rushes
hortatusque manum, cui fortior ira nefasque iustius, alte ensem germani in corpore pressit, qua male iam plumis imus tegit inguina thorax. ille dolens nondum, sed ferri frigore primo territus in clipeum turbatos colligit artus; mox intellecto magis ac magis aeger anhelat volnere. nec parcit cedenti atque increpat hostis: "quo retrahis, germane, gradus? hoc languida somno, hoc regnis effeta quies, hoc longa\(^1\) sub umbra imperia! exsilio rebusque exercita egenis 550 membra vides; disce arma pati nec fidere laetis."

Sic pugnant miseri; restabat lassa nefando vita duci summusque crur, poterantque parumper stare gradus; sed sponte ruit fraudemque supremam in media iam morte parat. clamore Cithaeron 555 erigitur, fraterque ratus vicisse levavit ad caelum palmas: "bene habet! non inrita vovi, cerno graves oculos atque ora natantia leto. hoc aliquid propere sceptrum atque insignia comarum, dum videt." haec dicens gressus admovit et arma, ceu templis decus et patriae laturus ovanti, 561 arma etiam spoliare cupid; nondum ille peractis manibus ultrices animam servabat in iras. utque superstantem pronumque in pectora sensit, erigit occulte ferrum vitaque labantis 565 relliquias tenues odio supplevit, et ensem iam laetus fati\(^2\) fraterno in\(^3\) corde reliquit.

1 hoc . . . hoc . . . hoc longa P: o . . . et . . . longaque o.
2 fati PS: fratri o.
3 fraterno in PNSQ2: frater non K1Q1: frater sub BD: gelido sub K2.

\(^a\) "Feathers" was the name given to small pieces of metal arranged scale-wise on the piece of skin or linen forming the basis of the cuirass; cf. Virg. Aen. xi. 770.

\(^b\) i.e., of the onlookers.
in, and calling on his right arm, whose ire is more valiant and which has the greater justice in his crime, drove his sword deep into his kinsman's body, where the corslet's lowest rim now gives with feathers a but ill protection to the groin. The other, not yet in pain, but frightened by the first cold of the steel, withdraws his shaken limbs behind his buckler, but soon more and more conscious of the wound he gasps and labours; nor does his foe spare him as he gives way, but taunts him: "Whither art thou retreating, brother? Behold the somnolent languor, the exhausted sleep of kings! See there long years of sheltered rule! But here thou seest limbs hardened by want and exile! Learn to be schooled in arms, nor trust to fortune!"

So fight the hapless ones; life yet remained, though feeble, in the wicked king, and his last drops of blood, and awhile he could have stayed upright; but purposely he falls, and even in the moment of death devises his last fraud. Cithaeron is startled by a shout, b and his brother thinking he has conquered raises his hands to heaven: "'Tis well, my vow is heard; his eyes are heavy, and his face swims in death. Come, somebody, quick, away with the sceptre and the ornament of his locks, while he yet sees!" So speaking he drew nigh, and would fain also take his arms, as though to bear them to grace the shrines of his victorious land; but the other's life was not yet spent, and he retained still breath enough to wreak his avenging wrath; and when he knew that he was standing over him and stooping to his body, he raises his weapon unperceived and calling up his hatred to strengthen the weak remnants of his failing life, now glad to die, he left the sword
ille autem: "vivisne an adhuc manet ira superstes, perfide, nec sedes unquam meriture quietas? hue mecum ad manes! illie quoque pacta reposeam, si modo Agenorei stat Gnosia iudicis urna, qua reges punire datur." nec plura locutus concidit et totis fratrem gravis obruit armis.

Ite truces animae funestaque Tartara leto polluete et cunctas Erebi consumite poenas! vosque malis hominum, Stygiae, iam pareite, divae: omnibus in terris seelus hoc omnique sub aevo viderit una dies, monstrumque infame futuris excidat, et soli memorent haec proelia reges.

At genitor sceleris comperto fine profundis erupit tenebris, saevoque in limine profert mortem imperfectam: veteri stat sordida tabo utraque canities, et durus sanguine crinis obnubit furiale caput; procul ora genaeque intus et effossae squalent vestigia lucis. virgo autem impositae sustentat pondera laevae, dextra sedet baculo. qualis si puppe relieta exosus manes pigri sulpator Averni exeat ad superos solemque et pallida turbet astra, nec ipse diu fortis patiensque superni aeris; interea longum cessante magistro crescat opus, totisque exspectent saecula ripis: talis init campum, comitique extrema gementi

1 pacta ω: parta P. 2 utraque ω, Priscian: hirtaque Heinsius: atraque, tetraque edd. 3 totisque P: tostisque, solisque, tota atque edd.

a i.e., Minos, who was son of Europa, daughter of Agenor, 432
in his brother's heart. But he: "Livest thou still, and doth thy malice yet survive, thou treacherous one, who wilt never merit an abode of peace? This way with me to the shades! There too will I demand my rights, if but the Gnosian urn of the Agenorean judge still stands, whereby kings may be punished."

No more he spake, but fell, and crushed his brother beneath all his armed weight.

Go, savage souls, and pollute baleful Tartarus by your death, and exhaust all the punishments of Erebus! And O ye Stygian goddesses, spare now the afflictions of mankind; in every land and throughout all ages let one day only have seen so dread a crime; let posterity forget the infamous horror, and kings alone recount that combat.

But the sire, when he knew the horrid deed was over, burst out from his gloom profound, and in the dread gateway displays his living corpse; his grey hair and beard are filthy and matted with ancient gore, and locks congealed with blood veil his fury-haunted head; deep-sunken are his cheeks and eyes, and foul the traces of the sight's uprooting. The maid sustains his left arm that leans its weight upon her; his right is supported by a staff. 'Tis even as though the furrower of sluggish Avernus through loathing of the shades should leave his bark and come up to the world above and affright the sun and the pale stars, though himself unable long to endure the air of heaven; meanwhile the long tale grows as the ferryman dallies, and all along the banks the ages await him: in such wise does he come forth upon the plain, and to his comrade 'mid her utter woe: "Lead

king of Tyre. Gnosus or Cnossus was a city of Crete, where Minos ruled.

ANTIGONE.  

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"duc," ait, "ad natos patremque recentibus, oro, inice funeribus!" cunctatur nescia virgo, quid paret; impediunt iter implicitosque morantur arma, viri, currus, altaque in strage seniles deficiunt gressus et dux miseranda laborat. ut quaesita diu monstravit corpora clamor virginis, insternit totos frigentibus artus. nec vox uilla seni: iacet immugitque cruentis vulneribus, nec verba diu temptata sequuntur. dum tractat galeas atque ora latentia quaerit, tandem muta diu1 genitor suspiria solvit: "tarda meam, pietas, longo post tempore mentem percutis? estne sub hoc hominis clementia corde? vincis io miserum, vincis, Natura, parentem! en habeo gemitus lacrimaeque per arida serpunt volnera et in molles sequitur manus impia planetus. accepite infandae iusta exsequialia mortis, crudeles, nimiumque mei! nec noscere natos adloquiumque aptare licet; die, virgo, precanti, quem teneo? quo nunc vestras ego saevus honore prosequar inferias? o si fodienda redirent lumina et in voltus saevire ex more potestas! heu dolor, heu iusto magis exaudita parentis vota malaeque preces! quisnam fuit ille deorum, qui stetit orantem iuxta praereptaque verba dictavit Fatis? furor illa et movit Erinys et pater et genetrix et regna oculique cadentes; nil ego: per Ditem iuro dulcesque tenebras immeritamque ducem, subeam sic Tartara digna

1 muta diu PDN: multa furens ω.
me," he cries, "to my sons, I pray, and set their father on the new-slain corpses." The maiden hesitates, not knowing what he purposes; arms, men, and chariots block their way, and entangle and delay them, and the old man's steps falter in the high-piled carnage, and his hapless guide hath sore ado. But when the virgin's shriek betrayed the long-sought bodies, he flung his full length on the cold limbs. No word the old man spake: he lies and moans upon their bloody wounds, nor do the long-attempted words follow. At length while he gropes and searches for the faces hidden within their helms the father found utterance for his long-silent grief: "Late after so long time art thou come, affection, to sway my heart? Doth mercy dwell in this human breast? Ah! thou hast conquered, Nature, conquered this unhappy father! Behold, I weep, and my tears steal over these dry wounds, this sinful hand follows with womanly beating of my breast. Receive these fitting obsequies of your unhallowed deaths, O cruel ones, too truly mine! I cannot recognize my sons, nor suit my words—tell me, daughter, I beg, which am I holding? With what honours now can one so cruel as I perform your rites? Oh, if my eyes could be restored for me to rend them! Oh, if I could wreak my rage upon my countenance as once I did! Ah, woe! alas, for a parent's prayers and curses granted too faithfully! What god was it stood by when I prayed, and caught my words and told them to the Fates? 'Twas madness caused those ills, and the Fury, and my father and my mother and my kingdom and my falling eyes—not I! By Dis I swear it, and by the darkness that I loved and this my innocent guide, so may I go to Tartarus by a
morte, nec irata fugiat me Laius umbra.
ei mihi, quos nexus fratrum, quae volnera tracto!
solvite quaeso manus infestaque vincula tandem 625
dividite, et medium nunc saltem admittite patrem.”
talia dequestus paulatim insumpserat iras
mortis, et occulte telum, ni nata vetaret,
quaerebat; sed cauta manu subtraxerat enses
Antigone. furit inde senex: “ubi noxia tela? 630
heu Furiae! num totum abiit in corpora ferrum?”
dicentem comes aegra levat mutumque dolorem
ipsa premit, saevum gaudens planxisse parentem.
Olim autem inceptae clamore exterrita pugnae
regina extulerat notum penetralibus ensem,
ensem sceptriferi spolium lacrimabile Lai.
multaque cum superis et diro questa cubili
et nati furiis et primi coniugis umbris,
luctata est dextra, et prono vix pectore ferrum
intravit tandem: venas perrumpit aniles 640
volnus et infelix lustratur sanguine lectus.
illius exili stridentem in pectore plagam
Ismene conlapsa super lacrimisque comisque
siccabit plangens: qualis Marathonide silva
flebilis Erigone caesi prope funera patris 645
questibus absumptis tristem iam solvere¹ nodum
coeperat et fortes ramos moritura ligabat.
Et iam laeta ducum spes elusisse duorum
res Amphionias alio sceptrumque maligna
transtulerat Fortuna manu, Cadmique tenebat 650

¹ solvere ω: vulnere P, volvere, involvere, iungere edd. 
But Lemaire’s laxare ut se strangularet is clearly right.
worthy death, and Laius' shade not angrily shun my presence! Woe is me, what brotherly embraces are these, what are these wounds I feel? Loose your hands, I entreat, and relax at last these deadly bonds, now at least let your sire come between you." Amid such laments he little by little had become in mood for death, and secretly, lest his daughter should prevent him, sought a weapon; but prudent Antigone had withdrawn their swords from his reach. Then the old man in wrath: "Where are the weapons of death? Alas! ye Furies! has the blade sunk all its length into their bodies?" His feeble comrade lifts him as he speaks, and hides her own mute sorrow, rejoicing that grief has touched her savage sire.

But the queen, terrified by the shout that marked the fight begun, had then brought forth from her chamber the famous sword, the sword that was the lamentable spoil of sceptred Laius. And with much complaining of the gods above and her dire couch and her son's madness and the shade of her first lord she strove with her right hand, yet scarce at length as she leaned forward did the steel make entrance to her breast; the wound rent her aged veins, and the ill-fated couch is purged in blood. As the blade grated upon her skinny bosom Ismene fell upon her and weeping stanched the wound with her hair and tears: as when in the Marathonian glade sorrowful Erigone wept her fill for her slain sire, and already was untying the fatal girdle, and bent on death was fastening it to the sturdy boughs.

And now, rejoicing to have foiled the hopes of both the princes, Fortune with spiteful hand had transferred elsewhere the sceptre of Amphion's realm,
iura Creon. miser heu bellorum terminus! illi
pugnarant fratres. hunc et Mavortia clamant
semina, et impensus patriae paulo ante Menoeceus
conciliat populis. scandit fatale tyrannis
flebilis Aoniae solium: pro blanda potestas et
sceptri malesuadus amor! nunquamne priorum
haerebunt documenta novis? iuvat ecce nefasto
stare loco regimenque manu tractare cruentum!
quid, melior Fortuna, potes? iam flectere patrem
incipit atque datis abolere Menoeceae regnis.
primum adeo saevis imbutus moribus1 aulae
indicium specimenque sui iubet igne supremo
arceri Danaos, nudoque sub axe relinqui
infelix bellum et tristes sine sedibus umbras.
mox reducem Ogygiae congressus limine portae
Oedipodem extimuit paulum, seseque minorem
confessus tacate, promptamque coercuit iram;
zed redit in regem caecumque audentius hostem
inrepitans "procul," inquit, "abi, victoribus omen
invisum, et Furias avertere ac moenia lustra
disseru Thebana tuo! spes longa peraeta est:
vade, iacent nati. quae iam tibi vota supersunt?"
Horrruit instinctu rabido, steteruntque trementes
eeu visu squalore2 genae,3 seniumque recessit.
tune natam baelumque manu dimisit, et irae
innixus tumido vocem de pectore rumpit:
"iamne vacat saevire, Creon? modo perfida regna
fortunaeque locum nostrae, miserande, subisti,

1 imbutus moribus late mss., Barth: imbutum moribus P:
imbutus amoribus ω.
2 squalore P: praesente ω. 3 genae ω: comae P.

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and Creon held the power of Cadmus. Ah, miserable end of war! for him had the brothers fought. Him does the seed of Mars proclaim, and Menoeceus lately offered to save the state endears him to the people. He climbs the throne of distressful Aonia, that brings death to tyrants: ah, flattering power! ill-counselling ambition! Will new rulers ne'er take heed by the examples of the old? Lo! he delights to stand in the accursed spot, and exert a bloody sway. What availest thou, kindlier Fortune? Already he begins to blunt the feelings of a sire, and once upon the throne to wipe Menoeceus from his heart. First, imbued with the savage customs of the palace, as proof and sample of his rule, he bids the Danaans be debarred from funeral fire, and the unhappy host he left under the bare vault, and their sad shades without a resting-place. Next, meeting the returning Oedipus in the entrance of the Ogygian gate, he quailed for a moment, and owned his lesser rank in silence, and checked his ready ire; but soon he resumes the king, and more boldly chiding his blind foe: "Avaunt," he cried, "hateful omen to the conquerors, keep far hence thy Furies, and purify the Theban walls by thy departure! Fulfilled is thy long-enduring hope: go, for thy sons lie dead; what wishes hast thou left?"

A thrill of frenzy shook him, his squalid cheeks stood quivering as though he saw, and his old age fell from him. Then thrusting away his daughter and his staff, sustained by wrath alone, he utters a cry in the indignation of his heart: "Hast thou already time to be cruel, Creon? Camest thou but lately by treachery to my throne and place of rank, miserable wretch, and art so soon permitted to
et tibi iam fas est regum calcare ruinas?
i iam tumulis victos, socios iam moenibus arces?
macte, potes digne Thebarum sceptra tueri.
haec tua prima dies, sed cur nova contrahis amens
iura?
quad anguste tantos metiris honores?
exsilium intendis. timida inclementia regum
ista! ferors avidus quin protinus imbus imenses?
crede, licet, veniat cupidus parere satelles
intrepidusque secet non evitantia colla.
incipe! an exspectas, ut pronus supplice dextra
sternar et immitis domini vestigia quae ram am?
finge autem temptare, sines? mihine ulla minaris
supplicia, aut ullos reris superesse timores?
linquare tecta iubes? caelum terramque reliqui
sponte, atque ultricem crudelis in ora retorsi
non ullo cogente manum: quid tale iubere,
rex inimice, potes? fugio excedoque nefandis
sedibus; an refert, quo funera longa measque
transportem tenebras? ne non gens cuncta precanti
concedat, patriae quantum miser incubo terrae?
sed dulces Thebae. nimirum hic clarior ortus,
et meliora meos permulcent sidera voltus,
hic genetrix natique. habeas Thebana regasque
moenia, quo Cadmus, quo Laius omine rexit
quoque ego; sic thalamos, sic pignora fida capessas,
hec tibi sit virtus fortunam evadere dextra,
sed lucem deprensus ames. satis omina sanxi,
due, age, nata procul. quid te autem luctitibus addo?

*a* Literally "I have hallowed good omens for you enough,"
ironically, of course; for the phrase *cf. l. 344 "vota sanxi."
trample on the ruin of kings? Already dost thou
debar the conquered from burial, our kinsmen from
their city? Well done! thou canst worthily defend
the sceptre of Thebes! This is thy first day of power,
but why dost thou foolishly restrict thy new authority?
Why grudgingly measure out so great an office?
Thou threatenest exile: that is but timorous harsh-
ness in a monarch! Why dost thou not forthwith
imbue thy greedy blade? Thou hast the power,
believe me! some minion would come eager to obey,
and fearlessly sever my unresisting neck. Begin
then! or dost thou expect me to fall prostrate and
with suppliant hand grope for my stern master’s
feet? But did I try, wouldst thou allow me? Canst
thou threaten me with any punishments, or think
that any terrors yet remain for me? Dost thou bid
me leave the palace? Heaven and earth I have
left of my own will, and uncompelled turned my fierce
avenging hand on my own eyes: what canst thou
command to equal that, malicious monarch? I take
my flight, and leave an unhallowed land; what
matters it whither I convey my blindness and my
lingering death? Do I fear lest any people refuse
to grant my prayer for as much of their soil as my
miserable corpse will cover? But Thebes is sweet:
ay, verily, here my birth is more renowned, here
kindlier stars delight my vision, here are my mother
and my sons! Nay, keep thou Thebes and rule it,
with Cadmus’ fortune and Laius’ and mine; in such
wise marry, and beget loyal sons! and lack the
courage to escape by thy own hand the blows of
Fortune, but when thou art in the toils, then hold
life dear. There, ’tis enough of blessings a! come,
daughter, lead me far away; yet why do I make thee
da, rex magne, ducem.” timuit miseranda relinqui Antigone mutatque preces: “felicia per te regna, verende Creon, sanctasque Menoeceos umbras: da veniam afflicto dictisque ignosce superbis. hunc morem fandi longae fecere querellae; nec soli ferus iste tibi: sic fata deosque adloquitur, durus luctu, facilisque nec ipsi saepe mihi; pridem indomito sub pectore vivit libertas misera et saevae spes aspera mortis. et nunc ecce tuas inritat callidus iras suppliciumque cupit; sed tu maioribus, oro, imperii potiare bonis, altusque iacentes praetereas, et magna ducum vereare priorum funera. et hic quondam solio sublimis et armis saeptus opem miseris et iura, potentibus¹ aequus supplicibusque, dabant, cui nunc ex agmine tanto una comes, necdum exsul erat. felicibus hicne obstat? in hunc odiis et regni viribus exis, hunc abigis tectis? an ne prope limina clarum ingemat et votis intempestivus obverteret? pone metum, procul usque tua submotus ab aula flebit; ego erectum subigam et servire docebo, coetibus abducam solaque in sede recondam. exsul erit. nam quae migranti externa patebunt moenia? vis Argos eat hostilesque Mycenas squalidus inreptet, victique ad limen Adrasti Aonias referat clades, tenuemque precetur

¹ potentibus PBDNS: petentibus KQ.
share my sorrows? Give me a guide, great sovereign!" Hapless Antigone fears to be left behind, and pleads in different wise: "By thy heaven-blest throne, revered Creon, and Menoeceus' sacred shade, pardon him in his affliction, forgive his proud words. Long grievance hath given him this style of speech; nor is he thus harsh to thee alone, even so addresses he the gods and Fate; his distress hath hardened him, even to me he is often discourteous; in his untameable heart there long hath dwelt a stifled freedom and a savage longing for pitiless death. And now behold in his cunning he rouses up thy anger and desires thee to punish him; but do thou, I pray, enjoy the greater blessings of thy realm, and in thy lofty state o'erlook the fallen, and have reverence for the mighty ruins of former kings. He too was once lifted high upon a throne and hedged with arms, and, impartial alike to great and humble, gave succour and justice to the wretched—who now has but one companion maid out of all his armies; not yet did he know exile. Can he oppose thy happiness? Dost thou proceed against him with hatred and thy kingdom's might? Dost thou drive him from thy house? Is it lest he groan too loudly at thy gate and meet thee with importunate prayers? Fear not that: far removed from thy hall will he lament; I will subdue his proud spirit and teach him submission. I will take him from the gatherings of men and hide him in a place of solitude. An outlaw will he be; for e'en should he wander, what foreign walls will open to him? Wouldst thou have him go to Argos and crawl a beggar into hostile Mycenae, or tell of the slaughter of the Aonians at the gate of conquered Adrastus, and entreat some scrap of succour
rex Thebanus opem? miserae quid crimina gentis pandere, quid casus iuvat ostentare pudendos? 735
conde, precor, quodcumque sumus, nec longa precamur dona, Creon: miserere senis, maestosque parentis hic, precor, hic manes indulge ponere: certe Thebanos sepelire licet.” sic orat humique volvitur; abducit genitor saevumque minatur 740
indignans veniam. qualis leo rupe sub alta, quem viridem quondam silvae montesque tremebant, iam piger et longo iacet exarmatus ab aeo, magna tamen facies et non adeunda senectus; et si demissas veniat mugitus ad aures, 745
erigitur meminitque sui, viresque solutas ingemit et campis alios regnare leones.

Flectitur adfatu, sed non tamen omnia rector supplicis indulget lacrimis partemque recidit 749
adsensu limen tumidus regale petebat.

Interea pulsi vallum exitiale Pelasgi destituunt furto; nulli sua signa suusque ductor: cuncta taciti passim et pro funere pulchro dedecom ampliexi vitam reditusque pudendos. 760
nox favet et grata profugos amplectitur umbra.

1 silvae montesque ℏ: -que amnesque PBQUK.
2 solutas PBDN2Q, D (with peractas written over): peractas KNS.
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for a Theban king? Doth it please thee that he should recount the crimes of our unhappy race, and shew forth all his shameful plight? Conceal us, I pray, whate’er we are—no lengthy boon, O Creon: pity his old age, and grant me here, ay, here, I beg, to lay to rest my sire’s unhappy spirit. Surely Thebans may have burial!” So prays she, prostrate on the ground; her father leads her away, with angry words and scorning pardon. Even as a lion, whom once in his youth the woods and mountains trembled at, now lies sluggish beneath a lofty rock and disarmed by length of years: yet even in age is he terrible of aspect and not to be approached, and should the noise of lowing come to his languid ears, he springs up and remembers himself, and groans that his strength is broken, and that other lions lord it upon the plains.

The monarch is moved by her plea, yet grants not everything to the suppliant’s tears, but cuts short a part of his bounty. “Thou shalt not,” he cries, “be kept far from the boundaries of thy land, so be it thou defile not with thy presence its sacred shrines and homes. Let the wilds of thy Cithacron hold thee; and lo! this land is a fit dwelling for thy darkness, where the fight was fought and two races lie in blood.” So he speaks, and in haughty pride, amid the feigned applauding of his train and the weeping folk, sought the palace gate.

Meanwhile the routed Pelasgians steal away from their fatal camp; none has his own ensigns or chief to follow; silently in scattered rout they go, and instead of a glorious death they cherish dishonoured life and a shameful home-coming. Night favours the fugitives and shrouds them in welcome gloom.
Nondum cuncta polo vigil inclinaverat astra ortus et instantem cornu tenuiore videbat Luna diem, trepidas ubi iam Tithonia nubes diseuit ac reduci magnum parat aethera Phoebō: agmina iam raris Dirceae penetrationes errant, noctis questa moras; quamvis tunc otia tandem et primus post bella sopor, tamen aegra quietem pax fugat et saevi meminit victoria belli. vix primo proferre gradum et munimina valli solvere, vix totas reserare audacia portas; stant veteres ante ora metus campique vacantis horror: ut adsiduo iactatis aequore tellus prima labat, sic attoniti nil comminus ire miraturt fusasque putant adsurgere turmas. sic ubi perspiciuae scendantem limina turris Idaliae volucres fulvum aspexere draconem, intus agunt natos et feta cubilia vallant unguibus imbellesque citant ad proelia pinnas; mox ruerit licet ille retro, tamen aera nudum candida turba timet, tandemque ingressa volatus horret et a mediis etiamnum respicit astris. Itur in exsanguem populum bellique iacentis

\(a\) The Dawn (Aurora), husband of Tithonus.

\(b\) Doves, sacred to Venus.
BOOK XII

Not yet had the wakeful dawn put all the stars to flight from heaven, and the moon was beholding the approach of day with fading horn, what time Tithonia scatter the clouds in hurrying rout, and prepares the wide firmament for the return of Phoebus: already Dircean bands stray forth from their scanty dwellings, complaining of the tardy night; although not till then had they rested, or gained their first sleep after battle, yet a troubled peace forbids repose, and victory still remembers the horrors of war. Scarce at first dare they to step forth and destroy the rampart works, scarce wholly to unbar the gates; the old fears rise before them, and the dread of the deserted plain: just as to men long tossed on ocean earth heaves at first, so are they spellbound and amazed that nought assails them, and fancy that the slain hosts rise up again. So when Idalian birds have seen a tawny snake climbing the threshold of a conspicuous tower, they drive their little ones within and wall the nestling brood behind their talons, and stir their unwarlike wings to battle; and though he soon retreat, yet the white flock fears the empty air, and when at last they venture flight they thrill with terror and still look back from the mid-vault of heaven.

Forth they go to the bloodless multitude and the
relliquias, quacumque dolor luctusque cruenti
exegere duces ; hi tela, hi corpora, at illi
caesorum tantum ora vident alienaque iuxta
pectora ; pars currus deflent viduisque loquuntur,
hoe solum quia restat, equis ; pars oscula figunt
vulneribus magnis et de virtute queruntur.
frigida digeritur strages : patuere recisae
cum capulis hastisque manus mediisque sagittae
luminibus stantes ; multis vestigia caedis
nulla, ruunt planctu pendente et ubique parato.
at circums informes trunco miserabile surgit
certamen, qui iusta ferant, qui funera ducant.
saepe etiam hostiles—lusit Fortuna parumper—
decepti flevere viros ; nec certa facultas
noscere, quem miseri vitent calcentve cruorem.
at quibus est inlaesa domus vacuique doloris,
aut deserta vagi Danaum tentoria lustrant
inmittuntque faces, aut—quae post bella facultas—
quae, dispersus iacet quo pulvere Tydeus,
an rapti pateat specus auguris, aut ubi divum
hostis, an aetheriae vivent per membra favillae.
iam lacrimis exempta dies, nec serus abegit
Vesper : amant miseri lamenta malisque fruuntur.
nec subiere domos, sed circum funera pernox
turba sedet, vicibusque datis alterna gementes
igne feras planctuque fugant ; nec dulceibus astris
victa, nec adsiduo coierunt lumina fletu.
tertius Aurorae pugnabat Lucifer, et iam
montibus orbatis, lucorum gloria, magnae

1 quacumque PD late mss. : quae quemque ω.
2 doloris Gronovius (sc. et qui) : dolores Pω: dolore
Heinsius.
3 facultas PDN : voluptas ω.
remnants of the fallen host, wherever grief and indignation, blood-stained guides, impel them; some behold the weapons, some the bodies, others but the faces of the slain, with strangers' limbs near by; some mourn their chariots, and address—all they can do—the widowed steeds; others imprint kisses on gaping wounds, and bewail the valour of the dead. They sort out the cold heaps of slain: severed hands appear with lances and sword-hilts in their grip, and arrows fixed in eyes; many find no traces of their dead, and rush about, with grief ever ready and on the verge. But around the unsightly corpses a pitiable strife arises, who shall perform the rites and make their funeral. Often too were they deceived—Fortune mocking them awhile—and wept for foesmen; nor was it easy to tell what carnage to avoid and what to trample. But those whose homes have suffered not, and who are spared all anguish, either stray around the deserted tents of the Danaans and set them afire, or—so far as they can after battle—search where lies the dust-bespattered Tydeus, whether the chasm of the ravished augur still be gaping, where is the enemy of the gods, and whether the heavenly embers still glow among his limbs. Already the daylight faded upon their tears, nor did late Vesper drive them away; in their misery they love their lamentation and feast upon their sorrow. Nor return they to their homes, but sit all night about the corpses, and bewailing them by turns ward off the beasts by fires and sounds of woe; nor did their eyes close yielding to the sweet influence of the stars, nor through constant weeping. For the third time Aurora strove with the Morning Star, and already the mountains are despoiled, and mighty trunks of

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Teumesi venere trabes et amica Cithaeron
silva rogis; ardent excisae viscera gentis
molibus exstructis: suprremo munere gaudent
Ogygii manes; queritur miserabile Graium
nuda cohors vetitumque gemens circumvolat ignem.
accipit et saevi manes Eteocelis iniquos
haudquaquam regalis honos, Argivus haberii
frater iussus adhuc atque exsul\(^1\) pellitum umbra.

At non plebeio fumare Menoeceaa busto
rex genitor Thebaeque sinunt, nec robora vilem
struxerunt de more rogum; sed bellicos agger
curribus et clipeis Graiorumque omnibus armis
sternitur; hostiles super ipse, ut victor, acervos,
pacifera lauro crinem vittisque decorus
accubat: haud aliter, quam cum poscentibus arius
laetus in accensa iacuit Tirynthius Oeta.
spirantes super inferias captiva Pelasgum
corpora frenatosque pater, solacia forti\(^2\)
bellorum, maectabat equos; his arduus ignis
palpitat, et gemitus tandem erupere paterni:
"o nisi magnanimae nimius te laudis inisset
ardor, Echionios mecum venerande penates
atque ultra recture puer, venientia qui nunca
gaudia et ingratum regni mihi munus acerbas!
tu superum convexus licet coetusque perenni—
credo equidem—virtute colas, mihi flebile semper
numen eris: ponant aras excelsaque Thebae
templa dicent; uni fas sit lugere parenti.
et nunc heu quae digna tibi sollemnia quasve
largiar exsequias? nec si fatale potestas

\(^1\) exsul a Heidelberg commentator: exsule \(P\omega\).
\(^2\) forti \(PBDQ1\): fortes \(KQS\): fortis \(N\): sorti \(late mss\).
Teumesus, the glory of the groves, and the timber of Cithaeron, friend of the funeral pyre, is come; on high-wrought piles blaze the bodies of the ruined race: the Ogygian ghosts rejoice at the last tribute; but the unburied troop of Greeks raise pitiable lament, and moaning flit about the forbidden fires. Nor does the cruel spirit of fierce Eteocles receive the honours of a prince; his brother by command is held an Argive still, and his outlawed shade is driven away.

But Menoeceus is not suffered by Thebes or the king his father to burn upon a vulgar pyre, no heap of logs forms a common, customary mound, but a warlike pile of chariots and shields and all the weapons of the Greeks is raised; on the massed trophies of the foe he himself like a conqueror is laid, his locks adorned with peace-bringing laurel and woollen fillets: just as when the Tirynthian, summoned by the stars, laid him down with joy on kindled Óeta. Thereon did his sire sacrifice yet living victims, Pelasgian captives and bridled steeds, a solace to his warlike valour; upon them the towering flames quiver, and at last his father's groans burst forth: "Ah! had not overmastering desire of noble praise possessed thee, my son, thou hadst been revered alike with me, ay, even ruled Echion's city, but now thou embitterest my coming joys and the ungrateful burden of a realm. Though thy unfailing virtue dwell in heaven amid the companies of the gods—as I verily believe—yet, I shall ever mourn thee, deity as thou art: let Thebes build altars and dedicate lofty fanes; suffer thy sire alone to lament thee. And now, alas, what worthy rites, what funeral pomp can I lavish on thy tomb?"
STATIUS

Argos et impulsas cineri miscere Mycenas, meque super, cui vita—nefas!—et sanguine nati partus honos. eademne dies, eadim impia bella te, puer, et diros misere in Tartara fratres? et nunc Oedipodi par est fortuna doloris ac mihi? quam similes geminus, bone Iuppiter, umbras!

accipe, nate, tui nova libamenta triumphi, accipe et hoc regimen dextrae frontisque superbae vincula, quae patri minimum laetanda\(^1\) dedisti. regem te, regem tristes Eteocleos umbrae aspicient." simul haec dicens crinemque manumque destruit, accensaque iterat violentius ira:

"saevum agedum immitemque vocent, si funera Lernae
tecum ardere veto; longos utinam addere sensus corporibus caeloque animas Ereboque nocentes pellere fas, ipsumque feras, ipsum unca volucrum ora sequi atque artus regum\(^2\) monstrare nefandos! ei mihi, quod positos humus alma diesque resolvet. quare iterum repetens iterumque edico: suprema ne quis ope et flammis ausit iuvisse Pelasgos; aut nece facta luet numeroque explebit adempta corpora; per superos magnumque Menoecea iuro." dixit, et abreptum comites in tecta ferebant.

Flebilis interea vacuis comitatus ab Argis— fama trahit miserar—orbae viduaeque ruebant Inachides ceu capta manus; sua volnera cuique,

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\(^1\) minimum laetanda \(P\): nimium gestanda \(\omega\).
\(^2\) regum \(\omega\): ferrum \(P\): Garrod conj. fratrum . . . vorandos.
could not, even had I power to mingle baneful Argos
and stricken Mycenae with thy ashes, and fling my-
self upon them, who have gained life—ah! horror!
—and royal state by the blood of my son! Hath
one day, one same unhallowed war sent thee, boy,
and those dread brothers to Tartarus together?
Are Oedipus now and I in equal plight of sorrow?
Like indeed are the shades we mourn, O righteous
Jove! Receive, my son, new offerings to grace thy
triumph, receive this ruling sceptre of my right hand
and this haughty crown that binds my brow, thy gifts
unto thy sire—small joy indeed to him! As king,
ay, king let the sullen shade of Eteocles behold
thee!’” So speaking he strips head and hand, and
with wrath inflamed continues in more violent
strain: “Come then, let them call me fierce and
heartless, if I forbid the Lernaean dead to burn with
thee; would I could put lingering life within their
bodies and drive their guilty souls from heaven and
Erebus, and myself, ay myself go search for wild
beasts and birds with hooked mouths, and show them
the accursed limbs of the princes! Woe is me, that
the kindly earth and the lapse of time will resolve
them where they lie! Wherefore again and again
I repeat my stern decree: let none venture to give
the aid of final fire to the Pelasgians, or he will atone
his deed by death, and fill up the tale of corpses: by
the gods above and by great Menoeceus I swear it!”
He spoke, and his companions dragged him away and
bore him to the palace.

Meanwhile a sorrowful band of Inachian women,
widowed and bereaved—drawn, hapless ones, by
the sad tidings—were hastening, like a captive
throng, from desolated Argos; each had her own
par habitus cunctis, deiecti in pectora crines
accinetique sinus; manant lacera ora cruentis
unguibus, et molles planctu crevere lacerti.

prima per attonitas nigrae regina catervae,
tristibus inlabens famulis iterumque resurgens,
quae rite inops Argia vias; non regia cordi,
non pater: una fides, unum Polynicis amati
nomen in ore sedet; Dirce infaustaque Cadmi
moenia posthabitis velit incoluisse Mycenis.
proxima Lernaeo Calydonidas agmine mixtas
Tydeos exsequiis trahit haud cessura sorori
Deipyle; seculus illa quidem morsusque profanos
audierat miseranda viri, sed cuncta iacenti
infelix ignoscit amore. post aspera visu,
aec deflenda tamen, digno plangore Neale
Hippomedonta ciens. vatis mox impia coniunx
heu vacuos positura rogos. postrema gementum
agmina Maenaliae ducit comes orba Dianae,
et gravis Euadne: dolet haec queriturque labores
audacis pueri, magni memor illa mariti
it torvum lacrimans summisque irascitur astris.
illas et lucis Hecate speculata Lycaeis
prosequitur gemitu, duplexque ad litus euntes
planxit ab Isthmiaco genetrix Thebana sepulcro,
noctivagumque gregem, quamvis sibi luget, Eleusin
flevit et arcanos errantibus extulit ignes.
ipsa per aversos ducit Saturnia calles
occultatque vias, ne plebs congressa suorum

a Statius seems to mean Demeter here, though "Eleusin" in vii. 411 above means the town of Eleusis.
b Juno.
wounds, all were in similar plight, with hair hanging down upon their bosoms and high-girt raiment; their faces torn by their cruel nails were streaming; their tender arms were swollen with beating. First of her stricken sisters, helpless Argia, queen of the sable-clad company, seeks her path, sinking upon her sorrowing maidens and anon struggling to her feet; no thought has she of her sire or royal home; one devotion fills her heart, one name, that of her beloved Polynices, is on her lips; she would fain forget Mycenae and make Dirce and Cadmus’ ill-starred city her abode. Next Deipyle, as eager as her sister, brings Calydonian women mingling with the train of Lerna to Tydeus’ obsequies; she had heard, unhappy one! of her husband’s crime and impious gnawing, but love in affliction forgives the slain one all. After her Nealce, wild of aspect, yet rousing tearful compassion, bewails Hippomedon with the grief that is his due. Then comes the seer’s unrighteous spouse, doomed alas! to build an empty pyre. The bereft comrade of Maenalian Diana leads the rearmost companies of the mourners, and Evadne, bitter at heart: the one in querulous sorrow for the exploits of her daring boy, the other mindful of her mighty lord goes fiercely weeping and in wrath against high heaven. Hecate beheld them from her Lycean groves and bore them tearful company, and as they approached the double shore the Theban mother lamented from her Isthmian tomb; the Eleusinian, though sorrowing for herself, wept for the night-wandering multitude, and showed her mystic fires to guide their errant course. The Saturnian herself leads them through hidden paths and conceals their going, lest her own folk should
ire vetet pereatque ingentis gloria coepti.
nec non functa ducum refovendi corpora curam
Iris habet, putresque arcanis roribus artus
ambrosiaeque rigat sucis, ut longius obstent
exspectentque rogum et flammas non ante fatiscent.

Squalidus ecce genas et inani vulnere pallens
Ornytus—hic socio desertus ab agmine, tardat
plaga recens—timido secreta per avia furto
deble carpit iter fractaeque innititur hastae.
isque ubi mota novo stupuit loca sola tumultu
féminæmque gregem, quae iam super agmina Lernae
sola videt, non ille viam causasve requirit,
quippe patent, maesto sed sic prior occupat ore:

"quo, miserae, quo fertis iter? funusne peremptis
speratis cineremque viris? stat pervigil illie
umbrarum custos inhumataque corpora regi
adnumerat. nusquam lacrimae, proeul usque fugati
accessus hominum: solis avibusque ferisque
ire licet. vestrisne Creon dabit aequus honorem
luctibus? immitis citius Busiridos aras
Odrysiique famem stabuli Siculosque licebit
exorare deos; rapiet fortasse precantes,
si mens nota mihi, nec coniugialia supra
funera, sed caris longe mactabit ab umbris.

quin fugitis, dum tuta via est, Lernamque reversae
nomina, quod superest, vacuis datis orba sepuleris
absentesque animas ad inania busta vocatis?
aut vos Cecropiam—prope namque et Thesea fama est

a Busiris, king of Egypt, sacrificed strangers to the gods,
till slain by Hercules; the Odrysian (Thracian) horses of
Diomede ate human flesh; the Sirens, who ate unwary
seamen, were supposed to have lived on the coast of Sicily
(cf. Silv. ii. 1. 10).
meet them and forbid them passage, and the glory of their great enterprise be lost. Moreover, Iris is bidden cherish the dead bodies of the princes, and laves their decaying limbs with mysterious dews and ambrosial juices, that they may resist the longer and await the pyre, nor perish before the flames have seized them.

Lo! Ornytus, haggard of face and pale from a gaping wound—he had lost his friends and was hampered by a recent blow—feebly picks his way in timid stealth through pathless deserts, leaning upon a broken spear. When in amaze he beheld the solitudes stirred by strange tumult and the train of women, all that he sees surviving of the host of Lerna, he inquires not of their journey or its cause—'tis clear enough—but in mournful accents thus accosts them: "Whither, hapless ones, whither are ye journeying? Do ye hope for funeral fires for your dead heroes? A sentinel of the slain stands there unsleeping, and keeps count of the unburied corpses for the king. Tears are there nowhere, all men that venture nigh are driven far away; only beasts and birds are suffered to approach. Will the just Creon pay respect to your grief? Sooner may one prevail upon the merciless altars of Busiris or the ravening Odrysian stall or the Sicilian deities; perchance he will carry off the suppliants, if I know his mind, nor will he slay you upon the bodies of your lords, but far from the spirits ye love. Nay, flee, while your road is safe, return to Lerna and carve—this ye yet can do—the names of your lost ones on empty sepulchres, and call the absent ghosts to untenanted tombs. Or implore Cecropian succour—they say that Theseus draws nigh, returning in
STATIUS

Thermodontiaco laetum remeare triumpho—imploratis opem? bello cogendus et armis in mores hominemque Creon.” sic fatus, at illis horruerunt lacrimeae, stupuitque immanis eundi impetus, atque uno voltus pallore gelati.\(^1\) non secus adflavit molles si quando iuveneas tigidis Hyrcaneae ieiunum murmur, et ipse auditu turbatus ager, timor omnibus ingens, quae placeat, quos illa fames escendat in armos.

Continuo discors vario sententia motu scinditur: his Thebas tumidumque ambire Creonta, his placet Actaeae si quid clementia gentis adnuat; extremum curarum ac turpe reverti. hic non feminineae subitum virtutis amorem colligit Argia, sexuque immane relict tractat opus: placet—egregii spes dura perici!—comminus infandi leges accedere regni, quo Rhodopes non ulla nurus nec alumna nivosi Phasidis innuptis vallata cohortibus iret.

tune movet arte dolum, quo semet ab agmine fido degreget, immitesque deos regemque eruentum contemptrix animae et magno temeraria luctu provocet; hortantur pietas ignesque pudici.

ipse etiam ante oculos omni manifestus in actu, nunc hospes miserae, primas nunc sponsus ad aras, nunc mitis coniunx, nunc iam sub casside torva maestus in amplexi multumque a limine summo respiciens: sed nulla animo versatur imago crebrior, Aonii quam quae de sanguine campi

\(^1\) gelati PBQ: notati D (gelati written over) B marg. K.

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\(^a\) *i.e.*, over the Amazons.

\(^b\) “illa fames,” that hunger, *i.e.* hungry beast; cf. “timor,” vii. 746.

\(^c\) *i.e.*, no Amazon and no Medea.
triumph from victory on Thermodon's banks. By force of arms alone will Creon learn humanity." So he spoke, but they were horrified amid their tears, and their great zest of going was struck with dismay, and all their faces were frozen in one pallor. Even so when the hungry roar of a Hyrcanian tigress comes wafted on the wind to gentle heifers, at the sound terror seizes the countryside, and all are filled with mighty fear, which shall please her, whose shoulders shall feel the ravening beast upon them.

Straightway opinion is divided by many a discordant impulse: some wish to supplicate Thebes and haughty Creon, others to see if the clemency of the Attic folk will grant them aught; return seems cowardly and is last in their thoughts. Hereupon Argia conceives a sudden passion for more than womanly valour, and neglecting her sex designs a mighty emprise: she purposes—cruel expectation of unequalled peril!—to come to grips with the law of the impious realm, whither no maid of Rhodope, no child of snowy Phasis ringed round by virgin cohorts would go. Then she devises a cunning ruse whereby to separate herself from her faithful train, and in contempt of her life and in the rashness of overpowering grief to challenge the merciless gods and the cruel king; devotion and chaste passion urge her on. He himself too appears before her eyes, manifest in every act, now as her guest, unhappy girl! now pledging his hand at the first holy rites, now her kindly spouse, and now grimly helmed and mournful in her embrace and oft looking back from the outer threshold of the gate: but no image more frequently haunts her mind than that which comes, stripped of its armour, from the blood of the
nuda venit poscitque rogos. his anxia mentem aegrescit furiis et, qui castissimus ar dor, funus amat; tunc ad comites conversa Pelasgas: 195 "vos," ait, "Actaeas acies Marathoniaque arma elicite, adspiretque pio Fortuna labori: me sinite Ogygias, tantae quae sola ruinae causa fui, penetrare domos et fulmina regni prima pati; nee surda ferae pulsabimus urbis limina: sunt illic soceri mihi suntque sorores coniugis, et Thebas haud ignoranda subibo. ne tantum revocate gradus: illo impetus ing ens auguriumque animi." necplura, unumque Menoeten— olim hic virginei custos monitorque pudoris— eligit et, quamquam rudis atque ignara locorum, praceipites gressus, qua venerat Ornytus, aufert. atque ubi visa procul socias liquisse malorum, "anne," ait, "hostiles ego te tabente1 per agros— heu dolor!—exspectem, quaenam sententia lenti Theseos? an bello proceres, an dexter haruspex 200 adn lat? interea funus decrescit. et uncis alitibus non hos potius supponimus artus? et nunc me duram, si quis tibi sensus ad umbras, me tardam Stygiis quereris, fidissime, divis. 205 heu si nudus adhuc, heu si iam forte sepultus: nostrum utrumque nefas; adeo vis nulla dolenti, Mors nusquam saevus2 Creon? hortaris euntem, Ornyte!" sic dicens magno Megareia praeceps arva rapit passu, demonstrat proxima quisque 210

1 tabente P: labente ω.
2 saevusve Kohlmann: saevusne P: saevusque ω.

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*a* Marathon is a village of Attica; the epithet probably has reference to Theseus, who performed an exploit there.
Aonian battle-field and cries for burial. Her soul fretted with such frenzy she sickens, and with purest passion woos the grave; then, turning to her Pelasgian comrades, "Do you," she says, "call forth the Attic hosts and Marathonian arms, and may Fortune favour your devoted toil: suffer me to penetrate the Ogygian abodes, who was the sole cause of ruin, and endure the first terrors of the monarch; nor shall I beat at the city's doors in vain; the parents and the sisters of my lord are there: not as a stranger shall I enter Thebes. Only call me not back: my keen desire urges me thither, and gives me good omen." Without more words she selects Menoetes alone—once the guardian and counsellor of her maiden modesty—and though without experience or knowledge of the country, hurries on with headlong speed by the way that Ornytus had come. And when she seemed to have left afar the comrades of her woes, "Could I wait," she cried, "for the pleasure of tardy Theseus, while thou—ah, sorrow!—art mouldering on the enemy's fields? Would his chieftains, would his cunning soothsayer assent to war? Meanwhile thy body doth decay. Rather than that shall I not give my own limbs for the taloned birds to tear? Even now, if thou hast any feeling in the world of shades, thou art complaining, faithful spouse, to the deities of Styx that I am hard-hearted, that I am slow in coming. Alas! if thou still art bare, alas! if perchance already buried: mine is the crime in either case; hath sorrow then no power? Is death, or fierce Creon, all a dream? Ornytus, thou dost cheer me on my way!" So speaking, she hastens with rapid pace over the fields of Megara; folk that she meets point out her path,
obvius horrescitque habitus miseramque veretur. 
vadit atrox visu, nil corde nec aure\(^1\) pavescens, 
et nimiiis confisa\(^2\) malis propiorque timeri: 
nocte velut Phrygia cum lamentata resultant 
Dindyma, pinigeri rapitur Simoentis ad amnem 
dux vesana chori, cuius dea sanguine lecto 
ipsa dedit ferrum et vittata fronde notavit.

Iam pater Hesperio flagrantem gurgite currum 
abdiderat Titan, aliis rediturus ab undis, 
cum tamen illa gravem luctu fallente laborem 
nescit abisse diem: nec caligantibus arvis 
terretur, nec\(^3\) frangit iter et invia saxa 
lapsurasque trabes nemorumque arcana, sereno 
nigra die, caecisque incisa novalia fossis, 
per fluvios secura vadi somnosque ferarum 
praeter et horrendis infesta cubilia monstris. 
tantum animi luctusque valent! pudet ire Menoeten 
tardius, invalidaeque gradum miratur alumnae. 
quas non illa domos pecudumque hominumque 
molesto\(^4\) 
pulsavit gemitu! quotiens amissus eunti 
limes, et errantem comitis solacia flammae 
destituunt gelidaequa facem vicere tenebrae!
imque supinantur fessis lateque fatiscent 
Penthei de vexa iugi, cum pectore anhelo 
im prope deficiens sie incipit orsa Menoetes:

"haud procul, exacti si spes non blanda laboris,

\(^{1}\) aure \(P\omega: \text{ore Lachmann.}\) 
\(^{2}\) confisa \(\omega: \text{confixa } P (Klotz \text{ cf. ii. 572}).\) 
\(^{3}\) nec \(P\omega: \text{Garrod conj. sed; frangere } here=to \text{ break off, to check.}\) 
\(^{4}\) molesto \(Heinsius: \text{modesto } P\omega.\) 

\(^a\) The votaries of Cybele cut themselves with knives in honour of the goddess.
awe-struck at her miserable plight. With grim countenance she strides onward, terrified by no sound without or panic within, with all the confidence of utter despair, and rather feared than fearing: as when upon a night in Phrygia Dindymus resounds with wailing, and the crazy leader of the women's revel speeds to the waters of pine-rearing Simois—she to whom the goddess herself gave the knife, selecting her for bloodshed, and marked her with the wool-bound wreath.²

Already had father Titan hidden his flaming chariot in the Hesperian flood, to emerge again from other waves, yet she, her weary toil beguiled by grief, knows not that the day is ended; nor does the gathering gloom of the fields affray her, but unchecked she fares o'er pathless rocks, past boughs that threaten to fall, through mysterious forests, pitch-dark even in cloudless day, over plough-lands scarred with hidden dykes, plunging heedless through rivers, past sleeping beasts and dangerous lairs of fearful monsters. So great is the strength of passion and of grief! Menoetes is ashamed of his slower pace, and marvels at the gait of his frail ward. What abodes of beasts or men echoed not to her grievous plaint? How often did she lose the track as she went, how often did the solace of the companion flame desert her straying steps, and the cold darkness swallow up the torchlight? And now the slopes of Pentheus' ridge⁵ lie beside their weary path, and broaden into plain, when Menoetes nigh failing and with panting breast thus begins to speak: "Not far away, Argia, if the hope inspired by the toils

² i.e., the slopes of Cithaeron; cf. "Tibur supinum," Hor. C. iii. 4. 23.
Ogygias, Argia, domos et egena sepulcri busta iacere reor; grave comminus aestuat aer sordidus, et magnae redeunt per inane volucres. haec illa est crudelis humus, nec moenia longe. 250 cernis, ut ingentes murorum porrigat umbras campus, et e speculis mortis intermicet ignis? moenia sunt iuxta; modo nox magis ipsa tacebat, solaque nigrantes laxabant astra tenebras.”
horrruit Argia, dextramque ad moenia tendens: 255 “urbs optata prius, nunc tecta hostilia Thebae, et tamen, inlaesas si reddis coniugis umbras, sic quoque dulce solum, cernis, quo praedita cultu, qua stipata manu, iuxta tua limina primum 259 Oedipodis magni venio nurus? improba non sunt vota: rogos hospes planetumque et funera posco. illum, oro, extorrem regni belloque fugatum, illum, quem solio non es dignata paterno, redde mihi! tuque, oro, veni, si manibus ulla effigies errantque animae post membra solutae,1 265 tu mihi pande vias, tuaque ipse ad funera deduc, si merui!” dixit, tectumque adgressa propinquae pastorale casae reficit spiramina fessi ignis, et horrendos inrumpit turbida campos. qualis ab Aetnais accensa lampade saxis 270 orba Ceres magnae variabat imagine flammae Ausonium Siculumque latus, vestigia nigri raptoris vastosque legens in pulvere sulcos; illius insanis ululatibus ipse remugit

1 solutae Pw: soluta Baehrens: Garrod conj. prope m. solutae.

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a One of the Giants, imprisoned by Jupiter under Aetna.
we have endured deceive not, lie, methinks, the Ogygian dwellings and the bodies that lack sepulture; from close at hand come waves of heavily-tainted air, and mighty birds are returning through the void. 'Tis indeed that cruel battle-field, nor is the city far distant. Seest thou how the plain outstretches the vast shadow of the walls, and how the dying fires flicker from the watch-towers? The city is hard by; night herself was more silent but a moment past, and only the stars broke through the pitchy gloom." Argia shuddered, and stretched out her right hand toward the walls: "O city of Thebes, once longed-for, but now the dwelling of our foes, yet, if thou givest back my dead spouse uninjured, even so a soil beloved: seest thou in what garb arrayed, by what a train accompanied, I, the daughter-in-law of mighty Oedipus, for the first time approach thy gates? No unhallowed wish have I; a stranger, I beg but for a pyre, a corpse, and leave to mourn. Him restore to me, I pray, who was exiled from his realm and conquered in the fight, him, whom thou deemedst not worthy of his father's throne! And come thou too, I beg, if spirits have any shape, and souls can wander freed from their bodies, show me the way, and lead me thyself to thy own corpse, if I have so deserved!" She spoke, and entering the pastoral shelter of a neighbouring cottage kindles anew the breath of the dying brand, and impetuously rushes forth upon the awful plain. Even so did the bereaved Ceres light her torch and from Aetna's rocks cast the shifting glare of the mighty flame here over Sicily, there over Ausonia, as she followed the traces of the dark ravisher and the great wheel-furrows in the dust; Enceladus' himself re-echoes her wild wailings,
Enceladus ruptoque vias inluminat igni:  
Persephonen amnes silvae freta nubila clamant,  
Persephonen tantum Stygii tacet aula mariti.  
Admonet adtonitam fidus meminisce Creontis  
altor et occulto submittere lampada furto.  
regina Argolicas modo formidata per urbes,  
votum immane procis spesque augustissima gentis,  
octe sub infesta, nullo duce et hoste propinquo,  
sola per offensus armorum et lubrica tabo  
gramina, non tenebras, non circumfusa tremiscens  
concilia umbrarum atque animas sua membra  
gementes  
saepe gradu caeco ferrum calcataque tela  
dissimulat, solusque labor vitae iacentes,  
dum funus putat omne suum, visuque sagaci  
rimatur positos et corpora prona supinat  
incumbens, queriturque parum lucentibus astris.  
Forte soporiferas caeli secreta per umbras  
Iuno, sinu magni semet furata mariti,  
Theseos ad muros, ut Pallada flecteret, ibat,  
supplicibusque piis faciles aperiret Athenas.  
atque ubi per campos errore fatiscere vano  
immeritam Argian supero respexit ab axe,  
indoluit visu, et lunaribus obvia bigis  
advertit vultum\(^1\) placidaque ita voce locuta est:  
"da mihi poscenti munus breve, Cynthia, si quis  
est Iunonis honos\(^2\); certe Iovis improba iussu  
ter noctem Herculeam—veteres sed mitto querellas:  
en locus officio. cultrix placitissima\(^3\) nostri  
Inachis Argia cernis qua nocte vagetur

\(^1\) vultum \(P:\) currum \(\omega.\)  
\(^2\) Iunonis honos \(\omega:\) iuvenis \(P.\)  
\(^3\) placitissima \(Gronovius:\) placidissima \(P\omega.\)
and illumes her path with bursting fire; "Persephone" cry woods and rivers, seas and clouds: only the palace of her Stygian lord calls not "Persephone".

Her faithful supporter warns the distracted dame to remember Creon and keep low her torch in stealthy hiding. She who of late was feared as queen throughout Argive cities, the ambitious hope of suitors and sacred promise of her race, through all the terrors of the night, without a guide and in the presence of the foe, goes on alone, o'er obstacles of arms, o'er grass all slippery with gore, trembling not at the gloom nor at troops of spirits hovering around or ghosts bewailing their own limbs, oft treading blindly but unheeding on swords and weapons; she labours but to avoid the fallen, and thinks every corpse the one she seeks, while with keen glance she searches the slain, and bending down turns bodies on their backs, and complains to the stars that they give not light enough.

By chance Juno, stealing herself from the bosom of her mighty lord, was faring through the slumbrous darkness of the sky to Theseus' walls, that she might move Pallas to yield and Athens to give gracious welcome to the pious suppliants; and when from the height of heaven she beheld the innocent Argia exhausted by fruitless wandering o'er the plain, she was grieved at the sight, and encountering the lunar team she faced them and spoke thus with calm accents: "Grant me a little boon, O Cynthia, if Juno can command respect; 'tis true that at Jove's bidding, thou shameless one, that threefold night when Hercules—but I will let old quarrels be; now canst thou do me a service. Argia, daughter of Inachus, my favourite votary—seest thou in what a
nec reperi re virum densis queat ae gra tenebris?
et tibi nim bosum languet iubar: essere quae so 305
cornua, et ad sueto pro pri or pre mat orbita terras.
hunc quoque, qui curru madidas tibi pronus habenas
ducit, in Aonios vigiles demitte Soporem.”
vix ea, cum scissis magnum dea nubibus orbem
protulit; expavere um brae, fulgorque re cisus 310
sideribus; vix ipsa tulit Saturnia flammas.

Primum per campos infuso lumine pallam
coniugis ipsa suos noscit miseranda labores,
quamquam texta latent suffusaque sanguine maeret
purpura; dumque deos vocat et de funere caro 315
hoc superesse putat, videt ipsum in pulvere paene
calcatum. fugere animus visusque sonusque,
inclusique dolor laerimas; tum corpore toto
ster nitur in voltus animamque per oscula quae rit
absentem, pressumque comis ac veste cruorem 320
servatura legit. mox tandem voc e reversa:
“hunc ego te, coniunx, ad debita regna pro fectum
ductorem belli generumque potentis Adrasti
aspicio, talisque tuis occurro triumphis?
hue ad tolle genas defectaque lumina: venit 325
ad Thebas Argia tuas; age, moenibus induc
et patrios ostende lares et mutua redde
hospitia. heu quid ago? proiectus caespite nudo
hoc patriae telluris habes. quae iurgia? certe

a i.e., as the soul is fled (“absentem”), she gathers up
some of his blood.

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night she roams, nor with failing strength can find her spouse in the thick darkness? Thy beams too are faint with shrouding vapour; show forth thy horns, I pray thee, and let thy orbit approach the earth nearer than is thy wont. This Sleep, too, who leaning forward plies for thee thy humid chariot-reins, send him upon the Aonian watchmen.” Scarcely had she spoken, when the goddess cleft the clouds and displayed her mighty orb; the shadows started in terror, and the stars were shorn of their radiance; scarce did Saturnia herself endure the brightness.

First by the light that floods the plain she recognizes her husband’s cloak, her own handiwork, poor woman! though the texture is hidden and the purple mourns to be suffused with blood; and while she calls upon the gods, and thinks that this is all that is left of the beloved corpse, she catches sight of himself, nigh trampled into the dust. Her spirit quailed, and vision and speech fled, and grief thrust back her tears; then she falls prostrate about his face, and seeks with kisses for his departed soul, and pressing the blood from his hair and raiment gathers it up to treasure. At last as her voice returns: “My husband, is it he who once marched captain of the war to the realm that was his due, is it the son-in-law of powerful Adrastus whom I now behold? Is this the manner in which I go to meet thy triumph? Raise hither thy countenance and thy sightless eyes: Argia has come to thy Thebes; lead me then inside thy city, show me thy father’s halls and make me welcome in thy turn. Alas! what am I doing? thou liest on the naked earth, and this is all that thou dost own of thy native land. What were those quarrels? ’Tis sure thy brother

Ecce alios gemitus aliamque ad busta ferebat Antigone miseranda facem, vix nacta petitos moenibus egressus; illam nam tempore in omni adtendunt vigiles et rex iubet ipse teneri, contractaeque vices et crebrior excubat ignis. ergo dei fratrique moras excusat et amens, ut paulum immisso cessit statio horrida somno, erumpit muris: fremitu quo territat agros virginis ira leae, rabies cui libera tandem

a i.e., the guards succeed each other at shorter intervals and the watchfires are kindled more frequently.
holdst not dominion here. Didst thou move none of thine own to tears? Where is thy mother? Where the famed Antigone? Verily 'tis for me thou liest dead, for me alone thou didst suffer defeat! I asked thee: Whither marchest thou? Why demandest thou the sceptre denied thee? Thou hast Argos and wilt reign in my father's hall; long honours await thee here, and undivided power. But why do I complain? Myself I gave thee war, and with my own lips begged it of my sorrowing sire—that now I might hold thee thus in my embrace. But it is well, ye gods; I thank thee, Fortune; the distant hope of my wandering is fulfilled: I have found his body whole. Ah! what a deep and gaping wound! Was this his brother's work? Were lies, I pray, that infamous robber? I would outdo the birds, might I but approach him, and keep the beasts away! Hath the fell villain fire as well? But thee thy land shall not behold undowered of flame; burn thou shalt, and tears that may not weep for kings shall rain on thee, and desolate love shall endure and aye tend thy sepulchre; thy son shall be the witness of my sorrow, a little Polynices shall cherish thy couch for me."

Lo! with another torch and other sounds of woe hapless Antigone drew nigh the dead, having scarce won from the town the escape she longed for; for ever do guards attend her, and the king himself bids her be held fast; the times of watching are shortened and more frequent glow the fires. Therefore she makes excuse for her delaying to the gods and her brother, and frantically, so soon as the rough sentinels relaxed one whit their vigilance, burst from out the walls: with such a cry does the virgin lioness terrify the countryside, her fury free at last, when
et primus sine matre furor. nec longa morata est, quippe trucem campum et, positus quo pulvere frater, noverat: atque illam contra videt ire Menoetes, 360 cui vacat, et carae gemitus compescit alumnae. cum tamen erectas extremas virgis aures accessit sonus, utque atra sub veste comisque squalentem et crasso foedatam sanguine vultus astrorum radiis et utraque a lampade vidit: 365 "cuius," ait, "manes, aut quae temeraria quaeris nocte mea?" nihil illa diu, sed in ora mariti deicit inque suos pariter velamina vultus, capta metu subito paulumque oblita doloris. hoc magis increpitans suspecta silentia perstat 370 Antigone, comitemque premens ipsamque; sed ambo deficiunt fixique silent. tandem ora rexit Argia, corpusque tamen complexa profatur: "si quid in hoc veteri bellorum sanguine mecum quaesitura venis, si tu quoque dura Creontis 375 iussa times, possum tibi me confisa fateri. si misera es—certe lacrimas lamentaque cerno—, iunge, age, iunge fidem: proles ego regia Adrasti— ei mihi! num quis adest?—cari Polynicis ad ignes, etsi regna vetant—." stupuit Cadmeia virgo 380 intremuitque simul, dicentemque occupat utro: "mene igitur sociam—pro fors ignara!—malorum, mene times? mea membra tenes, mea funera plangis. cedo, tene, pudet heu! pietas ignava sororis! haec prior—!" hic pariter lapsae iunctoque per ipsum 385

a i.e., Antigone's.
for the first time her mother shares not in her rage. Not long did she tarry, for she knew the cruel plain and where her brother lay in the dust: Menoetes, as he stands unbusied, marks her as she comes, and hushes the groans of his dear ward. But when the latest sob reached the maiden's uplifted ears, and when she saw by the stars' rays and the light of either torch her mourning raiment and dishevelled hair and face all foul with congealed gore, she cried: "Whose body seekest thou in this night that is mine? Who art thou, daring woman?" Nought answered the other a long while, but cast her raiment about her husband's face and likewise her own, a prey to sudden fear and awhile forgetful of her sorrow. Antigone, chiding her suspected silence, persists the more, and urges her comrade and herself; but both are lost in utter silence. At last Argia unveiled her face and spoke, yet still clasped the body: "If thou comest to seek aught with me in this stale blood of battle, if thou also fearest Creon's harsh commands, I can with confidence reveal myself to thee. If thou art wretched—and surely I behold tears and signs of grief—come join with me in friendship; Adrastus' royal seed am I—ah! is any near?—at the pyre of my beloved Polynices, though kingdoms set their ban—" the Cadmean maiden started in amaze and trembled, and broke in upon her speech: "Is it I then whom thou dost fear?—how blind is chance!—I, the partner of thy woes? Mine are the limbs thou holdest, mine the corpse thou dost bewail. Take him, he is thine! Ah, shame! Ah, for the cowardly devotion of a sister! She came before me—!" Side by side they fall, and together embracing the same body.
amplexu miscent avidae lacrimasque comasque, partitaeque artus redeunt alterna gementes ad vultum et cara vicibus cervice fruuntur. dumque modo haec fratrem memorat, nunc illa maritum, mutuaque exorsae Thebas Argosque renarrant, longius Argia miseros reminiscitur actus: "per tibi furtivi sacrum commune doloris, per socios manes et conscia sidera iuro: non hic amissos, quamquam vagus exsul, honores, non gentile solum, carae non pectora matris, te cupiit unam noctesque diesque locutus Antigonen; ego cura minor facilisque relinqui. tu tamen ex celsa sublimem forsitan arce ante nefas Grais dantem vexilla maniplis vidisti, teque ille acie respexit ab ipsa ense salutatam et nutantis vertice coni: nos procul. extrems sed quis deus egit in iras? nil vestrae valuere preces? tibine iste negavit oranti?" causas ac tristia reddere fata coeoperat Antigone; fidus comes admonet ambas: "heia agite inceptum potius! iam sidera pallent vicino turbata die, perferte laborem, tempus erit lacrimis, accenso ffebitis igne."

Haud procul Ismeni monstrabat murmura ripas, qua turbatus adhuc et sanguine decolor ibat. hic laceros artus socio conamine portant invalidae, iungitque comes non fortior ulnas. sic Hyperionium tepido Phaethonta sorores
mingle greedily their tears and tresses, and share his limbs between them, and anon return with united lament to his face and glut themselves by turns upon his well-loved breast. And while they recall the one her brother and the other her spouse, and each tells to each the tale of Argos and of Thebes, Argia in longer strain brings to mind her own sad story: "By the sacred communion of our stolen mourning, by our common dead and the witnessing stars I swear to thee: not his lost crown, nor his native soil, nor his dear mother's breast did he desire, wandering exile though he was, but thee alone; of thee, Antigone, he spake by night and day; I was a lesser care and easily relinquished. Yet didst thou perchance before the horrid deed from a lofty turret behold him towering high and giving the Grecian companies their banners, and he looked back at thee from the very line of battle, and saluted thee with his sword and the nodding summit of his helm: but I was far away. But what god drove them to the extremity of wrath? Did your prayers nought avail? Did the other refuse thy own entreaty?" Antigone had begun to set forth the causes and the cruelty of fate, but the faithful comrade warned them: "Nay finish rather your task! Already the stars are paling in rout before the approaching day; complete your toil, the time for tears will come; kindle the fire, then weep your fill."

Not far away a roar betrayed the channel of Ismenos where he was flowing still discoloured and befouled by gore. Hither with united effort they feebly bear the mangled limbs, while their companion as weak as they adds his arm to theirs. So did his sisters lave the smoking Phaëthon, Hyperion's son,
fumantem lavere Pado; vixdum ille sepulcro conditus, et flentes stabant ad flumina silvae. 415
ut sanies purgata vado membrisque reversus mortis honos, ignem miserae post ultima quaerunt oscula; sed gelidae circum examinesque favillae putribus in foveis, atque omnia busta quiescunt. stabat adhue seu forte rogus, seu numine divum, 420 cui torrere datum saevos Eteocleos artus, sive locum monstris iterum Fortuna parabat, seu dissensuros servaverat Eumenis ignes. hic teneum nigris etiamnum advivere lucem roboribus pariter cupidae videre, simulque 425 flebile gavisae; nec adhue, quae busta, repertum, sed placidus quemcumque\(^1\) rogant mitisque supræm admittat cineris consortem et miscæat umbras.

Ecce iterum fratres: primos ut contigit artus ignis edax, tremuere rogi et novus advena busto 430 pellitur; exundant diviso vertice flammae alternosque apices abrupta luce coruscant. pallidus Eumenidum veluti commiserit ignes Orcus, uterque minax globus et conatur uterque longius; ipsae etiam commoto pondere paulum 435 secessere trabes. conclamat territa virgo: "occidimus, functasque manu stimulavimus iras. frater erat: quis enim accessus ferus hospitis umbrae pelleret? en clipei fragmen semijustaque nosco cingula, frater erat! cernisne, ut flamma recedat 440 concurratque tamen? vivunt odia improba, vivunt. nil actum bello; miseri, sic, dum arma movetis,

\(^1\) quemcumque P: quicumque \(\omega\).

\(a\) His sisters were turned into poplars.
in the heated Padus: scarce was he interred, when a weeping grove rose by the river-side. When the filth was purged in the stream and the body was once more beautiful in death, the wretched women after the last kisses searched for fire, but dead and cold were the ashes in the mouldering pits, and all the pyres were silent. Still there remained one funeral pile, whether by chance or heaven's will, that had been fated to burn the limbs of fierce Eteocles—whether Fortune once more gave opportunity for portents, or the Fury had spared the fires for mutual strife. Here both in their eagerness beheld a feeble glow still alive among the blackened timbers, and together wept tears of joy; nor yet knew they whose the pyre, but prayed, whosesoe'er it be, that he be favourable and graciously admit a partner to his latest ashes and unite their ghosts.

Once more behold the brothers: as soon as the devouring fire touched the body, the pile shook, and the newcomer is driven from the pyre; a flame streams up with double head, each darting tongues of flashing light. As though pale Orcus had set in conflict the torches of the Eumenides, each ball of fire threatens and strives to outreached the other; the very timbers, with all their massive weight, were moved and gave way a space. The maiden cries out in terror: "We are undone; ourselves we have stirred his wrath in death. It was his brother; who else would be so cruel as to spurn the approach of a stranger ghost? Lo! I recognize the broken buckler and the charred sword-belt, ay, it was his brother! Seest thou how the flame shrinks away and yet rushes to the fight? Alive, ay, alive is that impious hatred. The war was in vain: while thus
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vicit nempe Creon! nusquam iam regna, quis ardor? cui furitis? sedate minas; tuque exsul ubique semper inops aequi, iam cede: hoc nupta precatur, hoc soror, aut saevos mediae veniemus in ignes.” 446

Vix ea, cum subitus campos tremor altaque tecta impulsit adiuvitque rogi discordis hiatus, et vigilum turbata quies, quibus ipse malorum fingebras simulacra sopor: ruit ilicet, omnem prospectum lustrans armata indagine miles. illos instantes senior timet unus; at ipsae ante rogum saevique palam sprevisse Creontis imperia et furtum claro plangore fatentur securae, quippe omne vident fluxisse cadaver. 455 ambitur saeva de morte animosaque leti spes furit: haec fratris rapuisse, haec coniugis artus contendunt vicibusque probant: “ego corpus,” “ego ignes,” “me pietas,” “me duxit amor.” deposcere saeva supplicia et dextras iuvat insertare catenis. 460 nusquam illa alternis modo quae reverentia verbis, iram odiumque putes; tantus discordat utrimque clamor, et ad regem, qui deprendere, trahuntur.

At procul Actaeis dextra iam Pallade muris Iuno Phoroneas inducit praevia matres 465 attonitas, non ipsa minus, coetumque gementem conciliat populis et fletibus addit honorem.

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ye strive, unhappy ones, Creon has conquered after all! Gone is your realm, why then such fury? For whom do ye rage? Appease your anger. And thou, everywhere an exile, ever debarred from justice, yield at last; this is thy wife's and thy sister's prayer, else shall we leap into the fierce flame to part you."

Scarce had she spoken, when a sudden tremor shook the plain and the lofty roofs, and increased the chasm of the discordant pyre, while the watchmen, whose very sleep shaped images of woe, started from repose: straightway the soldiers rush forth, and with a ring of arms search the whole countryside. As they draw nigh, the old man alone has fear; but the women openly before the pyre confess to have spurned fierce Creon's command, and with loud cry admit their secret deed, careless, for they see that already the whole body is consumed. Ambitious are they for cruel destruction, and a spirited hope of death is aflame within them: they contend that they stole, the one her consort's, the other her kinsman's limbs, and prove their case by turns: "I brought the body," "but I the fire," "I was led by affection," "I by love." They delight to ask for cruel punishment and to thrust their arms into the chains. Gone is the reverence that but now was in the words of each; wrath and hatred one would deem it, so loud on either side rise the cries of discord; they even drag their captors before the king.

But far away Juno leads the distraught Phoronean dames—herself no less distraught—to the walls of Athens, having gained at last the goodwill of Pallas, and goes before them on the road; she gives the train of mourners favour in the people's sight and inspires reverence for their tears. With her own
ipsa manu ramosque oleae vittasque precantes tradit, et obtenta submittere lumina palla et praeferre docet vacuas sine manibus urnas. omnis Erechtheis\(^1\) effusa penatibus actas tecta viasque replent: unde hoc examen et una tot miseræ? necum causas novere malorum, iamque gemunt. dea conciliis se miscet utrisque cuncta docens, qua gente satae, quae funera plangant quidve petant; variis nec non adfatibus ipsae Ogygias leges immansuetumque Creonta multum et ubique fremunt. Geticae non plura queruntur hospitibus tectis trunco sermone volucries, cum duplices thalamos et iniquum Terea clamant. Urbe fuit media nulli concessa potentum ara deum; mitis posuit Clementia sedem, et miseri fecere sacram; sine supplice numquam illa novo, nulla damnavit vota repulsa. auditi quicumque rogant, noctesque diesque ire datum et solis numen placare querellis. parca superstitio: non turea flamma, nec altus accipitur sanguis: laerimis altaria sudant, maestarumque super libamina secta comarum pendent et vestes mutata sorte relictæ. mite nemus circa, cultuque insigne verendo vittatae laurus et supplicis arbor olivae. nulla autem effigies, nulli commissa metallo forma dei, mentes habitare et pectora gaudet. semper habet trepidos, semper locus horret egenis

\(^{1}\) Erechtheis late mss., Heinsius: et Acteis ω.

\(^{a}\) Nightingales, see note on viii. 616. Tereus, king of Thrace, ravished Philomela, sister of his wife Procne; "trunco," because she cut out her own tongue.
hand she gives them boughs of olive and supplicating fillets, and teaches them to hide their faces in their robes and bear before them urns untenanted by the dead. A multitude of every age streams forth from the Erechthean homes and fills the housetops and the streets; whence comes this swarm? Whence so many mourners together? Not yet do they know the cause of their distress, yet are already weeping. With either concourse the goddess mingleth and tells them of all: of what race they are sprung, what deaths they are bewailing, and what they seek; they themselves too in various converse make everywhere loud outcry against the Ogygian laws and inhuman Creon. No lengthier plaint do the Getic birds \(^a\) utter upon the foreign housetops in mutilated speech, when they exclaim against the treachery of the wedding bower and Tereus' cruel deed.

There was in the midst of the city an altar belonging to no god of power\(^b\); gentle Clemency had there her seat, and the wretched made it sacred; never lacked she a new suppliant, none did she condemn or refuse their prayers. All that ask are heard, night and day may one approach and win the heart of the goddess by complaints alone. No costly rites are hers; she accepts no incense flame, no blood deep-welling; tears flow upon her altar, sad offerings of severed tresses hang above it, and raiment left when Fortune changed. Around is a grove of gentle trees, marked by the cult of the venerable, wool-entwined laurel and the suppliant olive. No image is there, to no metal is the divine form entrusted, in hearts and minds does the goddess delight to dwell. The distressed are ever nigh her, her precinct ever swarms

\(^a\) For this passage see vol. i. Introduction, pp. xvi, xxvi.

\(^b\) For this passage see vol. i. Introduction, pp. xvi, xxvi.
coetibus, ignotae tantum felicibus arae. fama est, defensores acie post busta paterni
numinis Herculeos sedem fundasse nepotes.
fama minor factis: ipsos nam credere dignum
caelicolas, tellus quibus hospita semper Athenae, 500
ceu leges hominemque novum ritusque saerorum
seminaque in vacuas hinc descendentia terras,
sic sacrasse loco commune animantibus aegris
confugium, unde procul starent iraeque minaeque
regnaque, et a iustis Fortuna recederet aris. 505
iam tunc innumerabiles norant altaria gentes:
huc victi bellis patriaque a sede fugati,
regnorumque inopes scelerumque errore nocentes
convenient pacemque rogant; mox hospita sedes
vicit et Oedipodeae Furias et funus Olynthi1 texit et a misero matrem submovit Oreste.
huc volgo monstrante locum manus anxia Lernae
deveniunt, cedunt2 miserorum turba priorum.
vix ibi, sedatis requierunt pectora curis:
ceu patrio super alta grues Aquilone fugatae 515
cum videre Pharon; tunc aethera latius implet,
tunc hilari clangore sonant; iuvat orbe3 sereno
contempsisse nives et frigora solvere Nilo.

IAMQUE domos patrias Scythicae post aspera gentis
proelia laurigero subeuntem Thesea curru 520

1 et funus Olynthi Pω: funusque Coloni Imhof: et funus
Onitae tersit Unger, quod patrem suum occidit Schol. D.
2 cedunt Kohlmann: caedunt P1: caedit or cedit ω.
3 orbe ω: ore P.

a He refers to the gift of the knowledge of agriculture,
which Triptolemus brought to Attica, and the worship of
Demeter which he instituted there. The “new man” ap-
with needy folk, only to the prosperous is her shrine unknown. Fame says that the sons of Hercules, saved in battle after the death of their divine sire, set up this altar; but Fame comes short of truth: 'tis right to believe that the heavenly ones themselves, to whom Athens was ever a welcoming land, as once they gave laws and a new man and sacred ceremonies and the seeds that here descended upon the empty earth, so now sanctified in this spot a common refuge for travelling souls, whence the wrath and threatenings of monarchs might be far removed, and Fortune depart from a shrine of righteousness. Already to countless races were those altars known; hither came flocking those defeated in war and exiled from their country, kings who had lost their realms and those guilty of grievous crime, and sought for peace; and later this abode of kindliness o'er-came the rage of Oedipus and sheltered the murder of Olynthus and defended hapless Orestes from his mother. Hither guided by the common folk comes the distressful band of Lerna, and the crowd of previous votaries give way before them. Scarce were they arrived, when their troubles were soothed and their hearts had rest: even as cranes chased o'er the deep by their native North wind, beholding Pharos, spread in denser array over the sky and raise a joyful clamour; they delight beneath a cloudless heaven to think scorn of snows, and to loose the grip of winter by the banks of Nile.

And now Theseus, drawing nigh his native land in laurelled car after fierce battling with the Scythian pears to be Triptolemus himself. Athens boasted to have always been a refuge for the distressed, e.g. for Orestes and Oedipus; Olynthus is not otherwise known.
laetifici plausus missusque ad sidera vulgi clamor et emeritis hilaris tuba nuntiat armis. ante ducem spolia et, duri Mavortis imago, virginei currus cumulataque fercula cristis et tristes ducuntur equi truncaeque bipennes, quis nemora et solidam Maeotida caedere suetae, corytique leves portantur et ignea gemmis cingula et informes dominarum sanguine peltae. ipsae autem nondum trepidae sexumve fatentur, nec vulgare gemunt aspernanturque precari, et tantum innuptae quaege sunt delubra Minervae. primus amor niveis victorem cernere vectum quadriiugis; nec non populos in semet agebat Hippolyte, iam blanda genas patiensque mariti foederis. hanc patriae ritus fregisse severos Atthides oblique secum mirantur operto murmure, quod nitidi crines, quod pectora palla tota latent, magnis quod barbaro semet Athenis misceat atque hosti veniat paritura\(^1\) marito. Paulum et ab insessis maestae Pelopeides aris promovere gradum seriemque et dona triumphi mirantur, victique animo rediere mariti. atque ubi tardavit currus et ab axe superbo explorat causas victor poscitque benigna aure preces, ausa ante alias Capaneia coniunx: "belliger Aegide, subitae cui maxima laudis semina de nostris aperit Fortuna ruinis, non externa genus, dirae nec conscia noxae turba sumus: domus Argos erat regesque mariti,

\(^1\) paritura \(\omega\): placitura \(P\).

\(^a\) i.e., of the Amazons, the tribe of warrior-maids of Scythia, \textit{cf.} v. 144; the Maeotis is the Sea of Azov.

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folk, is heralded by glad applause and the heaven-flung shout of the populace and the merry trump of warfare ended. Before the chief are borne his spoils, and virgin chariots that recall the grim War-God, and wagons heaped with crests and downcast steeds and broken axes, wherewith the foe were wont to cleave the forests and frozen Maeotis, light quivers too are borne and baldricks fiery with gems and targes stained with the blood of the warrior-maids. They themselves, still unafraid, admit no thought of sex, and scorn to entreat nor utter mean lament, only they seek the shrine of unwedded Minerva. The first passion of the folk is to behold the conqueror, drawn by his four snow-white steeds; Hippolyte too drew all toward her, friendly now in look and patient of the marriage-bond. With hushed whispers and sidelong gaze the Attic dames marvel that she has broken her country's austere laws, that her locks are trim, and all her bosom hidden beneath her robe, that though a barbarian she mingles with mighty Athens, and comes to bear offspring to her foeman-lord.

The sorrowful daughters of Pelops moved a short space from the altars where they sat, and marvelled at the triumph with its train of spoils, and their vanquished lords came once more to their minds. And when the conqueror halted the chariots and from his proud car inquired the causes that had brought them and with kind attention bade them make their request, the wife of Capaneus dared speak before the others: "Warlike son of Aegeus, for whom Fortune opens up vast fields of unexpected glory through our ruin, no strangers by race are we, nor guilty of any heinous crime; our home was
non utinam et fortes! quid enim septena movere castra et Agenoreos opus emendare penates? 551
nec querimur caesos: haec bellica iura vicesque armorum; sed non Siculis exorta sub antris
monstra nec Ossaei bello cecidere bimembres. mitto genus clarosque patres: hominum, inelyte
Theseu, 555
sanguis erant, homines, eademque in sidera, eosdem sortitus animarum alimentaque vestra creati,
quos vetat igne Creon Stygiaeque a limine portae, ceu sator Eumenidum aut Lethaei portitor amnis,
submovet ac dubio caelique Erebine sub axe 560 detinet. heu princeps Natura! ubi numina, ubi illest
fulminis iniusti iaculator? ubi estis, Athenae? septima iam surgens trepidis Aurora iacentes
aversatur equis; radios declinat et horret stelligeri iubari omne poli; iam comminus ipsae 565
pabula dira ferae campumque odere volueres spirantes tabo et caelum ventosque gravantem.
quantum etenim superesse rear? nuda ossa putremque verrere permittat saniem. properate, verendi
Cecropidae; vos ista decet vindicta, priusquam 570 Emathii Thracesque dolent, quaeque exstat ubique
gens arsura rogis manesque habitura supremos. nam quis erit saevire modus? bellavimus, esto;
sed cecidere odia et tristes mors obruit iras.
tu quoque, ut egregios fama cognovimus actus, 575 non trucibus monstris Sinin infandumque dedisti

1 dolent Po: adolent Baehrens: volent Lemaire.

a i.e., Cyclopes or Centaurs.

468
Argos, and our husbands princes, would they had not been brave also! What need was there to arouse a sevenfold host, and chastise the city of Agenor? We complain not that they were slain: that is the law of war and the fortune of the fight; but they were no monsters risen from Sicilian dens or twyformed creatures of Ossa who fell in the battle. Of their race and famous sires I speak not; they were men, renowned Theseus, and of the seed of men, born to the selfsame stars to the same human lot, the same food and drink as ye are; yet Creon denies them fire, and like the father of the Furies or the ferryman of Lethe's stream debars them from the Stygian gate and keeps them hovering doubtfully between the worlds of heaven and hell. Alas! sovereign Nature! Where are the gods? Where is the hurler of the unrighteous brand? Where art thou, Athens? Already the seventh dawn shrinks with frightened steeds from their corpses; the starry pole shudders in all its splendours and withdraws its rays; already the very birds and prowling beasts loathe the horrid carrion and the battle-field that reeks of corruption and heavily taints the breezes and the air. How much indeed remains? let him but permit me to sweep up bare bones and putrid gore! Make haste, ye worthy sons of Cecrops! such a vengeance becomes you, before the Emathians and Thracians suffer, and every race of men that would fain be burnt on pyres and be given the last rites of death. For what limit will he set to his fury? We made war, I grant it; but hatred is assuaged, and death has put an end to sullen wrath. Thou also, for so Fame hath taught us of thy noble deeds, didst not give Sinis and the
Cercyona, et saevum velles Seirona crematum. 

credo et Amazoniis Tanain fumasse sepulcris, 

unde haec arma referis, sed et hunc dignare triumphum. 

da terris unum caeloque Ereboque laborem, 580 

si patrium Marathona metu, si tecta levasti 

Cressia, nec fudit vanos anus hospita fetus. 

sic tibi non ullae socia sine Pallade pugnae, 

nece sarcer invideat paribus Tirynthius actis, 

semper et in curru, semper te mater ovantem 585 

cernat, et invictae nil tale precentur Athenae.”

Dixerat; excipiunt cunctae tenduntque precantes 

cum clamore manus; rubuit Neptunius heros 

permotus lacrimis; iusta mox concitus ira 
exclamat: “quaeam ista novos induxit Erinys 590 

regnorum mores? non haec ego pectora liqui 

Graiorum abscendens, Scythiam Pontumque nivalem 
cum peterem; novus unde furor? victumne putasti 

Thesea, dire Creon? adsum, nec sanguine fessum 

crede; sitit meritos etiamnum haec hasta cruores. 

nulla mora est; verte hunc adeo, fidissime Phegeu, 
cornipedem, et Tyrias invectus protinus arces 597 

aut Danais edice rogos aut proelia Thebis.”

sic ait oblitus bellique viaeque laborum, 
hortaturque suos viresque instaurat anhelas: 600 

ut modo conubiis taurus saltuque recepto 
cum possuit pugnas, alio si forte remugit 
bellatore nemus, quamquam ora et colla cruento 
imbre madent, novus arma paratcampumquelacesenss

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488
unutterable Cercyon to cruel monsters, and wert willing to let fierce Sciron burn. I ween too that Tanais smoked with Amazonian pyres, whence thou hast brought this host: deem then this triumph also worthy of thee. Devote one exploit to earth and heaven and hell alike, if thou didst save thy native Marathon from fear, and the halls of Crete, and if the aged dame a that welcomed thee shed not her tears in vain. So may no battles of thine lack Pallas' aid, nor the divine Tirynthian envy thy equal exploits, may thy mother ever behold thee triumphant in thy car, and Athens know not defeat nor ever make a prayer like mine!"

She spoke: they all with hands outstretched make clamorous echo to her words; the Neptunian hero b flushed, deeply stirred by their tears; soon fired by righteous anger he cries: "What Fury has inspired this strange unkingly conduct? Not so minded were the Greeks at my departure, when I sought Scythia and the Pontic snows; whence this new madness? Thoughtest thou Theseus conquered, fell Creon? I am near at hand, think me not blood-weary; even yet my spear thirsts for righteous slaughter. I make no delay; turn on the instant thy galloping steed, most trusty Phegeus, speed to the Tyrian towers and proclaim that the Danai must burn or Thebes must fight." So speaks he, forgetful of the labours of warfare and the march, and encourages his men and inspires their exhausted strength anew: as when a bull has lately won back his brides and pasture and ceased from battle, if by chance another glade resound with a warrior's lowing, then, though his neck and breast be dripping with the bloody rain, he prepares afresh for war and pawing the plain
dissimulat gemitus et vulnera pulvere celat.  
ipsa metus Libycos servatricemque Medusam  
pectoris incussa movit Tritonia parma.  
protinus erecti toto simul agmine Thebas  
respexere angues; neendum Atticus ire parabat  
miles, et infelix expavit classica Dirce.  

Continuo in pugnas haud solum acensa inuentus,  
qui modo Caucasei comites redivi triumphi:  
omnis ad arma rudes ager exstimulavit alumnos.  
conveniunt ultroque ducis vexilla sequuntur,  
qui gelidum Braurona viri, qui rura lacessunt  
Monychia et trepidis stabilem Piraeae nautis  
et nondum Eoo clarum Marathona triumpho.  
mittit in arma manus gentilibus hospita divis  
Icarii Celeique domus viridesque Melaenae,  
dives et Aegaleos nemorum Parnesque benignus  
vitibus et pinguis melior Lycabessos olivae.  
venit atrox Alaeus et olentis arator Hymetti,  
quaeque rudes thyrso hederis vestitis, Acharnae.  
linquitur Eois longe speculabile proris  
Sunion, unde vagi casurum in nomina ponti  
Cressia decepit falso ratis Aegea velo.  
hos Salamin populos, illos Cerealis Eleusin  
horrida suspensis ad proelia misit aratris,  
et quos Callirhoe noviens errantibus undis  
implicat, et raptae qui conscius Orithyiae  
celavit ripis Geticos Elisos amores.  
ipse quoque in pugnas vacuatur collis, ubi ingens  
lis superum, dubiis donec nova surgeret arbor

\[a\] Medusa and the Gorgons lived in Libya.  
\[b\] Bacchus and Demeter.  
\[c\] Acharnae was famous for the ivy that decked the thyrsi,  
or wands of the Bacchanals.  
\[d\] Aegeus, father of Theseus, threw himself into the sea
hides his groaning and conceals his wounds in dust. Tritonia herself smote upon her buckler and shook the Libyan terror, the Medusa that guards her bosom. Straightway all the serpents rose erect together, and in a mass looked towards Thebes; not yet were the Attic warriors on the march, and already ill-fated Dirce trembled at the trumpets' sound.

At once not only are they inflamed to war who were returned from sharing the Caucasian victory: all the countryside stirred up its untrained sons to war. They flock together and of their own accord follow their prince's standard: the men who spare not chilly Brauron and the Monychian fields and Piraeus, firm ground for frightened sailors, and Marathon, not yet famous for her Eastern triumph. The homesteads of Icarius and of Celeus that entertained their native gods send troops to battle, green Melaenae too, and Aegaleos, rich in forests, and Parnes, friend of vines, and Lycabessos, richer in the juicy olive. Violent Alaeus came, and the ploughman of fragrant Hymettus, thou, too, Acharnae, who didst clothe the bare wands in ivy. Sunion, far seen of Eastern prows, is left behind, whence Aegeus fell, deceived by the lying sails of the Cretan bark, and gave a name to the wandering main. These folk from Salamis, those from Eleusis, Ceres' town, were sent, their ploughs hung up, to the dreadful fray, and they whom Callirhoë enfolded with her nine errant streams, and Elisos who privy to Orithyia's rape concealed beneath his banks the Thracian lover. That hill too is emptied for the fight, where gods strove mightily, until a new tree rose from the doubting (whence called Aegean), thinking that his son had perished in Crete.

\textsuperscript{a} Boreas, the north wind.
rupibus et longa refugum mare frangeret umbra.  
isset et Arctoas Cadmea ad moenia ducens  
H Hippolyte turmas: retinet iam certa tumentis  
spes uteri, coniunxque rogat dimittere curas  
Marti et emeritas thalamo sacrare pharetras.  
Hos ubi velle acies et dulci gliscere ferro  
dux videt, utque piis raptim dent oscula natis  
amplexusque breves, curru sie fatur ab alto:  
"terrarum leges et mundi foedera mecum  
defensura cohors, dignas insumite mentes¹  
coeptibus: hadomnem divumque hominumque favorem  
Naturamque ducem coetusque silentis Avernii  
stare palam est; illic Poenarum exercita Thebis  
agmina et anguicomae ducunt vexilla sorores.  
itae tantaeque, precor, confidite causae."  
dixit, et emissa praeceps iter incohat hasta:  
qualis Hyperboreos ubi nubilus institit axes  
Iuppiter et prima tremefecit sidera bruma,  
rumpitur Aeolia et longam indignata quietem  
tollit hiemps animos ventosaque sibilat Arctos;  
tunc montes undaeque fremunt, tunc proelia caecis²  
nubibus et tonitrus insanaque fulmina gaudent.  
Icta gemit tellus, virides gravis ungula campos  
mutat, et³ innumeris peditumque equitumque catervis  
exspirat protritus ager, nec pulvere crasso  
armorum lux victa perit, sed in aethera longum  
frangitur, et mediis ardent in nubibus hastae.  

1 insumite mentes ω: consumite amantes P.  
2 caecis P: caesis ω: quassis Koch.  
3 mutat et Pω: atterit N.  

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¹ The Acropolis of Athens, scene of the strife between Athene and Poseidon (god of the sea); Athene gained the victory by her gift of the olive-tree.

² Veterans on their discharge ("emeriti") were accustomed to dedicate their arms in a temple.
rocks and cast its long shadow on the retreating sea. a
Hippolyte too would have led her Northern squadrons
to the Cadmean walls, but the already certain hope
of her swelling womb restrains her, and her spouse
entreats her to dismiss the thoughts of battle and
in the marriage-bower to dedicate her war-spent
quiver. b

When the chief perceives them in warlike mood
and ablaze with joyous steel, how they give hurried
kisses and brief embraces to their loving children,
he speaks thus from his lofty chariot: "Soldiers,
who will defend with me the laws of nations and the
covenants of heaven, take courage worthy of our
emprise! For us, 'tis clear, stands the favour of all
gods and men, Nature our guide and the silent
multitudes of Avernus: for them the troops of the
Furies, that Thebes has marshalled, and the snake-
haired Sisters bring forth their banners. Onward
in warlike spirit, and trust, I pray you, in a cause so
noble!" He spake, and hurling his spear dashed
forth upon the road: as when Jupiter plants his
cloudy footsteps upon the Hyperborean pole and
makes the stars tremble at the oncoming of winter,
Aeolia c is riven, and the storm, indignant at its long
idleness, takes heart, and the North whistles with the
hurricane; then roar the mountains and the waves,
clouds battle in the blind gloom, and thunders and
crazed lightnings revel.

The smitten earth groans, the heavy hoof changes
the aspect of the verdant plains, and the crushed
fields expire beneath countless troops of horse and
foot, nor is the gleam of armour lost in the thick dust,
but flashes far into the air, and the spears burn amid

a The abode of Aeolus, king of the winds.
noctem adeo placidasque operi iunxere tenebras, certamenque inmûne visis, quo concita tendant agmina, quis visas proclamet ab aggere Thebas, cuius in Ogygio stet princeps lancea muro. at procul ingenti Neptunius agmina Theseus angustat clipeo, propriaeque exordia laudis centum urbes umbone gerit centenaque Cretae moenia, seque ipsum monströsì ambagibus antri hispida torquentis colla iuvenci alternasque manus circum et nodosa ligantem bracchia et ab ducto vitamem cornua vult. terror habet populos, cum saeptus imagine torva\(^1\) ingreditur pugnas: bis Thesea bisque cruentas caede videre manus; veteres reminiscitur actus ipse tuens sociumque gregem metuendaque quondam limina, et absumpto pallentem Gnosida filo.

Saevus at interea ferro post terga revinetas Antigonen viduamque Creon Adrastida leto admovet; ambae hilaræ et mortis amore superbae ensibus intentant iugulos regemque cruentum destituunt: eum dicta ferens Theseia Phegeus adstitit. ille quidem ramis isnontis olivae pacificus, sed bella ciet bellumque minatur, grandefremens, nimiumque memorum mandantis et ipsum iam prope, iam medios operire cohortibus agros ingeminans. stetit ambiguo Thebanus in aestu eurarum, nutantque minae et prior ira tepescit. tune firmat sese, fietumque ac triste renidens:

\(^{1}\) imagine torva œ: in agmine torvo P.

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\(^{a}\) Theseus's exploits in Crete (slaying of the Minotaur) were the prelude to his still greater subsequent fame.
the clouds. Night too and the quiet shades they add to their toil, and the warriors mightily strive how they may speed the army's march, who may proclaim from a hillock the first sight of Thebes, whose lance will first stand fixed in the Ogygian rampart. But from afar Theseus, son of Neptune, dwarfs the ranks with his huge shield, and bears upon its boss the hundred cities and hundred walls of Crete, the prelude to his own renown, and himself in the windings of the monstrous cave twisting the shaggy neck of the struggling bull, and binding him fast with sinewy arms and grip of either hand, and avoiding the horns with head drawn back. Terrified are the folk when he goes to battle 'neath the shelter of that grim device, to behold Theseus in double shape and his hands twice drenched in gore; he himself recalls his deeds of old, the band of comrades and the once-dreaded doorway and the pale face of the Gnosian maid as she followed out the clue.

But meanwhile the ruthless Creon leads onward to death Antigone and the widowed daughter of Adrastus, their hands fettered behind them; both cheerful and proudly eager for death, they hold out their necks to the swords and baffle the cruel king, when lo! bearing Theseus' message Phegeus stood there. All peaceful he with innocent olive-branch, but war is his intent, and war he threatens in loud and angry tones, and well remembering his lord's commands repeats that he will soon be nigh at hand in person, soon covering the countryside as he passes with all his cohorts. The Theban stood in doubt amid surging cares, his anger wavers and his first wrath grows cool. Then steeling his heart, and with a feigned and sullen smile he answered: "Too
“parvane prostratis” inquit, “documenta Mycenis sanximus? en iterum, qui moenia nostra laccant. 690 accipimus, veniant; sed ne post bella querantur: lex eadem victis.” dicit; sed pulvere crasso caligare diem et Tyrios iuga perdere montes aspicit; armari populos tamen armaque ferri ipse iubet pallens, mediaeque in sedibus aulae 695 Eumenidas subitas flentemque Menoecea cernit turbidus impositosque rogis gaudere Pelagros. quis fuit ille dies? tanto cum sanguine Thebis pax inventa perit? patriis modo fixa revellunt arma deis, elipeisque obducent pectora fractis, 700 et galeas humiles et adhue sordentia tabo spicula: non pharetris quisquam, non ense decorus, non spectandus equo; cessat fiducia valli, murorum patet omne latus, munimina portae exposcunt: prior hostis habet; fastigia desunt: 705 deiecit Capaneus; exsanguis et aegra iuventus iam nec coniugibus suprema nec oscula natis iungit, et attoniti nil optavere parentes.

Atticus interea, iubar ut clarescere ruptis nubibus et solem primis aspexit in armis, 710 desilit in campum, qui subter moenia nudos adservat manes, dirisque vaporibus aegrum aera pulverea penitus sub casside ducens ingemit et iustas belli flammatur in iras. hunc saltem miseris ductor Thebanus honorem largitus Danais, quod non super ipsa iacentum corpora belligeras acies Martemque secundum miscuit; aut1 lacera ne quid de strage nefandus

1 aut Pw: at Grotius.
slight assurance then did we give of Mycenae's ruin? Lo! here come others to vex our walls! Let them come! We take the challenge! But let them not whine when they are beaten; one law awaits the conquered.” He speaks, but sees the daylight wane in thickening dust, and the sharp outlines fade from the Tyrian hills; yet in pale anxiety he bids his people arm and go to war, and suddenly beholds in his palace-hall the Furies, and Menoeceus weeping, and the Pelasgians exultant on their pyres. Ah! fatal day! when peace gained for Thebes at such a price of blood is lost again! They tear down the arms lately hung in their native shrines, and shield their bodies with pierced bucklers, don mutilated helms and take up gore-encrusted spears; none is gay with quiver or sword, none is glorious to behold upon his charger; no trust is there in the palisade, the city walls are all agape, the gates cry for defences; the former foe hath them in possession; the battle-ments are gone: Capaneus hath o'erthrown them; strengthless and faint, the warriors no more give the last kisses to wives or children, nor do their dazed parents utter any prayer.

Meanwhile the Attic chief, beholding the rays burst through the clouds in growing splendour and the sun first glint upon the arms, leaps down into the plain where by the walls the dead still lie unburied, and breathing beneath his dusty helm the dread vapours of the tainted air he groans and is inflamed to righteous rage for war. This honour at least did the Theban chieftain pay to the hapless Danaans, that he engaged not the warring hosts in a second battle o'er the very bodies of the fallen; or else, that his impious lust might lose naught of
STATIUS

perderet, eligitur saevos potura cruores
terra rudis? iamque alternas in proelia gentes
dissimilis Bellona ciet; non clamor utrimque,
on utrimque tubae: stat debilis altera pubes
submissos enses nequiquam amentaque dextris
laxa tenens; cedunt tellure, armisque reductis
ostentant veteres etiamnum in sanguine plagas. 725
iam nec Cecropiis idem ductoribus ardor,
languescuntque minae et virtus secura residit:
ventorum velut ira minor, nisi Silva furentes
impedit, insanique taent sine litore fluctus.

Ut vero aequoreus quercum Marathonida Theseus
extulit, erectae cuius crudelis in hostes
umbra cadit campumque trucem lux cuspidis implet:
ceu pater Edonos Haemi de vertice Mavors
impulerit currus, rapido mortemque fugamque
axe vehens, sic examines in terga reducit
pallor Agenoridas; taedet fugientibus uti
Thesea, nec facilem dignatur dextra cruorem.
cetera plebeio desaevit sanguine virtus.
sic iuvat examinis proiectaque praedia canesque
degeneresque lupos: magnos alit ira leones.
attamen Olenium Lamyrumque, hunc tela pharetra
promentem, hunc saevi tollentem pondera saxi
deicit, et triplici confisos robore gentis
Alcetidas fratres, totidem quos eminus hastis
continuat; ferrum consumpsit pectore Phyleus, 745
ore momordit Helops, umero transmisit Iapyx.
iamque et quadriiugo celsum petit Haemona curru,

a i.e., that the carnage might be greater on a fresh field.
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mangled carnage,\(^a\) does he choose a virgin field to drink up the streams of gore? Already in far different wise Bellona summons the armies to mutual fight: here only is heard the battle-cry, here only the trumpet-blast; there frail warriors stand, with drooping ineffectual swords and loosened slings; they give way, and drawing back their armour display old wounds yet bleeding. Already even the Cecropian chiefs have lost their ardour for the fray, their temper wanes and confident valour flames less high; just as the wrath of the winds is weakened, if no forest impede their raging blasts, and the furious billows are silent where there is no shore.

But when Theseus, born of the main, held aloft his Marathonian oaken shaft, whose cruel shadow as he lifted it fell upon the foe, and the spear-point flashed o'er the battle-field afar—as though father Mavors were driving his Edonian chariot down from Haemus' summit, with Death and Panic riding upon his hurrying axle, even so does pale fear drive the sons of Agenor in terror-stricken rout; but Theseus disdains to do battle with the fugitives, his right hand thinks scorn of easy victims. The rest of the gallant host sate their rage in common slaughter. Even so dogs and coward wolves delight in prey that lies cowering at their feet, while anger is the strength of mighty lions. Yet he slays Olenius and Lamyrus, the one as he takes arrows from his quiver, the other as he raises a great stone aloft, and the sons of Alcetus, trusting in their threefold might, whom he pierces at long range with as many spears. Phyleus received the spear-point in his breast, Helops bit the iron with his teeth, the missile sped through the shoulder of Iapyx. And now he makes for Haemon
horrendumque manu telum rotat: ille paventes obliquavit equos; longo perlata tenore transiit hasta duos, sitiebat vulnera nec non tertia, sed medio cuspis temone retenta est.

Sed solum votis, solum clamore tremendo omnibus in turmis optat vocitatque Creonta. atque hunc diversa bellorum in fronte maniplos hortantem dictis frustraque extrema minantem conspicit; absecdunt comites: sed Thesea iussi linquebant fretique deis atque ipsius armis; ille tenet revocatque suos; utque aquea notavit hinc atque hinc odia, extrema se colligit ira, iam letale furens, atque audax morte futura:

"non cum peltiferis," ait, "haec tibi pugna puellas, virgineas ne crede manus: hic cruda virorum proelia, nos magnum qui Tydea quique furentem Hippomedonta neci Capaneaque misimus umbris pectora. quae bellum praeceps amentia suasit, improbe? nonne vides, quos ulciscare, iacentes?" sie ait, et frustra peritum missile summo adfixit clipeo. risit vocesque manumque horridus Aegides, ferrataque arbore magnos molitur iactus, nec non prius ore superbo intonat: "Argolici, quibus haec datur hostia, manes, pandite Tartareum chaos ultricesque parate Eumenidas, venit ecce Creon!" sic fatus, et auras dissipat hasta tremens; tunc qua subtemine duro multiplicem tenues iterant thoraca catenae, incidit: emicuit per mille foramina sanguis

1 tremendo late mss., Heinsius: premendo P: fremendo w.  

\[a \text{ i.e., Amazons.}\]
riding aloft in four-horsed car, and whirls the terrible javelin with his arm; the other swerved his frightened steeds, but the spear, far-flung, struck home, and piercing two of them thirsted for yet a third wound, but the point was stayed by the intervening pole.

But Creon alone is the object of his hopes and prayers, him alone he summons with terrible challenge amid all the squadrons of the field; he perceives him on a battle-front afar, exhorting his troops and uttering desperate threats in vain. His comrades flee away, but those of Theseus leave him at his bidding, relying on the gods and the prowess of their chief; Creon restrains his men and calls them back, but seeing that he is hated by either side alike, he nerves himself to a last outburst of rage, inspired now by the frenzy of doom and emboldened by inevitable death: "'Tis with no targe-bearing girls a thou doest battle here; no maiden's hands are ours, be sure; here is the stern strife of men who have sent great Tydeus and furious Hippomedon to death, and the vast bulk of Capaneus to the shades. What headlong madness drove thee to fight, thou reckless fool? Seest thou not their corpses whom thou wouldst avenge?" So he spoke, and lodged his missile fruitlessly in the buckler's edge. But the terrible son of Aegeus laughed at his words and deed alike, and poising his iron-clad shaft for a mighty blow first proudly cried in thunderous accents: "Ye Argive spirits, to whom I offer this victim, open wide the void of Tartarus, bring forth the Avenging Furies, lo! Creon comes!" He spoke, and the quivering spear rends the air; then, where with iron weft the slender chains combine to form the manifold cuirass, it falls; through a thousand meshes spirits upward
impius; ille oculis extremo errore solutis labitur. adsistit Theseus gravis armaque tollens: "iamne dare extinctis iustos," ait, "hostibus ignes, iam victos operire placet? vade atra dature supplicia extremique tamen secure sepulcri."

Accedunt utrimque pio vexilla tumultu permiscentque manus; medio iam foedera bello, iamque hospes Theseus; orant succedere muris dignarique domos. nectecta hostilia victor aspernatus init; gaudent matresque nurusque Ogygiae, qualis thyrsollante subactus mollia laudabat iam marcidus orgia Ganges. cecce per adversas Dircaei verticis umbras feminineus quaquit astra fragor, matresque Pelasgiae decurrunt: quales Bacchea ad bella vocatae Thyiades amentes, magnum quas poscere credas aut fecisse nefas; gaudent lamenta novaeque exsultant lacrimae; rapit hue, rapit impetus illuc, Thesea magnanimum quaerant prius, anne Creonta, anne suos: vidui ducunt ad corpora luctus.

Non ego, centena si quis mea pectora laxet voce deus, tot busta simul vulgique ducumque, tot pariter gemitus dignus conatibus aequum: turbine quo sese caris impleverit1 audax ignibus2 Euadne fulmenque in pectore magno quaesierit; quo more iacens super oscula saevi corporis infelix excuset Tydea coniunx; ut saevos narret vigiles Argia sorori;

1 impleverit P: instraverit ω.
2 ignibus ω: ictibus P.

\footnotesize{a i.e., of Bacchus, warring in the East.}
the accursed blood; he sinks, his eyes open in the last spasm of death. Theseus stands over him in stern wrath, and spoiling him of his armour speaks: "Now art thou pleased to give dead foes the fire that is their due? Now wilt thou bury the vanquished? Go to thy dreadful reckoning, yet be assured of thy own burial."

From either side the banners meet and mingle in friendly tumult; on the very field of war a treaty is made, and Theseus is now a welcome guest; they beg him to approach their walls and to deem their homes worthy of his presence. The victor disdains not to set foot in the dwellings of his foes; the Ogygian dames and maidens rejoice: even as, o'ercome by the warring thyrsus,9 Ganges by now drunken applauded womanly revels. Lo! yonder on the shady heights of Dirce a shout of women shakes the vault, and the Pelasgian matrons come running down: like raving Thyiads are they, summoned to Bacchus' wars, demanding, thou mightest deem, or having done some deed of horror; their wailing is of joy, fresh tears gush forth; they dart now here, now there, doubting whether first to seek great-hearted Theseus, or Creon, or their own kinsmen; their widowed grief leads them to the dead.

I could not, even if some god gave hundredfold utterance to my heart, recount in worthy strains so vast a funeral of chieftains alike and common folk, so many lamentations united: how fearless Evadne with impetuous bound had her fill of the fires she loved and sought the thunderbolt in that mighty breast, how as she lay and showered kisses on his terrible form his unhappy spouse made excuse for Tydeus; how Argia tells her sister the story of the
Arcada quo planctu genetrix Erymanthia clamet, 
Arcada, consumpto servantem sanguine vultus, 806
Arcada, quem geminae pariter fлеvere cohortes.
vix novus ista furator veniensque implesset Apollo, 
et mea iam longo meruit ratis aequore portum.

Durabisne procul dominoque legere superstes, 810
o mihi bissenos multum vigilata per annos 
Thebai ? iam certe praesens tibi Fama benignum
stravit iter coepitque novam monstrare futuris.
iam te magnanimus dignatur noscere Caesar, 
Itala iam studio discit memoratque iuventus. 815
vive, precor; nee tu divinam Aeneida tempta, 
sed longe sequere et vestigia semper adora.
mox, tibi si quis adhuc praetendit nubila livor, 
occidet, et meriti post me referentur honores.
cruel watchmen, with what lament the Erymanthian mother bewails the Arcadian, the Arcadian, who keeps his beauty though all his blood be spent, the Arcadian, wept for by either host alike. Scarce would new inspiration or Apollo's presence sustain the task, and my little bark has voyaged far and deserves her haven.

Wilt thou endure in the time to come, O my Thebaid, for twelve years object of my wakeful toil, wilt thou survive thy master and be read? Of a truth already present Fame hath paved thee a friendly road, and begun to hold thee up, young as thou art, to future ages. Already great-hearted Caesar deigns to know thee, and the youth of Italy eagerly learns and recounts thy verse. O live, I pray! nor rival the divine Aeneid, but follow afar and ever venerate its footsteps. Soon, if any envy as yet o'erclouds thee, it shall pass away, and, after I am gone, thy well-won honours shall be duly paid.
Magnanimum Aeaciden formidatamque Tonanti progeniem et patrio vetitam succedere caelo, diva, refer. quamquam acta viri multum inelita cantu Maeonio, sed plura vacant: nos ire per omnen —sic amor est—heroa velis Scyroque latentem 5 Dulichia proferre tuba nec in Hectore tracto sistere, sed tota iuvenem deducere Troia. tu modo, si veterem digno deplevimus haustu, da fontes mihi, Phoebe, novos ac fronde secunda necte comas: neque enim Aonium nemus advena pulso nee mea nunc primis augescent tempora vittis. 11 scit Dircaeus ager meque inter prisca parentum nomina cumque suo numerant Amphione Thebae.

At tu, quem longe primum stupet Itala virtus Graiaque, cui geminae florent vatumque ducumque 15 certatim laurus—olim dolet altera vincī—, da veniam ac trepidum patere hoc sudare parumper

\[a\] Zeus would have married Thetis, had it not been declared that their son would be mightier than Zeus himself.
\[b\] *i.e.,* the *Iliad* of Homer.
\[c\] *i.e.,* of Ulysses (see line 873). Dulichium was part of his kingdom.
\[d\] Of the Muses.
\[e\] A fountain at Thebes.
\[f\] "altera," that of poetry; Domitian fancied himself both
Tell, O goddess, of great-hearted Aeacides and of the progeny that the Thunderer feared and forbade to inherit his father's heaven. Highly renowned are the warrior's deeds in Maeonian song, but more remains untold: suffer me—for such is my desire—to recount the whole story of the hero, to summon him forth from his hiding-place in Scyros with the Dulichian trumpet, and not to stop short at the dragging of Hector, but to lead the youth through the whole tale of Troy. Only do thou, O Phoebus, if with a worthy draught I drained the former fount, vouchsafe new springs and weave my hair with propitious chaplets; for not as a newcomer do I seek entrance to the Aonian grove, nor are these the first fillets that magnify my brow. The fields of Dirce know it, and Thebes counts my name among her forefathers of old time and with her own Amphion.

But thou whom far before all others the pride of Italy and Greece regards with reverent awe, for whom the laurels twain of poet and warrior-chief flourish in mutual rivalry—already one of them grieves to be surpassed—grant pardon, and allow me anxiously to toil in this dust awhile. Thine is as a poet and a general, but would be better flattered by being called more brilliant in the latter capacity.
pulvere. te longo necdum fidente paratu molimur magnusque tibi praeludit Achilles.

Solverat Oebalio classem de litore pastor 20
Dardanus incautas blande populatus Amyelas plenaque materni referens praesagia somni culpatum relegebat iter, qua condita ponto fluctibus invisis iam Nereis imperat Helle: cum Thetis Idacos—heu numquam vana parentum auguria!—expavit vitreo sub gurgite remos. 26

nee mora, et undosis turba comitante sororum prosiluit thalamis: fervent coeuntia Phrixi litora et angustum dominas non explicat aequor.

illa ubi\(^1\) discusso primum subit aera ponto: 30
“me petit haec, mihi classis,” ait, “funesta minatur, agnosco monitus et Protea vera locutum.

ecce novam Priamo facibus de puppe levatis fert Bellona nurum: video iam mille carinis Ionium Aegaeumque premi; nec sufficit, omnis 35
quod plaga Graiugenum tumultis coniurat Atridis: iam pelago terrisseque meus quaeretur Achilles.

et volet ipse sequi. quid enim eunabula parvo Pelion et torvi commisisimus antra magistri?
illic, ni fallor, Lapitharum proelia ludit 40

\(^1\) illa ubi \(w\); illa \(P\).

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\(^a\) Part of the usual prologue to an epic, \textit{cf.} \textit{Theb.} i. 17.

\(^b\) \textit{i.e.}, of Laconia.

\(^c\) Hecuba, before she bore Paris, dreamed that she was bearing a burning torch which set fire to Troy.

\(^d\) The Hellespont was so called after Helle, who was drowned there while fleeing with her brother Phrixus upon the ram with fleece of gold.
the theme whereat with long nor yet confident preparation I am labouring, and great Achilles plays the prelude unto thee.\(^a\)

The Dardan shepherd had set sail from the Oebalian shore,\(^b\) having wrought sweet havoc in thoughtless Amyclae, and fulfilling the presage of his mother’s\(^c\) dream was retracing his guilty way, where Helle\(^d\) deep sunk below the sea and now a Nereid holds sway over the detested waves: when Thetis—ah! never vain are a parent’s auguries!—started with terror beneath the glassy flood at the Idaean oars.\(^e\)

Without delay she sprang forth from her watery bower, accompanied by her train of sisters: the narrowing shores of Phrixus swarm, and the straitened sea has not room for its mistresses.

As soon as she had shaken the brine from off her, and entered the air of heaven: “There is danger to me,” said she, “in yonder fleet, and threat of deadly harm; I recognize the truth of Proteus’ warnings. Lo! Bellona brings from the vessel amid uplifted torches a new daughter-in-law to Priam; already I see the Ionian and Aegean seas pressed by a thousand keels; nor does it suffice that all the country of the Grecians conspires with the proud sons of Atreus, soon will my Achilles be sought for by land and sea, ay, and himself will wish to follow them. Why indeed did I suffer Pelion and the stern master’s cave\(^f\) to cradle his infant years? There, if I mistake not, he plays, the rogue, at the battle of the Lapiths,

\(^a\) Because his fleet was built of wood of Mt. Ida. So “Rhoeteae” (line 44) from the promontory near Troy.
\(^b\) Chiron’s.
improbus et patria iam se metitur in hasta. o dolor, o serì materno in corde timores! non potui infelix, cum primum gurgite nostro Rhoetaeae ceclidere trabes, attollere magnum aequor et incesti praedonis vela profunda tempestate sequi cunctasque inferre sorores? nunc quoque—sed tardum, iam plena iniuria raptae. ibo tamen pelagique deos dextramque secundi, quod superest, complexa Iovert per Tethyos annos grandaevumque patrem supplex miseranda rogabo 50 unam biemem." dixit magnumque in tempore regem aspicit. Oceano veniebat ab hospite, mensis laetus et aequoreo diffusus nectare vultus—unde hiemes ventique silent cantuque quieto armigeri Tritones eunt scopulosaque cete 55 Tyrrhenique greges circumque infraque rotantur rege salutato; placidis ipse arduus undis eminet et tripli telo iubet ire iugales. illi spumiferos glomerant a pectore cursus,¹ pone natant delentque pedum vestigia cauda— 60 cum Thetis: "o magni genitor rectorque profundi, aspicis in quales miserum patefeceris usus aequor? eunt tutis terrarum crimina velis, ex quo iura freti maiestatemque repostam rupit Iasonia puppis Pagasaea rapina. 65 en aliud furto scelus et spolia hospita portans navigat iniustae temerarius arbiter Idae, eheu quos gemitus terris caeloque daturus,

¹ cursus P: fluctus ω.

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*a i.e., Neptune. b i.e., of the Tyrrhenian sea.*
and already takes his measure with his father's spear. O sorrow! O fears that came too late to a mother's heart! Could I not, unhappy that I am, when first the timber of Rhoeteum was launched upon my flood, have raised a mighty sea and pursued with a tempest on the deep the adulterous robber's sails and led on all my sisters against him? Even now—but 'tis too late, the outrage hath been wrought in full. Yet will I go, and clinging to the gods of ocean and the right hand of second Jove—aught else remains—entreat him in piteous supplication by the years of Tethys and his aged sire for one single storm." She spoke, and opportunely beheld the mighty monarch; he was coming from Oceanus his host, gladdened by the banquet, and his countenance suffused with the nectar of the deep: wherefore the winds and tempests are silent and with tranquil song proceed the Tritons who bear his armour and the rock-like sea-monsters and the Tyrrhenian herds, and gambol around and below him, saluting their king; he towers on high above the peaceful waves, urging on his team with his three-pronged spear: frontwise they run at furious speed amid showers of foam, behind they swim and blot out their footprints with their tails:—when Thetis: "O sire and ruler of the mighty deep, seest thou to what uses thou hast made a way o'er the hapless ocean? The crimes of the nations pass by with unmolested sails, since the Pagasaean bark broke through the sanctions of the waters and profaned their hallowed majesty on Jason's quest of plunder. Lo! weighed with another wicked theft, the spoils of pityality, sails the daring arbiter of unjust Ida, enjoined to cause what sorrow alas! to heaven and
quos mihi! sic Phrygiae pensamus gaudia palmae, hi Veneris mores, hoc gratae munus alumnae? has saltem—num semideos nostrumque reportant Thesea?—si quis adhuc undis honor, obrue puppes, aut permitte fretum! nulla inclementia: fas sit pro nato timuisse mihi. da pellere luctus, nee tibi de tantis placeat me fluctibus unum litus et Iliaci scopulos habitare sepulcri.”

Orabat laniata genas et pectore nudo caeruleis obstabat equis. sed rector aquarum invitat curru dictisque ita mulcet amicis: “ne pete Dardaniam frustra, Theti, mergere classem: fata vetant, ratus ordo dei miscere cruendas Europamque Asiamque manus, consultaque belli Iuppiter et tristes edixit caedibus amos. quem tu illic natum Sigeo in pulvere, quanta aspicies victrix Phrygiarum funera matrum, cum tuus Aeacides tepido modo sanguine Teucros undabit campos, modo crassa exire vetabit flumina et Hectoreo tardabit funere currus impelletque manu nostros, opera irrita, muros! Pelea iam desiste queri thalamosque minores: crederis peperisse Iovi; nee inulta dolebis cognatisque utere fretis: dabo tollere fluctus,
earth, and what to me! Is it thus we requite the joy of the Phrygian triumph,\textsuperscript{a} is this the way of Venus, is this her gift to her dear ward? These ships at least—no demigods nor our own Theseus do they carry home\textsuperscript{b}—o'erwhelm, if thou still hast any regard for the waters, or give the sea into my power; no cruelty do I purpose; suffer me to fear for my own son. Grant me to drive away my sorrow, nor let it be thy pleasure that out of all the seas I find a home in but a single coast and the rocks of an Ilian tomb.\textsuperscript{c}

With torn cheeks she made her prayer, and with bare bosom would fain hinder the cerulean steeds. But the ruler of the seas invites her into his chariot, and soothes her thus with friendly words: "Seek not in vain, Thetis, to sink the Dardanian fleet: the fates forbid it, 'tis the sure ordinance of heaven that Europe and Asia should join in bloody conflict, and Jupiter hath issued his decree of war and appointed years of dreary carnage. What prowess of thy son in the Sigean dust, what vast funeral trains of Phrygian matrons shalt thou victoriously behold, when thy Aeacides shall flood the Trojan fields with streaming blood, and anon forbid the choked rivers to flow and check his chariot's speed with Hector's corpse and mightily o'erthrow my walls;\textsuperscript{d} my useless toil! Cease now to complain of Peleus and thy inferior wedlock: thy child shall be deemed begotten of Jove; nor shalt thou suffer unavenged, but shalt use thy kindred seas: I will grant thee to raise the

\textsuperscript{a} They are no Argonauts, nor Theseus, who, according to one legend, was the son of Neptune.
\textsuperscript{b} i.e., haunt a rocky shore by the tomb of my son Achilles.
\textsuperscript{c} Neptune had helped Apollo to build the walls of Troy.
cum reduces Danai nocturnaque signa Caphereus exseret et dirum pariter quaeremus Ulixen."

Dixerat. illa gravi vultum demissa repulsa, quae iam excire fretum et ratibus bellare parabat Iliacis, alios animo\(^1\) commenta paratus, tristis ad Haemonias detorquet brachia terras. 
ter conata manu, liquidum ter gressibus aequor reppulit et niveas feriunt vada Thessala plantas. laetantur montes et conubialia pandunt antra sinus lateque deae Sperchios abundat obvius et dulci vestigia circuit unda. illa nihil gavisa locis, sed coepta fatigat pectore consilia et sollers pietate magistra longaevum Chirona petit. domus ardua montem perforat et longosuspendit Pélion arcu; pars exhausta manu, partem sua ruperat actas. signa tamen divumque tori et quem quisque sacravit accubitu genioque locum monstrantur: at intra Centauri stabula alta patent, non aequa nefandis fratibus. hic hominum nullus experta cruores spicula nec truncæ bellis genialibus orni aut consanguineos fracti crateres in hostes, sed pharetrae insontes et inania terga ferarum. haec quoque dum viridis; nam tunc labor unus inermi nosse salutiferas dubii animantibus herbas, aut monstrare lyra veteres heroas alumno. 

Et tunc venatu rediturum in limine primo

\(^1\) animo \(P\) : iterum \(\omega\).
billows, when the Danaans return and Caphereus shows forth his nightly signals and we search together for the terrible Ulysses."

He spoke; but she, downcast at the stern refusal, for but now she was preparing to stir up the waters and make war upon the Ilian craft, devised in her mind another plan, and sadly turned her strokes toward the Haemonian land. Thrice strove she with her arms, thrice spurned the clear water with her feet, and the Thessalian waves are washing her snow-white ankles. The mountains rejoice, the marriage-bowers fling open their recesses, and Spercheus in wide, abundant stream flows to meet the goddess and laps her footsteps with his fresh water. She delights not in the scene, but wearies her mind with schemes essayed, and taught cunning by her devoted love seeks out the aged Chiron. His lofty home bores deep into the mountain, beneath the long, overarching vault of Pelion; part had been hollowed out by toil, part worn away by its own age. Yet the images and couches of the gods are shown, and the places that each had sanctified by his reclining and his sacred presence; within are the Centaur’s wide and lofty stalls, far different from those of his wicked brethren. Here are no spears that have tasted human blood, nor ashen clubs broken in festal conflict, nor mixing-bowls shattered upon kindred foemen, but innocent quivers and mighty hides of beasts. These did he take while yet in the prime of age; but now, a warrior no more, his only toil was to learn the herbs that bring health to creatures doubting of their lives, or to describe to his pupil upon his lyre the heroes of old time.

On the threshold’s edge he awaited his return from
opperiens properatque dapes largoque serenat
igne domum: cum visa procul de litore surgens
Nereis; erumpit silvis—dant gaudia vires—
otaque desueto crepuit senis ungula campo.
tunc blandus dextra atque imos demissus in armos
pauperibus tectis inducit et admonet antri.

Iamdudum tacito lustrat Thetis omnia visu
nec perpessa moras: "ubinam mea pignora, Chiron,
die,", ait, "aut cur ulla puer iam tempora ducit
te sine? non merito trepidus sopor atraque matri
signa deum et magnos utinam mentita timores? namque modo infensos utero mihi contuor enses,
nunc planetu livere manus, modo in ubera saevas
ire feras; saepe ipsa—nefas!—sub inania natum
Tartara et ad Stygios iterum fero mergere fontes.
hos abolere metus magici iubet ordine sacri
Carpathius vates puerumque sub axe peracto
secretis lustrare fretis, ubi litora summa
Oceani et genitor tepet inlabentibus astris
Pontus. ibi ignotis horrenda piacula divis
donaque—sed longum cuncta enumerare vetorque;
trade magis!" sic ficta parens: neque enim ille
dedisset,
si molles habitus et tegmina foeda fateri
ausa seni. tunc ipse refert: "duc, optima, quaesop,
duc genetrix humilique deos infringe precatu.

1 surgens PE: mater ω.
2 notaque P: motaque ω. 3 peracto P: probato ω.

Proteus, from his abode in the Carpathian sea. "axe
peracto," the bound or limit of the sky, i.e., beneath the
horizon, not necessarily western, though that is the meaning
here (l. 138).

Here obviously = Oceanus, not the Euxine.
hunting, and was urging the laying of the feast and brightening his abode with lavish fire: when far off the Nereid was seen climbing upward from the shore; he burst forth from the forests—joy speeds his going—and the well-known hoof-beat of the sage rang on the now unwonted plain. Then bowing down to his horse’s shoulders he leads her with courtly hand within his humble dwelling and warns her of the cave.

Long time has Thetis been scanning—every corner with silent glance: then, impatient of delay, she cries: “Tell me, Chiron, where is my darling? Why spends the boy any time apart from thee? Is it not with reason that my sleep is troubled, and terrible portents from the gods and fearful panics—would they were false!—afflict his mother’s heart? For now I behold swords that threaten to pierce my womb, now my arms are bruised with lamentation, now savage beasts assail my breasts; often—ah, horror!—I seem to take my son down to the void of Tartarus, and dip him a second time in the springs of Styx. The Carpathian seer

*See ll. 326 sq.*
STATIUS

nam superant tua vota modum placandaque multum
invidia est. non addo metum, sed vera fatebor: 146
nescio quid magnum— nec me patria omnia fallunt—
vis festina parat tenuesque supervenit annos.
olim et ferre minas avideque audire solebat
imperia et nostris procul haud discedere ab anris:
nunc illum non Ossa capitis, non Pelion ingens 151
Thessaliaeae nives. ipsi mihi saepe queruntur
Centauri raptasque domos abstractaque coram
armenta et semet campis fluviiisque fugari:
insidiasque et bella parant tumideque minantur. 155
olim equidem Argoos pinus cum Thessala reges
hac veheret, iuuenem Alciden et Thesea vidi—
sed taceo.' figit gelidus Nereida pallor:
ille aderat multo sudore et pulvere maior,
et tamen arma inter festinatosque labores 160
dulcis adhuc visu: niveo natat ignis in ore
purpureus fulvoque nitet coma gratior auro.
needum prima nova lanugine vertitur aetas,
tranquillaeque faces oculis et plurima vultu
mater inest: qualis Lycia venator Apollo 165
cum redit et saevis permutat plectra pharetris.
forte et laetus adest—o quantum gaudia formae
adiciunt!— fetam Pholoes sub rupe leanaem
perculerat ferro vacuisque reliquerat anris
ipsam, scd catulos adportat et incitat ungues. 170
quos tamen, ut fido genetrix in limine visa est,
abicit exceptamque avidis circumligat ulnis,
iam gravis amplexu iamque aequeae vertice matri.

1 Thessaliaeae nives ø: Pharsaliaeae nives P: thessaliae
iuvenes E.
2 tumideque Kohlmann: timideque P: tumidique ø.

a "purpureus," as in Virgil’s "lumenque iuventae pur-
pureum" (Aen. i. 590), also cf. Hor. C. iii. 3. 12.
pitched too high, and envy needs much appeasing. I add not to thy fears, but will confess the truth: some swift and violent deed—the forebodings of a sire deceive me not—is preparing, far beyond his tender years. Formerly he was wont to endure my anger, and listen eagerly to my commands nor wander far from my cave: now Ossa cannot contain him, nor mighty Pelion and all the snows of Thessaly. Even the Centaurs often complain to me of plundered homes and herds stolen before their eyes, and that they themselves are driven from field and river; they devise violence and fraud, and utter angry threats. Once when the Thessalian pine bore hither the princes of the Argo, I saw the young Alcides and Theseus—but I say no more.” Cold pallor seized the daughter of Nereus: lo! he was come, made larger by much dust and sweat, and yet for all his weapons and hastened labours still pleasant to the sight; a radiant glow a shimmers on his snow-white countenance, and his locks shine more comely than tawny gold. The bloom of youth is not yet changed by new-springing down, a tranquil flame burns in his glance, and there is much of his mother in his look: even as when the hunter Apollo returns from Lycia and exchanges his fierce quiver for the quill. By chance too he is in joyful mood—ah, how joy enhances beauty!—; beneath Pholoe’s cliff he had stricken a lioness lately delivered and had left her in the empty lair, but had brought the cubs and was making them show their claws. Yet when he sees his mother on the well-known threshold, away he throws them, catches her up and binds her in his longing arms, already violent in his embrace and equal to her in height. Patroclus follows him, bound
insequitur magno iam tunc conexus amore
Patroclus tantisque extenditur aemulus actis,
par studiis aevique modis, sed robore longe,
et tamen aequali visurus Pergama fato.

Protinus ille subit rapido quae proxima saltu
flumina fumantesque genas crinemque novatur
fontibus: Eurotae qualis vada Castor anhelo
intrat equo fessumque sui iubar excitat astri.
miratur comitque senex, nunc pectora mulcens,
nunc fortes umeros: angunt sua gaudia matrem.
tunc libare dapes Baccheaque munera Chiron
orat et attonitae varia oblectamina nectens
elicet extremo chelyn et solantia curas
fila movet leviterque expertas pollice chordas
dat puero. canit ille libens immania laudum
semina: quot tumidae superarit iussa novercae
Amphitryoniades, crudum quo Bebryea caestu
obruerit Pollux, quanto circumdata nexo
ruperit Aegides Minoia bracchia tauri,
maternos in fine toros superisque gravatum
Pelion: hie victo risit Thetis anxia vultu.
nox trahit in somnos, saxo conlabitur ingens
Centaurus blandusque umerus se innectit Achilles,
quamquam ibi fida parens, adsuetaque pectora mavult.

At Thetis undisonis per noctem in rupibus astans,
quae nato secreta velit, quibus abdere terris
destinet, huc illuc divisa mente volutat.
to him even then by a strong affection, and strains to rival all his mighty doings, well-matched in the pursuits and ways of youth, but far behind in strength, and yet to pass to Pergamum with equal fate.

Straightway with rapid bound he hies him to the nearest river, and freshens in its waters his steaming face and hair: just as Castor enters the shallows of Eurotas on his panting steed, and tricks out anew the weary splendours of his star. The old mæ marvels as he adorns him, caressing now his breast, now his strong shoulders: her very joy pierces his mother's heart. Then Chiron prays her to taste the banquet and the gifts of Bacchus, and contriving various amusements for her beguiling at last brings forth the lyre and moves the care-consoling strings, and trying the chords lightly with his finger gives them to the boy. Gladly he sings of the mighty causes of noble deeds: how many behests of his haughty stepmother the son of Amphitryon performed, how Pollux with his glove smote down the cruel Bebryx, with what a grip the son of Aegeus enfolded and crushed the limbs of the Minoan bull, lastly his own mother's marriage-feast and Pelion trodden by the gods. Then Thetis relaxed her anxious countenance and smiled. Night draws them on to slumber: the huge Centaur lays him down on a stony couch, and Achilles lovingly twines his arms about his shoulders—though his faithful parent is there—and prefers the wonted breast.

—But Thetis, standing by night upon the sea-echoing rocks, this way and that divides her purpose, and ponders in what hiding-place she will set her son, in what country she shall choose to conceal him. Nearest
proxima, sed studiis multum Mavortia Thrace; nee Macetum gens dura placet laudumque daturi Cecropidae stimulos, nimium opportuna carinis Sestos Abydenique sinus: placet ire per altas Cycladas, hispresetae Myconosque humilisque Seriphos et Lemnos non aqua viris atque hospita Delos 206 gentibus. imbelli nuper Lycomedis ab aula virgineos coetus et litora persona ludo audicerat, duro laxantem Aegacona nexus "issa sequi centumque dei numerare catenas. 210 haec placet, haec timidae tellus tutissima matri. qualis vicino voluceris iam sedula partu iamque timens, qua fronde domum suspendat inanem, providet hic ventos, hic anxia cogitat angues, hic homines: tandem dubiae placet umbra, novisque vix stetit in ramis et protinus arbor amatur. 216

Altera consilio superest tristemque fatigat cura deam, natum ipsa sinu complexa per undas an magni Tritone ferat, ventosne volucres advocet an pelago solitam Thaumantida pasci. 220 elicit inde fretis et murice frenat acuto delphinas biugos, quos illi maxima Tethys gurgite Atlanteo pelagi sub valle sonora nutrierat;—nullis vada per Neptunia glaucae tantus honos formae nandique potentia nec plus 225 pectoris humani—iubet hos subsistere pleno

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a The Athenians.
b See the story of Hypsipyle, *Theb.* v. 48 sq.
c King of Scyros.
d Also named Briareus, one of the sons of Uranus, put in chains by Cronos, and set free by Zeus; Thetis went in search of him to bring aid to Zeus when threatened by the other Olympians (see Hesiod, *Theog.* 502; Homer, *Il.* i. 398 sqq.). "centum," because he had a hundred arms.
e Iris, *i.e.* the rainbow, that seems to draw moisture from
is Thrace, but steeped in the passionate love of war; nor does the hardy folk of Macedon please her, nor the sons of Cecrops, sure to excite to noble deeds, nor Sestos and the bay of Abydos, too opportune for ships; she decides to roam the lofty Cyclades. Of these she spurns Myconos and humble Seriphos, and Lemnos cruel to its men, and Delos, that gives all the world a welcome. Of late from the unwarlike palace of Lycomedes had she heard the sound of maiden bands and the echo of their sport along the shore, what time she was sent to follow Aegaeon freed from his stubborn bonds and to count the hundred fetters of the god. This land finds favour, and seems safest to the timid mother. Even so a bird already taking anxious thought, as her delivery draws nigh, on what branch to hang her empty home, here foresees winds, there bethinks her fearfully of snakes, and there of men; at last in her doubt a shady spot finds favour; scarce has she alighted on the boughs, and straightway loves the tree.

One more care abides in her mind and troubles the sad goddess, whether she shall carry her son in her own bosom o'er the waves, or use great Triton's aid, whether she shall summon the swift winds to help her, or the Thaumantian that is wont to drink the main. Then she calls out from the waves and bridles with a sharp-edged shell her team of dolphins twain, which Tethys, mighty queen, had nourished for her in an echoing vale beneath the sea;—none throughout all Neptune's watery realm had such renown for their sea-green beauty, nor greater speed of swimming, nor more of human sense;—these she the sea, cf. Ovid, Met. i. 271 "concipit Iris aquas alimentaque nubibus adfert." Iris was the daughter of Thaumas.
STA\'TIUS

litore, ne nuda\'e noceant contagia terrae.
ipsa dehinc toto resolutum pectore Achillen,
qui pueris sopor, Haemonii de rupibus antri
ad placidas deportat aquas et iussa tacere
litora: monstrat iter totoque effulgurat orbe
Cynthia. prosequitur divam celeresque recursus
securus pelagi Chiron rogat\textsuperscript{1} udaeque celat
lumina et abreptos subito iamiamque latentes
erecto prospectat equo, qua cana parumper
spumant signa fugae et liquido perit orbita ponto.
il\lum non alias rediturum ad Thessala Tempe
iam tristis Pholoe, iam nubilus ingemit Othrys
et tenuior\textsuperscript{2} Spercheos aquis speluncaque docti
muta senis; quae\luerunt puerilia carmina Fauni
et sperata diu plorant conubia Nymphae.
Iam premit astra dies humilique ex aequore Titan
rorantes evolvit equos et ab aethere magno
sublatum curru pelagus cadit, at vada mater
Seyria iamdudum fluctus emensa tenebat,
exierantque iugo fessi delphines erili:
cum pueri tremefacta quies oculique patentes
infusum sensere diem. stupe\l aer primo,
quae loca, qui fluctus, ubi Pelion\? omnia versa
atque ignota videt dubitatque agnoscere matrem.
occupat illa manu blandeque ad\lata paventem:
"si mihi, care puer, thalamos sorsaequa tulisset,
quos dabat, aetheriis ego te complexa tenerem

\textsuperscript{1} rogat $\omega$: rotat $P$.
\textsuperscript{2} tenuior Postgate: senior $P$: tenuis $\omega$.

\textsuperscript{a} "rotat" would presumably mean "gallops quickly
back," which would have no point here.
\textsuperscript{b} Both mountains of Thessaly.
halts in the deep shore-water, lest they take harm from the touch of naked earth. Then in her own arms she carries Achilles, his body utterly relaxed in a boy's slumber, from the rocks of the Haemonian cave down to the placid waters and the beach that she had bidden be silent: Cynthia lights her way and shines out with full orb. Chiron escorts the goddess, and careless of the sea entreats her speedy return, and hides his moistened eyes and high upon his horse's body gazes out towards them as suddenly they are whirled away, and now—and now are lost to view, where for a short while the foamy marks of their going gleam white and the wake dies away into the watery main. Him destined never more to return to Thessalian Tempe now mournful Pholoe bewails, now cloudy Othrys, and Spercheos with diminished flood and the silent grotto of the sage; the Fauns listen for his boyish songs in vain, and the Nymphs bemoan their long-hoped-for nuptials.

Now day o'erwhelms the stars, and from the low and level main Titan wheels heavenward his dripping steeds, and down from the expanse of air falls the sea that the chariot bore up: but long since had the mother traversed the waves and gained the Scyrian shores, and the weary dolphins had been loosed from their mistress' yoke: when the boy's sleep was stirred, and his opening eyes grew conscious of the inpouring day. In amaze at the light that greets him he asks, where is he, what are these waves, where is Pelion? All he beholds is different and unknown, and he hesitates to recognize his mother. Quickly she caresses him and soothes his fear: "If, dear lad, a kindly lot had brought me the wedlock that it offered, in the fields of heaven should I be
sidus grande plagis, magnique puerpera caeli nil humilis Parcas terrenaque fata vererer.
nunc impar tibi, nate, genus, praeclausaque leti tantum amatre via est; quin et metuenda propinquant tempora et extremis admoda pericula metis. cedamus, paulumque animos submitte viriles atque habitus dignare meos. si Lydia dura pensa manu mollesque tulit Tirynthius hastas, si decet aurata Bacchum vestigia palla verrere, virgineos si Iuppiter induit artus, nec magnum ambigui fregerunt Caenea sexus: hac\(^1\) sine, quaeo, minas nubemque exire malignam.\(^2\) mox iterum campos, iterum Centaurica reddam lustra tibi: per ego hoc decus et ventura iuventae gaudia, si terras humilemque experta maritum te propter, si progenitum Stygos amne severo armavi—totumque utinam! caepe tuta parumper tegmina nil nocitura animo. cur ora reducis quidve parant oculi? pudet hoc mitescere cultu? per te, care puer, cognata per aequora iuro, nesciet hoc Chiron.” sic horrida pectora tractat nequiquam mulcens; obstat genitorque roganti nutritorque ingens et cruda exordia magnae indolis. effrenae tumidum velut igne iuventae si quis equum primis submittere temptet habenis: ille diu campis fluviisque et honore superbo

\(^1\) hac Postgate: hae \(P\): has \(\omega\).
\(^2\) nubemque malignam \(P\): numenque malignum \(\omega\).

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\(a\) Hercules spun wool for Omphale in Lydia.
\(b\) Jupiter disguised himself as Diana to gain possession of Callisto (Ovid, Met. ii. 425).
\(c\) First a girl, Caenis, then a man, then a woman again (Ovid, Met. xii. 189; Virg. Aen. vi. 448).
holding thee, a glorious star, in my embrace, nor a celestial mother should I fear the lowly Fates or the destinies of earth. But now unequal is thy birth, my son, and only on thy mother's side is the way of death barred for thee; moreover, times of terror draw nigh, and peril hovers about the utmost goal. Retire we then, relax awhile thy mighty spirit, and scorn not this raiment of mine. If the Tirynthian took in his rough hand Lydian wool and women's wands, if it becomes Bacchus to trail a gold-embroidered robe behind him, if Jupiter put on a woman's form, and doubtful sex weakened not the mighty Caeneus, this way, I entreat thee, suffer me to escape the threatening, baleful cloud. Soon will I restore thy plains and the fields where the Centaurs roam: by this beauty of thine and the coming joys of youth I pray thee, if for thy sake I endured the earth and an inglorious mate, if at thy birth I fortified thee with the stern waters of Styx—ay, would I had wholly!—take these safe robes awhile, they will in no wise harm thy valour. Why dost thou turn away? What means that glance? Art thou ashamed to soften thee in this garb? Dear lad, I swear it by my kindred waters, Chiron shall know nought of this." So doth she work on his rough heart, vainly cajoling; the thought of his sire and his great teacher oppose her prayer and the rude beginnings of his mighty spirit. Even so, should one try to subdue with earliest rein a horse full of the mettlesome fire of ungoverned youth, he having long delighted in stream and meadow and his own proud

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Thetis plunged the infant Achilles in the waters of Styx, and thereby made his body immune from harm—all except the left heel by which she held him.
gavisus non colla iugo, non aspera praebet
ora lupis dominique fremit captivus inire
imperia atque alios miratur discere cursus.

Quis deus attonitae fraudes astumque parenti
contulit? indocilem quae mens detraxit Achillem?
Palladi litoreae celebrabat Seyros honorum
forte diem, placidoque satae Lycomede sorores
luce sacra patriis, quae rara licentia, muris
exierant dare veris opes divaeque severas
fronde ligare comas et spargere floribus hastam.

omnibus eximium formae decus, omnibus idem
cultus et expleto teneri iam fine pudoris
virginitas matura toris annique tumentes.
sed quantum virides pelagi Venus addita Nymphas
obruit, aut umeris quantum Diana relinquit
Naidas, effulget tantum regina decori
Deidamia chori pulchrisque sororibus obstat.
ilius et roseo flammatur purpura vultu
et gemmis lux maior inest et blandius aurum:
atque ipsi par forma deae est,1 si pectoris angues
ponat et exempta pace tur casside vultus.
hane ubi ducentem longe socia agmina vidit,
trux puer et nullo temeratus pectora motu
deriguit totisque novum bibit ossibus ignem.
nec latet haustus amor, sed fax vibrata medullis
in vultus atque ora redit lucemque genarum

1 deae est Kohlmann: deae w: deest P.
beauty, gives not his neck to the yoke, nor his fierce mouth to the bridle, and snorts with rage at passing beneath a master's sway and marvels that he learns another gait.

What god endued the despairing mother with fraud and cunning? What device drew Achilles from his stubborn purpose? It chanced that Scyros was keeping festal day in honour of Pallas, guardian of the shore, and that the sisters, offspring of peace-loving Lycomedes, had on this sacred morn gone forth from their native town—a licence rarely given—to pay tribute of the spring, and bind their grave tresses with the leaf of the goddess and scatter flowers upon her spear. All were of rarest beauty, all clad alike and all in lusty youth, their years of girlish modesty now ended, and maidenhood ripe for the marriage-couch. But as far as Venus by comparison doth surpass the green Nymphs of the sea, or as Diana rises taller by head and shoulders than the Naiads, so doth Deidamia, queen of the lovely choir, outshine and dazzle her fair sisters. The bright colour flames upon her rosy countenance, a more brilliant light is in her jewels, the gold has a more alluring gleam; as beauteous were the goddess herself, would she but lay aside the serpents on her breast, and doff her helm and pacify her brow. When he beheld her far in advance of her attendant train, the lad, ungentle as he was and heart-whole from any touch of passion, stood spellbound and drank in strange fire through all his frame. Nor does the love he has imbibed lie hidden, but the flame pulsating in his inmost being returns to his face and colours the glow upon his cheeks, and as he feels its power runs o'er his body with a light sweat. As when the
lactea Massagetae veluti cum poca fuscant sanguine puniceo vel ebur corrumpitur ostro: sic variis manifesta notis—palletque rubetque—flamma repens. eat atque ultro ferus hospita sacra dissiciat turbae securus et immemor aevi, ni pudor et iunctae teneat reverentia matris. ut pater aramenti quondam ductorque futurus, cui nondum toto peraguntur cornua gyro, cum sociam pastus niveo candore iuvencam aspicit, ardescunt animi primusque per ora spumat amor, spectant hilares obstantque magistri.

Occupat arrepto iam conscia tempore mater: "hasne inter simulare choros et brachchia ludo nectere, nate, grave est? gelida quid tale sub Ossa Peliacisque iugis? o si mihi iungere curas atque alium portare sinu contingat Achillen!" muleetur laetumque rubet visusque protervos obliquat vesteque manu leviore repellit. aspicit ambiguum genetrix cogique \(^1\) volentem iniecitque sinus; tunc colla rigentia mollit submittitque graves umeros et fortia laxat bracchia et impexos certo domat ordine crines ac sua dilecta cervicemonilia transfert; et picturato cohibens vestigia limbo incessum motumque docet fandique pudorem. qualiter artifici victurae pollice cerae accipiunt formas ignemque manumque sequuntur: talis erat divae natum mutantis imagin.nec luctata diu; superest nam plurimus illi

\(^1\) cogique Heinsius: cogitque Pw.
Massagetae darken milk-white bowls with blood-red dye, or ivory is stained with purple, so by varying signs of blush and pallor does the sudden fire betray its presence. He would rush forward and unprovoked fiercely break up the ceremonies of his hosts, reckless of the crowd and forgetful of his years, did not shame restrain him and awe of the mother by his side. As when a bullock, soon to be the sire and leader of a herd, though his horns have not yet come full circle, perceives a heifer of snowy whiteness, the comrade of his pasture, his spirit takes fire, and he foams at the mouth with his first passion; glad at heart the herdsmen watch him and check his fury.

Seizing the moment his mother purposely accosts him: "Is it too hard a thing, my son, to make pretence of dancing and join hands in sport among these maidens? Hast thou aught such 'neath Ossa and the crags of Pelion? O, if it were my lot to match two loving hearts, and to bear another Achilles in my arms!" He is softened, and blushes for joy, and with sly and sidelong glance repels the robes less certainly. His mother sees him in doubt and willing to be compelled, and casts the raiment o'er him; then she softens his stalwart neck and bows his strong shoulders, and relaxes the muscles of his arms, and tames and orders duly his uncombed tresses, and sets her own necklace about the neck she loves; then keeping his step within the embroidered skirt she teaches him gait and motion and modesty of speech. Even as the waxen images that the artist's thumb will make to live take form and follow the fire and the hand that carves them, such was the picture of the goddess as she transformed her son. Nor did she struggle long; for plenteous charm re-
invita virtute decor, fallitque tuentes
ambiguus tenuique latens discrimine sexus.

Procedunt, iterumque monens iterumque fatigans
blanda Thetis: "sic ergo gradum, sic ora manusque,
nate, feres comitesque modis imitabere fictis, ne te suspectum molli non misceat aulae
rector et incepti pereant mendacia furti."
dicit et admoto non distat comere tactu.
sie ubi virgineis Hecate lassata Therapnis
ad patrem fratremque redit, comes haeret eunti
mater et ipsa umeros exsertaque bracchia velat;
ipsa arcum pharetrasque locat vestemque latentem
deducit sparsosque tumet componere crines.

Protinus adgreditur regem atque ibi testibus aris
"hanctibi," ait, "nostrigermanam, rector, Achillis
—nonne vides, ut torva genas aequandaque fratri?
—tradimus: arma umeris arcumque animosa petebat
ferre et Amazonio conubia pellere ritu.

sed mihi eurarum satis est pro stirpe virili:
haec calathos et sacra ferat, tu frange regendo
indocilem sexuque tene, dum nubilis aetas
solvendusque pudor; neve exercere protervas

gymnadas aut lustris nemorum concede vagari.

intus ale et similes inter seclude puellas;
litore praecipue portuque arcere memento.

1 protervas ω: catervas P.
mains to him though his manhood brook it not, and he baffles beholders by the puzzle of his sex that by a narrow margin hides its secret.

They go forward, and Thetis unsparingly plies her counsels and persuasive words: "Thus then, my son, must thou manage thy gait, thus thy features and thy hands, and imitate thy comrades and counterfeit their ways, lest the king suspect thee and admit thee not to the women's chambers, and the crafty cunning of our enterprise be lost." So speaking she delays not to put correcting touches to his attire. Thus when Hecate\(^a\) returns wearied to her sire and brother from Therapnae, haunt of maidens, her mother bears her company as she goes, and with her own hand covers her shoulders and bared arms, herself arranges the bow and quiver, and pulls down the girt-up robe, and is proud to trim the disordered tresses.

Straightway she accosts the monarch, and there in the presence of the altars: "Here, O king," she says, "I present to thee the sister of my Achilles—seest thou not how proud her glance and like her brother's?—so high her spirit, she begged for arms and a bow to carry on her shoulders, and like an Amazon to spurn the thought of wedlock. But my son is enough care for me; let her carry the baskets at the sacrifice, do thou control and tame her wilfulness, and keep her to her sex, till the time for marriage come and the end of her maiden modesty; nor suffer her to engage in wanton wrestling-matches, nor to frequent the woodland haunts. Bring her up indoors, in seclusion among girls of her own age; above all remember to keep her from the harbour and the

\(^a\) Another name for Diana.
vidisti modo vela Phrygum: iam mutua iura fallere transmissae pelago didicere carinae."

Accedit dictis pater ingenioque parentis occultum Aeaciden—quid divum fraudibus obstet?—accepit; ultro etiam veneratur supplice dextra et grates electus agit: nec turba piarum Seyriadum cessat nimio desigere visu virginis ora novae, quantum cervice comisque emineat quantumque umeros ac pectora fundat. dehinc sociare choros castisque accedere sacris hortantur, ceduntque loco et contingere gaudent. qualiter Idaliae volucres, ubi mollia frangunt nubila, iam longum caeloque domoque gregatae, si iunxit pinnas diversoque hospita tractu venit avis, cunctae primum mirantur et horrent: mox propius propiusque volant, atque aere in ipso paulatim fecere suam plausuque secundo circueunt hilares et ad alta cubilia ducunt.

Digreditur multum cunctata in limine mater, dum repetit monitus arcanaque murmura figit auribus et tacito dat verba novissima vultu. tune excepta freto longe cervice reflexa abnatat et blandis adfatur litora votis: "cara mihi tellus, magnae cui pignora curae depositumque ingens timidum commisimus astu, sis felix taceasque, precor, quo more tacebat Creta Rheae: te longus honos aeternaque cingent templa nec instabili fama superabere Delo;
shore. Lately thou sawest the Phrygian sails: already ships that have crossed the sea have learnt treason to mutual loyalties."

The sire accedes to her words, and receives the disguised Achilles by his mother's ruse—who can resist when gods deceive? Nay more, he venerates her with a suppliant's hand, and gives thanks that he was chosen; nor is the band of duteous Scyrian maidens slow to dart keen glances at the face of their new comrade, how she o'ertops them by head and neck, how broad her expanse of breast and shoulders; then they invite her to join the dance and approach the holy rites, and make room for her in their ranks and rejoice to be near her. Just as Idalian birds, cleaving the soft clouds and long since gathered in the sky or in their homes, if a strange bird from some distant region has joined them wing to wing, are at first all filled with amaze and fear; then nearer and nearer they fly, and while yet in the air have made him one of them and hover joyfully around with favouring beat of pinions and lead him to their lofty resting-places.

Long, ere she departs, lingers the mother at the gate, while she repeats advice and implants whispered secrets in his ear and in hushed tones gives her last counsels. Then she plunges into the main, and gazing back swims far away, and entreats with flattering prayers the island-shore: "O land that I love, to whom by timid cunning I have committed the pledge of my anxious care, a trust that is great indeed, mayst thou prosper and be silent, I beg, as Crete was silent for Rhea; enduring honour and everlasting shrines shall gird thee, nor shalt thou be surpassed by unstable Delos; sacred alike to wind

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et ventis et saera fretis interque vadosas
Cycladas, Aegaeae frangunt ubi saxa procellae,
Nereidum tranquilla domus iurandaque nautis
insula, ne solum Danaas admitte carinas,
ne, precor! hic thiasi tantum et nihil utile bellis,
—hoc famam narrare doce—dumque arma parantur
Dorica et alternum Mavors interfurit orbem,
—cedo equidem—sit virgo piii Lycomedis Achilles.”

Interea meritos ultrix Europa dolores
dulcibus armorum furiis et suppliee regum
conquestuflammata movet; quippe ambit Atrides
ille magis, cui nupta domi, facinusque relatu
asperat Iliacum: captam sine Marte, sine armis
progeniem caeli Spartaequapotentis alumnam,
iura fidem superos una calcata rapina.
hocfoedus Phrygium, haec geminæ commercia terrae?
quid maneat populos, ubi tanta iniuria primos
degrassata duces?—coeunt gens omnis et aetas:
neec tantum exciti, bimari quos Isthmia vallo
claustra nec undisonae quos circuit umbo Maleae,
sed procul admotas Phrixiqua semita iungi
Europamque Asiamque vetat; quasque ordine gentes
litore Abydeno maris alligat unda superni.
fervet amor bellipercessasque erigit urbes.
aera domat Temese, quatitur navalibus ora
Euboיס, innumera resonant incude Myceæae,
Pisa novat currus, Nemee dat terga ferarum,
Cirrho sagittiferas certat stipare pharetras,

\* Because daughter of Zeus by Leda.

\* See note on Silv. i. 1. 42.
and wave shalt thou be, and calm abode of Nereids among the shallows of the Cyclades, where the rocks are shattered by Aegean storms, an isle that sailors swear by—only admit no Danaan keels, I beg! 'Here are only the wands of Bacchus, nought that avails for war;' that tale bid rumour spread, and while the Dorian armaments make ready and Mavors rages from world to world—he may, for aught I care—let Achilles be the maiden-daughter of good Lycomedes.'

Meanwhile avenging Europe, inflamed by war's sweet frenzy and the monarchs' complaining entreaties, excites her righteous ire; more earnestly pleads that son of Atreus whose spouse abides at home, and by his telling makes the Ilian crime more grievous: how without aid of Mars or force of arms the daughter of heaven and child of mighty Sparta was taken, and justice, good faith and the gods spurned by one deed of rapine. Is this then Phrygian honour? Is this the intercourse of land with land? What awaits the common folk, when wrong so deadly attacks the foremost chieftains? All races, all ages flock together: nor are they only aroused whom the Isthmian barrier with its rampart fronting on two seas encloses and Malea's wave-resounding promontory, but where afar the strait of Phrixus sunder s Europe and Asia; and the peoples that fringe Abydos' shore, bound fast by the waters of the upper sea. The war-fever rises high, thrilling the agitated cities. Temese tames her bronze, the Euboean coast shakes with its dockyards, Mycenae echoes with innumerable forges, Pisa makes new chariots, Nemea gives the skins of wild beasts, Cirrha vies in packing tight the arrow-bearing quivers,
STATIUS

Lerna graves clipeos caesis vestire iuvencis. 
dat bello pedites Aetolus et asper Acarnan, 
Argos agit turmas, vacuantur paseua ditis 
Arcadiae, frenat celeres Epiros alumnos, 
Phocis et Aoniae iaculis rarescitis umbrae, 
murorum tormenta Pylos Messenaque tendunt. 
nulla immunis humus ; velluntur postibus altis 
arma olim dimissa patrum, flammisque liquescunt 
donae deum : ereptum superis Mars efferat aurum. 425 
nusquam umbrae veteres: minor Othrys et arduasidunt 
Taygeta, exuti viderunt aera montes. 
iam natat omne nemus: caeduntur robora classi, 
silva minor remis. ferrum lassatur in usus 
innumeris, quod rostra liget, quod muniat arma, 430 
belligeros quod frenet equos, quod mille catenis 
squalentes nectat tunicas, quod sanguine fumet 
vulneraque alta bibat, quod conspirante veneno 
impellat mortes ; tenuant uementia saxa 
attritu et pigris addunt mucronibus iras. 435 
nec modus aut arcus lentare aut fundere glandes 
aut torrere sudes galeasque attollere conis. 
hos inter motus pigram gemit una quietem 
Thessalia et geminis incusat fata querellis, 
quod senior Peleus nec adhuc maturus Achilles. 440 
Iam Pelopis terras Graiumque exhauserat orbem 
praecipitans in transtra viros insanus equosque 
Bellipotens. fervent portus et operta carinis 
stagna suasque hiemes classis promota suosque 
540
ACHILLEID, I. 417-444

Lerna in covering heavy shields with the hides of slaughtered bullocks. Aetolia and fierce Acarnania send infantry to war, Argos collects her squadrons, the pasture-lands of rich Arcadia are emptied, Epiros bridles her swift-footed nurslings, a ye shades of Phocis and Aonia grow scant by reason of the javelins, Pylos and Messene strain their fortress-engines. No land but bears its burden; ancestral weapons long renounced are torn from lofty portals, gifts to the gods melt in the flame; gold reft from divine keeping Mars turns to fiercer use. Nowhere are the shady haunts of old: Othrys is lesser grown, lofty Taygetus sinks low, the shorn hills see the light of day. Now the whole forest is afloat: oaks are hewn to make a fleet, the woods are diminished for oars. Iron is forced into countless uses, for riveting prows, for armour of defence, for bridling chargers, for knitting rough coats of mail by a thousand links, to smoke with blood, to drink deep of wounds, to drive death home in conspiracy with poison; they make the dripping whetstones thin with grinding, and add wrath to sluggish sword-points. No limit is there to the shaping of bows or heaping up of bullets or the charring of stakes or the heightening of helms with crests. Amid such commotion Thessaly alone bewails her indolent repose, and brings a twofold complaint against the Fates, that Peleus is too old and Achilles not yet ripe of age.

Already the lord of war had drained the land of Pelops and the Grecian world, madly flinging aboard both men and horses. All aswarm are the harbours and the bays invisible for shipping, and the moving

a Cf. Virgil Georg. i. 57 "Eliadum palmas Epiros equarum."
attollit fluctus; ipsum iam puppibus aequor
deficit et toto consumunt carbasae ventos.

Prima ratis Danaas Hecateia congregat Aulis,
rupibus expositis longique crepidine dorsi
Euboicum scandens¹ Aulis mare, litora multum
montivagae dillecta deae, iuxtaque Caphereus
latratum pelago tollens caput. ille Pelasgas
ut vidit tranare rates, ter monte ter undis
intonuit saevaeque dedit praesagia noctis.
coetus ibi armorum Troiae fatalis, ibi ingens
iuratur bellum, donec sol annuus omnes
conficeret metas. tunc primum Graecia vires
contemplata suas; tunc sparsa ac dissona moles
in corpus vultumque coit et rege sub uno
disposita est. sic curva feras indago latentes
claudit et admotis paulatim cassibus artat.
illae ignem sonitumque pavent diffusaque linquant
avia miranturque suum decrescere montem,
donec in angustam ceciderunt undique vallem;
inque vicem stupuere greges socioque timore
mansuescunt: simul hirtus aper, simul ursa lupusque
cogitur et captos contempsit cerva leones

Sed quamquam et gemini pariter sua bella capessant
Atridae famamque avida virtute paternam
Tydides Sthenelusque premat, nec cogitet annos
Antilochos septemque Aiax umbone coruscet
armenti reges atque aequum moenibus orbem.
consiliisque armisque vigil contendat Ulixes:
onnis in absentem belli manus ardet Achillem,
nomen Achillis amant, et in Hectora solus Achilles

¹ scandens Pw: scindens Menke, but cf. Theb. ii. 44.

a Cf. note on i. 93.

b i.e., the seven bullocks whose hides went to make his shield.

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fleets stirs its own storms and billows; the sea itself fails the vessels, and their canvas swallows up every breath of wind.

Aulis, sacred to Hecate, first gathers together the Danaan fleet, Aulis, whose exposed cliff and long-projecting ridge climb the Euboean sea, coast beloved by the mountain-wandering goddess, and Caphereus, that raises his head hard by against the barking waves. He, when he beheld the Pelasgian ships sail by, thrice thundered from peak to wave, and gave presage of a night of fury. There assembles the armament for Troy's undoing, there the vast array is sworn, while the sun completes an annual course. Then first did Greece behold her own might; then a scattered, dissonant mass took form and feature, and was marshalled under one single lord. Even so does the round hunting-net confine the hidden beasts, and gradually hem them in as the toils are drawn close. They in panic of the torches and the shouting leave their wide pathless haunts, and marvel that their own mountain is shrinking, till from every side they pour into the narrow vale; the herds startle each other, and are tamed by mutual fear; bristly boar and bear and wolf are driven together, and the hind despises the captured lions.

But although the twain Atridae make war in their own cause together, though Sthenelus and Tydeus' son surpass in eager valour their fathers' fame, and Antilochus heeds not his years, and Ajax shakes upon his arm the seven leaders of the herd and the circle vast as a city-wall, though Ulysses, sleepless in counsel and deeds of arms, joins in the quarrel, yet all the host yearns ardently for the absent Achilles, lovingly they dwell upon Achilles' name, Achilles alone is...
poscitur, illum unum Teucris Priamoque loquuntur fatalem. quis enim Haemoniis sub vallibus alter creverit effossa reptans nive? cuius adortus\(^1\) cruda rudimenta et teneros formaverit annos Centaurus? patrii propior cui linea caeli, quemve alium Stygios tulerit secreta per amnes Nereis et pulchros ferro praestruxerit artus? haec Graiae castris iterant traduntque cohortes, cedit turba ducum vincique haud maesta fatetur. sic cum pallentes Phlegraea in castra coirent caelicolaæ iamque Odrysiam Gradivus in hastam surgeret et Libycos Tritonia tolleret angues ingentemque manu curvaret Delius arcum, stabat anhela metu solaet Natura Tonantem respiciens—quando ille hiemes tonitrusque vocaret nubibus, igniferam quot fulmina posceret Aetnen?

Atque ibi dum mixta vallati plebe suorum et maris et belli consultant tempora reges, increpitans magno vatem Calchanta tumultu Protesilaus ait—namque huic bellare cupido praecipua et primae iam tune data gloria mortis—:

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o nimium Phoebi tripodumque oblite tuorum, Thestoride, quando ora deo possessa movebis iustius aut quianam\(^2\) Parcarum occulta recludis\(^3\)? cernis ut ignotum cuncti stupeantque fremantque\(^4\) Aeaciden? sordent vulgo Calydonius heros
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\(^1\) adortus P\(\omega\): ad ortus E: ab ortu Q (correction from ad ortus).
\(^2\) quianam P\(\): quaeam \(\omega\).
\(^3\) recludis Garrod: recludes P\(\omega\).
\(^4\) fremantque E: premantque P\(\omega\).

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\(^a\) Scene of the battle of gods and giants, part of Macedonia, also called Pallene.
\(^b\) i.e., Thracian.
\(^c\) I have adopted Garrod’s reading here, giving “recludo” the meaning of “conceal”; “quaeam... recludes” would mean “What mysteries wilt thou reveal?”
ACHILLEID, I. 475-500

called for against Hector, him and none other do they speak of as the doom of Priam and of Troy. For who else grew up from infancy crawling on fresh-dug snow in the Haemonian valleys? Whom else did the Centaur take in hand and shape his rude beginnings and tender years? Whose line of ancestry runs nearer heaven? Whom else did a Nereid take by stealth through the Stygian waters and make his fair limbs impenetrable to steel? Such talk do the Grecian cohorts repeat and interchange. The band of chieftains yields before him and gladly owns defeat. So when the pale denizens of heaven flocked into the Phlegraean camp, and already Gradivus was towering to the height of his Odrysian spear and Tritonia raised her, Libyan snakes and the Delian strongly bent his mighty bow, Nature in breathless terror stood looking to the Thunderer alone—when would he summon the lightnings and the tempests from the clouds, how many thunderbolts would he ask of fiery Aetna?

There, while the princes, surrounded by the mingled multitudes of their folk, hold counsel of times for sailing and for war, Protesilaus amid great tumult rebukes the prophet Calchas and cries—for to him was given the keenest desire to fight, and the glory even then of suffering death the first: "O son of Thestor, forgetful of Phoebus and thy own tripods, when wilt thou open thy god-possessed lips more surely, or why dost thou hide the secret things of Fate? Seest thou how all are amazed at the unknown Aeacides and clamour for him? The Calydonian hero seems as nought in the people's eyes,

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Diomede.
STATIUS


heia, inrumpe deos et fata latentia vexa, laurigerosque ignes, si quando, avidissimus hauri! arma horrenda tibi saevosque remisimus enses, 510 numquam has imbelles galea violabere vittas: sed felix numeroque ducum praestantior omni, si magnum Danais per te\(^1\) deprehendis\(^2\) Achillem."

Iamduum trepido circumfert lumina motu intrantemque deum primo pallore fatetur 515 Thestorides; mox igne genas et sanguine torquens\(^3\) nee socios nec castra videt, sed caecus et absens nunc superum magnos deprendit in aethere coetus, nunc sagas adfatur aves, nunc dura sororum licia, turiferus modo consulit anxius aras 520 flammarumque apicem rapit et caligine sacra pascitur. exsiliunt crines rigidisque laborat vitta comis, nec colla loco nec in ordine gressus. tandem fessa tremens longis mugitibus ora

\(^1\) per te Garrod (from own ms.): pro te \(P\omega\).

\(^2\) deprehendis Garrod (from own ms.): deprehendis \(E\): dependis \(P\): portendis \(\omega\). See Garrod ad loc. \(P\) is faulty in these lines.

\(^3\) torquens \(P\omega\): torpens Garrod.

\(^a\) Garrod rightly remarks that there is no question here 546
and so too Ajax born of mighty Telamon and lesser Ajax, so do we also: but Mars and the capture of Troy will prove the truth. Slighting their leaders—for shame!—they all love him as a deity of war. Quickly speak, or why are thy locks enwreathed and held in honour? In what coasts lies he hidden? In what land must we seek him? For report has it that he is living neither in Chiron’s cave nor in the halls of Peleus his sire. Come, break in upon the gods, harry the fates that lie concealed! Quaff greedily, if ever thou dost, thy draughts of laurelled fire! We have relieved thee of dread arms and cruel swords, and never shall a helm profane thy unwarlike locks, yet blest shalt thou be and foremost of all our chiefs, if of thyself thou dost find great Achilles for the Danaans."

Long since has the son of Thestor been glancing round about him with excited movements, and by his first pallor betrayed the incoming of the god; soon he rolls fiery, bloodshot eyes, seeing neither his comrades nor the camp, but blind and absent from the scene he now overhears the mighty councils of gods in the upper air, now accosts the prescient birds, now the stern sisters’ threads, now anxiously consults the incense-laden altars, and quickly scans the shooting flames and feeds upon the sacred vapours. His hair streams out, and the fillet totters on his stiffened locks, his head rolls and he staggers in his gait. At last trembling he looses his weary of which is to serve in the campaign (implied by “pro te dependis”); see II. 510, 511. The question is “Where is Achilles?”

This was a κατνομαντεία, or divination by the smoke of the altar-fire, as in Theb. x. 598. The altar of Apollo would be crowned with laurel (cf. 509).

Hic nutante gradu stetit amissisque furoris viribus ante ipsas tremcfactus conruit aras. tunc haerentem Ithacum Calydonius occupat heros: "nos vocat iste labor: neque enim comes ire recusem, si tua cura trahat. licet ille sonantibus antris Tethyos aversae gremioque prematur aquosi Nereos: invenies. tu tantum providus astu tende animum vigilem fecundumque erige pectus: non mihi quis vatum dubiis in casibus ausit fata videre prior." subicit gavisus Ulixes: "sic deus omnipotens firmet, sic adnuat illa virgo paterna tibi! sed me spes lubrica tardat: grande equidem armatum castris inducere Achillem; sed si fata negent, quam foedum ac triste reverti! vota tamen Danaum non intemptata relinquam

1 Lines 529-661 only in PE and late mss., not in o.

\[i.e.,\] himself and Ulysses; "cura" seems to recognize Ulysses' hesitation.
lips from their long bellowings, and his voice has struggled free from the resisting frenzy: "Whither bearest thou, O Nereid, by thy woman's guile great Chiron's mighty pupil? Send him hither: why dost thou carry him away? I will not suffer it: mine is he, mine! Thou art a goddess of the deep, but I too am inspired by Phoebus. In what hiding-places triest thou to conceal the destroyer of Asia? I see her all bewildered among the Cyclades, in base stealth seeking out the coast. We are ruined! The accomplice land of Lycomedes finds favour. Ah! horrid deed! see, flowing garments drape his breast. Rend them, boy, rend them, and yield not to thy timid mother. Woe, woe! he is rapt away and is gone! Who is that wicked maiden yonder?"

Here tottering he ceased, the madness lost its force, and with a shudder he collapsed and fell before the altar. Then the Calydonian hero accosts the hesitating Ithacan: "'Tis us a that task summons; for I could not refuse to bear thee company, should thy thought so lead thee. Though he be sunk in the echoing caves of Tethys far removed and in the bosom of watery Nereus, thou wilt find him. Do thou but keep alert the cunning and foresight of thy watchful mind, and arouse thy fertile craft: no prophet, methinks, would make bold in perplexity to see the truth before thee." Ulysses in joy makes answer: "So may almighty God bring it to pass, and the virgin guardian of thy sire grant to thee! But fickle hope gives me pause; a great enterprise is it indeed to bring Achilles and his arms to our camp, but should the fates say nay, how woeful a disgrace were it to return! Yet will I not leave unventured the fulfilment of the Danaans' desire. Ay, verily, either
iamque adeo aut aderit mecum Peleius heros, aut verum penitus latet et sine Apolline Calchas."

Conclamant Danai stimulatque Agamemno volentes:
laxantur coetus resolutaque murmure laeto
agmina discedunt. quales iam nocte propinqua 555
e pastu referuntur aves, vel in antra reverti
melle novo gravidas mitis videt Hybla catervas.
nec mora, iam dextras Ithacesia carbasus auras
poscit, et in remis hilaris sedere iuventus.

At procul occultum falsi sub imagine sexus 560
Aeaciden furto iam noverat una latenti
Deidamia virum; sed opertae conscia culpae
cuncta pavet tacitasque putat sentire sorores.
namque ut virgineo stetit in grege durus Achilles
exsolvitque rudem genetrix digressa pudorem, 565
protinus elegit comitem, quamquam omnis in illum
turba coit, blandcque novas nil tale timenti
admovet insidias: illam sequiturque premitque
improbus, illam oculis iterumque iterumque resumit.
nunc nimius lateri non evitantis inhaeret, 570
nunc levibus sertis, lapsis nunc sponte canistris,
nunc thyrso parcente ferit, modo dulcia notae
fila lyrae tenuesque modos et carmina monstrat
Chironis ducitque manum digitosque sonanti
infringit eitharae, nunc occupat ora canentis 575
et ligat amplexus et mille per oscula laudat.

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the Pelean hero shall accompany me hither, or the
truth lies deep indeed and Calchas hath not spoken
by Apollo."

The Danai shout applause, and Agamemnon urges
on the willing pair; the gathering breaks up, and
the dispersing ranks depart with joyful murmurs,
even as at nightfall the birds wing their way home-
ward from the pastures, or kindly Hybla sees the
swarms returning laden with fresh honey to their
cells. Without delay the canvas of the Ithacan is
already calling for a favouring breeze, and the merry
crew are seated at the oars.

But far away Deidamia—and she alone—had learnt
in stolen secrecy the manhood of Aeacides, that lay
hid beneath the show of a feigned sex; conscious of
guilt concealed there is nought she does not fear,
and thinks that her sisters know, but hold their
peace. For when Achilles, rough as he was, stood
amid the maiden company, and the departure of his
mother rid him of his artless bashfulness, straightway
although the whole band gathers round him, he
chose her as his comrade and assails with new and
winning wiles her unsuspecting innocence; her he
follows, and persistently besets, toward her he ever
and again directs his gaze. Now too zealously he
clings to her side, nor does she avoid him, now he
pelts her with light garlands, now with baskets that
let their burden fall, now with the thyrsus that
harms her not, or again he shows her the sweet
strings of the lyre he knows so well, and the gentle
measures and songs of Chiron's teaching, and guides
her hand and makes her fingers strike the sounding
harp, now as she sings he makes a conquest of her
lips, and binds her in his embrace, and praises her
illa libens discit, quo vertice Pelion, et quis
Aeacides, puerique auditum nomen et actus
adsidue stupet et praesentem cantat Achillem.
ipsa quoque et validos proferre modestius artus
et tenuare rudes attrito pollice lanas
demonstrat reficitque colos et perditā dura
pensa manu; vocisque sonum pondusque tenentis,
quodque fugit comites, nimio quod lumine sese
figat et in verbis intempestivus anhelet,
miratur: iam iamque dolos aperire parantem
virgīnea levitate fugit prohibetque fateri.
sic sub matre Rhea iuvenis regnator Olympi
oscula secūrae dabat insidiosa sorori
frater adhuc, mediī donec reverentia cessit
sanguinis et versos germana expavit amores.
Tandem detecti timidus Nereidos astus.
lucus Agenorei sublimis ad orgia Bacchi
stabat et admissum caelo nemus: huius in umbra
alternam renovare piae trieterida matres
consuerant scissumque pecus terraque revulsas
ferre trabes gratosque deo praestare furores.
lex procul ire mares: iterat praecepta verendus
ductor, inaccessumque viris edicitur antrum.
nec satis est: stat fine dato metuenda sacerdos
exploratque aditus, ne quis teminator oberret
agmine femineo. tacitus sibi risit Achilles.
illum virgīneas ducentem signa catervae

1 perdīta dura E, late mss.: perfida durat P.

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a The courting of Juno by the youthful Jupiter is also mentioned Theb. x. 61 sq.
b From Agenor, king of Tyre, from whom Semele, his mother, was descended.

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amid a thousand kisses. With pleasure does she learn of Pelion's summit and of Aeacides, and hearing the name and exploits of the youth is spellbound in constant wonder, and sings of Achilles in his very presence. She in her turn teaches him to move his strong limbs with more modest grace and to spin out the unwrought wool by rubbing with his thumb, and repairs the distaff and the skeins that his rough hand has damaged; she marvels at the deep tones of his voice, how he shuns all her fellows and pierces her with too-attentive gaze and at all times hangs breathless on her words; and now he prepares to reveal the fraud, but she like a fickle girl avoids him, and will not allow him to confess. Even so beneath his mother Rhea's rule the young prince of Olympus gave treacherous kisses to his sister; he was still her brother and she thought no harm, until the reverence for their common blood gave way, and the sister feared a lover's passion.  

At length the timorous Nereid's cunning was laid bare. There stood a lofty grove, scene of the rites of Agenorean Bacchus, a grove that reached to heaven; within its shade the pious matrons were wont to renew the recurrent three-yearly festival, and to bring torn animals of the herd and uprooted saplings, and to offer to the god the frenzy wherein he took delight. The law bade males keep far away; the reverend monarch repeats the command, and makes proclamation that no man may draw nigh the sacred haunt. Nor is that enough; a venerable priestess stands at the appointed limit and scans the approaches, lest any defiler come near in the train of women; Achilles laughed silently to himself. His comrades wonder at him as he leads the band of
magnaque difficili solventem bracchia motu—et sexus pariter decet et mendacia matris—
mirantur comites. nec iam pulcherrima turbae Deidamia suae tantumque admotae superbo vincitur Aeacide, quantum premit ipsa sorores. ut vero et tereti demisit nebrida collo errantesque sinus hedera collegit et alte
cinxit purpureis flaventia tempora vittis vibravitque gravi redimitum missile dextra, atttonito stat turba metu sacrisque relictis illum ambire libet pronosque attollere vultus. talis, ubi ad Thebas vultumque animumque remisit Euhius et patrio satiavit pectora luxu, serta comis mitramque levat thyrumque virentem armat et hostiles invisit fortior Indos.

Scandebat roseo medii fastigia caeli
Luna iugo, totis ubi somnus inertior alis
defluit in terras mutumque amplectitur orbem:
consedere chori paulumque exercita pulsu
aera tacent, tenero cum solus ab agmine Achilles
haec secum: "quonam timidae commenta parentis
usque feres? primumque imbelli carcere perdes
florem animi? non tela licet Mavortia dextra,
non trepidas agitare feras. ubi campus et amnes
Haemonii? quaerisne meos, Sperchie, natatus
promissasque comas? an desertoris alumni
nullus honos? Stygiasque procul iam raptus ad umbras
dicor, et orbatus plangit mea funera Chiron?

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\textsuperscript{a} i.e., the thyrsus.

\textsuperscript{b} There is a sort of inverted comparison here: the warlike Achilles putting on Bacchic garb is compared to effeminate Bacchus making ready for war.
ACHILLEID, I. 604–631

virgins and moves his mighty arms with awkward motion—his own sex and his mother's counterfeit alike become him. No more is Deidamia the fairest of her company, and as she surpasses her own sisters, so does she herself own defeat compared with proud Aeacides. But when he let the fawn-skin hang from his shapely neck, and with ivy gathered up its flowing folds, and bound the purple fillet high upon his flaxen temples, and with powerful hand made the enwreathed missile a quiver, the crowd stood awestruck, and leaving the sacred rites are fain to throng about him, uplifting their bowed heads to gaze. Even so Euhius, what time he has relaxed at Thebes his martial spirit and frowning brow, and sated his soul with the luxury of his native land, takes chaplet and mitre from his locks, and arms the green thyrsus for the fray, and in more martial guise sets out to meet his Indian foes. b

The Moon in her rosy chariot was climbing to the height of mid-heaven, when drowsy Sleep glided down with full sweep of his pinions to earth and gathered a silent world to his embrace: the choirs reposed, the stricken bronze awhile was mute, when Achilles, parted in solitude from the virgin train, thus spoke with himself: "How long wilt thou endure the precepts of thy anxious mother, and waste the first flower of thy manhood in this soft imprisonment? No weapons of war mayst thou brandish, no beasts mayst thou pursue. Oh! for the plains and valleys of Haemonia! Lookest thou in vain, Spercheus, for my swimming, and for my promised tresses? Or hast thou no regard for the foster-child that has deserted thee? Am I already spoken of as borne to the Stygian shades afar. and does Chiron in
tu nunc tela manu, nostros tu dirigis arcus
nutritosque mihi scandis, Patrocle, iugales:
est ego pampineis diffundere brachia thyrsis
et tenuare colus—pudet haec taedetque fateri!—
iam scio. quin etiam dilectae virginis ignem
aequaevamque facem captus noctesque diesque
dissimulas. quonam usque premes urentia pectus
vulnera, teque marem—pudet heu!—nec amore
probaris1?

Sic ait; et densa noctis gavisus in umbra
tempestiva suis torpere silentia furtis
vi potitur votis et toto pectore veros
admovet amplexus; vidit chorus omnis ab alto
astrorum et tenerae rubuerunt cornua Lunae.
illa quidem clamore nemus montemque replevit:

sed Bacchi comites, discussa nube soporis,
signa choris indicta putant; fragor undique notus
tollitur, et thyrsos iterum vibrabat Achilles,
ante tamen dubiam verbis solatus amicis:
"ille ego—quid trepidas?—genitum quem caerula
mater
paene Iovi2 silvis nivibusque immisit alendum
Thessalicis. nec ego hos cultus aut foeda subissem
tegmina, ni primo tu visa3 in litore: cessi
te propter, tibi pensa manu, tibi mollia gesto
tympana. quid defies magno nurus addita ponto?

1 probaris P: probabīs late mss.
2 paene Iovi Gustafsson: paene iovis P: Penei E: Peneis
late mss.: Paeoniis conj. Wilamowitz.
3 tu visa E: te vias P: te visa late mss.

a Thetis nearly became the wife of Jove, so that Achilles
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ACHILLEID, I. 632-655

solitude bewail my death? Thou, O Patroclus, now
dost aim my darts, dost bend my bow and mount
the team that was nourished for me; but I have
learnt to fling wide my arms as I grasp the vine-
wands, and to spin the distaff-thread—ah! shame
and vexation to confess it! Nay more, night and
day thou dost dissemble the love that holds thee,
and thy passion for the maid of equal years. How
long wilt thou conceal the wound that galls thy
heart, nor even in love—for shame!—prove thy own
manhood?"

So he speaks; and in the thick darkness of the
night, rejoicing that the unstirring silence gives
timely aid to his secret deeds, he gains by force his
desire, and with all his vigour strains her in a real
embrace; the whole choir of stars beheld from on
high, and the horns of the young moon blushed red.
She indeed filled grove and mountain with her cries,
but the train of Bacchus, dispelling slumber's cloud,
deemed it the signal for the dance; on every side
the familiar shout arises, and Achilles once more
brandishes the thyrsus; yet first with friendly speech
he solaces the anxious maid: "I am he—why fearest
thou?—whom my cerulean mother bore wellnigh to
Jove, and sent to find my nurture in the woods and
snows of Thessaly. Nor had I endured this dress
and shameful garb, had I not seen thee on the sea-
shore; 'twas for thee I did submit, for thee I carry
skeins and bear the womanly timbrel. Why dost
thou weep who art made the daughter-in-law of
mighty ocean? Why dost thou moan who shalt bear

was "nearly" his son. An oracle warned Jove that the son
thus born would destroy him. Wilamowitz's conjecture
"Paeoniis" is attractive.
quid gemis ingentes caelo paritura nepotes?  
sed pater—: ante igni ferroque excisa iacebit 
Seyros et in tumidas ibunt haec versa procellas 
möenia, quam saevo mea tu conubia pendas 
funcre: non adeo parebimus omnia matri.”

Obstipuit tantis regina exterrita monstiris, 
quamquam olim suspecta fides, et comminus ipsum 
horruit et facies multum mutata fatentis.

quid faciat? casusne suos ferat ipsa parenti 
seque simul iuvenemque premat, fortassis aceras 
hausurum poenas? et adhuc in corde manebat 
ille diu deceptus amor: silet aegra premitque 
iam commune nefas; unam placet addere furtis 
altricem sociam, precibus quae victa duorum 
adnuit. illa astu tacito raptumque pudorem 
surgentemque uterum atque aegrosin pondere 
occuluit, plenis donec stata tempora metis 
attulit et partus index Lucina resolvit.

Iamque per Aegaeos ibat Laertia flexus 
puppis, et innumeratas mutabant Cycladas aurae:
iam Paros Olearosque latent; iam raditur alta 
Lemnos et a tergo decreset Bacchica Naxos, 
ante oculos crescente Samo; iam Delos opacat 
aeiquor: ibi e celsa libant careshesia puppi 
responsique fidem et verum Calchanta precantur.

1 After line 660 follows only in Q by a late hand the line 
vade sed ereptum celes taceasque pudorem, “go, but conceal 
and be silent of thy ravished honour.”

2 Lines 663-664 bracketed by Garrod as spurious.

3 The old editors began Book II. here.

4 innumerarum mutabat Cycladas aurae Koestlin: in- 
numerarum m. Cyclades auras Pω: innumerarum mutabat 
Cyclados oras Garrod.
valiant grandsons to Olympus? But thy father—Seyros shall be destroyed by fire and sword and these walls shall be in ruins and the sport of wanton winds, ere thou pay by cruel death for my embraces: not so utterly am I subject to my mother."

Horror-struck was the princess at such dark happenings, albeit long since she had suspected his good faith, and shuddered at his presence, and his countenance was changed as he made confession. What is she to do? Shall she bear the tale of her misfortune to her father, and ruin both herself and her lover, who perchance would suffer untimely death? And still there abode within her breast the love so long deceived. Silent is she in her grief, and dissembles the crime that both now share alike; her nurse alone she resolves to make a partner in deceit, and she, yielding to the prayers of both, assents. With secret cunning she conceals the rape and the swelling womb and the burden of the months of ailing, till Lucina brought round by token the appointed season, her course now fully run, and gave deliverance of her child.

And now the Laertian bark was threading the winding ways of the Aegean, while the breezes changed one for another the countless Cyclades; already Paros and Olearos are hid, now they skirt lofty Lemnos and behind them Bacchic Naxos is lost to view, while Samos grows before them; now Delos darkens the deep, and there from the tall stern they pour cups of libation, and pray that the oracle be true and Calchas undeceived. The Wielder of the

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\(a\) Peleus was descended from Zeus; cf. 869, 899.

\(b\) Because Ulysses was son of Laertes.
STATIUS

audiit Arquitennens Zephyrumque e vertice Cynthi impulit et dubii pleno dedit omina velo.

it pelago secura ratis: quippe alta Tonantis iussa Thetin certas fatorum vertere leges arcebant agram laerimis ae multa timentem, quod non erueret pontum ventisque fretisque omnibus invisum iam tunc sequeretur Ulixem.

Frangebat radios humili iam pronus Olympo Phoebus et Oceani penetrabile litus anhelis promittebat equis, cum se scopulosa levavit Seyros; in hanc totos emisit puppe rudentes dux Laertiades sociisque resumere pontum

imperat et remis Zephyros supplere cadentes. accedunt iuxta, et magis indubitata magisque Seyros erat placidique super Tritonia custos litoris. egressi numen venerantur amicae Aetolusque Ithacusque deae. tunc providus heros,
hospita ne subito terrerent moenia coetu, puppe iubet remanere suos; ipse ardua fido cum Diomede petit. sed iam praevenerat arcis litoreae servator Abas ignotaque regi ediderat, sed Graia tamen, succeedere terris carbasa. procedunt, gemini ceu foedere iuncto hiberna sub nocte lupi: licet et sua pulset natorumque fames, penitus rabiemque minasque dissimulant humilesque meant, ne nuntiet hostes cura canum et trepidos moneat vigilare magistros.

560
Bow heard them, and from the top of Cynthus sent a zephyr flying and gave the doubting ones the good omen of a bellying sail. The ship sails o'er the sea untroubled; for the Thunderer's high commands suffered not Thetis to overturn the sure decrees of Fate, faint as she was with tears, and foreboding much because she could not excite the main and straightway pursue the hated Ulysses with all her winds and waves.

Already Phoebus, stooping low upon the verge of Olympus, was sending forth broken rays, and promising to his panting steeds the yielding shore of Ocean, when rocky Scyros rose aloft; the Laertian chieftain from the stern let out all sail to make it, and bade his crew resume the deep and with their oars supply the failing zephyrs. Nearer they draw, and more undoubtedly, more surely was it Scyros, and Tritonia above, the guardian of the tranquil shore. They disembark, and venerate the power of the friendly goddess, Aetolian and Ithacan alike. Then the prudent hero, lest they should frighten the hospitable walls with sudden throng, bids his crew remain upon the ship; he himself with trusty Diomede ascends the heights. But already Abas, keeper of the coastal tower, had gone before them and given tidings to the king, that unknown sails, though Greek, were drawing nigh the land. Forward they go, like two wolves leagued together on a winter's night: though their cubs' hunger and their own assails them, yet do they utterly dissemble ravening rage, and go slinking on their way, lest the alertness of the dogs announce a foe and warn the anxious herdsmen to keep vigil.

\[a\] Apollo.  
\[b\] Cf. I. 285.
STATIUS

35 Sic segnes heroes cunt campumque patentem, qui medius portus celsamque interiacet urbem, alterno sermone terunt; prior occupat acer Tydides: “qua nunc verum ratione paramus scrutari? namque ambiguous sub pectore pridem verso, quid imbelles thyrsos mercatus et aera urbibus in mediis Baccheaque terga nitrasque huc tuleris varioque aspersas nebridas auro. hisne gravem Priamo Phrygibusque armabis Achillem?”

Illi subridens Ithacus paulum ore remisso:

45 “haec tibi, virginea modo si Lycomedis in aula est fraude latens, ultro confessum in proelia ducent Peliden; tu cuncta citus de puppe memento ferre, ubi tempus erit, clipeumque his iungere donis, qui pulcher signis auroque asperrimus; hora haec sat erit: tecum lituo bonus adsit Agyrites occultamque tubam tacitos adportet in usus.”

Dixerat, atque ipso portarum in limine regem cernit et ostensa pacem praefatus oliva: “magna, reor, pridemque tuas pervenit ad aures fama trucis belli, regum placidissime, quod nunc Europamque Asianque quatit. si nomina forte hic tibi, quem tanta meliorem stirpe creavit magnanimus Tydeus, Ithacis ego ductor Ulixes. causa viae—metuam quid enim tibi cuncta fateri, cum Graius notaque fide celeberrimus unus—

1 hasta P: ardet ω: astat E, Garrod and conj. Kohlmann.
2 haec Pω: nec Garrod.
3 unus ω: imus PE.

562
So with slow pace the heroes move, and with mutual converse tread the open plain that lies between the harbour and the high citadel; first keen Tydides speaks: "By what means now are we preparing to search out the truth? For in perplexity of mind have I long been pondering why thou didst buy those unwarlike wands and cymbals in the city marts, and didst bring hither Bacchic hides and turbans, and fawn-skins decked with patterns of gold. Is it with these thou wilt arm Achilles to be the doom of Priam and the Phrygians?"

To him with a smile and somewhat less stern of look the Ithacan replied: "These things, I tell thee, if only he be lurking among the maidens in Lycomedes' palace, shall draw the son of Peleus to the fight, ay, self-confessed! Remember thou to bring them all quickly from the ship, when it is time, and to join to these gifts a shield that is beautiful with carving and rough with work of gold; this spear will suffice; let the good trumpeter Agyrtes be with thee, and let him bring a hidden bugle for a secret purpose."

He spoke, and spied the king in the very threshold of the gate, and displaying the olive first announced his peaceful purpose: "Loud report, I ween, hath long since reached thy ears, O gentle monarch, of that fierce war which now is shaking both Europe and Asia. If perchance the chieftains' names have been borne hither, in whom the avenging son of Atreus trusts, here beholdest thou him whom great-hearted Tydeus begot, mightier even than so great a sire, and I am Ulysses the Ithacan chief. The cause of our voyage—for why should I fear to confess all to thee, who art a Greek and of all men most renowned by sure report?—is to spy out the
explorare aditus invisaque litora Troiae,
quidve parent.” medio sermone intercipit ille:
“adnuerit Fortuna, precor, dextrique secundent
ista dei! nunc hospitio mea tecta piumque
inlustrate larem.” simul intra limina dueit.
nec mora, iam mensas famularis turba torosque
instruit. interea visu perlustrat Ulixes
scrutaturque domum, si qua vestigia magnae
virginis aut dubia facies suspecta figura;
porticibusque vagis errat totosque penates,
ceu miretur, adit: velut ille cubilia praedae
indubitata tenens muto legit arva Molosso
venator, videat donec sub frondibus hostem
porrectum somno positosque in caespite dentes.
Rumor in arcana iamdudum perstrepit aula,
virginibus qua fida domus, venisse Pelasgum
ductores Graiamque ratem sociosque receptos.
iure\(^1\) pavent aliae; sed vix nova gaudia celat
Pelides avidusque novos heroas et arma
vel talis vidisse cupit. iamque atria fervent
regali strepitu et picto discumbitur auro,
cum pater ire iubet natas comitesque pudicas
natarum. subeunt, quales Maeotide ripa,
cum Scythicas rapuere domos et capta Getarum
moenia, sepositis epulantur Amazones armis.
tum vero intentus vultus ac pectora Ulixes
perlibrat visu, sed nox inlataque fallunt

\(^1\) iure \(P\omega\): aure Garrod (Theb. i. 366).
approaches to Troy and her hated shores, and what their schemes may be.” Ere he had finished the other broke in upon him: “May Fortune assist thee, I pray, and propitious gods prosper that enterprise! Now honour my roof and pious home by being my guests.” Therewith he leads them within the gate. Straightway numerous attendants prepare the couches and the tables. Meanwhile Ulysses scans and searches the palace with his gaze, if anywhere he can find trace of a tall maiden or a face suspect for its doubtful features; uncertainly he wanders idly in the galleries and, as though in wonder, roams the whole house through; just as yon hunter, having come upon his prey’s undoubted haunts, scours the fields with his silent Molossian hound, till he behold his foe stretched out in slumber ’neath the leaves and his jaws resting on the turf.

Long since has a rumour been noised throughout the secret chamber where the maidens had their safe abode, that Pelasgian chiefs are come, and a Grecian ship and its mariners have been made welcome. With good reason are the rest affrighted; but Pelides scarce conceals his sudden joy, and eagerly desires even as he is to see the newly-arrived heroes and their arms. Already the noise of princely trains fills the palace, and the guests are reclining on gold-embroidered couches, when at their sire’s command his daughters and their chaste companions join the banquet; they approach, like unto Amazons on the Maeotid shore, when, having made plunder of Scythian homesteads and captured strongholds of the Getae, they lay aside their arms and feast. Then indeed does Ulysses with intent gaze ponder carefully both forms and features, but night and the lamps that are
lumina et extemplo latuit mensura iacentum.  

at tamen erectunque genas oculisque vagantem nullaque virginei servantem signa pudoris defigit comitique obliquo lumine monstrat. quod nisi praecipitem blando complexa moneret Deidamia sinu nudataque pectora semper 

exsertasque manus umerosque in veste teneret et prodire toris et posceere vina vetaret saepius et fronti crinale reponeret aurum, Argolicis dueibus iam tune patuisset Achilles. 

Ut placata fames epulis bis terque repostis, 

rex prior adloquitur paterisque hortatur Aehivos: "invideo vestris, fateor, decora inclita gentis Argolicac, coeptis: utinam et mihi fortior aetas, quaeque fuit, Dolopas cum Seyria litora adortos perdomui fregique vadis, quae signa triumphi 

vidistis celsa murorum in fronte, carinas! saltem si suboles, aptum quam mittere bello— nune ipsi viresque meas et cara videtis pignora: quando novos dabit haec mihi turba nepotes?

dixerat, et solders arrepto tempore Ulixes: "haud spernenda cupis; quis enim non visere gentes innumeratas variasque duees atque agmina regum 

ardeat? omne simul roburque decusque potenti Europae meritos utro iuravit in enses. 

rura urbesque vacant, montes spoliavimus altos, omne fretum longa velorum obtexitur umbra;

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1 After line 780 occurs only in late mss.: possem, plena forent mihi gaudia; namque iuvarem, "I could (belonging to the aposiopesis), my joy would be full; for I would help."
brought in deceive him, and their stature is hidden as soon as they recline. One nevertheless with head erect and wandering gaze, one who preserves no sign of virgin modesty, he marks, and with sidelong glance points out to his companion. But if Deidamia, to warn the hasty youth, had not clasped him to her soft bosom, and ever covered with her own robe his bare breast and naked arms and shoulders, and many a time forbidden him to start up from the couch and ask for wine, and replaced the golden hair-band on his brow, Achilles had even then been revealed to the Argive chieftains.

When hunger was assuaged and the banquet had twice and three times been renewed, the monarch first addresses the Achaeans, and pledges them with the wine-cup: "Ye famous heroes of the Argolic race, I envy, I confess, your enterprise; would that I too were of more valiant years, as when I utterly subdued the Dolopes who attacked the shores of Seyros, and shattered on the sea those keels that ye beheld on the forefront of my lofty walls, tokens of my triumph! At least if I had offspring that I could send to war,—but now ye see for yourselves my feeble strength and my dear children: ah, when will these numerous daughters give me grandsons?" He spoke, and seizing the moment crafty Ulysses made reply: "Worthy indeed is the object of thy desire; for who would not burn to see the countless peoples of the world and various chieftains and princes with their trains? All the might and glory of powerful Europe hath sworn together willing allegiance to our righteous arms. Cities and fields alike are empty, we have spoiled the lofty mountains, the whole sea lies hidden beneath the far-spread shadow of our
tradunt arma patres, rapit inrevocata iuventus.
non alias umquam tantae data copia famae
fortibus aut campo maiore exercita virtus.”

aspicit intentum vigilique haec aure trahentem,
cum paveant aliae demissaque lumina flectant,
atque iterat: “quisquis proavis et gente superba,
quisquis equo iaculoque potens, qui praevalet areu,
onnis honos illic, illic ingentia certat

nonomina: vix timidae matres aut agmina cessant
virginea; a! multum steriles damnatus in annos
invisusque deis, si quem haec nova gloria segnem
praeterit.” exisset stratis, ni provida signo
Deidamia dato cunctas hortata sorores
liquisset mensas ipsum complexa. sed haeret
respiciens Ithacum coetuque novissimus exit.
ille quidem incepto paulum ex sermone remittit,
pauca tamen iungens: “at tu tranquillus in alta
pace mane carisque para conubia natis,
quas tibi sidereis divarum vultibus aequas
fors dedit. ut me olim taciturn reverentia tangit!
is decor et formae species permixta virili.”
occurrit genitor: “quid si aut Bacehea ferentes
orgia, Palladas aut circum videris aras?
et dabimus, si forte novus cunctabitur auster.”
excipiunt cupidii et tacitis spes addita votis.
cetera depositis Lycomedis regia curis
tranquilla sub pace silet, sed longa sagaci
nox Ithaco, lucemque cupit somnumque gravatur.
ACHILLEID, I. 791–818

sails; fathers give weapons, youths snatch them and are gone beyond recall. Never was offered to the brave such an opportunity for high renown, never had valour so wide a field of exercise.” He sees him all attentive and drinking in his words with vigilant ear, though the rest are alarmed and turn aside their downcast eyes, and he repeats: "Whoever hath pride of race and ancestry, whoever hath sure javelin and valiant steed, or skill of bow, all honour there awaits him, there is the strife of mighty names: scarce do timorous mothers hold back or troops of maids; ah! doomed to barren years and hated of the gods is he whom this new chance of glory passes by in idle sloth.” Up from the couches had he sprung, had not Deidamia, watchfully giving the sign to summon all her sisters, left the banquet clasping him in her arms; yet still he lingers looking back at the Ithacan, and goes out from the company the last of all. Ulysses indeed leaves unsaid somewhat of his purposed speech, yet adds a few words: “But do thou abide in deep and tranquil peace, and find husbands for thy beloved daughters, whom fortune has given thee, goddess-like in their starry countenances. What awe touched me anon and holds me silent? Such charm and beauty joined to manliness of form!” The sire replies: “What if thou couldst see them performing the rites of Bacchus, or about the altars of Pallas? Ay, and thou shalt, if perchance the rising south wind prove a laggard.” They eagerly accept his promise, and hope inspires their silent prayers. All else in Lycomedes’ palace are at rest in peaceful quiet, their troubles laid aside, but to the cunning Ithacan the night is long; he yearns for the day and brooks not slumber.
Vixdum exorta dies et iam comitatus Agyrte
Tydides aderat praedictaque dona ferebat.
nec minus egressae thalamo Seyreides ibant
ostentare choros promissaque sacra verendis
hospitibus. nitet ante alias regina comesque
Pelides: qualis Siculae sub rupibus Aetnae
Naidas Ennaeas inter Diana feroxque
Pallas et Elysii lucebat sponsa tyranni.
iamque movent gressus thiasisque Ismenia buxus
signa dedit, quater aera Rheae, quater enthea pulsant
terga manu variosque quater legere recursus.
tunc thyrsos pariterque levant pariterque reponunt
multiplicantque gradum, modo quo Curetes in actu
quoque pii Samothraces eunt, nunc obvia versae
pectine Amazonio, modo quo citat orbe Lacaenas
Delia plaudentesque suis intorquet Amyelis.
tunc vero, tunc praecipue manifestus Achilles
nen servare vices nec braechia iungere curat;
tunc molles gressus, tunc aspervatur amietus
plus solito rumpitque choros et plurima turbat.
sie indignantem thyrsos acceptaque matris
 tympana iam tristes spectabant Penthea Thebae.
Solvuntur laudata cohors repetuntque paterna
limina, ubi in mediae iamdudum sedibus aulae
munera virgineos visus tractura locarat

\[ a \] i.e., Theban (from the river Ismenos), \textit{i.e.} Bacchic.
\[ b \] Here = Cybele, worshipped by the Corybantes with very
noisy rites.
\[ c \] The Curetes were priests of Jupiter (Zeus) in Crete; the
Samothracians celebrated mysteries in honour of the Cabiri.
\[ d \] “pecten” was the name of a dance in which, one may
gather, two opposing lines met and passed through each
other.
\[ e \] Pentheus, king of Thebes, tried to put down the Bacchus-
worship of which his mother Agave was a votary. “tristes,”
570
Scarce had day dawned, and already the son of Tydeus accompanied by Agyrtes was present bringing the appointed gifts. The maids of Seyros too went forth from their chamber and advanced to display their dances and promised rites to the honoured strangers. Brilliant before the rest is the princess with Pelides her companion: even as beneath the rocks of Aetna in Sicily Diana and bold Pallas and the consort of the Elysian monarch shine forth among the nymphs of Enna. Already they begin to move, and the Ismenian pipe gives the signal to the dancers; four times they beat the cymbals of Rhea, four times the maddening drums, four times they trace their manifold windings. Then together they raise and lower their wands, and complicate their steps, now in such fashion as the Curetes and devout Samothracians use, now turning to face each other in the Amazonian comb, now in the ring wherein the Delian sets the Laconian girls a-dancing, and whirls them shouting her praises into her own Amyclae. Then indeed, then above all is Achilles manifest, caring neither to keep his turn nor to join arms; then more than ever does he scorn the delicate step, the womanly attire, and breaks the dance and mightily disturbs the scene. Even so did Thebes already sorrowing behold Pentheus spurning the wands and the timbrels that his mother welcomed.

The troop disperses amid applause, and they seek again their father's threshold, where in the central chamber of the palace the son of Tydeus had long since set out gifts that should attract maidens' eyes, the mark of kindly welcome and the guerdon as though with apprehension of his fate (he was torn in pieces by his own mother in her frenzy).
STATIUS

170 Tydides, signum hospitii pretiumque laboris:
hortaturque elegant, nec rex placidissimus arcet. heu simplex nimiumque rudis, qui callida dona
Graiorumque dolos variumque ignoret Ulixem!
hic aliae, quas sexus iners naturaque ducit,

175 aut teretes thyrsos aut respondentia temptant
tympana, gemmatis aut nectunt tempora limbis:
arma vident magnoque putant donant parenti.
at ferus Aeacides, radiantem ut comminus orbem,
caelatum pugnas—saevis et forte rubebat

180 bellorum maculis—adclinem conspicit hastae,
infrenmuit torsitque genas, et fronte relictam
surrexere comae; nusquam mandata parentis,
nusquam occultus amor, totoque in pectore Troia est.

185 accipit pectique iubas hominemque vereri
edidicit nullasque rapi nisi iussus in iras,
si semel adverso radiavit lumine ferrum,

ciurata fides domitorque inimicus: in illum
prima fames, timidoque pudet servisse magistro.

190 ut vero accessit propinus luxque aemula vultum
reddidit et simili talem se vidit in auro,
horrruit erubuitque simul. tunc acer Ulixes
admotus lateri summissa voce: “quid haeres?
scimus,” ait, “tu semiferi Chironis alumnus,
tu caeli pelagique nepos, te Dorica classis,

te tua suspensis exspectat Graecia signis,

195 ipsaque iam dubii nutant tibi Pergama muris.
heia, abrupte moras: sine perfida palleat Ide,
et iuvet haec audire patrem, pudeatque dolosam

1 pudet servisse EQ: iuvet servire P: rubet servire Krohn.

572
of their toil; he bids them choose, nor does the peaceful monarch say them nay. Alas! how simple and untaught, who knew not the cunning of the gifts nor Grecian fraud nor Ulysses' many wiles! There-upon the others, prompted by nature and their ease-loving sex, try the shapely wands or the timbrels that answer to the blow, and fasten jewelled bands around their temples; the weapons they behold, but think them a gift to their mighty sire. But the bold son of Aeacus no sooner saw before him the gleaming shield enchased with battle-scenes—by chance too it shone red with the fierce stains of war—and leaning against the spear, than he shouted loud and rolled his eyes, and his hair rose up from his brow; forgotten were his mother's words, forgotten his secret love, and Troy fills all his breast. As a lion, torn from his mother's dugs, submits to be tamed and lets his mane be combed, and learns to have awe of man and not to fly into a rage save when bidden, yet if but once the steel has glittered in his sight, his fealty is forsworn, and his tamer becomes his foe: against him he first ravens, and feels shame to have served a timid lord. But when he came nearer, and the emulous brightness gave back his features and he saw himself mirrored in the reflecting gold, he thrilled and blushed together. Then quickly went Ulysses to his side and whispered: "Why dost thou hesitate? We know thee, thou art the pupil of the half-beast Chiron, thou art the grandson of the sky and sea; thee the Dorian fleet, thee thy own Greece awaits with standards uplifted for the march, and the very walls of Pergamum totter and sway for thee to overturn. Up! delay no more! Let perfidious Ida grow pale, let thy father delight to hear these
sic pro te timuisse Thetin.” iam pectus amictu laxabat, cum grande tuba sic iussus Agyrtes insonuit: fugiunt disicctis undique donis implorantque patrem commotaque proelia credunt. illius intactae cecidere a pectore vestes, iam elipeus breviorque manu consumitur hasta, —mira fides!—Ithacumque umerus excedere visus Aetolumque ducem: tantum subita arma calorque Martius horrenda confundit luce penates. immanisque gradu, ceu protinus Hectora poscens, stat medius trepidante domo: Peleaque virgo quaeeritur. ast alia plangebat parte retectos Deidamia dolos, cuius cum grandia primum lamenta et notas accepit pectore vocees, haesit et occulto virtus infracta calore est. demittit elipeum regisque ad lumina versus attonitum factis inopinaque monstra paventem, sicut erat, nudis Lycomedem adfatur in armis: “me tibi, care pater,—dubium dimitte pavorem!—me dedit alma Thetis: te pridem tanta manebat gloria; quaesitum Danais tu mittis Achillem, gratior et magno, si fas dixisse, parente et dulci Chirone mihi. sed corda parumper huc adverte libens atque has bonus accipe vocees: Peleus te nato socerum et Thetis hospita iungunt, adlegantque suos utroque a sanguine divos. unam virgineo natarum ex agmine poscunt:

a “consumitur,” a vivid use of the word; “is consumed, or used up by” his hand, which is too mighty for it.
ACHILLEID, I. 874–900

tidings, and guileful Thetis feel shame to have so feared for thee.” Already was he stripping his body of the robes, when Agyrtes, so commanded, blew a great blast upon the trumpet: the gifts are scattered, and they flee and fall with prayers before their sire and believe that battle is joined. But from his breast the raiment fell without his touching, already the shield and puny spear are lost in the grasp of his hand—a—marvellous to believe!—and he seemed to surpass by head and shoulders the Ithacan and the Aetolian chief: with a sheen so awful does the sudden blaze of arms and martial fire dazzle the palace-hall. Mighty of limb, as though forthwith summoning Hector to the fray, he stands in the midst of the panic-stricken house: and the daughter of Peleus is sought in vain. But Deidamia in another chamber bewailed the discovery of the fraud, and as soon as he heard her loud lament and recognized the voice that he knew so well, he quailed and his spirit was broken by his hidden passion. He dropped the shield, and turning to the monarch’s face, while Lycomedes is dazed by the scene and distraught by the strange portent, just as he was, in naked panoply of arms, he thus bespeaks him: “’Twas I, dear father, I whom bounteous Thetis gave thee—dismiss thy anxious fears!—long since did this high renown await thee; ’tis thou who wilt send Achilles, long sought for, to the Greeks, more welcome to me than my mighty sire—if it is right so to speak—and than beloved Chiron. But, if thou wilt, give me thy mind awhile, and of thy favour hear these words: Peleus and Thetis thy guest make thee the father-in-law of their son, and recount their kindred deities on either side; they demand one of thy train of virgin
STATIUS

dasne? an gens humilis tibi degeneresque videmur? non renuis; iunge ergo manus et concipe foedus atque ignosce tuis. tacito iam cognita furto

Deidamia mihi; quid enim his obstare lacertis, qua potuit nostras possessa repellere vires1? me luere ista iube; pono arma et reddo Pelasgis et maneo. quid triste fremis? quid lumina mutas? iam socer es”—natum ante pedes prostravit et addit:

“iamque avus: immitis quotiens iterabitur ensis! turba sumus.” tunc et Danai per sacra fidemque hospitii blandusque precum compellit Ulixes. ille, etsi carae comperta iniuria natae et Thetidis mandata movent prodique videtur depositum tam grande deae, tamen obvisu ire tot metuit fatis Argivaque bella morari; fac velit: ipsam illic matrem sprevisset Achilles. nec tamen abnuerit genero se iungere tali: vincitur. areanis effert pudibunda tenebris

Deidamia gradum, veniae nec protinus amens credit et opposito genitore placet Achille.

Mittitur Haemoniam, magnis qui Pelea factis impleat et classem comitesque in proelia poscat. nec non et geminas regnator Scyrius alnos dedicat genero viresque excusat Achivis. tunc epulis consumpta dies, tandemque retectum foedus et intrepidos nox conscia iungit amantes.

1 repellere vires Kohlmann: repellere vir P: evadere flammam ο.

a i.e., there was not only Achilles for Lycomedes to slay, but his daughter and his grandson also.

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daughters: dost thou give her? or seem we a mean and coward race? Thou dost not refuse. Join then our hands, and make the treaty, and pardon thy own kin. Already hath Deidamia been known to me in stolen secrecy; for how could she have resisted these arms of mine, how once in my embrace repel my might? Bid me atone that deed: I lay down these weapons and restore them to the Pelasgians, and I remain here. Why these angry cries? Why is thy aspect changed? Already art thou my father-in-law”—he placed the child before his feet, and added: “and already a grandsire! How often shall the pitiless sword be plied! We are a multitude!” Then the Greeks too and Ulysses with his persuasive prayer entreat by the holy rites and the sworn word of hospitality. He, though moved by the discovery of his dear daughter’s wrong and the command of Thetis, though seeming to betray the goddess and so grave a trust, yet fears to oppose so many destinies and delay the Argive war—even were he fain, Achilles had spurned even his mother then. Nor is he unwilling to take unto himself so great a son-in-law: he is won. Deidamia comes shamefast from her dark privacy, nor in her despair believes at first his pardon, and puts forward Achilles to appease her sire.

A messenger is sent to Haemonia to give Peleus full tidings of these great events, and to demand ships and comrades for the war. Moreover, the Scyrian prince launches two vessels for his son-in-law, and makes excuse to the Achaeans for so poor a show of strength. Then the day was brought to its end with feasting, and at last the bond was made known to all, and conscious night joined the now fearless lovers.
ILLIUS ANTE OCULOS NOVA BELLA ET XANTHUS ET IDE
ARGOLICAQUE RATES ATQUE IPSAS COGITAT UNDAS

auroramque timet: cara cervix mariti
fusa novi lacrimas iam solvit et occupat artus.

"aspiciamne iterum meque hoc in pectore ponam,
Aeacide? rursusque tuos dignabere partus?
an tumidus Teucrosque lares et capta reportans

quid precer, heu! timeamve prius?
quidve anxia

cui vix flere vacat? modo te nox una deditque
inviditque mihi! thalamis haec tempora nostris?
hicne est liber hymen? o dulcia furta dolique,
o timor! abripitur miserae perm issus Achilles.
i—neque enim tantos ausim revocare paratus—,
i cautus, nec vana Thetin timuisse memento,
i felix nosterque redi! n imis improba posco:
iam te sperabunt lacrimis planctuque decorae

Troades optabuntque tuis dare colla catenis
et patriam pensare toris aut ipsa placebit
Tyndaris, incesta nimium laudata rapina.
ast egomet primae puerilis fabula culpae
narrabor famulis aut dissimulata latebo.

quin age, duc comitem; cur non ego Martia tecum
signa feram? tu thyrsam manu Baccheaque mecum
sacra, quod infelix non credet Troia, tulisti.

attamen hunc, quem maesta mihi solacia linquis,

thyrsam P: pensa w.

a i.e., Deidamia's.
Before her eyes new wars and Xanthus and Ida pass, and the Argolic fleet, and she imagines the very waves and fears the coming of the dawn; she flings herself about her new lord's beloved neck, and at last clasping his limbs gives way to tears: "Shall I see thee again, and lay myself on this breast of thine, O son of Aeacus? Wilt thou deign once more to look upon thy offspring? Or wilt thou proudly bring back spoils of captured Pergamum and Teucerian homes and wish to forget where thou didst hide thee as a maid? What should I entreat, or alas! what rather fear? How can I in my anxiety lay a behest on thee, who have scarce time to weep? One single night has given and grudged thee to me! Is this the season for our espousals? Is this free wedlock? Ah! those stolen sweets! that cunning fraud! Ah! how I fear! Achilles is given to me only to be torn away. Go! for I would not dare to stay such mighty preparations; go, and be cautious, and remember that the fears of Thetis were not vain; go, and good luck be with thee, and come back mine! Yet too bold is my request: soon the fair Trojan dames will sigh for thee with tears and beat their breasts, and pray that they may offer their necks to thy fetters, and weigh thy couch against their homes, or Tyndaris herself will please thee, too much belauded for her incestuous rape. But I shall be a story to thy henchmen, the tale of a lad's first fault, or I shall be disowned and forgotten. Nay, come, take me as thy comrade; why should I not carry the standards of Mars with thee? Thou didst carry with me the wands and holy things of Bacchus, though ill-fated Troy believe it not. Yet this babe, whom thou dost

\[b\] Helen, daughter of Tyndareus.
hunc saltem sub corde tene et concede precanti
hoc solum, pariat ne quid tibi barbarα coniunx,
ne qua det ignominios Thetidi captiva nepotes."

talia dicesim non ipse immotus Achilles
solatur iuratque fidem iurataque fletu
spondet et ingentes famulas captumque reversus
Ilion et Phrygiae promittit munera gazae.
inrita ventosae rapiebant verba procellae.
leave as my sad solace—keep him at least within thy heart, and grant this one request, that no foreign wife bear thee a child, that no captive woman give unworthy grandsons to Thetis.” As thus she speaks, Achilles, moved to compassion himself, comforts her, and gives her his sworn oath, and pledges it with tears, and promises her on his return tall handmaidens and spoils of Ilium and gifts of Phrygian treasure. The fickle breezes swept his words unfulfilled away.
LIBER II

11 Exuit implicitum tenebris uementibus orbem
Oceano prolata dies, genitorque coruscae
lucis adhuc hebetem vicina nocte levabat
et nondum excusso rorantem lampada ponto.
et iam punicea nudatum pectora palla
insignemque ipsis, quae prima invaserat, armis
Aeaciden—quippe aura vocat cognataque suadent
aequora—prospectant cuncti iuvenemque ducemque
nihil ausi meminisse pvent; sic omnia visu
mutatus rediit, ceu numquam Scyria passus
litora Peliaocoque rates escendat ab antro.
tunc ex more dei—ita namque monebat Ulixes—
aequoribusque austrisque litat fluctuque sub ipso
cæruleum regem tauro veneratur avumque
Nerea: vittata genetrix placata iuvenca.
hie spumante salo iacies tumida exta profatur:
“paruimus, genetrix, quamquam haud toleranda
iubebas\(^1\),
paruimus nimium: bella ad Troiana ratesque
Argolicas quaesitus eo.” sic orsus et alno
insiluit penitusque noto stridente propinquis
abripitur terris: et iam ardua ducere nubes
incipit et longo Scyros discedere ponto.

\(^1\) iubebas \(\omega\): puberis \(P\): iuberes \(E\): pararis Klotz.

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BOOK II

Day arising from Ocean set free the world from dank enfolding shades, and the father of the flashing light upraised his torch still dimmed by the neighbouring gloom and moist with sea-water not yet shaken off. And now all behold Aeacides, his shoulders stripped of the scarlet robe, and glorious in those very arms he first had seized—for the wind is calling and his kindred seas are urging him—and quake before the youthful chieftain, not daring to remember aught; so wholly changed to the sight hath he come back, as though he had ne'er experienced the shores of Seyros, but were embarking from the Pelian cave. Then duly—for so Ulysses counselled—he does sacrifice to the gods and the waters and south winds, and venerates with a bull the cerulean king below the waves and Nereus his grandsire: his mother is appeased with a garlanded heifer. Thereupon casting the swollen entrails on the salt foam he addresses her: "Mother, I have obeyed thee, though thy commands were hard to bear; too obedient have I been: now they demand me, and I go to the Trojan war and the Argolic fleet." So speaking he leapt into the bark, and was swept away far from the neighbourhood of land by the whistling south wind; already lofty Seyros begins to gather mist about her, and to fade from sight over the long expanse of sea.
STATIUS

Turre procul summa lacrimis comitata sororum
commissumque\(^1\) tenens et habentem nomina Pyrrhum
pendebat coniunx oculisque in carbasa fixis
ibat et ipsa freto, et puppem iam sola videbat.
ille quoque obliquos dilecta ad moenia vultus
declinat viduamque domum gemitusque relictae
cogitat: occultus sub corde renascitur ardog

datque locum virtus. sentit Laertius heros
maerentem et placidis adgressus lectere dictis:
“tene,” inquit, “magnae vastator debite Troiae,
quem Danae classes, quem divum oracula poscunt,
erecnumque manet reserato in limine Bellum,
callida femineo genetrix violavit amictu
commisitque illis tam grandia furta latebris
esperavitque fidem? nimiris o suspensa nimisque
mater! an haec tacita virtus torperet in umbra,
quae vix audito litui clangore refugit
et Thetin et comites et quos suppresserat ignes?
nec nostrum est, quod in arma venis sequerisque
precantes:
venisses—” dixit, quem talibus occupat heros
Aeacius: “longum resides exponere causas
maternumque nefas; hoc excusabitur ense
Scyros et indecoros, fatorum crimina, cultus.
tu potius, dum lene fretum zephyroque fruuntur
carbasa, quae Danais tanti primordia belli,
ede: libet iustas hinc sumere protinus iras.”
hie Ithacus paulum repetito longius orsu:
“fertur in Hectorea, si talia eредimus, Ida\(^2\)
electus formae certamina solvere pastor

\(^1\) commissum P : confessum \(\omega\).
\(^2\) Ida \(P\) : ora \(\omega\).
Far away on the summit of a tower with weeping sisters round her his wife leaned forth, holding her precious charge, who bore the name of Pyrrhus, and with her eyes fixed on the canvas sailed herself upon the sea, and all alone still saw the vessel. He too turned his gaze aside to the walls he held dear, he thinks upon the widowed home and the sobs of her he had left: the hidden passion glows again within his heart, and martial ire gives place. The Laertian hero perceives him sorrowing, and draws nigh to influence him with gentle words: "Was it thou, O destined destroyer of great Troy, whom Danaan fleets and divine oracles are demanding, and War aroused is awaiting with unbarred portals—was it thou whom a crafty mother profaned with feminine robes, and trusted yonder hiding-place with so great a secret, and hoped the trust was sure? O too anxious, O too true a mother! Could such valour lie inert and hidden, that scarce hearing the trumpet-blast fled from Thetis and companions and the heart's unspoken passion? Nor is it due to us that thou comest to the war, and compliest with our prayers; thou wouldst have come—," he spoke, and thus the Aeacian hero takes up the word: "'Twere long to set forth the causes of my tarrying and my mother's crime; this sword shall make excuse for Scyros and my dishonourable garb, the reproach of destiny. Do thou rather, while the sea is peaceful and the sails enjoy the zephyr, tell how the Danaans began so great a war: I would fain draw straightway from thy words a righteous anger." Then the Ithacan, tracing far back the beginning of the tale: "A shepherd, they say—if we believe such things—was chosen in Hector's domain of Ida to end a strife of
solllicitas tenuisse deas nec torva Minervae
ora nec aetherii sociam rectoris amico
lustine, sed solam nimium vidisse Dionen.
atque adeo lis illa tuis exorta sub antris
concilio superum, dum Pelea dulce maritat
Pelion, et nostris iam tunc promitteris armis.
ira quatit victas; petit exitialia iudex
praemia: raptoris faciles monstrantur Amyclae.
ille Phrygas lucos, matris penetralia caedit
turrigerae veritasque\(^1\) solo procumbere pinus
praecipitat terrasque freto delatus Achaeas
hospitis Atridae—pudet heu miseretque potentis
Europae!—spoliat thalamos, Helenaque superbus
navigat et captos ad Pergama devehit Argos.
inde dato passim varias rumore per urbes,
undique inexciti sibi quisque et sponte coimus
ultores: quis enim illicitis genialis rumpi
pacta dolis facilique trahi conubia raptu
ceu pecus armentumve aut viles messis acervos
perferat? haec etiam fortis iactura moveret.
non tulit insidias divum imperiosus Agenor
mugitusque sacros et magno numine vectam
quaesit Europen aspernatusque Tonantem est
ut generum; raptam Scythico de litore prolem
non tulit Aeetes ferroque et classe secutus
semideo reges et ituram in sidera puppim:
nos Phryga semivirum portus et litora circum
Argolica incesta volitantem puppe feremus?

\(^1\) veritasque \(P:\) vetitasque \(w.\)
beauty, and while he kept the goddesses in anxious doubt looked not with friendly eye upon Minerva's frowning countenance nor on the consort of the heavenly ruler, but gazed overmuch on Dione alone. And verily that quarrel arose in thy own glades, at a gathering of the gods, when pleasant Pelion made marriage-feast for Peleus, and thou even then wert promised to our armament. Wrath thrills the vanquished ones: the judge demands his fateful reward, and compliant Amyclae is shown to the ravisher. He cuts down the Phrygian groves, the secret haunts of the turret-crowned mother, and flings down pines that fear to fall to earth, and borne o'er the sea to Achaean lands he plunders the marriage-chamber of his host the son of Atreus—ah! shame and pity on proud Europe!—and exulting in Helen puts to sea and brings home to Pergamum the spoils of Argos. Then, as the rumours spread far and wide through the cities, of our own will, none urging us, we gather, each for himself, from every side for vengeance; for who could endure the unlawful, crafty breaking of the marriage-bond, or a consort carried off in unresisted rape, as though a beast of the flock or herd, or some poor heap of harvest-corn? Such a loss would shake even a valiant heart. Masterful Agenor endured not the treachery of the gods, but went in quest of sacred lowings and Europa riding on a mighty god, and scorned the Thunderer as a son-in-law; Aeëtes endured not the rape of his daughter from the Scythian shore, but with ships and steel pursued the princes and the vessel fated to join the stars: shall we endure a Phrygian eunuch hovering about the coasts and harbours of Argos with his incestuous bark? Are our horses and men so utterly
usque adeo nusquam arma et equi, fretaque invia Grais?
quid si nunc aliquis patriis rapturus ab oris
Deidamian eat viduaque e sede revellat
attonitam et magni clamantem nomen Achillis?
illius ad capulum rediit manus ac simul ingens
impulit ora rubor : tacuit contentus Ulixes.

Excipit Oenides: "quin, o dignissima caeli
progenies, ritusque tuos elementaque primae
indolis et, valida mox accedente iuventa,
quae solitus laudum tibi semina pandere Chiron,
virtutisque aditus, quas membra augere per artes, quas animum, sociis multumque fave
tibus edis?
sit pretium longas penitas quaesisse per undas
Seyron et his primos arma ostendisse lacertis."

Quem pigeat sua facta loqui? tamen ille
modeste incohat, ambiguus paulum propiorque
coacto : "dicor et in teneris et adhuc reptantibus annis,
Thessalus ut rigido senior me monte recepit,
non ullos ex more cibos hausisse nec almis
uberibus satiasse famem, sed spissa leonum
viscera semianimisque lupae traxisse medullas.
haec mihi prima Ceres, haec laeti munera Bacchi,
sic dabat ille pater. mox ire per invia secum
lustra gradu maiore trahens visisque docebat
adridere feris nec fracta ruentibus undis
saxa nec ad vastae trepidare silentia silvae.

iam tunc arma manu, iam tunc cervice pharetrae,

1 his primos arma ostendisse lacertis Wilamowitz: his
primum arma ostendisse lacertis P: armos (is) tendisse QKC:
primum me arma ost. Schenkel.
2 reptantibus P: restantibus w: crescentibus edd.

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a i.e., Chiron.
ACHILLEID, II. 80–106

vanished? Are the seas so impassable to Greeks? What if someone now were to carry off Deidamia from her native shores, and tear her from her lonely chamber in dire dismay and crying on the name of great Achilles?" His hand flew to the sword-hilt, and a dark flush surged over his face: Ulysses was silent and content.

Then spoke Oenides: "Nay, O thou worthiest progeny of heaven, tell us, thy admiring friends, of the ways in which thy spirit first was trained, and as the vigour of thy youth increased what stirring themes of glory Chiron was wont to recount to thee, and how thy valour grew, by what arts he made strong thy limbs or fired thy courage; let it be worth while to have sought Scyros over long leagues of sea, and to have first shown weapons to those arms of thine."

Who would find it hard to tell of his own deeds? Yet he begins modestly, somewhat uncertain and more like one compelled: "Even in my years of crawling infancy, when the Thessalian sage received me on his stark mountain-side, I am said to have devoured no wonted food, nor to have sated my hunger at the nourishing breast, but to have gnawed the tough entrails of lions and the bowels of a half-slain she-wolf. That was my first bread, that the bounty of joyous Bacchus, in such wise did that father of mine a feed me. Then he taught me to go with him through pathless deserts, dragging me on with mighty stride, and to laugh at sight of the wild beasts, nor tremble at the shattering of rocks by rushing torrents or at the silence of the lonely forest. Already at that time weapons were in my hand and quivers on my shoulders,
et ferri properatus amor durataque multo
sole geluque cutis; tenero nec fluxa cubili
membra, sed ingenti saxum commune magistro.
vix mihi bissenos annorum torserat orbes
vita rudis, volucrem cum iam praevertere cervos
et Lapithas cogebat equos praemissaque cursu
tela sequi; saepe ipse gradu me praepete Chiron,
dum velox aetas, campis admissus agebat
omnibus, exhaustumque vago per gramina passu
laudabat gaudens atque in sua terga levabat.
saepe etiam primo fluvii torpore iubebat
ire supra glaciemque levi non frangere planta.
 hoc puerile decus. quid nunc tibi proelia dicam
silvarum et saevo vacuos iam murmure saltus?
numquam ille imbelles Ossaea per avia dammas
sectari aut timidas passus me cuspide lyncas
sternere, sed tristes turbare cubilibus ursos
fulmineosque sues, et sicubi maxima tigris
aut seducta iugis fetae spelunca leaenae.
ipse sedens vasto facta exspectabat in antro,
si sparsus nigro remearem sanguine; nec me
ante nisi inspectis admisit ad oscula telis.
iamque et ad ensiferos vicina pube tumultus
aptabar, nec me ulla feri Mavortis imago
praeteriit. didici, quo Paeones arma rotatu,
quo Macetae sua gaesa citent, quo turbine contum
Sauromates falcemque Getes arcumque Gelonus
tenderet et flexae Balearicus actor habenae

a "admissus," cf. the common phrase "admisso equo."
the love of steel grew apace within me, and my skin was hardened by much sun and frost; nor were my limbs weakened by soft couches, but I shared the hard rock with my master's mighty frame. Scarce had my raw youth turned the wheel of twice six years, when already he made me outpace swift hinds and Lapith steeds and running overtake the flung dart; often Chiron himself, while yet he was swift of foot, chased me at full gallop with headlong speed o'er all the plains, and when I was exhausted by roaming over the meads he praised me joyously and hoisted me upon his back. Often too in the first freezing of the streams he would bid me go upon them with light step nor break the ice. These were my boyhood's glories. Why now should I tell thee of the woodland battles and of the glades that know my fierce shout no more? Never would he suffer me to follow unwarlike does through the pathless glens of Ossa, or lay low timid lynxes with my spear, but only to drive angry bears from their resting-places, and boars with lightning thrust; or if anywhere a mighty tiger lurked or a lioness with her cubs in some secret lair upon the mountain-side, he himself, seated in his vast cave, awaited my exploits, if perchance I should return bespattered with dark blood; nor did he admit me to his embrace before he had scanned my weapons. And already I was being prepared for the armed tumults of the neighbouring folk, and no fashion of savage warfare passed me by. I learnt how the Paeonians whirl and fling their darts and the Macetae their javelins, with how fierce a rush the Sarmatian plies his pike and the Getan his falchion. how the Gelonian draws his bow, and how the Balearic wielder of the pliant
STATIUS

quo suspensa trahens libraret vulnera tortu
inclusumque suo distinguere t aera gyro.
vix memorem cunctos, etsi bene gessimus, actus.
nune docet ingentes saltu me iungere fossas,
nunc caput aerii scendantem prendere montis,
quò fugitur per plana gradu, simulacraque pugnae
excipere immissos scutato¹ umbone molares
ardentesque errare² casas peditemque volantes
sistere quadriiugos. memini, rapidissimus ibat
imribibus adsiduis pastus nivibusque solutis
Sperchios vivasque trabes et saxa ferebat:
cum me ille immissum, qua saevior impetus undae,
stare iubet contra tumidosque repellere fluctus,
quos vix ipse gradu totiens obstante tulisset.

stabam equidem, sed me referebat concitus amnis
et latae caligo fugae: ferus ille minari

desuper incumbens verbisque urgere pudorem.
nec nisi iussus abi: sic me sublimis agebat
gloria, nec duri tanto sub teste labores.

nam procul Oebalios in nubila condere discos
et liquidam nodare palen et spargere caestus,
ludus erat requiesque mihi; nec maior in istis
sudor, Apollineo quam fila sonantia plectro

cum quaterem priscosque virum mirarer honores.

quin etiam sucos atque auxiliantia morbis
gramina, quo nimins staret medicamine sanguis,
quid faciat somnos, quid hiantia vulnera claudat,
quae ferro cohibenda lues, quae cederet herbis,

¹ scutato P : curvato ω. ² errare P : intrare ω.

— Cf. Theb. iv. 67.
— i.e., he had four legs to withstand the torrent.
— See note on Silv. v. 3. 53; but it may simply mean Spartan, as being a sport much practised in Sparta.

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thong keeps the missile swinging round with balanced motion, and as he swings it marks out a circle in the air. Scarce could I recount all my doings, successful though they were; now he instructs me to span huge dykes by leaping, now to climb and grasp the airy mountain-peak, with what stride to run upon the level, how to catch flung stones in mimic battle on my shielded arm, to pass through burning houses, and to check flying four-horse teams on foot. Spercheus, I remember, was flowing with rapid current, fed full with constant rains and melted snows and carrying on its flood boulders and living trees, when he sent me in, there where the waves rolled fiercest, and bade me stand against them and hurl back the swelling billows that he himself could scarce have borne, though he stood to face them with so many a limb. I strove to stand, but the violence of the stream and the dizzy panic of the broad spate forced me to give ground; he loomed o'er me from above and fiercely threatened, and flung taunts to shame me. Nor did I depart till he gave me word, so far did the lofty love of fame constrain me, and my toils were not too hard with such a witness. For to fling the Oebalian quoit far out of sight into the clouds, or to practise the holds of the sleek wrestling-bout, and to scatter blows with the boxing-gloves were sport and rest to me: nor laboured I more therein than when I struck with my quill the sounding strings, or told the wondrous fame of heroes of old. Also did he teach me of juices and the grasses that succour disease, what remedy will staunch too fast a flow of blood, what will lull to sleep, what will close gaping wounds; what plague should be checked by the knife, what will yield to herbs; and he implanted

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edocuit monitusque sacrae sub pectore fixit iustitiae, qua Peliacis dare iura verenda
gentibus atque suos solitus pacare biformes.  
hactenus annorum, comites, elementa meorum 
et memini et meminisse iuvat: scit cetera mater.”

1 After line 167 is added in E and some other mss. in a fifteenth-century hand aura silet, puppis currens ad litora venit.
deep within my heart the precepts of divine justice, whereby he was wont to give revered laws to the tribes that dwelt on Pelion, and tame his own twy-formed folk. So much do I remember, friends, of the training of my earliest years, and sweet is their remembrance; the rest my mother knows.”
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