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LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME

BY

LORD MACAULAY.

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BY

LORD MACAULAY.


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LIFE OF MACAULAY.

THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY, the great historian of England, was born at Rothley, near Leicester, in 1800, and was named Thomas Babington after his uncle. Macaulay's grandfather was a Scotch minister, and his father, Zachary, after having spent some time in Jamaica, returned to England, and joined Wilberforce and Clarkson in their efforts to abolish slavery in the British possessions. Macaulay was educated at Bristol and at Cambridge, where he gained great distinction, and twice won medals for his poems. He was also a member of the Union Debating Society, a famous club where young politicians tried their skill in the discussion of the affairs of State. He took his degree of M.A. in 1825, was called to the bar in 1826, and contributed extensively to Knight's Quarterly Magazine, in which his first literary efforts appeared, including among others the ballads of "The Spanish Armada" and "The Battle of Ivry." In 1825 he contributed to the Edinburgh Review his celebrated article on Milton, and this was succeeded by numerous others on various themes, historical, political, and literary, which were afterward collected and published separately.

Macaulay was a member of Parliament first for Colne, then for Leeds, and took part in the great discussions connected with the Reform Bill of 1832. In return for his services to his party, he was sent to India in 1834 as a member of the Council, and while there wrote his famous essays on Lord Clive and Warren Hastings. In 1839 Macaulay returned to England, was elected member for Edinburgh, and, during the eight years of his connection with that city, held successively the offices of Secretary at War and Paymaster-General of the Forces. In 1842 he gave to the world his spirited "Lays of Ancient Rome." In 1847 he displeased his Edinburgh supporters, and in a pet they rejected him; but in 1852 they re-elected him of their own accord, and in this way endeavored to atone for the past. He devoted the interval between these two dates to his History of England, the first two volumes of which were published in 1848, two others making their appearance in 1855. They form a magnificent fragment of historical writing, embracing a period of little more than twelve years, from the accession of James II. to the Peace of Ryswick, in 1697. A fifth volume, compiled from the papers which he left
behind, and bringing the work down to the death of William III., was published posthumously in 1859. He retired from Parliament in 1856, owing to failing health, and in the following year he was created a baron in consideration of his great literary merit. In 1859 he died suddenly of disease of the heart, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Lord Macaulay excelled as a poet and essayist, but he is chiefly illustrious as a historian. In the opening chapter of his History of England the author announces his intention to write a history from the accession of James II. down to a time within the memory of men still living. Its success was very great. History was no longer dry and uninviting, for Macaulay had become a painter as well as a chronicler. The events of the past are depicted in such fresh and striking coloring that they have all the interest of absolute novelty. We have life-like portraits of the great men of the age, landscapes and street scenes, spirit-stirring descriptions of insurrections and trials and sieges, and graphic pictures of manners and customs. Macaulay had a very wonderful memory, of which he was proud, and he was able to collect and retain stores of information from all manner of old books, papers, and parchments, and to make use of them in the production of his history. He is not always impartial, but sufficiently so to be considered the best authority on that portion of history with which he deals.

Macaulay’s personal appearance was never better described than in two sentences of Praed’s Introduction to Knight’s Quarterly Magazine: “There comes up a short manly figure, marvelously upright, with a bad neckcloth, and one hand in his waistcoat pocket. Of regular beauty he had little to boast; but in faces where there is an expression of great power, or great good humor, or both, you do not regret its absence.” This picture, in which every touch is correct, tells us all that there is to be told. He had a massive head, and features of a powerful and rugged cast; but so constantly lighted up by every joyful and ennobling emotion, that it mattered little if, when absolutely quiescent, his face was rather homely than handsome. While conversing at table, no one thought him otherwise than good-looking; but when he rose he was seen to be short and stout in figure. He at all times sat and stood straight, full, and square. He dressed badly, but not cheaply. His clothes, though ill put on, were good, and his wardrobe was always enormously over-stocked. Macaulay was bored in the best of society, but took unceasing delight in children. He was the best of playfellows unrivaled in the invention of games, and never weary of repeating them.
PREFACE.

That what is called the history of the Kings and early Consuls of Rome is to a great extent fabulous, few scholars have, since the time of Beaufort, ventured to deny. It is certain that, more than three hundred and sixty years after the date ordinarily assigned for the foundation of the city, the public records were, with scarcely an exception, destroyed by the Gauls. It is certain that the oldest annals of the commonwealth were compiled more than a century and a half after this destruction of the records. It is certain, therefore, that the great Latin writers of the Augustan age did not possess those materials, without which a trustworthy account of the infancy of the republic could not possibly be framed. Those writers own, indeed, that the chronicles to which they had access were filled with battles that were never fought, and Consuls that were never inaugurated; and we have abundant proof that, in these chronicles, events of the greatest importance, such as the issue of the war with Porsena, and the issue of the war with Brennus, were grossly misrepresented. Under these circumstances a wise man will look with great suspicion on the legend which has come down to us. He will perhaps be inclined to regard the princes who are said to have founded the civil and religious institutions of Rome, the son of Mars, and the husband of Egeria, as mere mythological personages, of the same class with Perseus and Ixion. As he draws nearer and nearer to the confines of authentic history, he will become less and less hard of belief. He will admit that the most important parts of the narrative have some foundation in truth. But he will distrust almost all the details, not only because they seldom rest on any solid evidence, but also because he will constantly detect in them, even when they are within the limits of physical possibility, that peculiar character more easily understood than defined, which distinguishes the creations of the imagination from the realities of the world in which we live.

The early history of Rome is indeed far more poetical than
anything else in Latin literature. The loves of the Vestal and the God of War, the cradle laid among the reeds of Tiber, the fig-tree, the she-wolf, the shepherd's cabin, the recognition, the fratricide, the rape of the Sabines, the death of Tarpeia, the fall of Hostus Hostilius, the struggle of Mettus Curtius through the marsh, the women rushing with torn raiment and disheveled hair between their fathers and their husbands, the nightly meetings of Numa and the Nymph by the well in the sacred grove, the fight of the three Romans and the three Albans, the purchase of the Sibyline books, the crime of Tullia, the simulated madness of Brutus, the ambiguous reply of the Delphian oracle to the Tarquins, the wrongs of Lucretia, the heroic actions of Horatius Cocles, of Scævola, and of Cœlia, the battle of Regillus won by the aid of Castor and Pollux, the defense of Cremera, the touching story of Coriolanus, the still more touching story of Virginia, the wild legend about the draining of the Alban lake, the combat between Valerius Corvus and the gigantic Gaul, are among the many instances which will at once suggest themselves to every reader.

In the narrative of Livy, who was a man of fine imagination, these stories retain much of their genuine character. Nor could even the tasteless Dionysius distort and mutilate them into mere prose. The poetry shines, in spite of him, through the dreary pedantry of his eleven books. It is discernible in the most tedious and in the most superficial modern works on the early times of Rome. It enlivens the dullness of the Universal History, and gives a charm to the most meager abridgments of Goldsmith.

Even in the age of Plutarch there were discerning men who rejected the popular account of the foundation of Rome, because that account appeared to them to have the air, not of a history, but of a romance or a drama. Plutarch, who was displeased at their incredulity, had nothing better to say in reply to their arguments than that chance sometimes turns poet, and produces trains of events not to be distinguished from the most elaborate plots which are constructed by art. But though the existence of a poetical element in the early history of the Great City was detected so many years ago, the first critic who distinctly saw from what source that poetical element had been derived was James Perizonius, one of the most acute and learned antiquaries of the
seventeenth century. His theory, which, in his own days, attracted little or no notice, was revived in the present generation by Niebuhr, a man who would have been the first writer of his time, if his talent for communicating truths had borne any proportion to his talent for investigating them. That theory has been adopted by several eminent scholars of our own country, particularly by the Bishop of St. David's, by Professor Malden, and by the lamented Arnold. It appears to be now generally received by men conversant with classical antiquity; and indeed it rests on such strong proofs, both internal and external, that it will not be easily subverted. A popular exposition of this theory, and of the evidence by which it is supported, may not be without interest even for readers who are unacquainted with the ancient languages.

The Latin literature which has come down to us is of later date than the commencement of the Second Punic War, and consists almost exclusively of works fashioned on Greek models. The Latin meters, heroic, elegiac, lyric, and dramatic, are of Greek origin. The best Latin epic poetry is the feeble echo of the Iliad and Odyssey. The best Latin eclogues are imitations of Theocritus. The plan of the most finished didactic poem in the Latin tongue was taken from Hesiod. The Latin tragedies are bad copies of the masterpieces of Sophocles and Euripides. The Latin comedies are free translations from Demophilus, Menander, and Appollodorus. The Latin philosophy was borrowed, without alteration, from the Portico and the Academy; and the great Latin orators constantly proposed to themselves as patterns the speeches of Demosthenes and Lysias.

But there was an earlier Latin literature, a literature truly Latin, which has wholly perished, which had, indeed, almost wholly perished long before those whom we are in the habit of regarding as the greatest Latin writers were born. That literature abounded with metrical romances, such as are found in every country where there is much curiosity and intelligence, but little reading and writing. All human beings, not utterly savage, long for some information about past times, and are delighted by narratives which present pictures to the eye of the mind. But it is only in very enlightened communities that books are readily accessible. Metrical composition, therefore, which, in a highly civilized nation, is a mere luxury, is, in nations imperfectly civilized, almost
a necessary of life, and is valued less on account of the pleasure which it gives to the ear than on account of the help which it gives to the memory. A man who can invent or embellish an interesting story, and put it into a form which others may easily retain in their recollection, will always be highly esteemed by a people eager for amusement and information, but destitute of libraries. Such is the origin of ballad-poetry, a species of composition which scarcely ever fails to spring up and flourish in every society, at a certain point in the progress towards refinement. Tacitus informs us that songs were the only memorials of the past which the ancient Germans possessed. We learn from Lucan and from Ammianus Marcellinus that the brave actions of the ancient Gauls were commemorated in the verses of Bards. During many ages, and through many revolutions, minstrelsy retained its influence over both the Teutonic and the Celtic races. The vengeance exacted by the spouse of Attila for the murder of Siegfried was celebrated in rhymes, of which Germany is still justly proud. The exploits of Athelstane were commemorated by the Anglo-Saxons, and those of Canute by the Danes, in rude poems, of which a few fragments have come down to us. The chants of the Welsh harpers preserved, through ages of darkness, a faint and doubtful memory of Arthur. In the Highlands of Scotland may still be gleaned some relics of the old songs about Cuthullin and Fingal. The long struggle of the Servians against the Ottoman power was recorded in lays full of martial spirit. We learn from Herrera that, when a Peruvian Inca died, men of skill were appointed to celebrate him in verses, which all the people learned by heart, and sang in public on days of festival. The feats of Kurroglou, the great freebooter of Turkistan, recounted in ballads composed by himself, are known in every village of Northern Persia. Captain Beechey heard the Bards of the Sandwich Islands recite the heroic achievements of Tamchameha, the most illustrious of their kings. Mungo Park found in the heart of Africa a class of singing-men, the only annalists of their rude tribes, and heard them tell the story of the victory which Damel, the negro prince of the Jaloffs, won over Abdulkader, the Mussulman tyrant of Foota Torra. This species of poetry attained a high degree of excellence among the Castilians, before they began to copy Tuscan patterns. It attained a still higher degree of excellence among the English and the Lowland
Scotch, during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. But it reached its full perfection in ancient Greece; for there can be no doubt that the great Homeric poems are generically ballads, though widely distinguished from all other ballads, and indeed from almost all other human compositions, by transcendent sublimity and beauty.

As it is agreeable to general experience that, at a certain stage in the progress of society, ballad-poetry should flourish, so it is also agreeable to general experience that, at a subsequent stage in the progress of society, ballad-poetry should be undervalued and neglected. Knowledge advances: manners change: great foreign models of composition are studied and imitated. The phraseology of the old minstrels becomes obsolete. Their versification, which, having received its laws only from the ear, abounds in irregularities, seems licentious and uncouth. Their simplicity appears beggarly when compared with the quaint forms and gaudy coloring of such artists as Cowley and Gongora. The ancient lays, unjustly despised by the learned and polite, linger for a time in the memory of the vulgar, and are at length too often irretrievably lost. We cannot wonder that the ballads of Rome should have altogether disappeared, when we remember how very narrowly, in spite of the invention of printing, those of our own country and those of Spain escaped the same fate. There is indeed little doubt that oblivion covers many English songs equal to any that were published by Bishop Percy, and many Spanish songs as good as the best of those which have been so happily translated by Mr. Lockhart. Eighty years ago England possessed only one tattered copy of Childe Waters and Sir Cauline, and Spain only one tattered copy of the noble poem of the Cid. The snuff of a candle, or a mischievous dog, might in a moment have deprived the world forever of any of those fine compositions. Sir Walter Scott, who united to the fire of a great poet the minute curiosity and patient diligence of a great antiquary, was but just in time to save the precious relics of the Minstrelsy of the Border. In Germany, the lay of the Nibelungs had been long utterly forgotten, when, in the eighteenth century, it was, for the first time, printed from a manuscript in the old library of a noble family. In truth, the only people who, through their whole passage from simplicity to the highest civilization,
never for a moment ceased to love and admire their old ballads, were the Greeks.

That the early Romans should have had ballad-poetry, and that this poetry should have perished, is therefore not strange. It would, on the contrary, have been strange if these things had not come to pass; and we should be justified in pronouncing them highly probable, even if we had no direct evidence on the subject. But we have direct evidence of unquestionable authority.

Ennius, who flourished in the time of the Second Punic War, was regarded in the Augustan age as the father of Latin poetry. He was, in truth, the father of the second school of Latin poetry, the only school of which the works have descended to us. But from Ennius himself we learn that there were poets who stood to him in the same relation in which the author of the romance of Count Alarcos stood to Garcilaso, or the author of the "Lytell Geste of Robyn Hode" to Lord Surrey. Ennius speaks of verses which the Fauns and the Bards were wont to chant in the old time, when none had yet studied the graces of speech, when none had yet climbed the peaks sacred to the Goddesses of Grecian song. "Where," Cicero mournfully asks, "are those old verses now?"

Contemporary with Ennius was Quintus Fabius Pictor, the earliest of the Roman annalists. His account of the infancy and youth of Romulus and Remus has been preserved by Dionysius, and contains a very remarkable reference to the ancient Latin poetry. Fabius says that, in his time, his countrymen were still in the habit of singing ballads about the Twins. "Even in the hut of Faustulus,"—so these old lays appear to have run,—"the children of Rhea and Mars were, in port and in spirit, not like unto swineherds or cowherds, but such that men might well guess them to be of the blood of Kings and Gods.

Cato the Censor, who also lived in the days of the Second Punic War, mentioned this lost literature in his lost work on the antiquities of his country. Many ages, he said, before his time, there were ballads in praise of illustrious men; and these ballads it was the fashion for the guests at banquets to sing in turn while the piper played. "Would," exclaims Cicero, "that we still had the old ballads of which Cato speaks!"

Valerius Maximus gives us exactly similar information, without
mentioning his authority, and observes that the ancient Roman ballads were probably of more benefit to the young than all the lectures of the Athenian schools, and that to the influence of the national poetry were to be ascribed the virtues of such men as Camillus and Fabricius.

Varro, whose authority on all questions connected with the antiquities of his country is entitled to the greatest respect, tells us that at banquets it was once the fashion for boys to sing, sometimes with and sometimes without instrumental music, ancient ballads in praise of men of former times. These young performers, he observes, were of unblemished character, a circumstance which he probably mentioned because, among the Greeks, and indeed in his time among the Romans also, the morals of singing-boys were in no high repute.

The testimony of Horace, though given incidentally, confirms the statements of Cato, Valerius Maximus, and Varro. The poet predicts that, under the peaceful administration of Augustus, the Romans will, over their full goblets, sing to the pipe, after the fashion of their fathers, the deeds of brave captains, and the ancient legends touching the origin of the city.

The proposition, then, that Rome had ballad-poetry is not merely in itself highly probable, but is fully proved by direct evidence of the greatest weight.

This proposition being established, it becomes easy to understand why the early history of the city is unlike almost everything else in Latin literature, native where almost everything else is borrowed, imaginative where almost everything else is prosaic. We can scarcely hesitate to pronounce that the magnificent, pathetic, and truly national legends, which present so striking a contrast to all that surrounds them, are broken and defaced fragments of that early poetry which, even in the age of Cato the Censor, had become antiquated, and of which Tully had never heard a line.

That this poetry should have been suffered to perish will not appear strange when we consider how complete was the triumph of the Greek genius over the public mind of Italy. It is probable that, at an early period, Homer and Herodotus furnished some hints to the Latin minstrels: but it was not till after the war with Pyrrhus that the poetry of Rome began to put off its old Ausonian character. The transformation was soon consummated.
The conquered, says Horace, led captive the conquerors. It was precisely at the time at which the Roman people rose to unrivalled political ascendancy that they stooped to pass under the intellectual yoke. It was precisely at the time at which the scepter departed from Greece that the empire of her language and of her arts became universal and despotic. The revolution indeed was not effected without a struggle. Nævius seems to have been the last of the ancient line of poets. Ennius was the founder of a new dynasty. Nævius celebrated the First Punic War in Saturnian verse, the old national verse of Italy. Ennius sang the Second Punic War in numbers borrowed from the Iliad. The elder poet, in the epitaph which he wrote for himself, and which is a fine specimen of the early Roman diction and versification, plaintively boasted that the Latin language had died with him. Thus what to Horace appeared to be the first faint dawn of Roman literature, appeared to Nævius to be its hopeless setting. In truth, one literature was setting, and another dawning.

The victory of the foreign taste was decisive: and indeed we can hardly blame the Romans for turning away with contempt from the rude lays which had delighted their fathers, and giving their whole admiration to the immortal productions of Greece. The national romances, neglected by the great and the refined whose education had been finished at Rhodes or Athens, continued, it may be supposed, during some generations, to delight the vulgar. While Virgil, in hexameters of exquisite modulation, described the sports of rustics, those rustics were still singing their wild Saturnian ballads. It is not improbable that, at the time when Cicero lamented the irreparable loss of the poems mentioned by Cato, a search among the nooks of the Apennines, as active as the search which Sir Walter Scott made among the descendants of the mosstroopers of Liddesdale, might have brought to light many fine remains of ancient minstrelsy. No such search was made. The Latin ballads perished forever. Yet discerning critics have thought that they could still perceive in the early history of Rome numerous fragments of this lost poetry, as the traveler on classic ground sometimes finds, built into the heavy wall of a fort or convent, a pillar rich with acanthus-leaves, or a frieze where the Amazons and Bacchanals seem to live. The theaters and temples of the Greek and the Roman were degraded into the quarries of the Turk and the Goth.
Even so did the ancient Saturnian poetry become the quarry in which a crowd of orators and annalists found the materials for their prose.

It is not difficult to trace the process by which the old songs were transmuted into the form which they now wear. Funeral panegyric and chronicle appear to have been the intermediate links which connected the lost ballads with the histories now extant. From a very early period it was the usage that an oration should be pronounced over the remains of a noble Roman. The orator, as we learn from Polybius, was expected, on such an occasion, to recapitulate all the services which the ancestors of the deceased had, from the earliest time, rendered to the commonwealth. There can be little doubt that the speaker on whom this duty was imposed would make use of all the stories suited to his purpose which were to be found in the popular lays. There can be as little doubt that the family of an eminent man would preserve a copy of the speech which had been pronounced over his corpse. The compilers of the early chronicles would have recourse to these speeches; and the great historians of a later period would have recourse to the chronicles.

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

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

That this might happen at Rome can scarcely be doubted; for something very like this has happened in several countries, and, among others, in our own. Perhaps the theory of Perizonius cannot be better illustrated than by showing that what he supposes to have taken place in ancient times has, beyond all doubt, taken place in modern times.

"History," says Hume, with the utmost gravity, "has preserved some instances of Edgar's amours, from which, as from a specimen, we may form a conjecture of the rest." He then tells very agreeably the stories of Elfleda and Elfrida, two stories which have a most suspicious air of romance, and which, indeed, greatly resemble, in their general character, some of the legends of early Rome. He cites, as his authority for these two tales, the chronicle of William of Malmesbury, who lived in the time of King Stephen. The great majority of readers suppose that the device by which Elfrida was substituted for her young mistress,
the artifice by which Athelwold obtained the hand of Elfrida, the
detection of that artifice, the hunting party, and the vengeance
of the amorous king, are things about which there is no more
doubt than about the execution of Anne Boleyn, or the slitting of
Sir John Coventry's nose. But when we turn to William of
Malmesbury, we find that Hume, in his eagerness to relate these
pleasant fables, has overlooked one very important circumstance.
William does indeed tell both the stories; but he gives us dis-
tinct notice that he does not warrant their truth, and that they
rest on no better authority than that of ballads.

Such is the way in which these two well-known tales have been
handed down. They originally appeared in a poetical form.
They found their way from ballads into an old chronicle. The
ballads perished; the chronicle remained. A great historian,
some centuries after the ballads had been altogether forgotten,
consulted the chronicle. He was struck by the lively coloring of
these ancient fictions: he transferred them to his pages; and thus
we find inserted, as unquestionable facts, in a narrative which is
likely to last as long as the English tongue, the inventions of
some minstrel whose works were probably never committed to
writing, whose name is buried in oblivion, and whose dialect has
become obsolete. It must, then, be admitted to be possible, or
rather highly probable, that the stories of Romulus and Remus,
and of the Horatii and Curiatii, may have had a similar origin.

Castilian literature will furnish us with another parallel case.
Mariana, the classical historian of Spain, tells the story of the
ill-starred marriage which the King Don Alonso brought about
between the heirs of Carrion and the two daughters of the Cid.
The Cid bestowed a princely dower on his sons-in-law. But the
young men were base and proud, cowardly and cruel. They
were tried in danger, and found wanting. They fled before the
Moors, and once, when a lion broke out of his den, they ran and
crouched in an unseemly hiding-place. They knew that they
were despised, and took counsel how they might be avenged.
They parted from their father-in-law with many signs of love,
and set forth on a journey with Doña Elvira and Doña Sol. In
a solitary place the bridegrooms seized their brides, stripped
them, scourged them, and departed, leaving them for dead.
But one of the house of Bivar, suspecting foul play, had followed
the travelers in disguise. The ladies were brought back safe to
the house of their father. Complaint was made to the king. It
was adjudged by the Cortes that the dower given by the Cid
should be returned, and that the heirs of Carrion together with
one of their kindred should do battle against three knights of the
party of the Cid. The guilty youths would have declined the
combat; but all their shifts were vain. They were vanquished
in the lists, and forever disgraced, while their injured wives
were sought in marriage by great princes.

Some Spanish writers have labored to show, by an examination
of cases and circumstances, that this story is untrue. Such con-
futation was surely not needed; for the narrative is on the face
of it a romance. How it found its way into Mariana's history is
quite clear. He acknowledges his obligations to the ancient
chronicles; and had doubtless before him the "Cronica del fa-
moso Cavallero Cid Ruy Diez Campeador," which had been printed
as early as the year 1552. He little suspected that all the most
striking passages in this chronicle were copied from a poem of
the twelfth century, a poem of which the language and versifica-
tion had long been obsolete, but which glowed with no common
portion of the fire of the Iliad. Yet such was the fact. More
than a century and a half after the death of Mariana, this ven-
erable ballad, of which one imperfect copy on parchment, four
hundred years old, had been preserved at Bivar, was for the first
time printed. Then it was found that every interesting circum-
stance of the story of the heirs of Carrion was derived by the elo-
quent Jesuit from a song of which he had never heard, and
which was composed by a minstrel whose very name had long
been forgotten.

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

In the following poems the author speaks, not in his own per-
son, but in the persons of ancient minstrels who know only what
a Roman citizen, born three or four hundred years before the
Christian era, may be supposed to have known, and who are in
nowise above the passions and prejudices of their age and na-
tion. To these imaginary poets must be ascribed some blunders
which are so obvious that it is unnecessary to point them out.
The real blunder would have been to represent these old poets as deeply versed in general history, and studious of chronological accuracy. To them must also be attributed the illiberal sneers at the Greeks, the furious party-spirit, the contempt for the arts of peace, the love of war for its own sake, the ungenerous exultation over the vanquished, which the reader will sometimes observe. To portray a Roman of the age of Camillus or Curius as superior to national antipathies, as mourning over the devastation and slaughter by which empire and triumphs were to be won, as looking on human suffering with the sympathy of Howard, or as treating conquered enemies with the delicacy of the Black Prince, would be to violate all dramatic propriety. The old Romans had some great virtues,—fortitude, temperance, veracity, spirit to resist oppression, respect for legitimate authority, fidelity in the observing of contracts, disinterestedness, ardent patriotism,—but Christian charity and chivalrous generosity were alike unknown to them.

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

It would have been easy to swell this little volume to a very considerable bulk, by appending notes filled with quotations; but to a learned reader such notes are not necessary; for an unlearned reader they would have little interest; and the judgment passed both by the learned and the unlearned on a work of the imagination will always depend much more on the general character and spirit of such a work than on minute details.

It may be desirable to state that the Preface and the Introductions to the Lays are of the author's own writing.
HORATIUS.

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

These discrepancies are easily explained. Our own literature, indeed, will furnish an exact parallel to what may have taken place at Rome. It is highly probable that the memory of the war of Porsena was preserved by compositions much resembling the two ballads which stand first in the Relics of

3. Horatius Coecles. Literally Horatius the One-eyed.
6. Consul or Praetor. The Consuls, of whom there were two at a time, were the highest republican magistrates at Rome. The office was established immediately after the abolition of royalty, 509 B.C. The Praetor originally (B.C. 366) was equivalent to a Third Consul. He sometimes commanded the armies; and when the Consuls were absent with the armies, he exercised their powers within the city.
7. Patricians. The ruling class in Roman society, in contradistinction to the "plebeians," or common people. They exercised exclusive political power and enjoyed all the honors.
Dionysius. A celebrated rhetorician and historian, who about B.C. 29 went from Halicarnassus to Rome where he lived until his death, B.C. 7.
Ancient English Poetry. In both those ballads the English, commanded by the Percy, fight with the Scots, commanded by the Douglas. In one of the ballads the Douglas is killed by a nameless English archer, and the Percy by a Scottish spearman: in the other, the Percy slays the Douglas in single combat, and is himself made prisoner. In the former, Sir Hugh Montgomery is shot through the heart by a Northumbrian Bowman: in the latter he is taken, and exchanged for the Percy. Yet both the ballads relate to the same event, and that an event which probably took place within the memory of persons who were alive when both the ballads were made.

One of the minstrels says:

"Old men that knowen the grounde well yenoughe
Call it the battell of Otterburn:
At Otterburn began this spurne
Upon a monyn day.
Ther was the dougghte Doglas slean:
The Perse never went away."

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

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

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

The following ballad is supposed to have been made about a hundred and twenty years after the war which it celebrates, and just before the taking of Rome by the Gauls. The author seems to have been an honest citizen, proud of the military

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20. Percy. Harry Percy. Surnamed Hotspur on account of his fiery temper acquired great fame on account of his exploits in a skirmish with the Scots at Otterbourne (1388). It was on this battle that the ballad of "Chevy Chase" was based. The Percys aided Henry IV. in his efforts to obtain possession of his kingdom, but afterward, quarreling with him, they joined their forces to those of the Scots under the Earl of Douglas and to the Welsh under Owen Glendower for the purpose of placing Mortimer on the throne. A terrific battle was fought at Shrewsbury (1403), but the rebels were defeated and Percy slain.
glory of his country, sick of the disputes of factions, and much
given to pining after good old times which had never really
existed. The allusion, however, to the partial manner in
which the public lands were allotted could proceed only from
a plebeian; and the allusion to the fraudulent sale of spoils
marks the date of the poem, and shows that the poet shared in
the general discontent with which the proceedings of Camillus,
after the taking of Veii, were regarded.

The penultimate syllable of the name Porsena has been short-
ened in spite of the authority of Niebuhr, who pronounces, with-
out assigning any ground for his opinion, that Martial was
guilty of a decided blunder in the line,

"Hanc spectare manum Porsena non potuit."

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

"Minacis aut Etrusca Porsenæ manus."

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

"Cernitur effugiens ardentem Porsena dextram:"
and again,

"Clusinum vulgus, cum, Porsena magne, jubebas."

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

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

55. Plebeian. See note 7.
74. Silius Italicus (A.D. 25-100). A Roman poet, and Consul in 68, the
year in which Nero perished.
Horatius.

A Lay Made about the Year of the City CCCLX.

Lars Porsena of Clusium

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

II.

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

84. Lars Porsena of Clusium.—Lars was an Etruscan title, answering to our lord or chief. It is scarcely necessary to warn the reader that the likeness of sound with the English lord is wholly accidental.

85. By the Nine Gods he swore.—These gods were called by the Romans the Dii Novensiles, and were supposed by them to be the nine great Etruscan gods, who had the privilege of hurling thunderbolts. As it has not been found possible to make a list of so many as nine thundering deities, we may conclude that the Romans were led astray by the resemblance of sound with their numeral novem, nine, the word denoting simply the “heavenly lighteners.” Taylor, Etruscan Researches.

86. The Great House of Tarquin.—Tarquin Priscus (the Elder) and Tarquin Superbus (the Proud), respectively the fifth and seventh Kings of Rome.

89. And named a trysting day.—Trysting day, a day of meeting according to previous agreement, or trust.

99. When Porsena of Clusium.—The Etruscans wrote the name Porsenna; but the Latin poets sometimes abbreviated the second syllable.
III.
The horsemen and the footmen
Are pouring in amain
From many a stately market-place;
From many a fruitful plain;
From many a lonely hamlet,
Which, hid by beech and pine,
Like an eagle’s nest, hangs on the crest
Of purple Apennine;

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

V.
From the proud mart of Pise,
Queen of the western waves,
Where ride Massilia’s triremes
Heavy with fair-haired slaves;
From where sweet Clanis wanders

108. **Apennine.**—The mountain range running north and south through Italy.
109. **Volaterrae.**—One of the twelve cities of the Etruscan Confederation, and one of the five cities that, acting independently of the rest of Etruria, aided the Latins against Tarquinius Priscus. It was built on a lofty hill eighteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, and so strongly fortified that not until after a siege of two years was it captured by Sulla in his war with Marius.
110. **Where scowls the far-famed hold.**—The situation of the Etruscan towns is one of the most striking characteristics of Tuscan scenery. Many of them occupy surfaces of tableland surrounded by a series of gullies not visible from a distance. The traveler may be thus a whole day reaching a place which in the morning may have seemed to him but a little way off. *Dennis, Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria.*
113. **Populonia.**—The principal sea-port of Etruria.
117. **Pise.**—An ancient and important town of Etruria.
119. **Massilia.**—Now Marseilles.
120. **Heavy with fair-haired slaves.**—Massilia, the modern Marseilles, was a Greek colony from Phocæa (Phokaia) in Asia Minor. Among the articles of merchandise conveyed by their ships to Italian shores would be slaves obtained from the interior of Gaul.
Through corn and vines and flowers;
From where Cortona lifts to heaven
Her diadem of towers.

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

VII.
But now no stroke of woodman
Is heard by Auser’s rill;
No hunter tracks the stag’s green path
Up the Cimiuian hill;
Unwatched along Clitumnus
Grazes the milk-white steer;
Unharmed the water fowl may dip
In the Volsinian mere.

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

123. Cortona.—One of the twelve cities of Etruria. Founded by the Umbrians, it was captured by the Pelasgians, and afterwards fell into the hands of the Etruscans. The remains of the Pelasgic walls are some of the most remarkable in all Italy. A fragment still remaining shows it to have been made of blocks of enormous size.

132. The great Volsinian mere.—Mere, literally, that which is dead; hence a sheet of stagnant water, as on swampy and fen lands.

141. Arretium.—Noted for its wine and corn.

145. Vats of Luna.—Luna was celebrated for its wines.

146. Must.—Unfermented grape juice.

147. Round the white feet, etc.—An allusion to the method of tread-
There be thirty chosen prophets,
The wisest of the land,
Who alway by Lars Porsena
Both morn and evening stand:
Evening and morn the Thirty
Have turned the verses o'er,
Traced from the right on linen white
By mighty seers of yore.

And with one voice the Thirty
Have their glad answer given:
"Go forth, go forth, Lars Porsena;
Go forth, beloved of Heaven;
Go, and return in glory
To Clusium's royal dome;
And hang round Nurscia's altars
The golden shields of Rome."

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

149. There be thirty chosen prophets.—The Etruscan religion was a system of "Shamanism;" in other words, it sought to ascertain the will of the gods by the interpretation of outward signs, which might be furnished by the flight of birds, the direction of lightning, the entrails of victims, or in other ways. This system the Romans adopted from the Etruscans. Their seers were, therefore, strictly not prophets, but sorcerers. Taylor. *Etruscan Researches.*

155. Traced from the right on linen white.—The Etruscan writing was from right to left. Writings on linen were called by the Romans *libri linteii.*

162. Royal Dome.—The royal residence of Porsena was at Clusium.

163. Hang round Nurscia's altars.—Reference to the custom of depositing the arms of the vanquished in the temple.

166. Tale.—Literally *count*; quota.

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

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

For aged folks on crutches,
   And women great with child,
And mothers sobbing over babes
   That clung to them and smiled.
And sick men borne in litters
   High on the necks of slaves,
And troops of sun-burned husbandmen
   With reaping-hooks and staves,

And droves of mules and asses
   Laden with skins of wine,
And endless flocks of goats and sheep,
   And endless herds of kine,
And endless trains of wagons

179. Mamilius. It was to Octavius Mamilius that Tarquin betrothed his daughter.
183. From all the spacious champaign.—Champaign, plain, open country, as the Campagna of Rome; from the same root with the Latin campus, a plain.
That creaked beneath the weight
Of corn-sacks and of household goods,
Choked every roaring gate.

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

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

XVIII.
I wis, in all the Senate,
There was no heart so bold,
But sore it ached and fast it beat,
When that ill news was told.

205. Rock Tarpeian.—So called from Tarpeia, the daughter of the governor of the Roman citadel on the Saturnian, afterwards Capitoline, Hill. Tempted by the gold on the Sabine bracelets and collars, she opened the gate of the fortress to T. Tatius and the Sabines. As they entered, they threw their shields upon her and crushed her to death.

209. The Fathers of the City.—This name here denotes the Roman Senate, which, according to the tradition, consisted, in the time of the kings, of 300 members.

217. Verbenna down to Ostia.—Ostia, the port at the mouth of the Tiber.

219. Astur hath stormed Janiculum.—The Janiculan hill lies on the right bank of the Tiber, precisely opposite to the Palatine hill on the left bank.

221. I wis, in all the Senate.—I wis, adv. 'certainly.' From the same root we have the old English witan in Witenagemot, "the assembly of the wise."
Forthwith up rose the Consul,
Up rose the Fathers all;
In haste they girded up their gowns,
And hied them to the wall.

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

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

XXI
And nearer fast and nearer
Doth the red whirlwind come;
And louder still and still more loud,
From underneath that rolling cloud,
Is heard the trumpet's war-note proud,
The trampling, and the hum.
And plainly and more plainly
Now through the gloom appears,
Far to left and far to right,
In broken gleams of dark-blue light,

225. Forthwith up rose the Consul.—After the expulsion of the kings, the Roman patricians intrusted their political powers to two magistrates, chosen annually from the ruling class, and called Consuls or Colleagues.
The long array of helmets bright,
   The long array of spears.

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

And plainly and more plainly
   Now might ye see the banners,
Each warlike Lucumo.
There Ciluius of Arretium
   On his fleet roan was seen;
And Astur of the four-fold shield,
   Girt with the brand none else may wield,
Tolumuius with the belt of gold,
   And dark Verbenna from the hold
By reedy Thrasymene.

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

268. Each warlike Lucumo.—By this name the Latin writers designated the Etruscan chiefs. Each of the twelve cities forming the Etruscan confederacy had its own Lucumo.
275. By reedy Thrasymene.—The shores of this lake witnessed the destruction of the Roman legions under Flaminius by the Carthaginians under Hannibal, in the second Punic war.
And by the left false Sextus,
That wrought the deed of shame.

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

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

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

XXVIII.
"And for the tender mother
Who dandled him to rest,
And for the wife who nurses
His baby at her breast,
And for the holy maidens
Who feed the eternal flame,
To save them from false Sextus
That wrought the deed of shame?

XXIX.

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

XXX.

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

XXXI.

"Horatius," quoth the Consul,
"As thou sayest, so let it be."
And straight against that great array
Forth went the dauntless Three.
For Romans in Rome's quarrel
Spared neither land nor gold,

313. And for the holy maidens.—The Vestal Virgins, who were bound to a life of celibacy during the term of their service as guardians of the sacred fire of Vesta on the common hearth of the city, The breach of their vow was punishable by death.

326. A Romanian proud was he.—The patricians, or ruling order in Rome, were divided, it is said, into three tribes, the Ramnes, Tities, and Luceres; but of the origin of these names little is known,
Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life,
In the brave days of old.

XXXII.

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

XXXIII.

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

XXXIV.

Now while the Three were tightening
Their harness on their backs,
The Consul was the foremost man
To take in hand an ax:
And Fathers mixed with Commons
Seized hatchet, bar, and crow.

351. *And the Tribunes beard the high.*—The tribunes were officers representing the tribes of the Plebs or Commons, and existed probably from the first formation of that body. After the revolt of the Plebs, which followed soon after the expulsion of the kings, these magistrates were recognized by the Patricians, were declared inviolable in their persons, and were invested with the absolute power of vetoing any measure of which they disapproved.

361. *And Fathers mixed with Commons.*—The Roman government was at first wholly in the hands of the Patricians or Patres (fathers), a word which denoted originally nothing but despotic power. Under these the Commons, called Plebs, gradually secured to themselves, first personal freedom, and in course of time, after hard struggles, a share of political power.
And smote upon the planks above,
And loosed the props below.

XXXV.
Meanwhile the Tuscan army,
Right glorious to behold,
Came flashing back the noonday light,
Rank behind rank, like surges bright
Of a broad sea of gold.
Four hundred trumpets sounded
A peal of warlike glee,
As that great host, with measured tread,
And spears advanced, and ensigns spread,
Rolled slowly towards the bridge's head,
Where stood the dauntless Three.

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

XXXVII.
Aunus from green Tifernum,
Lord of the Hill of Vines;
And Seius, whose eight hundred slaves
Sicken in Ilva's mines;
And Picus, long to Clusium
Vassal in peace and war,

364. And loosed the props below.—The bridge by which Janiculus was connected with Rome was built of wood supported by props (sublicæ), and hence called Pons Sublicius.
385. Tifernum. A town near the head of the Tiber.
388. Sicken in Ilva's mines.—Ilva is the modern Elba, the island in which Napoleon Bonaparte held his little court before the Hundred Days. It was well known for its iron mines.
Who led to fight his Umbrian powers
From that gray crag where, girt with towers,
The fortress of Nequinum lowers
O'er the pale waves of Nar.

XXXVIII.
Stout Lartius hurled down Aunus
Into the stream beneath:
Herminius struck at Seius,
And clove him to the teeth:
At Picus brave Horatius
Darted one fiery thrust;
And the proud Umbrian's gilded arms
Clashed in the bloody dust.

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

XL.
Herminius smote down Aruns:
Lartius laid Ocnus low:
Right to the heart of Lausulus
Horatius sent a blow.
"Lie there," he cried, "fell pirate!
No more, aghast and pale,
From Ostia's walls the crowd shall mark

334. Pale waves of Nar. The Nar was noted for its sulphurous waters and white color.
406. The rover of the sea.—The Etruscans, like the Phenicians, united the practices of piracy and kidnapping with those of legitimate commerce, and were dreaded generally along all the Mediterranean shores.
The track of thy destroying bark.
No more Campania's hinds shall fly
To woods and caverns when they spy
Thy thrice-accursed sail."

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

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

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

XLIV.
Then, whirling up his broadsword
With both hands to the height,

444. Quoth he, "The she-wolf's litter."—The she-wolf, in the Roman tale, suckled Romulus and Remus, the twin children of Rhea Iliia, or Silvia.
450

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

XLV.

He reeled, and on Herminius
   He leaned one breathing-space;
Then, like a wild-cat mad with wounds,
   Sprang right at Astur's face
Through teeth, and skull, and helmet
   So fierce a thrust he sped,
The good sword stood a hand-breadth out
   Behind the Tuscan's head.

XLVI.

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

XLVII.

On Astur's throat Horatius
   Right firmly pressed his heel,
And thrice and four times tugged amain,
   Ere he wrenched out the steel.
"And see," he cried, "the welcome,
   Fair guests, that waits you here!
What noble Lucumo comes next
   To taste our Roman cheer?"
XLVIII.
But at his haughty challenge
A sullen murmur ran,
Mingled of wrath, and shame, and dread,
Along that glittering van.
There lacked not men of prowess,
Nor men of lordly race;
For all Etruria's noblest
Were round the fatal place.

XLIX.
But all Etruria's noblest
Felt their hearts sink to see
On the earth the bloody corpses,
In the path the dauntless Three:
And, from the ghastly entrance
Where those bold Romans stood,
All shrank, like boys who unaware,
Ranging the woods to start a hare,
Come to the mouth of the dark lair
Where, growling low, a fierce old bear
Lies amidst bones and blood.

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

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

LII.
Thrice looked he at the city;
Thrice looked he at the dead;
And thrice came on in fury,
And thrice turned back in dread:
And, white with fear and hatred,
Scowled at the narrow way
Where, wallowing in a pool of blood,
The bravest Tuscans lay.

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

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

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

LVI.
And, like a horse unbroken
When first he feels the rein,
The furious river struggled hard,
And tossed his tawny mane,
And burst the curb, and bounded,
Rejoicing to be free,
And whirling down, in fierce career,
Battlement, and plank, and pier,
Rushed headlong to the sea.

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

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

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

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

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

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

599. And spent with changing blows.—Worn out with fighting or exchanging blows.
LXIII.

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

LXIV.

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

LXV.

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

LXVI.

It stands in the Comitium,
Plain for all folk to see;
Horatius in his harness,
Halting upon one knee:
And underneath is written,
In letters all of gold,

634. It stands in the Comitium.—The place of meeting for the thirty Curiae, which made up the whole body of Roman patricians. It was included in the Forum.
How valiantly he kept the bridge
In the brave days of old.

LXVII.

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

LXVIII.

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

LXIX.

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

LXX.

When the goodman mends his armor,
And trims his helmet's plume;

656. And the good logs of Algidus.—A forest-clad hill lying to the north of the Alban lake, about twelve miles south-east of Rome.
When the goodwife's shuttle merrily
   Goes flashing through the loom;
With weeping and with laughter
   Still is the story told,
How well Horatius kept the bridge
   In the brave days of old.
THE BATTLE OF THE LAKE REGILLUS.

The following poem is supposed to have been produced about ninety years after the lay of Horatius. Some persons mentioned in the lay of Horatius make their appearance again, and some appellations and epithets used in the lay of Horatius have been purposely repeated: for, in an age of ballad poetry, it scarcely ever fails to happen, that certain phrases come to be appropriated to certain men and things, and are regularly applied to those men and things by every minstrel.

The principal distinction between the lay of Horatius and the lay of the Lake Regillus is that the former is meant to be purely Roman, while the latter, though national in its general spirit, has a slight tincture of Greek learning and of Greek superstition. The story of the Tarquins, as it has come down to us, appears to have been compiled from the works of several popular poets; and one, at least, of those poets appears to have visited the Greek colonies in Italy, if not Greece itself, and to have had some acquaintance with the works of Homer and Herodotus. Many of the most striking adventures of the house of Tarquin, before Lucretia makes her appearance, have a Greek character. The Tarquins themselves are represented as Corinthian nobles of the great house of the Bacchiadæ, driven from their country by the tyranny of that Cypselus, the tale of whose strange escape Herodotus has related with incomparable simplicity and liveliness. Livy and Dionysius tell us that, when Tarquin the Proud was asked what was the best mode of governing a conquered city, he replied only by beating down with his staff all the tallest poppies in his garden. This is exactly what Herodotus, in the passage to which reference has already been made, relates of the counsel given to Perian-
der, the son of Cypselus. The stratagem by which the town of Gabii is brought under the power of the Tarquins is, again, obviously copied from Herodotus. The embassy of the young Tarquins to the oracle at Delphi is just such a story as would be told by a poet whose head was full of the Greek mythology; and the ambiguous answer returned by Apollo is in the exact style of the prophecies which, according to Herodotus, lured Cæsus to destruction. Then the character of the narrative changes. From the first mention of Lucretia to the retreat of Porsena nothing seems to be borrowed from foreign sources. The villainy of Sextus, the suicide of his victim, the revolution, the death of the sons of Brutus, the defense of the bridge, Mucius burning his hand, Clœlia swimming through Tiber, seem to be all strictly Roman. But when we have done with the Tuscan war, and enter upon the war with the Latines, we are again struck by the Greek air of the story. The Battle of the Lake Regillus is in all respects a Homeric battle, except that the combatants ride astride on their horses, instead of driving chariots. The mass of fighting men is hardly mentioned. The leaders single each other out, and engage hand to hand. The great object of the warriors on both sides is, as in the Iliad, to obtain possession of the spoils and bodies of the slain; and several circumstances are related which forcibly remind us of the great slaughter round the corpses of Sarpedon and Patroclus.

But there is one circumstance which deserves especial notice. Both the war of Troy and the war of Regillus were caused by the licentious passions of young princes, who were therefore peculiarly bound not to be sparing of their own persons in the day of battle. Now the conduct of Sextus at Regillus, as described by Livy, so exactly resembles that of Paris, as described at the beginning of the third book of the Iliad, that it is difficult to believe the resemblance accidental. Paris appears before the Trojan ranks, defying the bravest Greek to encounter him. Livy introduces Sextus in a similar manner. Menelaus rushes to meet Paris. A Roman noble, eager for vengeance, spurs his horse towards Sextus. Both the guilty princes are instantly terror-stricken.
If this be a fortuitous coincidence, it is one of the most extraordinary in literature.

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

The popular belief at Rome, from an early period, seems to have been that the event of the great day of Regillus was decided by supernatural agency. Castor and Pollux, it was said, had fought, armed and mounted, at the head of the legions of the commonwealth, and had afterwards carried the news of the victory with incredible speed to the city. The well in the Forum at which they had alighted was pointed out. Near the well rose their ancient temple. A great festival was kept to their honor on the Ides of Quintilis, supposed to be the anniversary of the battle; and on that day sumptuous sacrifices were offered to them at the public charge. One spot on the margin of Lake Regillus was regarded during many ages with superstitious awe. A mark, resembling in shape a horse's hoof, was discernible in the volcanic rock; and this mark was believed to have been made by one of the celestial chargers.

How the legend originated cannot now be ascertained: but we may easily imagine several ways in which it might have originated; nor is it at all necessary to suppose, with Julius Frontinus, that two young men were dressed up by the Dictator to personate the sons of Leda. It is probable that Livy is correct when he says that the Roman general, in the hour of peril, vowed a temple to Castor. If so, nothing could be more natural than that the multitude should ascribe the victory to the favor of the Twin Gods. When such was the prevailing sentiment, any man who chose to declare that, in the midst of the confusion and slaughter, he had seen two godlike forms on white horses scattering the Latines, would find ready credence. We know, indeed, that, in modern times, a very similar story actually found credence among a people much more civilized than the Romans of the fifth century before Christ. A chaplain of Cortes, writing about thirty years after the conquest of Mexico, in an age of printing-presses, libraries, universities, scholars, logicians, jurists, and statesmen, had the
face to assert that, in one engagement against the Indians, Saint James had appeared on a gray horse at the head of the Castilian adventurers. Many of those adventurers were living when this lie was printed. One of them, honest Bernal Diaz, wrote an account of the expedition. He had the evidence of his own senses against the legend; but he seems to have distrusted even the evidence of his own senses. He says that he was in the battle, and that he saw a gray horse with a man on his back, but that the man was, to his thinking, Francesco de Morla, and not the ever-blessed apostle Saint James. "Nevertheless," Bernal adds, "it may be that the person on the gray horse was the glorious apostle Saint James, and that I, sinner that I am, was unworthy to see him." The Romans of the age of Cincinnatus were probably quite as credulous as the Spanish subjects of Charles the Fifth. It is therefore conceivable that the appearance of Castor and Pollux may have become an article of faith before the generation which had fought at Regillus had passed away. Nor could anything be more natural than that the poets of the next age should embellish this story, and make the celestial horsemen bear the tidings of victory to Rome.

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

One of their reforms was a remodeling of the equestrian order; and, having effected this reform, they determined to
give to their work a sanction derived from religion. In the chivalrous societies of modern times, societies which have much more than may at first sight appear in common with the equestrian order of Rome, it has been usual to invoke the special protection of some saint, and to observe his day with peculiar solemnity. Thus the Companions of the Garter wear the image of Saint George depending from their collars, and meet, on great occasions, in Saint George’s Chapel. Thus, when Lewis the Fourteenth instituted a new order of chivalry for the rewarding of military merit, he commended it to the favor of his own glorified ancestor and patron, and decreed that all the members of the fraternity should meet at the royal palace on the feast of Saint Lewis, should attend the king to chapel, should hear mass, and should subsequently hold their great annual assembly. There is a considerable resemblance between this rule of the order of Saint Lewis and the rule which Fabius and Decius made respecting the Roman knights.

It was ordained that a grand muster and inspection of the equestrian body should be part of the ceremonial performed, on the anniversary of the battle of Regillus, in honor of Castor and Pollux, the two equestrian gods. All the knights, clad in purple and crowned with olive, were to meet at a temple of Mars in the suburbs. Thence they were to ride in state to the Forum, where the temple of the Twins stood. This pageant was, during several centuries, considered as one of the most splendid sights of Rome. In the time of Dionysius the cavalry sometimes consisted of five thousand horsemen, all persons of fair repute and easy fortune.

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

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

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

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

It is unnecessary to point out the obvious imitations of the Iliad, which have been purposely introduced.
The Battle of the Lake Regillus.

A LAY SUNG AT THE FEAST OF CASTOR AND POLLUX, ON THE IDES OF QUINTILIS, IN THE YEAR OF THE CITY CCCCLI.

I.

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

232. Ho, lictors, clear the way!—The lictors were attendants of the patrician magistrates, armed with rods and axes.
237. From Castor in the Forum.—Castor and Mars are here used to denote the temples built in honor of these deities, just as we speak of St. Peter's at Rome.
233. While flows the Yellow River.—The Tiber, from its yellow sands; hence called also the golden.
234. While stands the Sacred Hill.—The Sacred Hill was an eminence beyond the river Anio. It was associated chiefly with the secession of the Plebs. See note to "Horatius," line 3.
235. The proud Ides of Quintilis.—The fifteenth day of July, which by the Romans, whose year began with March, was styled Quintilis, or the fifth month. The Ides divided each month into two equal or nearly equal portions.
237. Gay are the Martian Kalends.—The first day of each month was known as the Kalends. On the first of March the sacred fire was solemnly rekindled on the hearth of the Temple of Vesta.
December's Nones are gay:
But the proud Ides, when the squadron rides,
Shall be Rome's whitest day.

II.

Unto the Great Twin Brethren
We keep this solemn feast.
Swift, swift, the Great Twin Brethren
Came spurring from the east.
They came o'er wild Parthenius
Tossing in waves of pine,
O'er Cirrha's dome, o'er Adria's foam,
O'er purple Apennine,
From where with flutes and dances
Their ancient mansion rings,
In lordly Lacedaemon,
The City of two kings,
To where, by Lake Regillus,
Under the Porcian height.
All in the lands of Tusculum,
Was fought the glorious fight.

III.

Now on the place of slaughter
Are cots and sheepfolds seen,

238. December's Nones are gay.—The fifth day of December. The nones fell on the fifth or the seventh of each month, and were so called, possibly, as denoting a period of nine days before the Ides.

240. Shall be Rome's whitest day.—Days of good omen were marked with chalk; those of ill omen with charcoal.

241. Unto the Great Twin Brethren.—These are the twin deities, Castor and Pollux. Of the many stories told of their origin, the most familiar is that which speaks of them as the brothers of Helen, and as sprung with her from a single egg. The name of the former was associated with skill in the management of horses, that of the latter with boxing. They are sometimes represented as coming to life alternately, according to the relation of day and night.

245. They came o'er wild Parthenius.—These lines describe the course of the mysterious riders from their Eastern birthplace. The Parthenian range is the eastern barrier of the Arkadian or central highlands of the Peloponnese.

251. In lordly Lacedaemon.—The city of the Lacedaemonians was more commonly called Sparta. It consisted of four hamlets on the banks of the Eurotas, which drained the valley of Taygetos.

252. The City of two kings.—Nominally at the head of the Spartan state, were the two kings who belonged respectively to the houses of Eurysthenes and Prokles, the twin sons of Aristodemos, a descendant of the great hero Herakles.
And rows of vines, and fields of wheat,  
    And apple-orchards green;  
The swine crush the big acorns  
    That fall from Corne's oaks.  
Upon the turf by the Fair Fount  
    The reaper's pottage smokes.  
The fisher baits his angle;  
    The hunter twangs his bow;  
Little they think on those strong limbs  
    That molder deep below.  
Little they think how sternly  
    That day the trumpets pealed;  
How in the slippery swamp of blood  
    Warrior and war-horse reeled;  
How wolves came with fierce gallop,  
    And crows on eager wings,  
To tear the flesh of captains,  
    And peck the eyes of kings;  
How thick the dead lay scattered  
    Under the Porcian height;  
How through the gates of Tusculum  
    Raved the wild stream of flight;  
And how the Lake Regillus  
    Bubbled with crimson foam,  
What time the Thirty Cities  
    Came-forth to war with Rome.

IV.

But, Roman, when thou standest  
    Upon that holy ground,  
Look thou with heed on the dark rock  
    That girds the dark lake round,  
So shalt thou see a hoof-mark  
    Stamped deep into the flint:  
It was no hoof of mortal steed  
    That made so strange a dint:

281. And how the Lake Regillus.—Of this lake, which is said to have been in the neighborhood of Tusculum, not a trace is now to be found.  
283. What time the Thirty Cities.—The Thirty Cities of the Latin Confederacy are supposed to have taken up the cause of the expelled Tarquins.
There to the Great Twin Brethren
Vow thou thy vows, and pray
That they, in tempest and in fight,
Will keep thy head alway.

V.
Since last the Great Twin Brethren
Of mortal eyes were seen,
Have years gone by an hundred
And fourscore and thirteen.
That summer a Virginius
Was Consul first in place;
The second was stout Aulus,
Of the Posthumian race.
The Herald of the Latines
From Gabii came in state:
The Herald of the Latines
Passed through Rome's Eastern Gate:
The Herald of the Latines
Did in our Forum stand;
And there he did his office,
A scepter in his hand.

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

302. Was Consul first in place.—See note to "Horatius," line 5.
305. The Herald of the Latines.—The Romans themselves belonged
to the Latin race; but the destruction of Alba Longa, the religious center
of the Latin league, marks the severance between them and their kins-
folk, whose supremacy was by that event destroyed for ever.
316 To bring the Tarquins home.—According to the story followed
by Livy, the family of the Tarquins, which supplied two kings to Rome,
was Greek.
Then spake the Consul Aulus,
He spake a bitter jest:
"Once the jay sent a message
Unto the eagle's nest:—
Now yield thou up thine eyrie
Unto the carrion-kite,
Or come forth valiantly, and face
The jays in deadly fight.—
Forth looked in wrath the eagle;
And carrion-kite and jay,
Soon as they saw his beak and claw,
Fled screaming far away."

The Herald of the Latines
Hath hied him back in state;
The Fathers of the City
Are met in high debate.
Then spake the elder Consul,
An ancient man and wise:
"Now hearken, Conscript Fathers,
To that which I advise.
In seasons of great peril
'Tis good that one bear sway;
Then choose we a Dictator,
Whom all men shall obey,
Camerium knows how deeply
The sword of Aulus bites,
And all our city calls him
The man of seventy fights.
Then let him be Dictator
For six months and no more,

339. "Now hearken, Conscript Fathers."—That all the members of the dominant class at Rome were called Patres or Patricians has been already mentioned (note to "Horatius," page 30, line 361). Those of the Patres who were chosen into the Senate, and had their names enrolled in the lists of members, were called Patres Conscripti. Ihne, Early Rome.
343. Then choose we a Dictator.—According to the belief of Livy, the Dictator was an extraordinary magistrate, first appointed after the expulsion of the kings. Named by one of the Consuls, he was invested with supreme military power, which he was bound to lay down at the end of six months at latest.
And have a Master of the Knights,
And axes twenty-four."

IX.
So Aulus was Dictator,
The man of seventy fights;
He made Æbutius Elva
His Master of the Knights.
On the third morn thereafter,
At dawning of the day,
Did Aulus and Æbutius
Set forth with their array.
Sempronius Atratinus
Was left in charge at home
With boys, and with gray-headed men,
To keep the walls of Rome.
Hard by the Lake Regillus
Our camp was pitched at night:
Eastward a mile the Latines lay,
Under the Porcian height.
Far over hill and valley
Their mighty host was spread;
And with their thousand watch-fires
The midnight sky was red.

X.
Up rose the golden morning
Over the Porcian height,
The proud Ides of Quintilis
Marked evermore with white.
Not without secret trouble
Our bravest saw the foes;
For girt by threescore thousand spears,
The thirty standards rose.
From every warlike city
That boasts of the Latian name,

352. And axes twenty-four.—Each of the two Consuls was attended by twelve lictors, of whom each bore an axe (securis), bound up in a bundle of rods (fasces).
Foredoomed to dogs and vultures,
That gallant army came;
From Setia's purple vineyards,
From Norba's ancient wall,
From the white streets of Tuscumum,
The proudest town of all;
From where the Witch's Fortress
O'erhangs the dark blue seas;
From the still glassy lake that sleeps
Beneath Aricia's trees—
Those trees in whose dim shadow
The ghastly priest doth reign,
The priest who slew the slayer,
And shall himself be slain;
From the drear banks of Ufens,
Where flights of marsh-fowl play,
And buffaloes lies wallowing
Through the hot summer's day;
From the gigantic watch-towers,
No work of earthly men,
Whence Cora's sentinels o'erlook
The never-ending fen;
From the Laurentian jungle,
The wild-hog's reedy home;
From the green steeps whence Anio leaps
In floods of snow-white foam.

XI.

Aricia, Cora, Norba,
Velitrae, with the might
Of Setia and of Tuscumum,
Were marshaled on the right:
The leader was Mamilius,

389. From where the Witch's Fortress.—Circeii, the supposed home of Circe, the daughter of the Sun, whose magic potions could convert men into swine.

395. And shall himself be slain.—According to the story-told by Pausanias, Hippolytus, the son of Theseus, on being raised from the dead by Æsculapius, crossed the sea and came to Aricia, where he dedicated a temple to Diana. The priest of this temple was to be a runaway slave who had conquered his opponent in single combat. Thus a slave who challenged the existing priest and slew him would himself at once become the priest, and remain so till he should himself be worsted by another.
Prince of the Latian name;
Upon his head a helmet
Of red gold shone like flame;
High on a gallant charger
Of dark-gray hue he rode;
Over his gilded armor
A vest of purple flowed,
Woven in the land of sunrise
By Syria's dark-browed daughters,
And by the sails of Carthage brought
Far o'er the southern waters.

XII.
Lavinium and Laurentum
Had on the left their post,
With all the banners of the marsh,
And banners of the coast.
Their leader was false Sextus,
That wrought the deed of shame:
With restless pace and haggard face
To his last field he came.
Men said he saw strange visions
Which none beside might see,
And that strange sounds were in his ears
Which none might hear but he.
A woman fair and stately,
But pale as are the dead;
Oft through the watches of the night
Sat spinning by his bed.
And as she plied the distaff,
In a sweet voice and low,
She sang of great old houses,

422. By Syria's dark-browed daughters.—The weavers and purple-dyers of Tyre and the other Phenician cities were famed throughout the ancient world.

423. And by the sails of Carthage brought.—Carthage, the greatest of the Phenician colonies on the northern coast of Africa, was destined to contest the empire of the world with Rome, and, in spite of the heroism of Hannibal, the first general of any land or age, to fail in the task.

429. Their leader was false Sextus.—The reference here is to the deed of wickedness perpetrated by Sextus Tarquinius against Lucretia, wife of his kinsman, Tarquinius Collatinus. Lucretia slew herself in the presence of her family; and the crime became, according to the legend, the immediate cause of the downfall of the Roman monarchy.
And fights fought long ago.
So spun she, and so sang she,
Until the east was gray,
Then pointed to her bleeding breast,
And shrieked, and fled away.

XIII.

But in the center thickest
Were ranged the shields of foes,
And from the center loudest
The cry of battle rose.
There Tiber marched and Pedum
Beneath proud Tarquin's rule,
And Ferentinum of the rock,
And Gabii of the pool.
There rode the Volscian succors;
There, in a dark, stern ring,
The Roman exiles gathered close
Around the ancient king.
Though white as Mount Soracte,
When winter nights are long,
His beard flowed down o'er mail and belt,
His heart and hand were strong:
Under his hoary eyebrows
Still flashed forth quenchless rage,
And, if the lance shook in his grip,
'Twas more with hate than age.
Close at his side was Titus
On an Apulian steed,
Titus, the youngest Tarquin,
Too good for such a breed.

XIV.

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

xv.
False Sextus rode out foremost;
His look was high and bold;
His corselet was of bison's hide,
Plated with steel and gold.
As glares the famished eagle
From the Digentian rock
On a choice lamb that bounds alone
Before Bandusia's flock,
Herminius glared on Sextus,
And came with eagle speed,
Herminius on black Auster,
Brave champion on brave steed;
In his right hand the broadsword
That kept the bridge so well,
And on his helm the crown he won
When proud Fidens fell.
Woe to the maid whose lover
Shall cross his path to-day!
False Sextus saw, and trembled,
And turned, and fled away.
As turns, as flies, the woodman
In the Calabrian brake,
When through the reeds gleams the round eye

423. And, like the Pomptine fog at morn.—The Pomptine marshes extended over the lowlands of Latium, lying between Antium and Terracina.
Of that fell speckled snake;
So turned, so fled, false Sextus,
And hid him in the rear,
Behind the dark Lavinian ranks,
Bristling with crest and spear.

XVI.

But far to north Æbutius,
The Master of the Knights,
Gave Tubero of Norba
To feed the Porcian kites.
Next under those red horse-hoofs
Flaccus of Setia lay;
Better had he been pruning
Among his elms that day.
Mamilius saw the slaughter,
And tossed his golden crest,
And towards the Master of the Knights
Through the thick battle pressed.
Æbutius smote Mamilius
So fiercely on the shield
That the great lord of Tusculum
Well nigh rolled on the field.
Mamilius smote Æbutius,
With a good aim and true,
Just where the neck and shoulder join,
And pierced him through and through;
And brave Æbutius Elva
Fell swooning to the ground:
But a thick wall of bucklers
Encompassed him around.
His clients from the battle
Bare him some little space,
And filled a helm from the dark lake,
And bathed his brow and face;
And when at last he opened
His swimming eyes to light,
Men say, the earliest word he spake
Was, "Friends, how goes the fight?"

XVII.

But meanwhile in the center
Great deeds of arms were wrought;
There Aulus the Dictator
And there Valerius fought.
Aulus with his good broadsword
A bloody passage cleared
To where, amidst the thickest foes,
He saw the long white beard.
Flat lighted that good broadsword
Upon proud Tarquin’s head.
He dropped the lance: he dropped the reins:
He fell as fall the dead.
Down Aulus springs to slay him,
With eyes like coals of fire;
But faster Titus hath sprung down,
And hath bestrode his sire.
Latian captains, Roman knights,
Fast down to earth they spring,
And hand to hand they fight on foot
Around the ancient king.
First Titus gave tall Cæso
A death wound in the face;
Tall Cæso was the bravest man
Of the brave Fabian race:
Aulus slew Rex of Gabii,
The priest of Juno’s shrine:
Valerius smote down Julius,
Of Rome’s great Julian line;
Julius, who left his mansion
High on the Velian hill,
And through all turns of weal and woe

562. Upon proud Tarquin’s head.—See note to page 20, line 86.
580 Of Rome’s great Julian line.—The Julian house professed to
draw its name from Julius or Iulus, son of Ascanius, and grandson of Æneas
the Trojan, who was himself a son of Anchises and the goddess Aphrodite,
called by the Latins Venus.
582. High on the Velian hill.—The Velian hill was one of seven which
belonged to a Rome said to be older than that of Romulus.
Followed proud Tarquin still.
Now right across proud Tarquin
A corpse was Julius laid;
And Titus groaned with rage and grief,
And at Valerius made.
Valerius struck at Titus,
And lopped off half his crest;
But Titus stabbed Valerius
A span deep in the breast.
Like a mast snapped by the tempest,
Valerius reeled and fell.
Ah! woe is me for the good house
That loves the people well!
Then shouted loud the Latines;
And with one rush they bore
The struggling Romans backward
Three lances' length and more:
And up they took proud Tarquin,
And laid him on a shield,
And four strong yeomen bare him,
Still senseless, from the field.

XVIII.

But fiercer grew the fighting
Around Valerius dead;
For Titus dragged him by the foot,
And Aulus by the head.
"On, Latines, on!" quoth Titus,
"See how the rebels fly!"
"Romans, stand firm!" quoth Aulus,
"And win this fight or die!
They must not give Valerius
To raven and to kite;
For aye Valerius loathed the wrong,
And aye upheld the right:
And for your wives and babies
In the front rank he fell.
Now play the men for the good house
That loves the people well!"
Then tenfold round the body
The roar of battle rose,
Like the roar of a burning forest,
When a strong north wind blows.
Now backward, and now forward,
Rocked furiously the fray,
Till none could see Valerius,
And none wist where he lay.
For shivered arms and ensigns
Were heaped there in a mound,
And corpses stiff, and dying men
That writhed and gnawed the ground;
And wounded horses kicking,
And snorting purple foam:
Right well did such a couch befit
A Consular of Rome.

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

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

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

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

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

xxv.
Herminius beat his bosom:
But never a word he spake.
He clapped his hand on Auster's mane:
He gave the reins a shake,
Away, away went Auster,
Like an arrow from the bow:
Black Auster was the fleetest steed
From Aufidus to Po.

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

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

686. And there the Crest of Flame.—The gleaming crest of the Latin chief.
700. From Aufidus to Po.—These two rivers inclose between them the whole of Italy, from the center of the vast plain of Lombardy to the scantier space of open land round Cannae, where the genius of Hannibal all but achieved the destruction of the Roman power.
All round them paused the battle,
While met in mortal fray
The Roman and the Tusculan,
The horses black and gray.

Herminius smote Mamilius
Through breast-plate and through breast;
And fast flowed out the purple blood
Over the purple vest.

Mamilius smote Herminius
Through head-piece and through head;
And side by side those chiefs of pride
Together fell down dead.

Down fell they dead together
In a great lake of gore;
And still stood all who saw them fall
While men might count a score.

Fast, fast, with heels wild spurning,
The dark-gray charger fled:
He burst through ranks of fighting men;
He sprang o'er heaps of dead.

His bridle far out-streaming,
His flanks all blood and foam,
He sought the southern mountains,
The mountains of his home.

The pass was steep and rugged,
The wolves they howled and whined;
But he ran like a whirlwind up the pass,
And he left the wolves behind.

Through many a startled hamlet
Thundered his flying feet;
He rushed through the gate of Tusculum,
He rushed up the long white street;
He rushed by tower and temple,
And paused not from his race.

Till he stood before his master's door
In the stately market-place.
And straightway round him gathered
A pale and trembling crowd,
And when they knew him, cries of rage
Brake forth, and wailing loud:
And women rent their tresses
For their great prince's fall:
And old men girt on their old swords,
And went to man the wall.

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

777. "The furies of thy brother."—The Furies were goddesses who exacted vengeance for the shedding of blood.
Were loosened with dismay
When dead, on dead Herminius,
The bravest Tarquin lay.

XXXI.
And Aulus the Dictator
Stroked Auster's raven mane,
With heed he looked unto the girths,
With heed unto the rein.
“Now bear me well, black Auster,
Into yon thick array;
And thou and I will have revenge
For thy good lord this day.”

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

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

XXXIV.
“By many names men call us;
In many lands we dwell:

804. That rode at his right hand.—See note to line 241.
Well Samothracia knows us;
Cyrene knows us well,
Our house in gay Tarentum
Is hung each morn with flowers:
High o'er the masts of Syracuse
Our marble portal towers;
But by the proud Eurotas
Is our dear native home;
And for the right we come to fight
Before the ranks of Rome."

XXXV.

So answered those strange horsemen,
And each couched low his spear;
And forthwith all the ranks of Rome
Were bold, and of good cheer:
And on the thirty armies
Came wonder and affright,
And Ardea wavered on the left,
And Cora on the right.

"Rome to the charge!" cried Aulus;
"The foe begins to yield!
Charge for the hearth of Vesta!
Charge for the Golden Shield!
Let no man stop to plunder,
But slay, and slay, and slay;
The Gods who live for ever
Are on our side to-day."

823. Well Samothracia knows us.—Samothracia, one of the four northernmost islands of the Egean Sea.
824. Cyrene knows us well.—Cyrene was the most splendid of the many Greek colonies on the northern coast of Africa.
825. Our house in gay Tarentum.—Tarentum, in its Greek form, Taras, was one of the wealthiest cities belonging to that wonderful cluster of Greek colonies which won for the southern portion of the Italian peninsula the name of Great Greece.
827. High o'er the masts of Syracuse.—The great Dorian city of Sicily on the eastern coast of the island.
829. But by the proud Eurotas.—See note to line 251.
843. Charge for the hearth of Vesta!—See note to "Horatius," line 313.
844. Charge for the Golden Shield!—The golden shield of Mars, which fell from heaven in the days of Numa Pompilius, the second of the legendary Roman kings.
XXXVI.

Then the fierce trumpet-flourish
From earth to heaven arose.
The kites know well the long stern swell
That bids the Romans close.
Then the good sword of Aulus
Was lifted up to slay:
Then, like a crag down Apennine,
Rushed Auster through the fray.
But under those strange horsemen
Still thicker lay the slain;
And after those strange horses
Black Auster toiled in vain.
Behind them Rome's long battle
Came rolling on the foe,
Ensigns dancing wild above,
Blades all in line below.
So comes the Po in flood-time
Upon the Celtic plain:
So comes the squall, blacker than night,
Upon the Adrian main.
Now, by our Sire Quirinus,
It was a goodly sight
To see the thirty standards
Swept down the tide of flight.
So flies the spray of Adria
When the black squall doth blow,
So corn-sheaves in the flood-time
Spin down the whirling Po.
False Sextus to the mountains
Turned first his horse's head;
And fast fled Ferentinum,
And fast Lanuvium fled.
The horsemen of Nomentum
Spurred hard out of the fray;
The footmen of Velitrae
Threw shield and spear away.

869. Now, by our Sire Quirinus.—According to Livy, Quirinus was the name under which divine honors were paid to Romulus after his assumption into heaven. The notion cannot be traced much farther back than the time of the historian himself.
And underfoot was trampled,
  Amidst the mud and gore,
The banner of proud Tusculum,
  That never stooped before:
And down went Flavius Faustus,
  Who led his stately ranks
From where the apple blossoms wave
  On Anio’s echoing banks,
And Tullus of Arpinum,
  Chief of the Volscian aids,
And Metius with the long fair curls,
  The love of Anxur’s maids,
And the white head of Vulso,
  The great Arician seer,
And Nepos of Laurentum,
  The hunter of the deer;
And in the black false Sextus
  Felt the good Roman steel,
And wriggling in the dust he died,
  Like a worm beneath the wheel:
And fliers and pursuers
  Were mingled in a mass;
And far away the battle
  Went roaring through the pass.

XXXVII.

Sempronius Atratinus
  Sate in the Eastern Gate,
Beside him were three Fathers,
  Each in his chair of state;
Fabius, whose nine stout grandsons
  That day were in the field,
And Manlius, eldest of the Twelve
  Who kept the Golden Shield;
And Sergius, the High Pontiff,

915 And Manlius, eldest of the Twelve.—Twelve Patricians, who formed an ecclesiastical corporation under the name of Salii, were chosen as guardians of the twelve Ancilia or sacred shields of Mars. Only one of these was genuine, and this one fell from heaven in the days of the peaceful and righteous king Numa; the other eleven were made precisely like it, to prevent the risk of its being lost by theft.

917. And Sergius, the High Pontiff.—The Romans connected the name of Pontifex, or Pontiff, with the making of bridges (Pontes); but Pontifices are found in many places where there were no bridges to be built.
For wisdom far renowned;
In all Etruria's colleges
Was no such Pontiff found.
And all around the portal,
And high above the wall,
Stood a great throng of people,
But sad and silent all;
Young lads, and stooping elders
That might not bear the mail,
Matrons with lips that quivered,
And maids with faces pale.
Since the first gleam of daylight,
Sempronius had not ceased
To listen for the rushing
Of horse-hoofs from the east.
The mist of eve was rising,
The sun was hastening down,
When he was aware of a princely pair
Fast pricking towards the town.
So like they were, man never
Saw twins so like before;
Red with gore their armor was,
Their steeds were red with gore.

XXXVIII.
"Hail to the great Asylum!
Hail to the hill-tops seven!
Hail to the fire that burns for aye,
And the shield that fell from heaven!
This day, by Lake Regillus,
Under the Porcian height,
All in the lands of Tusculum

919. In all Etruria's colleges.—The communities of Etruscan seers or sorcerers. See note to "Horatius," page 23, line 149.

941. Hail to the great Asylum!—The Asylum, according to Livy, was a place where Romulus, in order to get inhabitants for his new city, promised a sure refuge to vagabonds and knaves. The word is Greek, not Latin, and means an inviolable sanctuary. The notion which transferred the sacredness of the shrine to men who were forbidden to enter it was probably of late growth.

942. Hail to the hill-tops seven!—The seven hills of Rome, commonly reckoned as the Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Cælian, Aventine, Palatine, and Capitoline hills. But the earlier Rome stood on another set of seven hills, known by the names Palatium, Vella, Cermalus, Cælius, Fagutal, Oppius, and Cispius.
Was fought a glorious fight,
To-morrow your Dictator
    Shall bring in triumph home
The spoils of thirty cities
    To deck the shrines of Rome!"


Then burst from that great concourse
    A shout that shook the towers,
And some ran north, and some ran south,
    Crying, "The day is ours!"
But on rode these strange horsemen,
    With slow and lordly pace;
And none who saw their bearing
    Durst ask their name or race.
On rode they to the Forum,
    While laurel-boughs and flowers,
From house-tops and from windows,
    Fell on their crests in showers.
When they drew nigh to Vesta,
    They vaulted down amain,
And washed their horses in the well
    That springs by Vesta's fane.
And straight again they mounted,
    And rode to Vesta's door;
Then, like a blast, away they passed,
    And no man saw them more.

And all the people trembled,
    And pale grew every cheek;
And Sergius the High Pontiff
    Alone found voice to speak:
"The gods who live for ever
    Have fought for Rome to-day!
These be the Great Twin Brethren

965. When they drew nigh to Vesta.—See note to page 29, line 313. The Latin Vesta is the same word as the Greek Hestia, and denoted the sacred hearth with its heaven-sent fire. Each city, each tribe, each clan, each house, had its own inviolable hearth, and the flame which burned upon it was the symbol and pledge of kindliness and good faith, of law and order, of wealth and fair dealing. The goddess can scarcely be separated in thought from the fire and the hearth which were consecrated to her. It may safely be said that of no other deity was the worship so nearly an unmixed blessing.
To whom the Dorians pray.
Back comes the Chief in triumph,
Who, in the hour of flight,
Hath seen the Great Twin Brethren
In harness on his right.
Safe comes the ship to haven,
Through billows and through gales,
If once the Great Twin Brethren
Sit shining on the sails.
Wherefore they washed their horses
In Vesta's holy well,
Wherefore they rode to Vesta's door,
I know, but may not tell.
Here, hard by Vesta's Temple,
Build we a stately dome
Unto the Great Twin Brethren
Who fought so well for Rome.
And when the months returning
Bring back this day of fight,
The proud Ides of Quintilis,
Marked evermore with white,
Unto the Great Twin Brethren
Let all the people throng,
With chaplets and with offerings,
With music and with song;
And let the doors and windows
Be hung with garlands all,
And let the Knights be summoned
To Mars without the wall:
Thence let them ride in purple
With joyous trumpet-sound,
Each mounted on his war-horse,
And each with olive crowned;
And pass in solemn order
Before the sacred dome,
Where dwell the Great Twin Brethren
Who fought so well for Rome!"

980. To whom the Dorians pray.—The Dorians and Ionians were the two foremost branches of the Hellenic or Greek race. At the head of the former were the Spartans, at the head of the latter the Athenians.
1006. To Mars without the wall.—See note to line 227.
A collection consisting exclusively of war-songs would give an imperfect, or rather an erroneous, notion of the spirit of the old Latin ballads. The Patricians, during more than a century after the expulsion of the Kings, held all the high military commands. A Plebeian, even though, like Lucius Siccius, he were distinguished by his valor and knowledge of war, could serve only in subordinate posts. A minstrel, therefore, who wished to celebrate the early triumphs of his country, could hardly take any but Patricians for his heroes. The warriors who are mentioned in the two preceding lays, Horatius, Lartius, Herminius, Aulus Posthumius, Æbutius Elva, Sempronius Atratinus, Valerius Poplicola, were all members of the dominant order; and a poet who was singing their praises, whatever his own political opinions might be, would naturally abstain from insulting the class to which they belonged, and from reflecting on the system which had placed such men at the head of the legions of the Commonwealth.

But there was a class of compositions in which the great families were by no means so courteously treated. No parts of early Roman history are richer with poetical coloring than those which relate to the long contest between the privileged houses and the commonalty. The population of Rome was, from a very early period, divided into hereditary castes, which, indeed, readily united to repel foreign enemies, but which regarded each other, during many years, with bitter animosity. Between those castes there was a barrier hardly less strong than that which, at Venice, parted the members of the Great Council from their countrymen. In some respects, indeed, the line which separated an Icilius or a Duilius from a Posthumius or a Fabius was even more deeply marked than that.
which separated the rower of a gondola from a Contarini or a Morosini. At Venice the distinction was merely civil. At Rome it was both civil and religious. Among the grievances under which the Plebeians suffered, three were felt as peculiarly severe: they were excluded from the highest magistracies; they were excluded from all share in the public lands; and they were ground down to the dust by partial and barbarous legislation touching pecuniary contracts. The ruling class in Rome was a moneyed class; and it made and administered the laws with a view solely to its own interest. Thus the relation between lender and borrower was mixed up with the relation between sovereign and subject. The great men held a large portion of the community in dependence by means of advances at enormous usury. The law of debt, framed by creditors, and for the protection of creditors, was the most horrible that has ever been known among men. The liberty, and even the life, of the insolvent were at the mercy of the Patrician money-leaders. Children often became slaves in consequence of the misfortunes of their parents. The debtor was imprisoned, not in a public jail under the care of impartial public functionaries, but in a private workhouse belonging to the creditor. Frightful stories were told respecting these dungeons. It was said that torture and brutal violation were common; that tight stocks, heavy chains, scanty measures of food, were used to punish wretches guilty of nothing but poverty; and that brave soldiers, whose breasts were covered with honorable scars, were often marked still more deeply on the back by the scourges of high-born usurers.

The Plebeians were, however, not wholly without constitutional rights. From an early period they had been admitted to some share of political power. They were enrolled each in his century, and were allowed a share, considerable, though not proportioned to their numerical strength, in the disposal of those high dignities from which they were themselves excluded. Thus their position bore some resemblance to that of the Irish Catholics during the interval between the year 1792 and the year 1829. The Plebeians had also the privilege of annually appointing officers, named Tribunes, who had no
active share in the government of the Commonwealth, but who, by degrees, acquired a power formidable even to the ablest and most resolute Consuls and Dictators. The person of the Tribune was inviolable; and though he could directly effect little, he could obstruct everything.

During more than a century after the institution of the Tribuneship, the Commons struggled manfully for the removal of the grievances under which they labored; and, in spite of many checks and reverses, succeeded in wringing concession after concession from the stubborn aristocracy. At length in the year of the city 378, both parties mustered their whole strength for their last and most desperate conflict. The popular and active Tribune, Caius Licinius, proposed the three memorable laws which are called by his name, and which were intended to redress the three great evils of which the Plebeians complained. He was supported, with eminent ability and firmness, by his colleague, Lucius Sextius. The struggle appears to have been the fiercest that ever in any community terminated without an appeal to arms. If such a contest had raged in any Greek city, the streets would have run with blood. But, even in the paroxysms of faction, the Roman retained his gravity, his respect for law, and his tenderness for the lives of his fellow-citizens. Year after year Licinius and Sextius were re-elected Tribunes. Year after year, if the narrative which has come down to us is to be trusted, they continued to exert, to the full extent, their power of stopping the whole machine of government. No curule magistrates could be chosen; no military muster could be held. We know too little of the state of Rome in those days to be able to conjecture how, during that long anarchy, the peace was kept, and ordinary justice administered between man and man. The animosity of both parties rose to the greatest height. The excitement, we may well suppose, would have been peculiarly intense at the annual election of Tribunes. On such occasions there can be little doubt that the great families did all that could be done, by threats and caresses, to break the union of the Plebeians. That union, however, proved indissoluble. At length the good cause triumphed. The Licinian laws were
carried. Lucius Sextius was the first Plebeian Consul, Caius Licinius the third.

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

During the great Licinian contest the Plebeian poets were, doubtless, not silent. Even in modern times songs have been by no means without influence on public affairs; and we may therefore infer that, in a society where printing was unknown, and where books were rare, a pathetic or humorous party-ballad must have produced effects such as we can but faintly conceive. It is certain that satirical poems were common at Rome from a very early period. The rustics, who lived at a distance from the seat of government, and took little part in the strife of factions, gave vent to their petty local animosities in coarse Fescennine verse. The lampoons of the city were doubtless of a higher order; and their sting was early felt by the nobility. For in the Twelve Tables, long before the time of the Licinian laws, a severe punishment was denounced against the citizen who should compose or recite verses reflecting on another.* Satire is, indeed, the only sort of composition in which the Latin poets, whose works have come down to us, were not mere imitators of foreign models; and it is therefore the only sort of composition in which they have never been rivaled. It was not, like their tragedy, their comedy, their epic and lyric poetry, a hot-house plant which, in return for assiduous and skilful culture, gave only scanty and sickly fruits. It was hardy and full of sap; and in all the various juices which it yielded might be distinguished the flavor

* Cicero justly infers from this law that there had been early Latin poets whose works had been lost before his time.
of the Ausonian soil. "Satire," says Quinctilian, with just pride, "is all our own." Satire sprang, in truth, naturally from the constitution of the Roman government and from the spirit of the Roman people; and, though at length subjected to metrical rules derived from Greece, retained to the last an essentially Roman character. Lucilius was the earliest satirist whose works were held in esteem under the Caesars. But many years before Lucilius was born, Naevius had been flung into a dungeon, and guarded there with circumstances of unusual rigor, on account of the bitter lines in which he had attacked the great Cæcilian family. The genius and spirit of the Roman satirist survived the liberty of their country, and were not extinguished by the cruel despotism of the Julian and Flavian Emperors. The great poet who told the story of Domitian's turbot was the legitimate successor of those forgotten minstrels whose songs animated the factions of the infant Republic.

These minstrels, as Niebuhr has remarked, appear to have generally taken the popular side. We can hardly be mistaken in supposing that, at the great crisis of the civil conflict, they employed themselves in versifying all the most powerful and virulent speeches of the Tribunes, and in heaping abuse on the leaders of the aristocracy. Every personal defect, every domestic scandal, every tradition dishonorable to a noble house, would be sought out, brought into notice, and exaggerated. The illustrious head of the aristocratical party, Marcus Furius Camillus, might perhaps be, in some measure, protected by his venerable age and by the memory of his great services to the State. But Appius Claudius Crassus enjoyed no such immunity. He was descended from a long line of ancestors distinguished by their haughty demeanor, and by the inflexibility with which they had withstood all the demands of the Plebeian order. While the political conduct and the deportment of the Claudian nobles drew upon them the fiercest public hatred, they were accused of wanting, if any credit is due to the early history of Rome, a class of qualities which, in the military commonwealth, is sufficient to cover a multitude of offenses. The chiefs of the family appear to have been
eloquent, versed in civil business, and learned after the fashion of their age; but in war they were not distinguished by skill or valor. Some of them, as if conscious where their weakness lay, had, when filling the highest magistracies, taken internal administration as their department of public business, and left the military command to their colleagues.* One of them had been intrusted with an army, and had failed ignominiously.† None of them had been honored with a triumph. None of them had achieved any martial exploit, such as those by which Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, Titus Quinctius Capitolinus, Aulus Cornelius Cossus, and, above all, the great Camillus, had extorted the reluctant esteem of the multitude. During the Licinian conflict, Appius Claudius Crassus signalized himself by the ability and severity with which he harangued against the two great agitators. He would naturally, therefore, be the favorite mark of the Plebeian satirists; nor would they have been at a loss to find a point on which he was open to attack.

His grandfather, called, like himself, Appius Claudius, had left a name as much detested as that of Sextus Tarquinius. This elder Appius had been Consul more than seventy years before the introduction of the Licinian laws. By availing himself of a singular crisis in public feeling, he had obtained the consent of the Commons to the abolition of the Tribune-ship, and had been the chief of that Council of Ten to which the whole direction of the State had been committed. In a few months his administration had become universally odious. It had been swept away by an irresistible outbreak of popular fury; and its memory was still held in abhorrence by the whole city. The immediate cause of the downfall of this execrable government was said to have been an attempt made by Appius Claudius upon the chastity of a beautiful young girl of humble birth. The story ran that the Decemvir, unable to succeed by bribes and solicitations, resorted to an outrageous act of tyranny. A vile dependent of the Claudian house laid claim to the damsel as his slave. The cause was brought before the

* In the years of the city 260, 304, and 330.
† In the year of the city 282.
tribunal of Appius. The wicked magistrate, in defiance of the clearest proofs, gave judgment for the claimant. But the girl's father, a brave soldier, saved her from servitude and dishonor by stabbing her to the heart in the sight of the whole Forum. That blow was the signal for a general explosion. Camp and city rose at once; the Ten were pulled down; the Tribuneship was re-established; and Appius escaped the hands of the executioner only by a voluntary death.

It can hardly be doubted that a story so admirably adapted to the purposes both of the poet and of the demagogue would be eagerly seized upon by minstrels burning with hatred against the Patrician order, against the Claudian house, and especially against the grandson and namesake of the infamous Decemvir.

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

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

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

260 Of all the wicked Ten still the names are held accursed; And of all the wicked Ten, Appius Claudius was the worst.

251. Who stand by the bold Tribunes.—See note to "Horatius," line 351.
254. Of fountains running wine.—The Homeric hymn to Dionysos (Bacchus) tells how the purple stream of wine ran along the decks of the ship on board of which the god was imprisoned.
255. Of maids with snaky tresses.—These are the Furies and the Gorgons, of whom two were immortal; the third, Medusa, was mortal, and was slain by Perseus, who brought her head, with its snake-locks, to Athênē. The goddess placed it on her aegis.
255. Or sailors turned to swine.—By the magic potions of Kirkê (Circe). See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 389.
259. When the wicked Ten bare sway.—The Decemvirs, who are said to have been appointed about the middle of the fifth century B.C., to carry out the legal reforms rendered necessary by the concessions made by the Patricians to the Plebs.
261. Appius Claudius was the worst.—The Claudian gens or clan, one of the most illustrious in Rome, traced its origin to the mythical Sabine, Attus Clausus, the friend of Æneas. They had now, according to the story, been in Rome for about half a century.

80
He stalked along the Forum like King Tarquin in his pride:
Twelve axes waited on him, six marching on a side;
The townsmen shrank to right and left, and eyed askance with
fear
His lowering brow, his curling mouth, which always seemed to
sneer:
That brow of hate, that mouth of scorn, marks all the kindred
still;
For never was there Claudius yet but wished the Commons ill:
Nor lacks he fit attendance; for close behind his heels,
With outstretched chin and crouching pace, the client Marcus
steals,
His loins girt up to run with speed, be the errand what it may, 270
And the smile flickering on his cheek for aught his lord may
say.
Such varlets pimp and jest for hire among the lying Greeks:
Such varlets still are paid to hoot when brave Licinius speaks.
Where'er ye shed the honey, the buzzing flies will crowd;
Where'er ye fling the carrion, the raven's croak is loud;
Where'er down Tiber garbage floats, the greedy pike ye see;
And whereso'er such lord is found, such client still will be.

Just then, as through one cloudless chink in a black stormy sky,
Shines out the dewy morning-star, a fair young girl came by.
With her small tablets in her hand, and her satchel on her arm, 280
Home she went bounding from the school, nor dreamed of shame
or harm;
And past those dreaded axes she innocently ran,
With bright, frank brow that had not learned to blush at gaze of
man;

263. Twelve axes waited on him.—Each of the Decemvirs was att-
tended by the same number of lictors to which each Consul was entitled. See note to “Battle of the Lake Regillus,” line 232.
273. When brave Licinius speaks.—Livy mentions a Licinius as one of the first Tribunes of the people. Another, Spurius Licinius, is by other historians called Icilius. Later on in the history than the time to which the Decemvirs belonged, some of the Licinii became prominent through their laws for dealing with the subject of debt.
277. Such clients still will be.—With reference to the Patrician or dominant class in the state, all members of the Plebs were clients bound to perform special services, in return for which they received protection from their masters or patrons, especially in the event of legal prosecutions. There was thus no distinct class of Plebeians who were not clients; but evil-minded Patricians would probably find no difficulty in gathering round themselves bodies of Plebeian retainers ready to do their will against their fellow-Plebeians.
And up the Sacred Street she turned, and, as she danced along,
She warbled gayly to herself lines of the good old song,
How for a sport the princes came spurring from the camp,
And found Lucrece, combing the fleece, under the midnight lamp.
The maiden sang as sings the lark, when up he darts his flight,
From his nest in the green April corn, to meet the morning light;
And Appius heard her sweet young voice, and saw her sweet young face,
And loved her with the accursed love of his accursed race,
And all along the Forum, and up the Sacred Street,
His vulture eye pursued the trip of those small glancing feet.

Over the Alban mountains the light of morning broke;
From all the roofs of the Seven Hills curled the thin wreaths of smoke:
The city-gates were opened; the Forum all alive,
With buyers and with sellers was humming like a hive:
Blithely on brass and timber the craftsman's stroke was ringing,
And blithely o'er her panniers the market-girl was singing,

And blithely young Virginia came smiling from her home:
Ah! woe for young Virginia, the sweetest maid in Rome!
With her small tablets in her hand, and her satchel on her arm,
Forth she went bounding to the school, nor dreamed of shame of harm.
She crossed the Forum shining with stalls in alleys gay,
And just had reached the spot whereon I stand this day,
When up the varlet Marcus came; not such as when erewhile
He crouched behind his patron's heels with the true client smile:
He came with lowering forehead, swollen features, and clenched fist,
And strode across Virginia's path, and caught her by the wrist.

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

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284. And up the Sacred Street.—The Via Sacra, leading into the Forum.
287. And found Lucrece.—See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 429.
292. And all along the Forum.—The Roman Forum was built on some marshy or swampy ground between the Palatine and Capitoline hills. Tradition assigned its erection to Romulus and the Sabine Titus Tatius.
295. From all the roofs of the Seven Hills.—See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 942.
307. He crouched behind his patron's heels.—See note 277.
And at her scream from right and left the folk came running fast;  
The money-changer Crispus, with his thin silver hairs,  
And Hanno from the stately booth glittering with Punic wares,  
And the strong smith Muræna, grasping a half-forged brand,  
And Volero the flesher, his cleaver in his hand.  
All came in wrath and wonder; for all knew that fair child;  
And, as she passed them twice a day, all kissed their hands and smiled;  
And the strong smith Muræna gave Marcus such a blow,  
The caitiff reeled three paces back, and let the maiden go.  
Yet glared he fiercely round him, and growled in harsh, fell tone,  
"She's mine, and I will have her: I seek but for mine own:  
She is my slave, born in my house, and stolen away and sold,  
The year of the sore sickness, ere she was twelve hours old.  
'Twas in the sad September, the month of wail and fright.  
Two augurs were borne forth that morn; the Consul died ere night.  
I wait on Appius Claudius, I waited on his sire:  
Let him who works the client wrong beware the patron's ire!"

So spake the varlet Marcus; and dread and silence came  
On all the people at the sound of the great Claudian name.  
For then there was no Tribune to speak the word of might,  
Which makes the rich man tremble, and guards the poor man's right.  
There was no brave Licinius, no honest Sextius then;  
But all the city, in great fear, obeyed the wicked Ten.  
Yet ere the varlet Marcus again might seize the maid,  
Who clung tight to Muræna's skirt, and sobbed, and shrieked for aid,

313. And Hanno from the stately booth.—Hanno, it is scarcely necessary to say, would not be a Roman citizen, but a Carthaginian or Tyrian alien resident in Rome. His name appears again in that of Hannibal, which is a compound of Hanno with Baal, Bel, a lord.  
325. Two augurs were borne forth that morn.—A name given to seers who drew omens from the flight of birds or from examining their intestines after sacrifice.  
330. For then there was no Tribune.—The reference is to the alleged suspension of the constitution and all its ordinary offices while the Decemvirs were engaged in the work of legal reformation.  
332. No honest Sextius then.—Among the Tribunes of the people Livy mentions one Sextius, who proposed the sending of a colony to Bola.
Forth through the throng of gazers the young Icilius pressed,
And stamped his foot, and rent his gown, and smote upon his
breast,
And sprang upon that column, by many a minstrel sung,
Whereon three moldering helmets, three rusting swords, are
hung.

And beckoned to the people, and in bold voice and clear
Poured thick and fast the burning words which tyrants quake to
hear.

"Now, by your children’s cradles, now by your father’s graves,
Be men to-day, Quirites, or be forever slaves!
For this did Servius give us laws? For this did Lucrece bleed?
For this was the great vengeance wrought on Tarquin’s evil seed?
For this did those false sons make red the axes of their sire?
For this did Scaevola’s right hand hiss in the Tuscan fire?
Shall the vile fox-earth awe the race that stormed the lion’s den?
Shall we, who could not brook one lord, crouch to the wicked
Ten?

Oh for that ancient spirit which curbed the Senate’s will!
Oh for the tents which in old time whitened the Sacred Hill!
In those brave days our fathers stood firmly side by side;

336. The young Icilius pressed.—According to the story, Virginia was
betrothed to Icilius, who had filled the office of Plebeian Tribune.
343. Be men to-day, Quirites.—The word Quirites may have some
connection with the Patrician Curiae; that it is closely connected with the name
Quirinus is obvious.
344. For this did Servius give us laws.—Servius Tullius, the constitu-
tional king, whose legislation associated all Roman citizens in their military
capacity, came between Tarquinius Priscus and his son Tarquinius Superbus,
to whom he owed his death.
346. For this did those false sons.—The two sons of Brutus, the citizen
who was elected Consul with Tarquinius Collatinus immediately after the
expulsion of Tarquin the Proud, were beheaded by their father’s order for
conspiring to restore the tyrant to his power.
347. For this did Scaevola’s right hand.—Q. Mucius Scaevola having
determined to murder Porsenna (see “Horatius,” line 99), made his way into
his camp, and there murdered his secretary by mistake. Learning his
error, he thrust his hand into a brazier, to show how little he cared for tor-
ture, and then told the king that he had no less than 300 fellow-conspirators.
Alarmed at the risks which he was running, the Etruscan chief proposed, it
is said, to make peace with the Romans.
351. Whitened the Sacred Hill.—The scene of the secession of the
Plebs, three miles from Rome. This secession preceded the recognition of
the Tribunes as officers of the Roman state.
They faced the Marcian fury; they tamed the Fabian pride; They drove the fiercest Quinctius an outcast forth from Rome; They sent the haughtiest Claudius with shivered fasces home. But what their care bequeathed us our madness flung away: All the ripe fruit of threescore years was blighted in a day. Exult, ye proud Patricians! The hard-fought fight is o'er. We strove for honors—'twas in vain: for freedom—'tis no more. No crier to the polling summons the eager throng; No Tribune breathes the word of might that guards the weak from wrong. Our very hearts, that were so high, sink down beneath your will. Riches, and lands, and power, and state—ye have them:—keep them still. Still keep the holy fillets; still keep the purple gown, The axes and the curule chair, the car, and laurel crown: Still press us for your cohorts, and, when the fight is done, Still fill your garners from the soil which our good swords have won. Still, like a spreading ulcer, which leech-craft may not cure,

353. **They faced the Marcian fury.**—The story related by Livy tells us that Caius Marcius, a young Patrician, called Coriolanus from having conquered the town of Corioli, was banished for contempt of the magistrates, and taking service with the Volscians, reduced the Romans to extremities, from which they were delivered only by the intercession of his mother and the Roman matrons. His exclamation on yielding to their prayer was, it is said, "Mother, thou hast saved Rome, but ruined thy son!"

353. **They tamed the Fabian pride.**—A reference to the troops of Cæsio Fabius, who refused to storm the camp of the enemy, and so, by leaving the victory incomplete, deprived the general of his triumph.

354. **They drove the fiercest Quinctius.**—L. Quinctius Cincinnatus, according to the story of Livy, was a violent opponent of the Plebeians, and was banished in consequence.

355. **They sent the haughtiest Claudius with shivered fasces home.**—The reference is to a riot in which, about a hundred years before the time at which this lay is supposed to have been recited, the head of the Appian gens or clan had been roughly treated by the mob.

364. **Still keep the holy fillets.**—The fillet was worn by priests and priestesses; and priesthood was confined strictly to the Patrician class.

364. **Still keep the purple gown.**—The trabea, a toga of purple and white, was worn by the Consuls and knights in public solemnities.

365. **The axes.**—See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 352.

365. **The curule chair, the car, and laurel crown.**—The Sella Curulis, or chair of state, had been strictly an emblem of royalty. After the expulsion of the kings, the right of using it was conferred on the chief Patrician magistrates. The car was used by the Consuls when triumphing as Roman generals over their enemies. At the same time they wore a wreath or garland of laurel.

366. **Still press us for your cohorts.**—Every Roman legion was made up of ten cohorts; but as the number of men in a legion varied from time to time, that of the cohorts was also uncertain.
Let your foul usance eat away the substance of the poor.

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

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

380 Ladies, who deign not on our paths to set their tender feet,
Who from their cars look down with scorn upon the wondering street,
Who in Corinthian mirrors their own proud smiles behold,
And breathe of Capuan odors, and shine with Spanish gold?
Then leave the poor Plebeian his single tie to life—
The sweet, sweet love of daughter, of sister, and of wife,
The gentle speech, the balm for all that his vexed soul endures,
The kiss, in which he half forgets even such a yoke as yours.
Still let the maiden’s beauty swell the father’s breast with pride;
Still let the bridegroom’s arms infold an unpolluted bride.

390 Spare us the inexpiable wrong, the unutterable shame,
That turns the coward’s heart to steel, the sluggard’s blood to flame,
Lest, when our latest hope is fled, ye taste of our despair,
And learn by proof, in some wild hour, how much the wretched dare."

Straightway Virginius led the maid a little space aside,
To where the reeking shambles stood, piled up with horn and hide,
Close to yon low dark archway, where, in a crimson flood,
Leaps down to the great sewer the gurgling stream of blood.

And then his eyes grew very dim, and his throat began to swell,
And in a hoarse, changed voice he spake, "Farewell, sweet child!
Farewell! Oh! how I loved my darling! Though stern I sometimes be,
To thee, thou knowst I was not so. Who could be so to thee?
And how my darling loved me! How glad she was to hear
My footstep on the threshold when I came back last year!
And how she danced with pleasure to see my civic crown,
And took my sword, and hung it up, and brought me forth my gown!

Now, all those things are over—yes, all thy pretty ways,
Thy needlework, thy prattle, thy snatches of old lays;
And none will grieve when I go forth, or smile when I return,
Or watch beside the old man's bed, or weep upon his urn.
The house that was the happiest within the Roman walls,
The house that envied not the wealth of Capua's marble halls,
Now, for the brightness of thy smile, must have eternal gloom;
And for the music of thy voice, the silence of the tomb.
The time is come. See how he points his eager hand this way!
See how his eyes gloat on thy grief, like a kite's upon the prey!
With all his wit, he little deems, that, spurned, betrayed, bereft
Thy father hath in his despair one fearful refuge left.

406. To see my civic crown.—The civic crown, composed of the leaves of three different sorts of oak, was bestowed upon a Roman soldier who had saved the life of another citizen in battle by slaying his opponent. It was originally conferred by the hands of the rescued man.

407. And brought me forth my gown.—The toga was the distinctive dress of the Roman citizen, and thus the Romans were known as the gens togata or gown-wearing people. On reaching manhood, youths, who had thus far worn the toga praetexta or purple-hemmed gown, put on the toga ivrilis, which was simply white.
He little deems that in this hand I clutch what still can save
Thy gentle youth from taunts and blows, the portion of the slave;
Yea, and from nameless evil, that passeth taunt and blow—
Foul outrage which thou knowest not, which thou shalt never know.
Then clasp me round the neck once more, and give me one more kiss;
And now, mine own dear little girl, there is no way but this."
With that he lifted high the steel, and smote her in the side,
And in her blood she sank to earth, and with one sob she died.

Then, for a little moment, all people held their breath;
And through the crowded Forum was stillness as of death;
And in another moment brake forth from one and all
A cry as if the Volscians were coming o'er the wall.
Some with averted faces, shrieking, fled home amain;
Some ran to call a leech; and some ran to lift the slain:
Some felt her lips and little wrist, if life might there be found;
And some tore up their garments fast, and strove to stanch the wound.
In vain they ran, and felt, and stanched; for never truer blow
That good right arm had dealt in fight against a Volscian foe.

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

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

By this the flood of people was swollen from every side, And streets and porches round were filled with that o'erflowing tide; And close around the body gathered a little train Of them that were the nearest and dearest to the slain. They brought a bier, and hung it with many a cypress crown, And gently they uplifted her, and gently laid her down. The face of Appius Claudius wore the Claudian scowl and sneer. And in the Claudian note he cried, "What doth this rabble here? Have they no crafts to mind at home, that hitherward they stray? Ho! lictors, clear the market-place, and fetch the corpse away!" The voice of grief and fury till then had not been loud; But a deep sullen murmur wandered among the crowd, Like the moaning noise that goes before the whirlwind on the deep,

Or the growl of a fierce watch-dog but half-aroused from sleep. But when the lictors at that word, tall yeomen all and strong, Each with his ax and sheaf of twigs, went down into the throng, Those old men say, who saw that day of sorrow and of sin, That in the Roman Forum was never such a din. The wailing, hooting, cursing, the howls of grief and hate, Were heard beyond the Pincian Hill, beyond the Latin Gate. But close around the body, where stood the little train Of them that were the nearest and dearest to the slain, No cries were there, but teeth set fast, low whispers and black frowns, And breaking up of benches, and girding up of gowns. 'Twas well the lictors might not pierce to where the maiden lay, Else surely had they been all twelve torn limb from limb that day.

477. Beyond the Pincian Hill.—This hill lies to the north of the Mons Quirinalis, and therefore was beyond the wall which bore the name of Servius Tullius.
Right glad they were to struggle back, blood streaming from their heads,
With axes all in splinters, and raiment all in shreds.
Then Appius Claudius gnawed his lip, and the blood left his cheek;
And thrice he beckoned with his hand, and thrice he strove to speak;
And thrice the tossing Forum set up a frightful yell;
"See, see, thou dog! what thou hast done; and hide thy shame in hell!

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

Tribunes! Hurrah for Tribunes! Down with the wicked Ten!"
And straightway, thick as hailstones, came whizzing through the air
Pebbles, and bricks, and potsherds, all round the curule chair:
And upon Appius Claudius great fear and trembling came;
For never was a Claudius yet brave against aught but shame.
Though the great houses love us not, we own, to do them right.
That the great houses, all save one, have borne them well in fight.
Still Caius of Corioli, his triumphs and his wrongs,
His vengeance and his mercy, live in our camp-fire songs.

Beneath the yoke of Furius oft have Gaul and Tuscan bowed;
And Rome may bear the pride of him of whom herself is proud.
But evermore a Claudius shrinks from a stricken field,
And changes color like a maid at sight of sword and shield.
The Claudian triumphs all were won within the city towers;
The Claudian yoke was never pressed on any necks but ours.
A Cossus, like a wild cat, springs ever at the face;
A Fabius rushes like a boar against the shouting chase;

498. Still Caius of Corioli.—See note to line 353. The first syllable in Corioli must be pronounced long.
500. Beneath the yoke of Furii.—The Furian gens or clan is supposed to have belonged originally to Tusculum. The most distinguished member of this gens was M. Furius Camillus, the deliverer of Rome from the Gauls.
506. A Cossus, like a wild cat.—Cossus was the cognomen or surname of a house belonging to the gens Cornelia. Somewhat later than the time of the Decemvirs, Servius Cornelius Cossus killed in battle Lars Tolumnius, the king of Veii, and won the spolia opima, which, it is said, were obtained by only two other Romans during the whole course of Roman history.
507. A Fabius rushes like a boar.—The Fabian gens had always been noted for their bravery and public spirit. The almost total destruction of the clan at the Cremera by the Veientines was the most celebrated incident in the traditions of the family.
But the vile Claudian litter, raging with currish spite,
Still yelps and snaps at those who run, still runs from those who
smite.
So now 'twas seen of Appius. When stones began to fly,
He shook, and crouched, and wrung his hands, and smote upon
his thigh.
"Kind clients, honest lictors, stand by me in this fray!
Must I be torn in pieces? Home, home, the nearest way!"
While yet he spake, and looked around with a bewildered stare.
Four sturdy lictors put their necks beneath the curule chair;
And fourscore clients on the left, and fourscore on the right,
Arrayed themselves with swords and staves, and loins girt up for
fight.
But, though without or staff or sword, so furious was the throng
That scarce the train with might and main could bring their lord
along.
Twelve times the crowd made at him; five times they seized his
gown;
Small chance was his to rise again, if once they got him down:
And sharper came the pelting; and evermore the yell—
"Tribunes! we will have Tribunes!"—rose with a louder swell:
And the chair tossed as tosses a bark with tattered sail
When raves the Adriatic beneath an eastern gale,
When the Calabrian sea-marks are lost in clouds of spume,
And the great Thunder-Cape has donned his veil of inky gloom.
One stone hit Appius in the mouth, and one beneath the ear;
And ere he reached Mount Palatine, he swooned with pain and
fear.
His cursed head, that he was wont to hold so high with pride,
Now, like a drunken man's, hung down, and swayed from side
to side;
And when his stout retainers had brought him to his door,
His face and neck were all one cake of filth and clotted gore.
As Appius Claudius was that day, so may his grandson be!
God send Rome one such other sight, and send me there to see!

527. And the great Thunder-Cape.—The Acroceraunian promontory
on the eastern or Greek coast of the Adriatic, facing Brentesion (now
Brindisi), a region of thunder-fire, like the Phlegræan Plains at the base
of Vesuvius.
THE PROPHECY OF CAPYS.

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

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

The occasion was one likely to excite the strongest feelings of national pride. A great outrage had been followed by a great retribution. Seven years before this time, Lucius Posthumius Megellus, who sprang from one of the noblest houses of Rome, and had been thrice Consul, was sent ambassador to Tarentum, with charge to demand reparation for grievous injuries. The Tarentines gave him audience in their theater, where he addressed them in such Greek as he could command, which, we may well believe, was not exactly such as Cineas would have spoken. An exquisite sense of the ridiculous belonged to the Greek character; and closely connected with this faculty was a strong propensity to flippancy and imperti-
nence. When Posthumius placed an accent wrong, his hear-
ers burst into a laugh. When he remonstrated, they hooted
him, and called him barbarian; and at length hissed him off
the stage as if he had been a bad actor. As the grave Roman
retired, a buffoon who, from his constant drunkenness, was
nick-named the Pint-pot, came up, with gestures of the gross-
est indecency, and bespattered the senatorial gown with filth.
Posthumius turned round to the multitude, and held up the
gown, as if he had been a bad actor. As the grave Roman
retired, a buffoon who, from his constant drunkenness, was
nick-named the Pint-pot, came up, with gestures of the gross-
est indecency, and bespattered the senatorial gown with filth.
Posthumius turned round to the multitude, and held up the
gown, as if appealing to the universal law of nations. The
sight only increased the insolence of the Tarentines. They
clothed their hands, and set up a shout of laughter which
shook the theater. "Men of Tarentum," said Posthumius,
"it will take not a little blood to wash this gown."
Rome, in consequence of this insult, declared war against
the Tarentines. The Tarentines sought for allies beyond the
Ionian Sea. Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, came to their help with
a large army; and, for the first time, the two great nations
of antiquity were fairly matched against each other.
The fame of Greece in arms, as well as in arts, was then at the height. Half a century earlier, the career of Alexander
had excited the admiration and terror of all nations from the
Ganges to the Pillars of Hercules. Royal houses, founded by
Macedonian captains, still reigned at Antioch and Alexandria.
That barbarian warriors, led by barbarian chiefs, should win
a pitched battle against Greek valor guided by Greek science,
seemed as incredible as it would now seem that the Burmese
or the Siamese should, in the open plain, put to flight an equal
number of the best English troops. The Tarentines were con-
vinced that their countrymen were irresistible in war; and
this conviction had emboldened them to treat with the gross-
est indignity one whom they regarded as the representative of
an inferior race. Of the Greek generals then living, Pyrrhus
was indisputably the first. Among the troops who were
trained in the Greek discipline, his Epirotes ranked high.
His expedition to Italy was a turning-point in the history of
the world. He found there a people who, far inferior to the
Atheniens and Corinthians in the fine arts, in the speculative
sciences, and in all the refinements of life, were the best sol-
diers on the face of the earth. Their arms, their gradations of rank, their order of battle, their method of intrenchment, were all of Latian origin, and had all been gradually brought near to perfection, not by the study of foreign models, but by the genius and experience of many generations of great native commanders. The first words which broke from the king, when his practiced eye had surveyed the Roman encampment, were full of meaning: "These barbarians," he said "have nothing barbarous in their military arrangements." He was at first victorious; for his own talents were superior to those of the captains who were opposed to him; and the Romans were not prepared for the onset of the elephants of the East, which were then for the first time seen in Italy—moving mountains, with long snakes for hands. But the victories of the Epirotes were fiercely disputed, dearly purchased, and altogether unprofitable. At length, Manius Curius Dentatus, who had in his first Consulship won two triumphs, was again placed at the head of the Roman Commonwealth, and sent to encounter the invaders. A great battle was fought near Beneventum, Pyrrhus was completely defeated. He repassed the sea; and the world learned, with amazement, that a people had been discovered, who, in fair fighting, were superior to the best troops that had been drilled on the system of Parmenio and Antigonus.

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

It is said by Florus, and may easily be believed, that the triumph far surpassed in magnificence any that Rome had previously seen. The only spoils which Papirius Cursor and Fabius Maximus could exhibit were flocks and herds, wagons
of rude structure, and heaps of spears and helmets. But now, for the first time, the riches of Asia and the arts of Greece adorned a Roman pageant. Plate, fine stuffs, costly furniture, rare animals, exquisite paintings and sculptures, formed part of the procession. At the banquet would be assembled a crowd of warriors and statesmen, among whom Manius Curius Dentatus would take the highest room. Caius Fabricius Luseinus, then, after two Consulships and two triumphs, Censor of the Commonwealth, would doubtless occupy a place of honor at the board. In situations less conspicuous probably lay some of those who were, a few years later, the terror of Carthage; Caius Duilius, the founder of the maritime greatness of his country; Marcus Atilius Regulus, who owed to defeat a renown far higher than that which he had derived from his victories; and Caius Lutatius Catulus, who, while suffering from a grievous wound, fought the great battle of the Ægates, and brought the first Punic war to a triumphant close. It is impossible to recount the names of these eminent citizens, without reflecting that they were all, without exception, Plebeians, and would, but for the ever-memorable struggle maintained by Caius Licinius and Lucius Sextius, have been doomed to hide in obscurity, or to waste in civil broils, the capacity and energy which prevailed against Pyrrhus and Hamilcar.

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

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

A LAY SUNG AT THE BANQUET IN THE CAPITOL, ON THE DAY WHEREON MANIUS CURIUS DENTATUS, A SECOND TIME CONSUL, TRIUMPHED OVER KING PYRRHUS AND THE TARENTINES, IN THE YEAR OF THE CITY CCCCLXXIX.

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

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

III.
And every Albanburgher
Hath donned his whitest gown;
And every head in Alba

161. Who spake the words of doom.—Doom to Rhea Ilia or Sylvia, the daughter of Numitor, who had been cruelly treated by his brother Amulius, and to her twin children, the daughters of the war-god Mars.
Weareth'a poplar crown;
And every Alban door-post
With boughs and flowers is gay:
For to-day the dead are living;
The lost are found to-day.

IV.

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

V.

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

VI.

Blithe it was to see the twins,
Right goodly youths and tall,
Marching from Alba Longa
To their old grandsire's hall.
Along their path fresh garlands
Are hung from tree to tree

192. The ravening she-wolf knew them.—See note to "Horatius," line 444.
200. Blithe it was to see the twins.—Romulus and Remus. The two names are only varied forms of the same word.
Before them stride the pipers,
   Piping a note of glee.

VII.

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

VIII.

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

IX.

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

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

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

"But thou—what dost thou here
In the old man's peaceful hall?
What doth the eagle in the coop,
The bison in the stall?
Our corn fills many a garner;
Our vines clasp many a tree;
Our flocks are white on many a hill
But these are not for thee.

"For thee no treasure ripens
In the Tartessian mine:
For thee no ship brings precious bales
Across the Libyan brine:

241. As Rhea's boys go by.—See note to "Horatius," line 444.
254. Hail! foster child of the wondrous nurse!—The she-wolf.
255. Hail! son of the wondrous sire!—The war-god Mars.
265. In the Tartessian mine.—The reference is to mines in the region of Southern Spain, called by the Phenicians Tarshish, in the Greek from Tartessos.
267. Across the Libyan brine.—The sea separating Libya, or North-Western Africa, from Europe.
Thou shalt not drink from amber;
Thou shalt not rest on down;
Arabia shalt not steep thy locks;
Nor Sidon tinge thy gown.

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

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

xvi.
"The ox toils through the furrow,
Obedient to the goad;
The patient ass, up flinty paths,
Plods with his weary load:
With whine and bound the spaniel
His master's whistle hears;
And the sheep yields her patiently
To the loud-clashing shears.

xvii.
"But thy nurse will hear no master;
Thy nurse will bear no load;
And woe to them that shear her,
And woe to them that goad!
When all the pack, loud baying,
LAYS OF ANCIENT ROME.

Her bloody lair surrounds,
She dies in silence, biting hard,
Amidst the dying hounds.

XVIII.

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

XIX.

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

XX.

"And such as is the War-god,
The author of thy line,
And such as she who suckled thee,
Even such be thou and thine.
Leave to the soft Campanian
His baths and his perfumes;
Leave to the sordid race of Tyre

304. Pomona loves the orchard.—The Latin goddess of fruits.
305. And Liber loves the vine.—Liber, free, an epithet of the wine-god Bacchus, as freeing men from their cares.
306. And Pales loves the straw-built shed.—Pales, a rustic god, or goddess, whose name, like that of the Sicilian Palici, is akin probably to Pallas.
308. And Venus loves the whispers.—Venus, the Latin goddess of beauty and love, answers to the Greek Aphrodite. According to the Roman tradition, she was the mother of Æneas, the progenitor of the Roman race.
326. Leave to the sordid race of Tyre.—Sordid, as busying themselves only with trade and commerce. See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 422.
Their dyeing-vats and looms:
Leave to the sons of Carthage
The rudder and the oar:
Leave to the Greek his marble Nymphs
And scrolls of wordy lore.

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

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

XXIII.
"The Gaul shall come against thee
From the land of snow and night:
Thou shalt give his fair-haired armies
To the raven and the kite.

328. Leave to the sons of Carthage.—See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 423.
330. Leave to the Greek his marble Nymphs.—Statues of nymphs, the maidens with whom the imagination of the Greeks peopled the woods and waters, mountains and caves.
332. Thine, Roman, is the pilum.—The Pilum was the long spear carried by the heavy-armed soldiers of the Roman legion, who were therefore called Pilani, those who stood before them being known as Antepilani.
344. The Lucumoes of Arnus.—See note to "Horatius," line 268.
348. The Gaul shall come against thee.—The reference is to the invasion of the Gauls under Brennus, and to their discomfiture by the Dictator, M. Furius Camillus.
"The Greek shall come against thee,
The conqueror of the East,
Beside him stalks to battle
The huge earth-shaking beast,
The beast on whom the castle
With all its guards doth stand,
The beast who hath between his eyes
The serpent for a hand.
First march the bold Epirotes.
Wedged close with shield and spear;
And the ranks of false Tarentum
Are glittering in the rear.

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

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

352. The Greek shall come against thee.—The Greek invader is Pyrrhus, king of Epeirus. See the Preface.
355. The huge earth-shaking beast.—The elephant, with which the Romans now first became acquainted.
362. And the ranks of false Tarentum.—Tarentum was one of the chief cities of Great Greece, Magna Graecia. See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 835.
372. Hurrah! for the good weapons.—The seer is here drawing a contrast between the weapons used by the Roman legionaries and those of the Greek Phalanx.
THE PROPHECY OF CAPYS.

XXVII.

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

XXVIII.

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

XXIX.

"Hurrah! for Manius Curius,
The bravest son of Rome
Thrice in utmost need sent forth,
Thrice drawn in triumph home.

385. Hath the Red King ta'en flight?—The word Pyrrhus means red, like the Latin Rufus.
390. Hurrah! for the rich dye of Tyre.—See note to "Battle of the Lake Regillus," line 422.
407. Thrice drawn in triumph home.—The Dictator Manius Curius Dentatus defeated Pyrrhus in the battle of Beneventum, B.C. 274. See note to line 362.
Weave, weave, for Manius Curius
The third embroidered gown:
Make ready the third lofty car,
And twine the third green crown;
And yoke the steeds of Rosea
With necks like a bended bow,
And deck the bull, Mevania's bull,
The bull as white as snow.

XXX.

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

XXXI.

"Then where, o'er two bright havens,
The towers of Corinth frown;
Where the gigantic King of Day
On his own Rhodes looks down;
Where soft Orontes murmurs
Beneath the laurel shades;
Where Nile reflects the endless length
Of dark-red colonnades;
Where in the still deep water,
Sheltered from waves and blasts,
Bristles the dusky forest

419. Wind down the Sacred Way.—See note to "Virginia," line 284.
420. And through the bellowing Forum.—See note to "Virginia," line 292.
424. Then where, o'er two bright havens.—Situated on an isthmus of three miles in width, Corinth had a port on the Saronic as well as on the Corinthian or Crissaean Gulf.
426. Where the gigantic King of Day.—The colossal statue of the sun, which was reckoned among the seven wonders of the world.
428. Where soft Orontes murmurs.—The Syrian river on which was built the city of Antioch.
Of Brysa's thousand masts;
Where fur-clad hunters wander
   Amidst the northern ice:
Where through the sand of morning-land
   The camel bears the spice;
Where Atlas flings his shadow
   Far o'er the western foam,
Shall be great fear on all who hear
   The mighty name of Rome."

435. **Of Brysa's thousand masts.**—Byrsa, in Hebrew or Phenician Bozra, the citadel of Carthage.

440. **Where Atlas flings his shadow.**—The great mountain range of North-Western Africa, which was supposed to bear up the heavens, in the myth of Atlas.
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