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VALERIUS FLACCUS

VALERIUS FLACCUS

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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SOME TIME SCHOLAR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
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INTRODUCTION

1. THE POET

VERY little is known of Gaius Valerius Flaccus. His name appears in the manuscripts with the addition of Balbus Setinus, or Setinus Balbus, but we do not know whether Setinus should be referred to Setia, and if so whether it is the Italian or either of the two Spanish towns of that name. Certainly there is nothing in his writings to suggest that he was a Spaniard. The reference in l. 5-7 to the Cymaeian prophetess has usually been taken to show that he was one of the *Quindecimviri sacris faciundis*, who had charge of the Sibylline books; this is supported by his allusion to the bath of Cybele in 8. 239-41, a rite which the *XVviri* supervised. If he was a member of that College he was probably not Spanish, and also probably not a poor man, which would show that he is not to be identified with Martial's friend Flaccus of Patavium, to whom that poet addresses l. 61 and 76 of his Epigrams. In his prologue Valerius invokes Vespasian, speaking of that Emperor's voyage in the Northern seas while serving in the legions of Britain, and of his son Titus's exploits in the Jewish war; from l. 13, 14 we may gather that Jerusalem had already fallen (A.D. 70). In the third book there is a mention of the eruption of Vesuvius (A.D. 79), while there may be allusions in 6. 162, 231-8 to campaigns against the Sarmatians in

89 and 92, and in 1. 15 to Domitian's Temple to the Flavian Gens (not completed before 93).¹ Finally, Quintilian, who published his *Institutio Oratoria* between 93 and 95, refers to the death of Valerius in the words "multum in Valerio nuper amisimus."

It is also agreed by practically all modern authorities that the *Argonautica* was never completed, and that its imperfect conclusion must not be put down to mutilation of a manuscript or omission to complete a copy. There is plenty of internal evidence of unrevised work, both in the language and the details of the plot and incidents. As to the former, there are many passages where it is necessary to mark a lacuna or to supply a line to complete the sense,² and as regards inconsistency in the story itself we may refer to 3. 302, where Jason speaks of his father Aeson's death as prophesied by seers, while in 7. 494 he seems to have forgotten the prophecy, and it is inconsistent with 2. 2-5. In 2. 381 and 4. 583 it is implied that the heroes know the decree by which the Symplegades are to be stopped for ever from clashing; 4. 708 and 8. 195 are inconsistent with this. In 7. 398 Iris is spoken of as disappearing, although it has never been stated that she was present.³

¹ See the very interesting discussion of the date of composition and particularly of the references to the Sarmatian long lance and coat of mail by R. Syme in *Classical Quarterly* 23 (1929), pp. 129-137.

² See also 1. 348 and 2. 408, where replies by Jason seem to be needed, lack of connection in 4. 527, 5. 690, and no verb of saying in 7. 159.

³ Other instances are 1. 43, 5. 225; 2. 598, 5. 192 (message not delivered); 3. 492, 5. 265; 7. 340, 8. 261 (Absyrtus); 7. 516, 8. 24 (there has been no arrangement that Jason should go to the grove); see also Schenkl's instances.

2. THE STORY

Athamas, son of Aeolus, married Nephele, a goddess, and became the father of Phrixus and Helle, but afterwards had two sons by Ino, daughter of Cadmus; these were Learchus and Melicertes, also called Palaemon. Ino persuaded the oracle of Delphi to say that Phrixus and Helle must be sacrificed to avert a famine, but Nephele rescued them from the altar by means of a ram with a golden fleece, on whose back they flew to the kingdom of Aetes in Colchis. On the way Helle fell into the sea that was called after her the Hellespont, and was drowned; Phrixus, on his arrival at Colchis, sacrificed the ram, whose fleece was hung up in the precinct of Mars and guarded by a dragon. He married Chalciope, the daughter of Aetes.

Cretheus, another son of Aeolus, was the father of Aeson and grandfather of Jason: he had been king of Iolcos in Thessaly, which, at the beginning of the story, was ruled by Pelias, Jason's uncle. In fear of an oracle which had foretold his death through a descendant of Aeolus, Pelias hit upon a way of getting rid of his young nephew, namely, a voyage to recover the fleece which Phrixus had dedicated to Mars in Colchis. Jason could not in honour shirk the challenge, and so the famous voyage of the ship called *Argo* and its crew of Argonauts came about.

In the first book the poet relates the preliminaries, Pelias's challenge, the building of the *Argo*, the offering of sacrifice and the farewells, and gives the names of the heroes. The ship is launched, and starts on its journey with the sun shining on the heroes' shields that line the bulwarks. Soon after it

encounters a storm (no Latin Epic is without one) raised by the jealous winds, for Argo is the first of all vessels to brave the deep. The book ends with the suicide of Aeson and his wife, by which they have anticipated the cruel command of the tyrant Pelias to put them to death. Book 2 describes a night on the sea, after which the Minyae (for so the Argonauts are frequently called, from the name of an ancient race settled in the neighbourhood of Iolcos, though of course many of them were not Minyae at all) arrived at Lemnos; the story of the Lemnian women and Hypsipyle is then related at length. After leaving the island they put in at Sigeum, where the maiden Hesione is rescued from a sea-monster by Hercules and Telamon. Passing through the Hellespont they are met by Helle, who utters a prophecy; they arrive at Cyzicus and put in there.

In the third book we have the tragic battle caused by their return unawares to Cyzicus, the funeral rites over the fallen, and a discourse by Mopsus the seer upon bloodguiltiness; the rest of the book contains the story of Hercules and Hylas. This is continued in Book 4; Hercules goes on to Troy, while the heroes proceed on their journey; then follow the episode of the fight between Pollux and Amycus, the story of Io told by Orpheus to the crew and the routing of the Harpies by the sons of Boreas; old king Phineus whom the Harpies had plagued gives a warning of the Cyanean rocks; these are next encountered and successfully passed. In the fifth book the heroes arrive at Colchis; deciding to interview Aetes, Jason sets forth for the palace and on his way meets Medea; the sculptures of the palace are described, and then follows the interview; Aetes says he will

give up the fleece if the Argonauts will fight for him against his Scythian enemies; an alliance is struck, there is a banquet and an account of some of the Colchian heroes. Book 6 is taken up with battle scenes, some of which are viewed by Medea from the walls.

In the seventh book we have the struggle in Medea's heart between devotion to her father and love for Jason; love conquers, and she takes the magic drugs by which alone he can perform the tasks now set him by the faithless Aetes and gives them to him, the two lovers confessing their mutual passion; with her help Jason overpowers the bulls and sows the dragon's teeth. In Book 8 he steals the fleece with Medea's help, and sails off with her on the Argo. At Peuce, an island in the mouth of the Danube, they are overtaken by Medea's brother Absyrtus, accompanied by her betrothed lover Styrrus; the latter is drowned, but hereupon the Minyae express a grievance against their leader for involving them in more fighting by carrying off Medea; in the course of Medea's lament at this the book ends incomplete.

3. VALERIUS'S TREATMENT OF THE STORY

Except for the elaborately wrought scenes in Pindar's fourth Pythian Ode, the only other extant poem dealing with the story previous to our author is the *Argonautica* of Apollonius the Rhodian, who flourished about 200 B.C. His work, in four books, was translated into Latin hexameters by P. Terentius Varro Atacinus (1st cent. B.C.), but only scanty fragments survive. The differences between

Apollonius and Valerius have to do partly with the incidents of the story, partly with the portrayal of the characters. Some of the faults of his predecessor have been avoided by the Roman poet; for example, the reader is not put off at the outset by a tedious catalogue of heroes; it comes in due course, but it is much shorter. Again, Valerius has done wisely in omitting some of the episodes and in making more of what he has retained; on the other hand, some new ones have been added; for instance, the rescue of Hesione and the fighting in Book 6, the latter to gratify Roman taste for such things and also to give the poet a chance to show his learning by information upon manners and customs and style of armour and dress. Apollonius brings his heroes home by the Danube and an imaginary stream that led them down into the Adriatic; any theory as to how the Latin epic ended must be conjectural, but it is an interesting suggestion that they may have been brought out into the North Sea and back through the Straits of Gibraltar, in order to glorify still further the exploits of the Roman fleet, and to bring the Argonauts into connection with Italy.¹ He may also have omitted the visit to Circe for the purpose of expiating the murder of Absyrtus, also the visit to Phaeacia, where in Apollonius the marriage of Jason and Medea takes place, as this has already happened at Peuce, and have related the death of Pelias, to which he twice refers (1. 806, 2. 4).

¹ Summers mentions in support of this names in Italy like Nauportus and Argous Portus, Cales derived from Calais the Argonaut, Emona whose foundation was attributed to the Argonauts (Zosimus 5. 29), the Portico of the Argonauts at Rome (*Study of the Argonautica*, p. 7).

With regard to character-drawing, Valerius was under a disadvantage in following Apollonius, whose Medea was not likely to be surpassed by any Roman poet; Virgil's Dido has plenty of fire and tragic passion, but we miss the tenderer notes; the Medea of Valerius is a simple girl, romantically rather than tragically in love, and he thus gives us what we lack in Virgil, the tender note rather than the passionate, pathos rather than tragedy. We have not the whole story, it is true, but it is unlikely that he would have carried it down so far as to include Jason's desertion of Medea, if only because we have already had in the second book his desertion of Hypsipyle. His Medea falls in love, not at first sight, though that first meeting is disturbing to her, and she is struck by Jason's beauty. But she is, after all, the priestess of Hecate, and it would have been unseemly that she should fall openly in love in the very performance of her duties; only gradually does she come to be in love, partly as a result of watching the hero in battle from the wall, but particularly when Aetes goes back upon his word and imposes the famous tests upon Jason; it is here that she first realises the fact, for acceptance of the challenge means certain death to him, and refusal ignominy and departure; she still struggles, however, and Summers has pointed out as characteristic of the poet the Roman attitude of Medea towards her father (*e.g.* 7. 309, 310, 8. 13, 14). It is unfortunate from the modern point of view that the epic convention demanded, or at any rate permitted, the employment of supernatural machinery to effect anything so human as falling in love; Valerius has even so made it unnecessarily complicated, for Venus has first to send her magic

girdle¹ to Juno, who then disguises herself as Chalciope, while the Cyprian later appears as Circe and accompanies Medea to her meeting with Jason, disappearing tactfully when the two have met.

In Medea then we have a simple girl, but one that happens at the same time to be a magician, a witch, skilled in spells and poisons, and the combination of the two is not wholly convincing, especially after Apollonius, who follows the Greek tradition of Medea as the strange foreign woman, fiery and ruthless and barbaric:

"Speak not of ruth nor pact. They dwell not here.
Aietes keeps no bond nor knows no fear,
Nor walks with men as Minos walked of old;
And I am no Greek princess gentle-souled."²

Valerius was content with a gentle-souled Medea; we may at any rate be grateful to him for not having tried to rival Apollonius, and admit the beauty and poetic charm of the character as he has conceived it.

It is generally agreed that the poet has done a good deal for Jason, who in the Greek poem is colourless and feeble, while here he is a real leader of men. Aetes too is a character that lives; there is psychological truth in the passage that describes his reception of the embassy. Some attempt also has been made to make the Argonauts more than mere names; Meleager, Telamon and Peleus are all given speeches, while in their respective functions Orpheus

¹ Pindar also finds it necessary to introduce a love-charm as the means of making the two fall in love (Pyth. 4. 213-217). The gradual growth of Medea's passion in Valerius should be stressed as a distinct advance on both Apollonius and Virgil.

² Gilbert Murray's translation of Ap. Rh. 3. 1103-5 in his *Ancient Greek Literature*, p. 332.

the bard, Mopsus the seer, Tiphys the helmsman and Pollux the pugilist are made to impress themselves on the imagination of the reader. There is also pathos in the figure of Hypsipyle, and in her appeal to Jason by the unborn Jason in her womb.¹

4. THE STYLE OF VALERIUS

Valerius's style, like that of all the Silver Latin writers of Epic, is in the main Virgilian, but it lacks the Virgilian charm and has further been too much exposed to the tendencies of the day, which worked in the direction of artificiality and obscurity of expression. The unescapable influence of Virgil, besides determining the general character of the poetical style, also shows itself in the conscious or unconscious reproduction of phrases and in resemblances of thought. The former are very abundant; Bachrens' Teubner edition has six pages of references to "Loca Virgiliana"; the latter are frequently to be discerned in his treatment of characters; Styrius, for instance, being simply another Turnus, Amycus reminding one of Cacus, Aetes and Absyrtus together of Mezentius and Lausus; also in the borrowing of similes from Virgil. Apart from the contemporary vices of artificial and strained expression, of extravagant hyperbole and obscurity, from which our author is by no means free, the influence of rhetoric can show some good results and claim some compensating virtues such as force and conciseness, telling brevity (cf. "fata trahunt" in 3. 717) and truth to the speaker's character. Some examples

¹ Actually she gave birth to twins; cf. Statius, *Theb.* 5. 464; their names were Thoas and Euneos, *ib.* 6. 342.

are Aeson's curse of Pelias (l. 788-815), Gesander's scornful taunts (6. 323-39) or the speeches of Aetes and Jason (7. 35-77, 89-100), while it has been pointed out that a broken, nervous utterance may be noticed as marking the speeches of Medea.

But there are passages in the *Argonautica* that owe nothing either of advantage or of disadvantage to rhetoric, but show Valerius's real gift for descriptive writing or for picturesque expression. Such are l. 833-51 (the underworld), 2. 38-47 (the night scene out at sea), or the lines that describe the nymph rising to draw Hylas down through the water (3. 558-64); or where he speaks of a cave as "sonitu tremebunda profundî," or describes Hesione trembling on the verge of tears, "ad primos turgentia lumina fetus," or shows the thread of light as the brand passes through the turmoil of the Clashing Rocks ("illa volans tenui per concita saxa luce fugit"), or in a pretty phrase touches the subconscious in Medea when she finds herself taking less pleasure than she should in the battle-scenes but as yet does not know why ("castigatque metus et quas alit inscia curas"). The beautiful simile that follows (6. 664-6) suggests some remarks upon the similes of Valerius. Of these he has a great number (Summers' computation is 117), most of them very short, just passing touches. Thus, although many of them belong to the ordinary stock-in-trade of the epic writer, we are not wearied, as often in Statius, by elaborations of the commonplace. Some are original to quaintness, even to transgression of good taste. Thus the Cyaean Rocks are forced apart by Juno and Pallas, as one by sheer strength forces down the head of a bull beneath the yoke (4. 684),

or scythed chariots that have become entangled with one another are like stags whose horns have become interlocked; a warrior picked off his horse by a long spear as his enemy charges at him is compared to a bird picked off a twig upon the end of a lured stick, and the body of Canthus, snatched now this way, now that, by enemies and friends, is like a bull's hide pulled and stretched this way and that to make it flexible (6. 260, 358). But there are others of striking beauty, such as the comparison of the silence that follows the lamentation of the women in 3. 359 to the silence on the Nile when the birds have all left it, or of Medea to a frightened bird that takes refuge in a man's bosom (8. 32); and again there are similes of local or contemporary interest, such as the eruption of Vesuvius (4. 507) or Roman soldiers engaged in civil war (6. 402).¹

The versification of Valerius is also characteristic of his time in being Ovidian. Under Ovid's influence the hexameter was given a more rapid movement by the avoidance of elision and a preference for dactyls at the expense of spondees; there is not the same taste in arrangement of pauses, indeed

¹ In this connection it may be of interest to note other allusions to Roman history or custom (Summers, *Study of the Argonautica*, pp. 56, 57): prophecy of the Roman race, l. 555; Egeria's grove, 2. 304; "genus Aeneadam," 2. 573; Janus, 2. 620; Roman lustrations, 3. 417-58; "excubias, Gravidæ, tene!" (suggested by "Mars vigila!" the cry of a Roman general in the shrine of Mars when war was declared), 5. 251; Legio Fulminata, 6. 55; wrecks on the shore of Latium, 6. 410; Tyrrhenian merchant, 7. 83; Tyrrhenian sea, 7. 234; Roman wedding, 8. 243. He also suggests the parallel of Pelias-Jason and Tiberius-Germanicus, and the suicide of Aeson as paralleled by incidents under the Julian emperors.

some lines follow each other with monotonous sameness, and there is a fondness for particular pauses, such as the 2nd and 4th caesura (the latter is a special favourite with the Silver Latin writer), while a symmetrical grouping of word and epithet tends to become a mannerism (*e.g.* 6. 119, 120).

5. LATER INFLUENCE OF VALERIUS

There are only very doubtful traces of Valerius's influence in later Roman poets; among his contemporaries, however, Statius is indebted to a considerable degree for phrases showing greater or less similarity. Instances will be found in Schenkl (*Studien*, p. 303 n.), Manilius (*Philol.* 1889) and Summers (*op. cit.* pp. 8-11); for parallels with Silius see R. B. Steele in *Classical Philology* 25 (1930), pp. 328-342. The Orphic *Argonautica*, a late Greek poem (earlier than A.D. 400), has some parallels of both language and matter with Valerius (Summers, pp. 13, 14).

6. THE MANUSCRIPTS

The text of the *Argonautica* depends ultimately upon the 9th-cent. manuscript Vaticanus 3277 (*V*), consisting of 140 parchment leaves and lacking five others which contained the lines 3. 146-85, 6. 439-76, 7. 322-59, 8. 88-125, 136-53, 366-85 (these lines being misplaced in the manuscript). All other existing MSS. are descended from it, but contain these lines, as the copying took place before the leaves were lost. Authorities disagree as to whether the now lost 10th-cent. codex Sangallensis (from St. Gall in Switzerland) was also a copy of *V*, but the weight of

evidence appears to be that it was. Another dispute has raged over a manuscript which the 16th-cent. scholar Carrio says that he used, and which he speaks of as belonging to the 10th cent., but which is now lost. From a careful study of the readings given by Carrio as those of his MS., the latest editor, Otto Kramer, is inclined to agree with those who hold that the MS. was really a late one, and that its readings are simply the interpolations and conjectures common in 15th-cent. MSS. He adds, however, that he is not ready to suspect Carrio's good faith in this matter, but suggests that Carrio, who was only a youth in 1565 when he edited Valerius (he was born 1547), may have been deceived by the similarity between an early hand such as that of a 10th-cent. MS. and its imitators in the 15th cent. Besides the 13th-cent. *Excerpta Parisina* all the other MSS. are of the 15th.

In the critical apparatus attached to the present text I have shown the divergences from *V* that involved any doubt as to the true reading; in such cases I have not given all the conjectures, but as a rule only the reading of *V* and the conjecture I have adopted. There are, of course, a large number of impossible readings in *V* where the true reading is perfectly obvious; these I have not thought it necessary to include. Some corrections of *V* are due to later MSS., but the great majority to commentators; their names I have for the most part taken on authority, though I have myself consulted Burmann, Thilo, Schenkl, Baehrens, Langen, Bury, Giarratano and Kramer. The text as it appears in this edition is on the whole conservative. I should add that *S* stands for the readings of Sangallensis as

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deduced from its 15th-cent. copies, *C* for the readings of Carrio's MS., *MNOPQT* for Monacensis, Vaticanus 1653, Ottobonianus 1258, Vaticanus 1613, Oxoniensis, cod. Vallettae, all 15th-cent. MSS., and Ald., Bon., Junt., for the Aldine, Bologna and Juntine editions respectively. Of the MSS., *MNT* are copies of *V* and *OPQ* of *S*.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The Translator is much indebted to Mr. A. F. Scholfield, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and University Librarian, who allowed him to make use of his translation of the earlier part of the poem, and also to Mr. W. C. Summers, formerly Professor of Latin at Sheffield University.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[THE latest edition of *Argonautica* is that of E. Courtney, Leipzig, Teubner, 1970, the former Teubner editors being O. Kramer, 1913, and E. Baehrens, 1875.] Among former editions have been those of P. Burmann, containing his own annotations and those of other scholars, including N. Heinsius, Leiden, 1724; of G. Thilo, Halle, 1863, and C. Schenkl, Berlin, 1871, text and introduction; P. Langen's edition with commentary, Berlin, 1897, J. B. Bury's edition in Postgate's *Corpus Poetarum Latinorum*, London, 1900, and that of C. Giarratano, Milan, 1904. There are also numerous articles scattered in various Classical journals, which cannot all be mentioned here; the student is referred either to the list given by Giarratano on pp. v-x of his edition or to Schanz's "History of Latin Literature" in Müller's *Handbuch des Altertumswissenschaft*, viii, 2, pp. 137-142 (3rd ed.). I may mention here C. Schenkl, "Studien zu der *Argonautica* des Valerius Flaccus," *Sitzungsber. d. K. Akad. d. Wiss. zu Wien, ph. hist. Kl.*, 68 (1871), W. C. Summers, *A Study of the Argonautica of Valerius Flaccus*, Cambridge, 1894, the article by Ronald Syme in *Classical Quarterly*, 23 (1929), pp. 129-137, and for the question of the St. Gall MS. and its descendants, A. C. Clark, "The Literary Discoveries of Poggio," *Classical Review*, XIII, pp. 119-30, 1899.

VALERIUS FLACCUS

BOOK I

C. VALERI FLACCI
ARGONAUTICON

LIBER PRIMUS

PRIMA deum magnis canimus freta pervia natis
fatidicamque ratem, Scythici quae Phasidis oras
ausa sequi mediosque inter iuga concita cursus
rumpere, flammifero tandem consedit Olympo.

Phoebe, mone, si Cymaeae mihi conscia vatis 5
stat casta cortina domo, si laurea digna
fronte viret. tuque o, pelagi cui maior aperti
fama, Caledonius postquam tua carbasa vexit
oceanus Phrygios prius indignatus Iulos,
eripe me populis et habenti nubila terrae, 10
sancte pater, veterumque fave veneranda canenti
facta virum. versam proles tua pandet Idumen
(namque potest), Solymo ac nigrantem pulvere
fratrem

¹ Vespasian had served under Aulus Plautius in Britain during the reign of Claudius, who boasted that he had extended the Roman empire beyond the ocean. The expeditions of Julius Caesar were to some extent handicapped by disasters to his fleet. "Caledonian" is an exaggeration in order to flatter the Emperor.

² The famous siege of Jerusalem (A.D. 71) by Titus, the Emperor's eldest son, was to be sung of by his brother

VALERIUS FLACCUS
ARGONAUTICA

BOOK I

My song is of the straits first navigated by the mighty sons of gods, of the prophetic ship that dared to seek the shores of Scythian Phasis, that burst unswerving through the clashing rocks, to sink at length to rest in the starry firmament.

Phoebus, be thou my guide, if there stands in a pure home the tripod that shares the secrets of the Cymaean prophetess, if the green laurel lies on a worthy brow. And thou too, that didst win still greater glory for opening up the sea, after the Caledonian ocean had borne thy sails,¹ the ocean that of yore would not brook the Phrygian Iuli, do thou, holy sire, raise me above the nations and the cloud-wrapped earth, and be favourable unto me as I hymn the wondrous deeds of old time heroes. Thy son shall tell of the overthrow of Idume—for well he can—of his brother foul with the dust of Solyma,²

Domitian, whose skill as a poet is the subject of many flattering references (cf. Silius, iii. 618; Statius, *Ach.* i. 14), until his death allowed writers to be more frank (cf. Suet. *Dom.* 2). Idume here must mean Jerusalem, though more commonly used by the poets for Palestine.

spargentemque faces et in omni turre furentem.
 ille tibi cultusque deum delubraque genti 15
 instituet, cum iam, genitor, lucebis ab omni
 parte poli; neque enim Tyriis Cynosura carinis
 certior aut Graiis Helice servanda magistris,
 si¹ tu signa dabis, sed te duce Graecia mittet
 et Sidon Nilusque rates. nunc nostra serenus 20
 orsa iuves, haec ut Latias vox impleat urbes.

Haemoniam primis Pelias frenabat ab annis,
 iam gravis et longus populis metus: illius amnes
 Ionium quicumque petunt, ille Othryn et Haemum
 atque imum felix versabat vomere Olympum. 25
 sed non ulla quies animo fratrisque paventi
 progeniem divumque minas; hunc nam fore regi
 exitio vatesque canunt pecudumque per aras
 terrifici monitus iterant: super ipsius ingens
 instat fama viri virtusque haut laeta tyranno. 30
 ergo anteire metus invenemque extingueret pergit
 Aesonium letique vias ac tempora versat.
 sed neque bella videt Graias neque monstra per
 urbes

ulla; Cleonaeo iam tempora clusus hiatu
 Alcides, olim Lernae defensus ab angue 35
 Arcas et ambobus iam cornua fracta iuvenis;
 ira maris vastique placent discrimina ponti.
 tum iuvenem tranquilla tuens nec fronte timendus
 occupat et fictis dat vultum et pondera dictis.

¹ si Gronovius: seu V: sed Baehrens: seu V.

¹ Almost certainly a reference to the *Templum Gentis Flaviae* built by Domitian.

² The Cretan bull tamed by Hercules and the Minotaur by Theseus, or, according to some, the river Achelous, whose horn Hercules broke (cf. Ovid, *Met.* ix. 85); the Cleonaeon beast is the Nemean lion.

as he hurls the brands and spreads havoc in every tower. In thy honour shall he ordain sacred rites and shall raise temples to his house,¹ what time thou, Sire, shinest all over the sky; for if thy star guides then Cynosura shall not be a surer beacon to Tyrian ships, nor Helice, whom Grecian helmsmen must watch, but beneath thy guidance Greece and Sidon and Nile shall send forth their fleets. Look kindly now on me and aid my essay, that the sound of my voice may fill the cities of Latium.

From his earliest years Pelias, now old and long the terror of the nations, had ruled Haemonia: his were the rivers that go down to the Ionian sea, his good fortune was it to drive his plough on Othrys and Haemus and the slopes of Olympus. Yet had his mind no rest, through dread of his brother's offspring and the threats of heaven; for the soothsayers foretold that through him destruction should come upon the king, and the victims at the altar repeated their fearful warnings: moreover, above all the great renown of the hero himself weighed upon his mind, and prowess never welcome to a tyrant. Wherefore he sought to forestall his fears and to destroy the son of Aeson, brooding how and when he might take his life. But nowhere was there any sign of warfare nor of any monsters throughout the cities of Greece; long ago had Alcides covered his temples with the huge jaws of the Cleonaeon beast, long since had Arcadia been guarded from Lerna's serpent, and the horns of the two bulls² broken; the wrath of the sea and the perils of the mighty ocean—these he approves. Then facing the youth with calm countenance and anger banished from his brow, he first accosted him, and his look lent weight to his lying

“hanc mihi militiam, veterum quae pulchrior
actis, 40

adnue daque animum. nostri de sanguine Phrixus
Cretheos ut patrias audisti effugerit aras.

hunc ferus Aeetes, Scythiam Phasimque rigentem
qui colit (hen magni Solis pudor!), hospita vina
*inter et attonitae maclat sollemnia mensae*¹

nil nostri divumque memor. non nuntia tantum 46
fama refert: ipsum iuvenem tam saeva gementem,

ipsam ego, cum serus fessos sopor alligat artus,
aspicio, lacera adsiduis meque² illius umbra

questibus et magni numen maris excitat Helle. 50
si mihi quae quondam vires, vel pendere poenas

Colchida iam et regis caput hic atque arma videres.
olim annis ille ardor hebet, necdum mea proles

imperio et belli rebus matura marique:
tu, cui iam curaeque vigent animique viriles, 55

i, decus, et pecoris Nephelaei vellera Graio
redde tholo ac tantis temet dignare periculis.”

talibus hortatur iuvenem, propiorque iubenti
conticuit; cautes³ Scythico concurrere ponto

Cyaneas tantoque silet possessa dracone 60
vellera, multifidas regis quem filia linguas

vibrantem ex adytis cantu dapibusque vocabat
et dabat externo liventia mella veneno.

Mox taciti patuere doli nec vellera curae
esse viro, sed sese odiis immania cogi 65

¹ missing in *V*, but added in later MSS.

² lacera adsiduis meque *Langen Bury*: lacera adsiduis
namque *V*: meque adsiduis lacera *C*.

³ cautes *Lochbach*: certis *V*: certus *P* *edd*.

words: “Give thy consent, I pray thee, to this enterprise, fairer far than any deeds of olden time, yea thy whole heart. Thou hast heard how Phrixus of the seed of Cretheus our kinsman fled from the altars of his father. Him the savage Aeetes who dwells in Scythia and the frost-bound Phasis (alas! for the shame of the great Sun!), murdered amid the genial cups and ceremonial of the stricken banquet, recking nought of me or of heaven. This is no mere voice of rumour; the young man himself I see, groaning piteously, with my own eyes I see him, when at last slumber binds my tired limbs, and with its ceaseless complainings his mangled shade and Helle, goddess of the wide sea, trouble my sleep. Had I but my former strength, then shouldst thou see Colchis even now pay penalty, shouldst see here the head and weapons of the king. The years have long since dulled the old fire, and my son is scarce ripe for rule and war and seafaring: do thou who hast even now the cares and the spirit of a man, do thou, my pride, go, bring back the fleece of Nephele’s ram¹ to its Grecian sanctuary, and think not thyself too frail for so perilous a task.” With such words did he urge on the youth, nay rather command him, and then held his peace; no word spake he of the Cyanean crags that clash upon the Scythian main, no word of the fleece held by the monstrous dragon with the flickering forked tongues, whom the princess called forth from the inmost chambers by charms and by food, to give him honey-cakes dark with the venom of strange lands.³

Soon was his secret guile laid bare, and it was plain to Jason that the king cared nought for the fleece, but that by his hate alone he himself was driven forth

¹ See introduction, p. ix.

² i.e. Colchian poison, stronger than Thessalian.

in freta. qua iussos sed tandem¹ quaerere Colchos
 arte queat? nunc aerû plantaria vellet
 Perseos aut currus et quos frenasse dracones
 creditur, ignaras Cereris qui vomere terras
 imbuit et flava quercum damnavit arista. 70
 heu quid agat? populumne levem veterique tyranno
 infensum atque olim miserantes Aesona patres
 advocet? an socia Iunone et Pallade fretus
 armisona speret magis et freta iussa capessat,
 siqua operis tanti domito consurgere ponto 75
 fama queat? tu sola animos mentesque peruris,
 Gloria! te viridem videt immunemque senectae
 Phasidis in ripa stantem iuvenesque vocantem.
 tandem animi incertum confusaque pectora firmat
 relligio, tendensque pias ad sidera palmas 80
 "omnipotens regina," inquit, "quam, turbidus atro
 aethere caeruleum quateret cum Iuppiter imbrem,
 ipse ego praecipiti tumidum per Enipea nimbo
 in campos et tuta tui nec credere quivi
 ante deam, quam te tonitru nutuque reposci 85
 coniugis et subita raptam formidine vidi,
 da Scythiam Phasimque mihi; tuque, innuba Pallas,
 eripe me. vestris egomet tum vellera templis
 illa dabo; dabit auratis et cornibus igni
 colla pater niveique greges altaria cingent." 2 90

¹ sed tandem *Cassian*: sectantem *V*.

² cingent *V*: tingent *Edd*.

¹ Triptolemus.

² Jason had once carried an old woman across the foaming torrent of Enipeus, a river of Thessaly; when they arrived

to the terrible seas. Yet how to obey? how to set out in quest of Colchis? Had he but Perseus' winged sandals now or the car and the fabled team of dragons of him¹ who first set the mark of the ploughshare upon lands that knew not Ceres, and preferred the golden ear to the acorn. Alas! what is he to do? Shall he summon to his aid a fickle populace, already girding at their aged lord, and the elders that long since have pitied Aeson? Or shall he trust rather to the aid of Juno and Pallas of the ringing armour, and launch forth at the king's command, if haply, the sea subdued, some renown could arise from so great a task? Thou, Glory, thou alone dost fire man's hearts and minds! thee he beholds fresh, untouched by time, standing upon the shore of Phasis, calling to the young heroes. At last his trust in heaven gives strength to his doubting, troubled heart, and raising his hands devoutly to the stars: "Almighty Queen," he says, "whom when turbulent Jove was brandishing a murky tempest in the darkened sky, I bore on my own shoulders across Enipeus swollen by the storm of rain, away to the fields and safety, and could scarce believe thou wert a goddess, until I beheld how thou wast summoned back by the sound of thunder and thy husband's beck, and rapt away in sudden and fearful wise,² O grant me to reach Scythia and Phasis; and thou, virgin Pallas, save me! Then with my own hands will I offer that fleece in your temples; my father too shall offer up victims with gilded horns upon the fire, and snow-white herds shall stand round about the altars."

at the other side, the old woman vanished in a flash of lightning, by which Jason knew that she was Juno.

Accepere deae celerique per aethera lapsu
 diversas petiere vias. in moenia pernix
 Thespiaca ad carum Tritonia devolat Argum;
 moliri hunc puppem iubet et demittere ferro
 robora, Peliacas et iam comes exit in umbras; 95
 at Iuno Argolicas pariter Macetumque per urbes
 spargit inexpertos temptare parentibus austros
 Aesoniden, iam stare ratem remisque superbam
 poscere quos revehat rebusque in sidera tollat.
 Omnis avet¹ quae iam bellis spectataque
 fama 100

turba ducum, primae seu quos in flore iuventae
 temptamenta tenent necdum data copia rerum.
 at quibus arborum studiumque insontis aratri,
 hos stimulant magnaue ratem per lustra viasque
 visi² laude canunt manifesto in lumine Fauni 105
 silvarumque deae atque elatis cornibus amnes.

Protinus Inachiis ultro Tirynthius Argis
 advolat, Arcadio cuius flammata veneno
 tela puer facilesque umeris gaudentibus arcus
 gestat Hylas: velit ille quidem, sed dextera non-
 dum 110
 par oneri clavaeque capax. quos talibus amens
 insequitur solitosque novat Saturnia questus:
 "o utinam Graiae rueret non omne iuventae
 in nova fata decus, nostrique Eurystheos haec nunc
 iussa forent! imbrem et tenebras saevumque tri-
 dentem 115

¹ avet *G*: habet *V*.

² visi *Heinsius*: iussi *V*.

The goddesses hearkened, and moving swift
 through the air went upon their different ways. To
 the walls of Thespieae and her well-loved Argus Pallas
 flies lightly down; she bids him labour to fashion a
 ship and fell the timber with his axe, and now she
 goes forth at his side into Pelion's shady forests;
 while Juno throughout all the cities of Argos and of
 Macedon proclaims abroad how Aeson's son is making
 trial of the winds that his fathers never proved, how
 the ship stands ready and in her pride of oars is
 claiming men whom she may bring safe home and
 exalt to heaven by their glorious deeds.

And now every captain of approved renown in
 warfare is athirst for the voyage, and all they who
 in the first flower of manhood have passed not beyond
 essays, nor been given the chance of glorious deeds.
 But they whose labour was in the fields and with the
 peaceful plough are aroused by the sight of Fauns
 about the thickets and ways in the clear light of
 day, and woodland goddesses and rivers with lofty
 horns, singing the high praises of the vessel.

Forthwith the hero of Tiryns speeds unsummoned
 from Inachian Argos; his arrows dipped in burning
 poison from Arcadia and his bow, a light burden for
 glad shoulders, the boy Hylas bears; fain would he,
 but his small hand cannot yet match the weight nor
 grasp the club. And now frenzied Juno upbraids
 them with these words, and breaks again into her old
 complainings: "O that all the flower of the Grecian
 youth were not hastening to new destinies, and that
 these were now the behests of Eurystheus my
 servant! O then long ere this had I myself scattered
 storms and darkness abroad with the fierce trident,
 on Hercules alone, she would soon, she says, have roused sky
 and sea against him.

¹ These words of Juno are inspired by her hatred of
 Hercules; she wishes that this were one of the labours im-
 posed on him by Eurystheus, and that he were not aiding an
 enterprise which she favours; if it had been a task imposed

iam iam ego et inviti torsissem coniugis ignem.
nunc quoque nec socium nostrae columenque carinae
esse velim, Herculeis nec me unquam fidere fas sit
auxiliis, comiti et tantum debere superbo."

Dixit et Haemonias oculos detorquet ad undas. 120
fervere cuncta virum coetu, simul undique cernit
delatum nemus et docta resonare bipenni
litora; iam pinus gracili dissolvere lamna
Thespiaden iungique latus lentoque sequaces
molliri videt igne traves, remisque paratis 125
Pallada velifero quaerentem brachia malo.
constitit ut, longo moles non pervia ponto,
puppis et ut tenues subiere latentia cerae
lumina, picturae varios superaddit honores.
hic sperata deo Tyrrheni tergore piscis 130
Peleos in thalamos vehitur Thetis; aequora delphin
corripit, ipsa sedet delecta in lumina palla
nec Iove maiorem nasci suspirat Achillen.
hanc Panope Dotoque soror laetataque fluctu
prosequitur nitidis pariter Galatea lacertis, 135
antra petens; Siculo revocat de litore Cyclops.
contra ignis viridique torus de fronde dapesque
vinaque et aequoreos inter cum coniuge divos
Aeacides, pulsataque chelyn post pocula Chiron.
parte alia Pholoe multoque insanus Iaccho 140
Rhoetus et Atracia subitae de virgine pugnae.
crateres mensaeque volant araeque deorum

and had hurled my husband's fires, even against his will. Even now I would not have this man the ally and the strength of our ship, nor may I ever trust in the help of Hercules, or be beholden for so much to so proud a comrade."

So spake she, and turned her eyes toward the Haemonian waters. There she sees all astir with the throng of men, and at the same moment the forest felled on every side and the shores ringing with the deft blows of the axe; already Thespian Argus is cleaving pines with the thin saw, and lo! the side is being made and the planks are being softened into pliancy over a slow flame¹; the oars are ready, and Pallas is seeking a yard for the sail-bearing mast. When the ship stood firm in its huge bulk, proof against long tracts of sea, and when fine wax had filled the lurking holes, Argus adds paintings of varied grace. On one side Thetis, whom a god had hoped to win, is being borne upon the back of a Tyrrhenic fish to the bridal chamber of Peleus; the dolphin is speeding over the sea; she herself is sitting with her veil drawn down over her eyes, and is sorrowing that Achilles shall not be born greater than Jupiter.² Panope and her sister Doto and Galatea with bare shoulders, revelling in the waves, escort her toward the caverns; Cyclops from the Sicilian shore calls Galatea back. Opposite to this is a fire and a bed of green leaves, a banquet and wines, and in the midst of the sea-gods the son of Aeacus with his wife; they have drunk, and now Chiron is touching the lyre. On the other side is Pholoe and Rhoetus mad with much wine, and the strife that broke out over the Atracian maid.³ Bowls and tables are flying, altars of the gods and cups, the marvellous work of

¹ The poet is alluding to the method of making wood pliant by steaming it.

² It was fated that if Thetis was married to Jupiter her son would be greater than his father; consequently she was compelled to marry a mortal.

³ Hippodamia; the fight is the famous quarrel of the Centaurs and the Lapiths.

poculaque, insignis veterum labor. optimus hasta
 hic Peleus, hic ense furens agnoscitur Aeson.
 fert gravis invito victorem Nestora tergo 145
 Monychus, ardenti peragit Clanis Actora quercu,
 nigro Nessus equo fugit, adclinisque tapetis
 in mediis vacuo condit caput Hippasus auro.

Nec¹ quamquam miranda viris stupet Aesone
 natus
 et secum: "heu miseros nostrum natosque pat-
 resque!" 150

hacine nos animae faciles rate nubila contra
 mittimur; in solum num saeviet Aesona pontus?
 non iuvenem in casus eademque pericula Acastum
 abripiam? invisae Pelias freta tuta carinae
 optet et exoret nostris cum matribus undas." 155

Talia conanti² laevum Iovis armiger aethra
 advenit et validis fixam erigit unguibus agnam.
 at procul e stabulis trepidi clamore sequuntur
 pastores fremitusque canum; citus occupat auras
 raptor et Aegaei super effugit alta profundi. 160

accipit augurium Aesonides laetusque superbi
 tecta petit Peliae. prior huic tum regia proles
 advolat amplexus fraternaue pectora iungens.
 ductor ait: "non degeneres, ut reris, Acaste,
 venimus ad questus: socium te iungere coeptis 165
 est animus; neque enim Telamon aut Canthus et

Idas
 Tyndareusque puer mihi vellere dignior Helles.

¹ nec *Pius*: haec *V*.

² conanti *V*: cunctanti contanti motanti *edd*.

ancient craftsmen. Here may one recognise Peleus, lord of the spear, and here Aeson raging with his sword. Monychus is toiling beneath the weight of his conqueror Nestor, mounted on his unwilling back; Clanis is dealing death to Actor with a blazing oak tree; Nessus the black centaur is fleeing, and in the midst of all Hippasus leaning against the coverlets is burying his head in an empty golden goblet.

But though the men gaze in wonder at these sights the son of Aeson marvels not, and thus he reasons with himself: "Alas! for those of us who have fathers or sons alive! Is this the ship in which we thoughtless souls are sent forth in the face of a clouded sky? shall the ocean spend its wrath on Aeson alone? shall I not snatch away the young Acastus to undergo the same fortunes and the same perils? Then let Pelias desire a safe voyage for the hated ship, and join with our mothers to appease the waves by prayer!"

This is he fain to attempt, when on the left the thunder-bearer of Jove draws near from on high and bears aloft a lamb caught in his strong talons. But from the folds hard by with a shout the fearful shepherds pursue and the barking dogs; too swift the ravisher has mounted into the air, and flies off over the Aegean deep. Jason hails the omen, and joyfully sets out to the halls of haughty Pelias. Then first the king's son comes running toward him, and casts his arms about him in cousinly embrace. "Nay, Acastus," says the leader, "I am not come, as thou deemest, to utter ignoble plaints; I am minded to make thee partner of our enterprise; for I hold not Telamon nor Canthus nor Idas nor Tyndareus' son more worthy than thou art to seek the fleece

o quantum terrae, quantum cognoscere caeli
 permissum est! pelagus quantos aperimus in usus!
 nunc forsān grave reris opus; sed laeta recurret 170
 cum ratis et caram cum iam mihi reddet Iolcon,
 quis pudor heu nostros tibi tunc audire labores!
 quam referam visas tua per suspiria gentes!"

Nec passus rex plura virum¹ "sat multa parato
 in quaecumque vocas; nec nos," ait, "optume,
 segnes 175

credideris patriisve magis confidere regnis
 quam tibi, si primos duce te virtutis honores
 carpere, fraternae si des² ad crescere famae.
 quin ego, nequa metu nimio me cura parentis
 impediāt, fallam ignarum subitusque paratis 180
 tunc adero, primas linquet cum puppis harenas."
 dixerat; ille animos promissaque talia laetus
 accipit et gressus rapidos ad litora vertit.

At ducis imperiis Minyae monituque frequentes
 puppem umeris subeunt et tento poplite proni 185
 decurrunt intrantque fretum. non clamor anhelis
 nauticus aut blandus testudine deficit Orpheus.
 tum laeti statuunt aras; tibi, rector aquarum,
 summus honor, tibi caeruleis in litore vittis
 et Zephyris Glaucoque bovem Thetidique iuven-
 cam 190

deicit Ancaeus. non illo certior alter
 pinguis letifera perfringere colla bipenni.
 ipse ter aequoreo libans carchesia patri

¹ virum sat S: virum stat V: virum stat at *Baehrens*: virum
 est sat *Langen*.

² si des *Carrio*: sede S: sedeatque N.

of Helle. Lo! what mighty tracts of land, what vast expanse of sky it is granted us to know! To what great ends are we opening the paths of the sea! At this time perchance thou thinkest the labour too heavy: yet when the vessel shall speed joyfully home, and give me back my loved Iolcos, ah! how shalt thou be ashamed then to hear of all our toils, how shalt thou sigh as I tell of all the nations we have seen!"

The prince suffered him not to say more; "Enough, enough! I am ready for anything to which thou callest. And think not, friend," he says, "that I am a laggard, or that I trust more in the kingdom of my fathers than in thee, so but thou grant me to win beneath thy guidance the first rewards of my prowess, and to grow to the measure of a cousin's fame. Nay, I myself, lest a father's too timorous care hinder me, will escape from him unawares, and of a sudden will be with you when you are ready, what time the vessel puts off from the strand." He ceased; the other joys to see such courage and to hear this promise, and turns his eager footsteps to the shore.

Meanwhile the thronging Minyae, admonished by the command of their leader, put their shoulders to the vessel, and bending forwards with straining knees run down into the water. Then rose the sailors' cry as they panted, and the sound of Orpheus' soothing lyre. Next in joy they pile altars; chiefly unto thee, lord of the waters, is reverence paid, unto thee, unto the West Winds and unto Glaucus upon the shore Ancaeus sacrifices an ox decked with dark blue fillets, unto Thetis a heifer. None more sure than he at cleaving the fat necks with the deadly axe. Jason himself thrice pours a libation to the father of the

sic ait Aesonides: "o qui spumantia nutu
 regna quatis terrasque salo complecteris omnes, 195
 da veniam. scio me cunctis e gentibus unum
 inlicitas temptare vias hiememque mereri:
 sed non sponte feror, nec nunc mihi iungere montes
 mens tamen aut summo deposcere fulmen Olympo.
 ne Peliae te vota trahant: ille aspera iussa 200
 repperit et Colchos in me luctumque meorum.
 ille mihi ——¹ tantum non indignantibus undis
 hoc caput accipias et pressam regibus alnum."
 sic fatus pingui cumulat libamine flammam.

Protulit ut crinem densis luctatus in extis 205
 ignis et escendit salientia viscera tauri,
 ecce sacer totusque dei per litora Mopsus,
 immanis visu, vittamque comamque per auras
 surgentem laurusque rotat. vox reddita tandem,
 vox horrenda viris; tum facta silentia vati. 210
 "heu quaenam aspicio! nostris modo concitus ausis
 aequoreos vocat ecce deos Neptunus et ingens
 concilium. fremere et legem defendere cuncti
 hortantur. sic amplexu, sic pectora fratris,
 Iuno, tene; tuque o puppem ne desere, Pallas: 215
 nunc, patrum nunc flecte minas. cessere ratemque
 acceperem mari. per quot discrimina rerum
 expedior! subita cur pulcher harundine crines
 velat Hylas? unde urna umeris niveosque per artus

¹ ille mihi *Schenkl Bury*: illi mi . . . *V*: ille metu *OQP*:
 illum ego sed *Langen*: illi inhians *Baehrens*.

² Neptune who was the brother of Juno. It is he and the
 other gods of the sea who are referred to in 216 ("cessere.")

sea from a goblet, and says: "O thou who with thy
 nod dost make to tremble the realms of foam, and dost
 engirdle all lands with the brine, grant me thy favour.
 Yea, I know that I alone of all mankind am venturing
 on unlawful paths and do deserve tempests; yet it is
 not of my own accord that I go, nor after all is it my
 will to pile mountain on mountain, or to call down
 lightning from Olympus' summit. O be not swayed
 by Pelias' vows; he hath devised these cruel com-
 mands, this voyage to Colchis, to bring sorrow on
 me and on my kin. To me hath he—only with
 unresentful waters do thou receive this my life and
 the vessel with its freight of kings." Thus he spake,
 and poured the rich offering plenteously on the fire.

As soon as the flame, struggling among the heap
 of entrails, sent forth a tongue of fire and climbed
 the throbbing flesh of the bull, lo! along the shore
 the holy Mopsus possessed of the god, wondrous to
 view, shook the fillets and his hair, tossing in the
 wind, and the laurel garland. At length speech
 issued, speech whereat men shuddered; then was
 silence ordered for the seer. "Alas! what is this
 sight I see! Lo! Neptune, freshly roused by
 our daring, is summoning the gods of ocean, a
 vast assemblage. They cry aloud, and all exhort
 him to defend the law. So, even so, Juno, clasp
 thy brother,¹ yea, clasp him to thy heart; and do
 thou, Pallas, not fail thy ship; oh now, even now
 turn aside thine uncle's threats. They have yielded,
 they have received the vessel on the sea. I find my
 way now through many a change of fortune! Ah!
 wherefore does fair Hylas of a sudden veil his locks
 with rushes? Whence the pitcher upon his shoulders
 that blue raiment upon his snowy limbs? Thou

caeruleae vestes? unde haec tibi vulnera, Pollux? 220
 quantus in tumidis taurorum e naribus ignis!
 tollunt se galeae sulcisque ex omnibus hastae
 et iam iamque umeri. quem circum velleræ Martem
 aspicio? quaenam aligeri secat anguibas auras
 caede madens? quos ense ferit? miser eripe
 parvos 225

Aesonide. cerno eni thalamos ardere iugales."

Iamdudum hac Minyas vates¹ ambage ducemque
 terrificat; sed enim contra Phoebæus Idmon,
 non pallore virens,² non ullo horrore comarum
 terribilis, plenus fatis Phoeboque quieto, 230
 (cui genitor tribuit monitu praenoscere divum
 omina, seu flammæ seu lubrica comminus exta
 seu plenum certis interroget aethera pinnis)
 sic sociis Mopsoque canit: "quantum augur Apollo
 flammaque prima docet, praeduri plena laboris 235
 cerno equidem, patiens sed quæ ratis omnia vincet.
 ingentes durate animæ dulcesque parentum
 tendite ad amplexus." lacrimæ cecidere canenti,
 quod sibi iam clusos invenit in ignibus Argos.

Vix ea fatus erat, iungit cum talia ductor 240
 Aesonius: "superum quando consulta videtis,
 o socii, tantisque³ datur spes maxima coeptis,
 vos quoque nunc vires animosque adfertè paternos.
 non mihi Thessalici pietas culpanda tyranni

¹ iamdudum hac Minyas vates *Heinsius*: hac vates *om.*
MSS.

² virens *Headlam*: viris *V.*

³ tantisque *Heinsius*: quantisque *V.*

Pollux, whence hast thou these wounds? Ah!
 mark the fierce flames from the heaving nostrils of
 the bulls! Helms are springing forth and spears
 from every furrow, and lo! at every moment
 shoulders! What strife is this I see around the
 fleece? What woman is this, drenched with slaughter,
 that cleaves the air upon winged serpents? Whom
 doth she strike with the sword? Unhappy Jason,
 snatch the little ones away! Yonder I discern the
 bridal chambers all ablaze!"

Long enough hath the seer been daunting the
 Minyæ and their leader with this dark utterance.
 But then in answer Idmon, Phoebus' son, not pale
 with sickly fear, nor awful to look upon with upstand-
 ing hair, but instinct with destiny and the calm
 influence of Apollo (to him the Father gave by his
 ordinance the foreknowledge of omens divine,
 whether he inquired of flames or close-viewed entrails
 smooth, or of the air thick with fowls that cannot lie),
 prophesied thus to his comrades and to Mopsus: "As
 surely as the seer Apollo and that first tongue of flame
 teach me, so do I behold all our course full of toil
 and grievous to be borne; yet shall the ship with
 long suffering overcome all things. Great hearts,
 be strong, and struggle forward to the sweet em-
 braces of father and mother." The tears fell as he
 spoke, for already he divined by the flames that
 for him Argos was closed for evermore.

Scarce had he uttered these words, when the
 Aesonian captain spake further: "Inasmuch as ye
 see the decrees of heaven, my comrades, and mighty
 hopes are vouchsafed to so great an enterprise, do
 ye also now bring thereto the might and courage
 of your sires. Not mine is it to blame the Thessalian

suspectivè doli: deus hæc, deus omine dextro 245
 imperat; ipse suo voluit commercia mundo
 Iuppiter et tantos hominum miscere labores.
 ite, viri, mecum dubiisque evincite rebus,
 quæ meminisse iuvet nostrisque nepotibus instent,
 hæc vero, socii, venientem in litore læti 250
 dulcibus adloquiis ludoque educite noctem,"
 paretur. molli iuvenes funduntur in alga
 conspicuusque toris Tirynthius. exta ministri
 rapta simul veribus Cere remque dedere canistris.

Iamque aderat summo decurrens vertice Chiron,
 clamantemque patri procul ostendebat Achillen.
 ut puer ad notas erectum Peleæ voces 257
 vidit et ingenti tendentem brachia passu,
 adsiluit caraque diu cervicè pependit,
 illum nec valido spumantia pocula Baccho 260
 sollicitant veteri nec conspicienda metallo
 signa tenent; stupet in ducibus magnumque sonantes
 haurit et Herculeo fert comminus ora leoni.
 lætus at impliciti Peleus rapit oscula nati
 suspiciensque polum "placido si currere fluctu 265
 Peleæ vultis" ait "ventosque optare ferentes,
 hoc, superi, servate caput. tu cetera, Chiron,
 da mihi. te parvus lituos et bella loquentem
 miretur; sub te puerilia tela magistro
 venator ferat et nostram festinet ad hastam." 270
 omnibus inde viæ¹ calor additus: ire per altum

¹ inde viæ *V marg.*: inde me *V*: inde mero *Schenkl Kramer.*

tyrant for the honour he doth his kin, or his suspected wiles; it is god, god that by this fair omen enjoins this on us; Jupiter himself hath willed the fellowship of men throughout his world, and their union in such mighty tasks. Come then all ye with me, and achieve, though fortune be doubtful, such things as ye may recall with gladness, such things as may urge on our grandsons. Yet, friends, do ye spend the coming night joyously upon the strand in sweet converse and in merriment." Thus do they. The young men lay them down upon the soft sea-weed, and the hero of Tiryns conspicuous on his couch. Straightway the servitors take the entrails off the spits, and place the bread in the baskets.

And now speeding down from the mountain-tops came Chiron, holding up to view Achilles who called to his sire from afar. As soon as the child saw Peleus start at the well-known voice and stretch out his arms in wide embrace, he sprang forward and hung long on his dear neck. The foaming goblets of strong wine tempt him not, the chasing of the ancient metal fair to look on holds not his gaze; rather he marvels at the captains, drinking in their loud words, and brings his face close to the lion-skin of Hercules. But Peleus in joy clasps his son and kisses him eagerly, and looking up to the heavens he cries: "Surely as ye wish that Peleus speed over calm wave and that he desire a following breeze, even so, ye gods, do ye preserve this life. All else do thou, Chiron, vouchsafe. Let my little son marvel to hear thee speak of clarions and of wars; do thou teach him to wield his boyish weapons in the chase, and ere long to grasp my spear." Then were all filled with passion for the voyage; with courage

magna mente volunt. Phrixi promittitur absens
vellus et auratis Argo reditura corymbis.

Sol ruit et totum Minyis lactantibus undae
diduxere diem, sparguntur litore curvo 275
lumina nondum ullis terras monstrantia nautis.

Thracius hic noctem dulci testudine vates
extrahit, ut steterit redimitus tempora vittis
Phrixi et iniustas contectus nubibus aras
fugerit Inoo linquens Athamanta Learcho; 280

aureus ut iuvenem miserantibus intulit undis
vector et adstrictis ut sedit cornibus Helle.

septem Aurora vias totidemque peregerat umbras
Luna polo dirimique procul non aequore visa
coeperat a gemina discedere Sestos Abydo. 285

hic soror Aeoliden, aevum mansura per omne,
deserit, heu saevae nequiquam erepta novercae!

illa quidem fessis longe petit umida palmis
vellera, sed bibulas urgenti pondere vestes
unda trahit levique manus labuntur ab auro. 290

quis tibi, Phrixe, dolor, rapido cum concitus aestu
respiceres miserae clamantia virginis ora
extremasque manus sparsosque per aequora crines!

Iamque mero ludoque modus, positique quietis
conticuere toris; solus quibus ordine fuis 295

impatiens somni ductor manet. hunc gravis Aeson
et pariter vigil Alcimede spectantque tenentque
pleni oculos. illis placidi sermonis Iason

high they long to pass over the deep. They vow
they will have the distant fleece of Phrixus, and that
Argo will return decked in golden ivy-clusters.

The sun sank and all the daylight drew away
across the waters as the Minyae rejoiced. Scattered
along the curving shore lights shine, but to no sailors
yet do they show the land.¹ And now the Thracian
bard with the melody of his lyre beguiles the night,
singing how Phrixus stood, his temples bound about
with fillets, of how he fled from the sinful altar
veiled in cloud, and left Athamas to Learchus, Ino's
son; of how the golden ram bore the lad into the
pitying waves, of how Helle sat grasping the horns.
Seven times had Aurora fulfilled her course, and
seven nights had the Moon completed in heaven,
when Sestos, that from afar the waters seemed not
to sunder from Abydos, began to part from its twin
city.² Then the sister whose name shall live for all
time forsakes Aeolus' son, saved, alas! in vain from
her cruel stepmother. Still with weary hands she
strains far behind the wet fleece, but the waves
draw down her garments heavy now with the drench-
ing water, and her hands slip off the smooth gold.
What grief was thine, Phrixus, when rapt on by the
whirling tide thou didst look back and see the face
of the hapless maid as she called to thee—her hands
only—then her hair spread out upon the waters.

And now there was an end of drinking and of
merriment, and laid upon quiet couches all were
still; alone amid the ranks of the sleepers the leader
is left and courts not slumber. The aged Aeson
and Alcimede, sleepless too, gaze at him with
brimming eyes and would hold him back. Jason
ministers to them with gentle speech and soothes

¹ There were as yet no other sailors than the Argonauts themselves.

² At a distance the two towns, though on different sides of the strait, seem to be joined; it is only on approaching nearer that they are seen to be separated.

suggerit adfatus turbataque pectora mulcet.
 mox, ubi victa gravi ceciderunt lumina somno, 300
 visa coronatae fulgens tutela carinae
 vocibus his instare duci: "Dodonida quercum
 Chaonique vides famulam Iovis. aequora tecum
 ingredior, nec fatidicis avellere silvis
 me nisi promisso potuit Saturnia caelo. 305
 tempus adest; age rumpe moras! dumque aequore toto
 currimus, incertus si nubila duxerit aether,
 iam nunc mitte metus, fidens superisque mihi que."
 dixerat. ille pavens, laeto quamquam omine divum,
 prosiluit stratis. Minyas simul optulit omnes 310
 alma novo crispans pelagus Tithonia Phoebos.
 discurrent transtris: hi celso cornua malo
 expediunt, alii tonsas in marmore summo
 praetemptant, prora funem legit Argus ab alta.

Increscunt matrum gemitus et fortia languent 315
 corda patrum; longis fientes amplexibus haerent.
 vox tamen Alcimedes planctus super eminet omnes:
 femineis tantum illa furens ululatus opstat,
 obruit Idaeam quantum tuba Martia buxum.
 fatur et haec: "nate indignos aditure labores, 320
 dividimur; nec ad hos animum componere casus
 ante datum, sed bella tibi terrasque timebam.
 vota aliis facienda deis. si fata reducant
 te mihi, si trepidis placabile matribus aequor,

¹ The oak of Dodona, from which the ship was made, is here personified as its guardian spirit. In 8, 293 Minerva is spoken of as the guardian deity of the ship. In 5, 65 the oak again intervenes.

their troubled hearts. Soon, when their eyelids had sunk overcome with deep sleep, the shining guardian¹ of the wreath-bound vessel seemed to exhort the leader with these words: "An oak from Dodona, the servant of Chaonian Jupiter, thou seest here. With thee I launch upon the ocean, and the Saturnian goddess could not have torn me from the prophetic woods had not heaven been promised to me. The hour is at hand; up, an end to delay! and even though while we roam over all the ocean the uncertain sky be veiled in cloud, trust even now in heaven and in me, and banish your fears." She ceased. He in fear, favourable though the omen from heaven was, sprang from his couch. Straightway Tithonus' bounteous wife, ruffling the sea with the new-born sunlight, brought all the Minyae before him. They hasten to and fro on the decks; these make ready the yard on the high mast, others try the oars for the first time on the glassy surface, Argus from the lofty prow draws in the cable.

The wailings of mothers grow louder and the stout hearts of fathers sicken; long they cling weeping in one another's embrace. But the voice of Alcimede sounds far above all other lamentations; her ravings overmaster the cries of the women, even as the martial trumpet overwhelms the Idaean pipe. And thus she speaks: "My son, thou art going forth to hardships undeserved, and we must part; and yet it has not been given me to subdue my spirit to meet this misfortune, but ever feared I wars and strange lands on thy behalf. To other gods must I make vows. If the fates bring thee back to me, if the sea can be appeased by the prayers of trembling mothers,

possum equidem lucemque pati longumque timorem.
 sin aliud Fortuna parat, miserere parentum, 326
 Mors bona, dum metus est nec adhuc dolor. ei
 mihi, Colchos

unde ego et avecti timuissem vellera Phrivi?
 quos iam mente dies, quam saeva insomnia curis
 prospicio! quotiens raucos ad litoris ictus 330
 deficiam a! Scythicum metuens pontumque
 polumque¹

nec de te credam nostris ingrata serenis!
 da, precor, amplexus haesuraque verba relinque
 auribus et dulci iam nunc preme lumina dextra." 335
 talibus Alcimede maeret; sed fortior Aeson
 attollens dictis animos: "o si mihi sanguis,
 quantus erat, cum signiferum cratera minantem
 non levio Pholum manus haec compescuit auro;
 primus in aeratis posuissem puppibus arma
 concussoque ratem ganderem tollere remo. 340
 sed patriae valuere preces auditaque magnis
 vota deis. video nostro tot in aequore reges
 teque duces. tales, tales ego ducere suetus
 atque sequi. nunc ille dies (det Iuppiter oro),
 ille super, quo te Scythici regisque marisque 345
 victorem atque umeros ardentem vellere raptō
 accipiam cedantque tuae mea facta iuventae."
 sic ait. ille suo collapsam pectore matrem
 sustinuit magnaue senem cervice recepit.

Et iam finis erat: Zephyrumque ratemque morantes

¹ pontumque polumque C: potumque cretamque V.

then can I endure the light of life and the long fear.
 But if Fortune have other things in store for thee,
 then, kind Death, have pity on us parents, while
 fear alone is ours and anguish is not yet upon us.
 Ah, woe! how could I have feared Colchis and the
 fleece of the vanished Phrixus? And now what days,
 what nights of sleepless anxiety I foresee! How
 oft shall I swoon at sound of the hoarse breakers on
 the shore, in terror at the Scythian main and the
 Scythian sky, and as touching thee put no trust in
 our sunny skies, unthankful for them! Cast thine
 arms about me, I pray, and leave me with words
 that shall ever sound in mine ears, and even now
 close these eyes with thy dear hands." Thus did
 Alcimede grieve; but Aeson stouter of heart raised
 his spirit with these words: "Ah, had I but such
 strength as of old I had when this hand crushed
 Pholus, as he threatened me with a figured bowl,
 crushed him with a golden cup as heavy: I would
 have been the first to plant my arms upon the brazen
 stern, and would rejoice to heave the ship onward
 with quivering oar. But thy father's prayers have
 prevailed, and the high gods have heard my vows.
 For I behold a host of kings on this our sea, and thee
 their captain. Such, such were all those whom I
 was wont to lead and to follow. And now that
 day alone remains—may Jupiter grant my prayer!—
 that day when as conqueror of the Scythian king and
 the Scythian ocean, thy shoulders ablaze with the
 rescued fleece, I receive thee, and my deeds give
 way before thy youth." So spake he. Jason held
 up his mother, who had sunk upon his breast, and
 received his aged father upon his broad neck.

And now there was an end: and the third blast

solverat amplexus tristi tuba tertia signo. 351
 dant remo sua quisque viri, dant nomina transtris.
 hinc laevum Telamon pelagus tenet, altior inde
 occupat Alcides aliud mare, cetera pubes
 dividitur: celer Asterion, quem matre cadentem
 Piresius ¹ gemino fovit pater amne Cometes, 356
 segnior Apidani vires ubi sentit Enipeus

* * *

nititur hinc Talaus fratrisque Leodocus urget
 remo terga sui, quos nobile contulit Argos.
 hinc quoque missus adest quamvis arentibus Idmon
 alitibus; sed turpe viro timuisse futura. 361
 hic et Naubolides tortas consurgit in undas
 Iphitus, hic patrium frangit Neptunius aequor
 qui tenet undisonam Psamathen semperque patentem
 Taenaron Euphemus, mollique a litore Pellae 365
 Deucalion certus iaculis et comminus ense
 nobilis Amphion, pariter quos edidit Hypso
 nec potuit similes voluitve ediscere vultus.
 tum valida Clymenus percusso pectore tonsa
 frater et Iphiclus puppem trahit, et face saeva 370
 in tua mox Danaos acturus saxa, Capharen,
 Nauplius, et tortum non a Iove fulmen Oileus
 qui gemet, Euboicas nato stridente per undas,
 quique Erymanthi sudantem pondere monstri
 Amphitryoniaden Tegeaeo limine Cepheus 375
 iuivit, et Amphidamas (at frater plenior annis
 maluit Ancaeo vellus contingere Phruxi)

¹ Piresius *Heinsius Crestus V.*

¹ Ajax, son of Oileus, slain by Pallas Athene for his attempted rape of Cassandra.

of the trumpet with its mournful signal loosed the embraces that made wind and ship tarry. Each man gives his name to his oar and to his bench. Here to larboard Telamon has his place, loftier than he Alcides takes his seat to starboard, the rest of the youth go to this side or to that; the nimble Asterion, whom as he slipped from his mother's womb his father, the Piresian Cometes, bathed at the joining of two rivers, where the sluggish Enipeus feels the might of Apidanus . . . On one side Talaus strains, and Leodocus presses his brother's back with his oar; lordly Argos sent the pair to join the host. On this side too is Idmon, sent despite warning omens; but it is shameful for a man to dread the future. Here too Iphitus, son of Naubolus, rises to strike the curling waves, here Neptune's son cleaves his father's sea, even Euphemus who dwells in Psamathe, washed with the sounding waters, and ever yawning Taenarus, and from the sandy shores of Pella Deucalion of the unerring javelin, and Amphion renowned in the close fight, whom Hypso at one birth brought forth and could not nor wished to tell their faces apart, so like were they. Next Clymenus, striking his breast with the strong oar, and his brother Iphiclus move the vessel, and Nauplius soon with cruel beacon to drive the Greeks upon thy rocks, Caphareus, and Oileus, who will one day lament the bolt that Jupiter hurled not, as his son's body hisses over the Aegean waves; ¹ Cepheus too who did aid Amphitryon's son, sweating beneath the burden of the beast of Erymanthus on the threshold of Tegea, and Amphidamas (though his brother, fuller of years, chose rather to let the fleece of Phrixus fall to Ancaeus), and Eurytion,

tectus et Eurytion servato colla capillo,
 quem pater Aonias reducem tondebit ad aras.
 te quoque Thessalicae, Nestor, rapit in freta puppis
 fama, Mycenaeis olim qui candida velis 381
 aequora et instantes mirabere mille magistros.
 hic vates Phoebique fides non vana parentis,
 Mopsus, puniceo cui circumfusa cothurno
 palla imos ferit alba pedes vittataque fronte 385
 cassis et in summo laurus Peneia cono.
 quin etiam Herculeo consurgit ab ordine Tydeus
 Nelidesque Periclymenus, quem parva Methone
 felixque ¹ Elis equis et fluctibus obvius Aulon
 caestibus adversos viderunt frangere vultus. 390
 tu quoque Phrixecos remo, Poeantiae, Colchos
 bis Lemnon visure petis, nunc cuspidis patris
 inclitus, Herculeas olim moture sagittas.
 proximus hinc Butes Actaeis dives ab oris;
 innumeras nam claudit apes longaque superbus
 fuscatur nube diem, dum plenas nectare cellas 396
 pandit et in dulcem reges dimittit Hymetton.
 insequeris casusque tuos expressa, Phalere,
 arma geris; patula nam lapsus ab arbore parvum
 ter quater ardenti tergo circumvenit anguis: 400
 stat procul intendens dubium pater anxius arcum;
 tum caelata metus alios gerit arma Eribotes.
 nec Peleus fretus soceris et coniuge diva
 defuit, ac prora splendet tua cuspis ab alta,
 Aeacidae: tantum haec aliis excelsior hastis, 405

¹ felixque *Baehrens*: felouis *V*: et levis *other MSS.* and *edd.*: nec levis *conj. Kramer.*

his neck covered with the hair he let grow, until he return and his father crop it at the Aonian altars. Thou too, Nestor, art drawn to the waves by the renown of the Thessalian ship, thou who one day shalt marvel to see the ocean plain white with the Mycenaean sails, and a thousand eager captains. Here sits Mopsus the prophet, no empty pledge of the fatherhood of Phoebus; his white cloak falling about his scarlet buskins touches the soles of his feet, a helmet bound with a fillet shades his brow, and a laurel spray from Peneus crowns the peak. On Hercules' side too Tydeus rises to his oar, and Periclymenus, son of Neleus, whom small Methone and Elis rich in horses and Aulon exposed to the waves saw break his adversary's face with the gauntlets. Thou also, son of Poeas, twice destined to see Lemnos, art rowing to Phrixean Colchis, famed now for thy father's spear, but one day shalt thou ply the arrows of Hercules. Next on the same side is Butes, rich from the shores of Attica, for countless are the bees that he shuts in his hives, boasting of their long cloud that darkens the day, while he opens the honey-laden cells and lets the kings go forth to flowery Hymettus. Thou followest him, Phalerus, and on thy arms is stamped the picture of thy fortune; a snake is slipping from a spreading tree, and thrice and four times is coiling its fiery back about thy small body; close by thy father stands in dread looking at his uncertain bow; Eribotes also bears arms carved in terrible fashion. And Peleus was there, trusting in the parents of his bride and in his goddess wife, and from the high prow gleams thy lance, Aeacides, taller far than all other spears, even as on Pelion's summit it

quantum Peliacas in vertice vicerat ornos.
 linquit et Actorides natum Chironis in antro,
 ut socius caro pariter meditetur Achilli
 fila lyrae pariterque leves puer incitet hastas,
 discat eques placidi conscendere terga magistri. 410
 et quem fama genus non est decepta Lyaei
 Phlias immissus patrios de vertice crines.
 nec timet Ancaeam genetrix committere ponto,
 plena tulit quem rege maris. securus in aequor
 haut minus Erginus, proles Neptunia, fertur, 415
 qui maris insidias, clarae qui sidera noctis
 norit et e clausis quem destinet Aeolus antris,
 non metuat cui regna ratis, cui tradere caelum
 adsidua Tiphys vultum lassatus ab Arcto.
 tanrea vulnifico portat caelataque¹ plumbo 420
 terga Lacon, saltem in vacnos ut brachia ventos
 spargat et Oebalium Pagascia puppis alumnus
 spectet securo celebrantem litora ludo;
 oraue Thessalico melior contundere freno
 vectorem pavidae Castor dum quaereret Helles, 425
 passus Amyclaea pinguescere Cyllaron herba.
 illis Taenariorum pariter tremis ignea fuco
 purpura, quod gemina mater spectabile tela
 duxit opus; bis Taygeton silvasque comantes
 struxerat, Eurotan molli bis fuderat auro; 430
 quemque suos sonipes niveo de stamine portat
 et volat amborum patrius de pectore cyncus.
 at tibi collectas solvit iam fibula vestes

¹ caelataque *C*: colera *V*: *edd. have various conjectures.*

² Patroclus.

³ Pollux.

⁴ Castor and Pollux were the sons of Leda, whom Jupiter visited in the form of a swan.

overtopped the mountain ashes. Also Actor's son leaves his child¹ in Chiron's cave, side by side with his dear Achilles, to study the chords of the harp, and side by side to hurl a boy's light javelins, and to learn to mount and ride upon the back of his genial master. And he whom report did not falsely make the son of Lycaeus, Phlias, with locks falling from his head in his father's manner. Nor does Ancaeus' mother fear to entrust her son to the ocean, whom she bore when pregnant by the king of the sea. So too Erginus, offspring of Neptune, comes down with a light heart to the waters; he can tell the guile of the deep, and the stars of the clear night, and what wind Aeolus is planning to unprison from his caves; him may Tiphys without fear trust to rule the vessel and to watch the heavens, when weary-eyed with ceaseless gazing on the Bear. The hero² of Sparta wears thongs of bull's hide studded with wounding lead, that to the empty airs at least he may deal his random blows, and that the Pagasean ship may watch the grandson of Oebalus filling the shore with his harmless sport; and Castor skilled rather at breaking in the mouths of horses with the Thessalian bridle, who, until he should find the beast that bore the trembling Helle, left Cyllarus to fatten upon the grass of Amyclæ. On both alike there gleams a purple cloak bright with Taenarian dye, fair work that their mother wove on twin looms; twice had she broidered massive Taygetus and its leafy woods, twice in pliant gold the streaming Eurotas; each is borne upon his own horse, worked in snow-white thread, and on the breast of each their swan-father is flying.³ But thou, Meleager, see, the clasp is loosening thy gathered raiment,

ostenditque umeros fortes spatiumque superbi
 pectoris Herculeis aequum, Meleagre, lacertis. 435
 hinc numerosa phalanx, proles Cyllenia: certus
 Aethalides subitas nervo redeunte sagittas
 cogere; tu medios gladio bonus ire per hostes,
 Euryte; nec patrio Minyis ignobilis usu,
 nuntia verba ducis populis qui reddit, Echion. 440
 sed non, Iphi, tuis Argo reditura lacertis
 heu cinerem Scythica te maesta relinquet harena,
 cessantemque tuo lugebit in ordine remum.
 te quoque dant campi tanto pastore Pheraei
 felices, Admete; tuis nam pendit in arvis 445
 Delius, ingrato Steropen quod fuderat arcu.
 a quotiens famulo notis soror obvia silvis
 flevit, ubi Ossaeae captaret frigora quercus
 perderet et pingui miseros Boebeide crines.
 insurgit transtris et remo Nerea versat 450
 Canthus, in Aeaeo volvet quem barbara cuspis
 pulvere; at interea clari decus adiacet orbis,
 quem genitor gestabat Abas; secat aurea fluctu
 tegmina Chalcidicas fugiens Euripus harenas,
 celsaque semiferum contorquens frena luporum 455
 surgis ab ostrifero medius, Neptune, Geraesto.
 nec tibi Palladia pinu, Polypheme, revector
 ante urbem arduas restat deprendere patris
 reliquias, inultum famulis pia iusta moratis,
 si venias. brevior ferit iam caerulea remo 460

¹ Sons of Mercury, who was born on Mt. Cyllene.

² Valerius has chosen to substitute sea-wolves, half wolves, half fish, for the usual sea-horses.

and lays bare thy strong shoulders and thy broad
 breast that proudly vies with Hercules in strength
 of muscle. Here in serried throng are the Cyllenian
 brethren:¹ Aethalides so sure at sending the arrows
 with the rebounding string: thou, Eurytus, skilled
 at clearing a way with thy sword through the midst
 of the enemy: and Echion, of no mean esteem among
 the Minyae for his father's calling, who brings the
 peoples the messages of his captain. But thee,
 Iphis, Argo, that shall never return aided by
 thy arms, shall leave alas! but ashes on the
 Scythian strand, and shall mourn for the oar resting
 idle in thy row. The plains of Pherae send thee
 too, Admetus, blest in so glorious a shepherd, for
 it is in thy fields that the god of Delos pays for
 having struck down Steropes with his thankless bow.
 Ah! how often his sister, meeting him as a servant
 in her familiar woods, did weep, whenever he wooed
 the coolness of the oaks of Ossa or marred his sorry
 locks in the thick waters of Boebeis. Canthus rises
 up over the thwarts and churns the waters with
 his oar; him will the alien spear send rolling in the
 dust of Aeaea; but meantime the glory of a bright-
 orb'd shield is at his side, borne once by his father
 Abas; Euripus with its waves divides the golden
 covering, and flees from the sands of Chalcis, and
 thou, Neptune, shaking the high bridles of thy
 wolves,² half beast, half fish, in the midst art rising
 up from oyster-bearing Geraestus. Nor does
 it await thee, Polyphemus, to return in the ship
 of Pallas and find the last remains of thy father
 burning before the city, though his servants had
 long delayed the due rites, if only thou wouldst
 come. With shorter oar now Idas strikes the blue

occupat et longe sua transtra novissimus Idas.
 at frater magnos Lynceus servatur in nsus,
 quem tulit Arene, possit qui rumpere terras
 et Styga transmisso tacitam deprendere visu;
 fluctibus e mediis terras dabit ille magistro 465
 et dabit astra rati, cumque aethera Iuppiter umbra
 condiderit, solus transibit nubila Lynceus.
 quin et Cecropiae proles vacat Orithyiae,
 temperet ut tremulos Zetes fraterque ceruchos.
 nec vero Odrysus transtris impenditur Orpheus 470
 aut pontum remo subigit, sed carmine tonsas
 ire docet, summo passim ne gurgite pugnent.
 donat et Iphiclo pelagus iuvenumque labores
 Aesonides, fessum Phylace quem miserat aevo,
 non iam operum in partem, monitus sed tradat ut
 acres 475
 magnorumque viros qui laudibus urat avorum.
 Arge, tuae tibi cura ratis, te moenia doctum
 Thespia Palladio dant munere; sors tibi, nequa
 parte trahat tacitum puppis mare fissaque fluctu
 vel pice vel molli conducere vulnera cera. 480
 pervigil Arcadio Tiphys pendebat ab astro
 Hagniades, felix stellis qui signibus usum
 et dedit aequoreos caelo duce tendere cursus.
 Ecce per obliqui rapidum compendia montis
 ductor ovans laetusque dolis agnoscit Acastum 485
 horrentem in iaculis et parmae luce coruscum.
 ille ubi se mediae per scuta virosque carinae

¹ The Great Bear; Callisto, an Arcadian girl, loved by Jupiter, was changed into a bear and placed among the stars.

waters and has his seat far away, last in his row. But his brother Lynceus is being kept for high ends, he whom Arene bore, one that can pierce the earth and with penetrating gaze discover the secrets of Styx; from mid-ocean he will point the helmsman to the land, will point out the stars to the ship, and when Jupiter has veiled the clear heaven in shadow Lynceus alone will pierce the clouds. Furthermore, the offspring of Cecropian Orithyia, Zetes and his brother, are free that they may trim the quivering braces. Nor yet does Odrysian Orpheus spend himself upon the thwarts or plough the sea with an oar, but with his song he teaches the oars to swing, that they clash not everywhere upon the surface of the tide. To Iphiclus too Aeson's son remits the young men's toils upon the sea: Phylace had sent him forth wearied with years, no longer to share in the tasks, but that he may give the men shrewd counsels, and may fire them with the praise of their mighty forefathers. To thee, Argus, falls the care of thine own vessel, thou with the skill that Pallas hath bestowed on thee art the gift of Thespieae's city; it is thy lot to see that the ship on no side let in the stealthy water, and to seal the wounds cleft by the waves with pitch or pliant wax. The watchful Tiphys, Hagnius' son, hung his gaze upon the Arcadian constellation,¹ favoured mortal, that found use for the laggard stars, and giving men power to steer their path across the sea with heaven as their guide.

Lo! hurrying by short paths down the mountain slope the exultant leader, rejoicing at his cunning, recognises Acastus, bristling with javelins and aglow with glittering shield. Soon as he leapt into the

intulit, ardenti Aesonides retinacula ferro
 absceidit; haut aliter saltus vastataque pernix
 venator quam ¹ lustra fugit dominoque timentem
 urget equum, teneras complexus pectore tigres, 491
 quas astu rapuit pavido, dum saeva relictis
 mater in averso catulis venatur Amano.

it pariter propulsa ratis, stant litore matres
 claraque vela oculis percussaque sole secuntur 495
 scuta virum, donec iam celsior arbore pontus
 immensusque ratem spectantibus abstulit aer.

Siderea tunc arce pater pulcherrima Graium
 coepta tuens tantamque operis consurgere molem
 lactatur; patrii neque enim probat otia regni. 500
 una omnes gaudent superi venturaque mundo
 tempora aquaeque ² vias cernunt sibi crescere Parcae.

sed non et Scythici genitor discrimine nati
 intrepidus tales fundit Sol pectore voces:
 " summe sator, cui nostra dies volventibus annis 505
 tot peragit reficitque vices, tuane ista voluntas?
 Graiaque nunc undis duce te nutuque secundo
 it ratis? an meritos fas et mihi rumpere questus?
 hoc metuens et nequa foret manus invida nato,
 non mediae telluris opes, non improba legi 510
 divitis arva plagae (teneant uberrima Teucer
 et Libys et vestri Pelopis domus): horrida saevo

¹ quam *Burmann*: cum *V.*

² aquaeque *Hertz*: quaeque *V.*

¹ Saturn's reign was proverbially tranquil.

² *i.e.* in the temperate zone.

³ Teucer settled in Cyprus, Pelops in the Peloponnese.

midst of the ship through the shields and the men,
 Jason with flashing steel cut the cables; even as the
 huntsman flies from the forest and from the de-
 spoiled lair, urging forward the horse that fears for
 its master, and clasping the tiger cubs to his breast;
 deftly but trembling has he seized them, while the
 fierce mother is far from her young, hunting upon the
 other side of Amanus. The ship moves forward to
 the measured strokes of the oars; the mothers stand
 upon the shore, and with their gaze follow the bright
 sails and the shields of the heroes flashing in the
 sunlight, until at length the ocean overtops the mast
 and immeasurable space takes the vessel out of their
 sight.

Then the Father from his starry citadel beholding
 these glorious deeds of the Greeks and how the
 mighty work went forward, is glad; for he cares not
 for the ease of his sire's rule.¹ With him all the gods
 rejoice, and the Fates mark how the coming age and
 the paths over the waters increase for their own gain.
 But not like them untroubled by the peril of his
 Scythian child the Sun-god pours forth these words
 from his breast: " Supreme Creator, for whom as the
 years go round our light completes and renews its
 manifold changes, are these things thy will? Is it
 beneath thy guidance and with thy favouring consent
 that the Grecian vessel now sails the sea? May I
 too break forth into complaints?—they are but just!
 Through fear of this and that none might move an
 envious hand against my son, I chose not the wealth
 of some middle land² or the teeming fields of a rich
 country—let Teucer and the Libyan and the stock
 of thine own Pelops hold the most fruitful spots³—nay,
 in chill fields oppressed by thy fierce cold and by

quae premis arva gelu strictosque insedimus amnes.
 cederet his etiam et sese sine honore referret
 ulterius, sed nube rigens ac nescia veris ¹ 515
 stat super et nostros iam zona reverberat ignes.
 quid regio immanis, quid barbarus annibus ullis
 Phasis et aversis proles mea gentibus obstat?
 quid Minyae meruere queri? num vellere Graio
 vi potitur? profugo quin agmina iungere Phrixo
 abnuat Inoas ultor nec venit ad aras, 521
 imperii sed parte virum nataeque moratus
 coniugio videt e Graia nunc stirpe nepotes
 et generos vocat et iunctas sibi sanguine terras.
 flecte ratem motusque, pater, nec vulnere nostro
 aequora pande viris: veteris sat conscia luctus 526
 silva Padi et viso flentes genitore sorores."
 adfremit his quassatque caput qui vellera dono
 bellipotens sibi fixa videt temptataque; contra
 Pallas et amborum gemuit Saturnia questus. 530
 Tum genitor "vetera haec nobis et condita pergunt
 ordine cuncta suo rerumque a principe cursu
 fixa manent; neque enim terris tum sanguis in ullis
 noster erat, cum fata darem; iustique facultas
 hinc mihi, cum varios struerem per saecula reges.
 atque ego curarum repetam decreta mearum. 536
 iam pridem regio, quae virginis aequor ad Helles
 et Tanain tenuis immenso descendit ab Euro,

¹ veris *Loebbach*: regum *V*.

¹ The reference is to the death of Phaethon, wept for by his sisters, the daughters of the Sun, who were changed into poplar trees by the banks of the Po.

icebound rivers did we settle. Even from these
 would my son withdraw and retreat without recom-
 pense still further did not a region dense with clouds,
 a stranger to spring, lie beyond and beat back our
 rays. How can that terrible land, how can savage
 Phasis be an offence to other rivers, or my offspring
 to nations so remote? What reason have the Minyae
 for complaint? What, is the Grecian fleece a pos-
 session won by force? Nay, but my son would not
 consent to join forces with the exiled Phrixus and
 came not as an avenger to the Inoan altars, but did
 persuade him to tarry with a portion of his kingdom
 and his daughter's hand, and now sees before him
 grandchildren of a Grecian stock, and calls for sons-
 in-law upon the lands united to himself in blood.
 Turn the vessel's course, sire, and open not the sea
 for them to my hurt; the wood of Padus knows
 enough of my ancient sorrows, and the sisters who
 weep as they look upon their father."¹ The Lord
 of War gave loud assent and shook his head, for he
 saw the fleece assailed that hung as a trophy in his
 honour; on the other side Pallas and Juno girded at
 the complaint of the two gods.

Then spake the Father: "All these things have
 been established by us from of old and now move
 forward each in its appointed order and remain
 unalterable from the beginning of things; for there
 was no stock of ours in any land when I laid down
 the laws of destiny; wherefore I had the power to
 deal justly when I was founding a line of kings to
 last throughout the ages. So then I will unfold the
 decrees that I made in my providence. The region
 that stretches down from the measureless East to
 the sea of the virgin Helle as far as the Tanais has

undat equis floretque viris, nec tollere contra
 ulla pares animos nomenque capessere bellis 540
 ausa manus; sic fata, locos sic ipse fovebam.
 adcelerat sed summa dies Asiamque labantem
 linquimus et poscunt iam me sua tempora Grai.
 inde meae quercus tripodesque animaeque parentum
 hanc pelago misere manum. via facta per undas 545
 perque hiemes, Bellona, tibi. nec vellera tantum
 indignanda manent propiorque ex virgine rapta
 ille dolor, sed (nulla magis sententia menti
 fixa meae) veniet Phrygia iam pastor ab Ida,
 qui gemitus irasque pares et mutua Grai 550
 dona ferat. quae classe dehinc effusa procorum
 bella! quot ad Troiam flentes hiberna Mycenae!
 quot proceres natosque deum, quae robora cernes
 oppetere et magnis Asiam concedere fati!
 hinc Danaum de fine sedet gentesque fovebo 555
 mox alias. pateant montes silvaeque lacusque
 cunctaque claustra maris; spes et metus omnibus esto
 arbiter. ipse locos terrenaque summa movendo
 experiar, quaenam populis longissima cunctis
 regna velim linquamque datas ubi certus habenas."
 tunc oculos Aegaea refert ad caerulea robur 561
 Herculeum Ledaque tuens genus atque ita fatur:
 "tendite in astra, viri: me primum regia mundo

¹ Ironically, of the requital which Paris will bring for the rape of Medea, i.e. the rape of Helen.

² This is obviously meant to be a prophecy of the Roman Empire.

long been rich in horses and famed for its men, and none has dared to rise against her in valorous rivalry and to win renown in war: so did I myself cherish the land and its destinies. But now her last day is hastening on and we are leaving Asia tottering to her fall, while the Greeks now claim of me their time of prosperity. Therefore have my oak trees, the tripods and the spirits of their ancestors sent forth this band upon the sea. For thee, Bellona, has a path been fashioned through the billows and through storms. Nor is it the fleece alone that is fated to rouse resentment and the still closer pang that comes from a ravished maid, but also—and no resolve is more firmly fixed in my mind—there shall soon come from Phrygian Ida a shepherd who shall bring lamentation and like rage and a rich requital to the Greeks.¹ Ah, what wars shalt thou see when the suitors pour forth from the fleet! How many times shall Mycenae bewail its wintry bivouacs before Troy! How many a prince, how many sons of gods, how many a mighty man shalt thou see fall, and Asia yield to the high fates! Thereafter am I resolved upon the end of the Danaï, and shortly will take other nations into my care. Let mountains, forests, lakes and all the barriers of ocean open out before them; hope and fear shall decide the day for all alike. I myself by shifting the seat of empire upon earth shall make trial which kingdom I shall elect to let rule longest over all peoples, and in whose hands I can without fear leave the reins of power once bestowed."² Then he turns his eyes to the blue Aegean sea, gazing upon mighty Hercules and the sons of Leda, and speaks thus: "Strain forward to the stars, my heroes; it was only after the battle

Iapeti post bella trucidis Phlegraeque labores
 imposuit: durum vobis iter et grave caeli 565
 institui. sic ecce meus, sic orbe peracto
 Liber et expertus terras remeavit Apollo."'
 dixit et ingenti flammantem nubila sulco
 derexit per inane facem, quae puppe propinqua
 in bifidam discessit iter fratresque petivit 570
 Tyndareos, placida et mediis in frontibus haesit
 protinus amborum lumenque innoxia fundit
 purpureum, miseris olim implorabile nautis.
 Interea medio saevus permissa profundo
 carbasa Pangaea Boreas speculatus ab arce 575
 continuo Aeoliam Tyrrhenaque tendit ad antra
 concitus. omne dei rapidis nemus ingemit alis,
 strata Ceres, motuque niger sub praepete pontus.
 aequore Trinacrio refugique a parte Pelori
 stat rupes horrenda fretis: quot in aethera surgit
 molibus, infernas totidem demissa sub undas. 581
 nec scopulos aut antra minor iuxta altera tellus
 cernitur: illam Acamans habitat nudusque Pyragmon,
 has nimbi ventique domos et naufraga servat
 tempestas; hinc in terras latumque profundum 585
 est iter, hinc olim soliti miscere polumque
 infelixque fretum (neque enim tunc Aeolus illis
 rector erat, Libya cum rumperet advena Calpen
 Oceanus, cum flens Siculos Oenotria fines
 perderet et mediis intrarent montibus undae), 590
 intonuit donec pavidis ex aethere ventis

with fierce Iapetus and the toils of Phlegra that Olympus' palace set me over the universe; painful and wearisome for you have I made the path to heaven. Only so did my Bacchus after traversing the world, only so did Apollo after his life upon earth return."'
 So he spoke, and through the void aimed a shaft that burned a long furrow in the clouds; and as it neared the ship it broke in twain and sought the two sons of Tyndareus, and forthwith settled with tranquil flame on the midst of their brows and harmlessly shed abroad its bright radiance, to which hapless mariners one day would cry for help.

Meantime fierce Boreas from his eyrie in Pangaea spied the sails set to the wind in the midst of the deep, and straightway turns his rapid course to Aeolia and the Tyrrhene caves. Every forest groans beneath the speeding wings of the god, the crops are laid, and the sea darkens beneath his hurtling flight. There stands in the Sicilian sea on the side of retreating Pelorum a crag, the terror of the straits; high as are the piles it lifts into the air, even so deep are those that sink below the surface of the waters. Hard by may one see another land with rocks and caverns no less terrible; in the former dwell Acamas and naked Pyragmon, the latter is the home of squalls and winds and shipwrecking storms; from here they pass to the lands and over the wide ocean, from here in bygone days would they spread turmoil in the heavens and in the disastrous sea—for at that time no Aeolus was their master, when the intruding sea broke Calpe off from Libya, when Oenotria to her sorrow lost the lands of Sicily and the waters burst into the heart of the mountains—until the All-powerful thundered from the sky upon the

omnipotens regemque dedit, quem iussa vereri
 saeva cohors: in monte chalybs iterataque muris
 saxa domant Euros. cum iam cohibere frementum
 ora nequit, rex tunc aditus et claustra refringit 595
 ipse volens placatque data fera murmura porta.
 nuntius hunc solio Boreas proturbat ab alto.
 "Pangaea quod ab arce nefas" ait, "Aeole, vidi!
 Graia novam ferro molem commenta iuventus
 pergit et ingenti gaudens domat aequora velo, 600
 nec mihi libertas imis freta tollere harenis,
 qualis eram nondum vinclis et carcere clausus
 hinc animi stractaeque viris fiducia puppis,
 quod Borean sub rege vident. da mergere Graios
 insanamque ratem: nil me mea pignora tangunt. 605
 tantum hominum compesce minas, dum litora iuxta
 Thessala necdum aliae viderunt carbasa terrae."

Dixerat. at cuncti fremere intus et aequora venti
 poscere. tum validam contorto turbine portam
 impulit Hippotades. fundunt se carcere laeti 610
 Thraces equi Zephyrusque et nocti concolor alas
 nimborum cum prole Notus crinemque procellis
 hispidus et multa flavus caput Eurus harena;
 induxere hitem rancoque ad litora tractu
 unanimi freta curva ferunt nec sola tridentis 615
 regna movent; vasto pariter ruit igneus aether
 cum tonitru piceoque premit nox omnia caelo.

¹ Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas, were among the Argonauts (cf. 468).

² I.e. Aeolus, son of Hippotea.

trembling blasts and appointed them a king, whom the fierce band were bidden to revere: iron and a twofold wall of rocks quell the East winds within the mountain. When this king can no longer curb their roaring mouths, then of his own will he unbars the doors and by granting egress lulls their savage complaints. Boreas now with these tidings drives him from his lofty throne: "Ah! what monstrous deed, Aeolus, have I spied from the heights of Pangaeus! Grecian heroes have devised a strange engine with the axe, and now go forward triumphing joyously over the seas with a huge sail, nor have I power of myself to stir up the sea from its sandy depths, as I had or ever I was fettered and imprisoned. This it is that gives them courage and confidence in the vessel they have built, that they see Boreas ruled by a king. Grant me to overwhelm the Greeks with their mad bark: the thought of my children¹ moves me not, only do thou quench these threats of mortal man, while still the shores of Thessaly and as yet no other lands have seen their sails."

He ceased speaking: but within all the winds began to roar and clamour for the open sea. Then did Hippotades² drive against the mighty door with a whirling blast. Joyfully from the prison burst the Thracian horses, the West wind and the South wind of the night-dark pinions with all the sons of the storms, and the East wind, his hair dishevelled with the blasts, and tawny with much sand; they drew the tempest on, and in thunderous advance together drive the curling waves to shore, and stir not the trident's realms alone, for at the same time the fiery sky falls with a mighty peal, and night buries all things beneath a pitchy sky. The oars

excussi manibus remi conversaque frontem
 puppis in obliquum resonans latus accipit ictus,
 vela super tremulum subitus volitantia malum 620
 turbo rapit. qui tum Minyis trepidantibus horror,
 cum picci fulsere poli pavidamque coruscæ
 ante ratem cecidere faces, antemnaque laevo
 prona dehiscens cornu cum sustulit undam!
 non hiemem missosque putant consurgere ventos 625
 ignari, sed tale fretum. tum murmure maesto
 "hoc erat inlicitas temerare rudentibus undas
 quod nostri timuere patres. vix litore puppem
 solvimus, et quanto fremitu se sustulit Aegon!
 hocine Cyaneae concurrunt aequore cautes? 630
 tristis cum miseris superest mare? linquite, terrae,
 spem pelagi sacrosque iterum seponite fluctus."
 haec iterant segni flentes occumbere leto.
 magnanimus spectat pharetras et inutile robur
 Amphitryoniades; miscent suprema paventes 635
 verba alii iunguntque manus atque ora fatigant
 aspectu in misero toti,¹ cum protinus ainus
 solvitur et vasto puppis mare sorbet hiatu.
 illam huc atque illuc nunc torquens verberat Euris;
 nunc stridens Zephyris aufert Notus; undique fervent
 aequora, cum subitus trifida Neptunus in hasta 641
 caeruleum fundo caput extulit. "hanc mihi Pallas
 et soror hanc" inquit "mulcens mea pectora fletu
 abstulerint; veniant Phariae Tyriaeque carinae

¹ tota Beck: tota V.

¹ *I.e.* as men used to do before the Argonauts dared to sail upon them.

are dashed from the rowers' hands; the ship's head is turned aslant, and on her side she receives the sounding shocks; a sudden whirwind tears away the sails that flap over the tottering mast. What dread came then upon the trembling Minyæ, when the darkling heavens shone and flashing lightnings fell ahead of the terror-stricken ship, and the yard-arm dipped to larboard and tossed up the water of the gulfy waves upon its point! They think not in their ignorance that storm and wind arose at a god's behest, but that even thus is the sea. Then with sorrowful cry: "So this was why our fathers feared unlawfully to profane the waters. Scarcely have we weighed anchor when lo! the Aegean rises with fearful tumult. Is this the sea where clash the Cyanean rocks? Or can there be waters yet more perilous awaiting us wretched men? Leave all hope of seafaring, ye dwellers upon land, and once more¹ shun the holy waves." Thus did they cry, sorrowing the while that they must die a dullard's death. Amphitryon's great-hearted son gazes on his quivers and his oak-club, useless now; the rest in fear join for the last time in converse, clasp hands and weary their lips, sunk in contemplation of the woeful sight, and forthwith the timbers are loosened and the vessel drinks in the sea through a gaping cleft. Now the East wind lashes and turns the ship this way and that; now the South wind roaring with the West carries it along: all round the waters boil, when suddenly Neptune armed with his three-pronged spear raised his dark-blue head from the depths. "This ship," said he, "let Pallas and my sister, softening my heart with their tears, save from me; yea, let the vessels come from Pharos and from Tyre,

permissumque putent. quotiens mox rapta videbo
 vela notis plenasque malis clamoribus undas! 646
 non meus Orion aut saevus Pliae Taurus
 mortis causa novae. miseris tu gentibus, Argo,
 fata paras, nec iam merito tibi, Tiphys, quietum
 ulla parens volet Elysium manesque piorum." 650
 haec ait et pontum pater ac turbata reponit
 litora depellitque notos, quos caeruleus horror
 et madido gravis unda sinu longeque secutus
 imber ad Aeoliae tendunt simul aequora portae.
 emicuit reserata dies caelumque resolvit 655
 arcus et in summos redierunt nubila montes.
 iam placidis ratis exstat aquis, quam gurgite ab imo
 et Thetis et magnis Nereus socer erigit ulnis.
 ergo umeros ductor sacro velatur amictu
 Aesoniamque capit pateram, quam munere gaudens
 liquerat hospitio pharetrasque rependerat auro 661
 Salmoneus, nondum ille furens cum fingeret alti
 quadrifida trabe tela Iovis contraque ruenti
 Authon aut Rhodopen maestae nemora ardua Pisae
 aemulus et miser ipse ureret Elidis agros. 665
 hac pelago libat latices et talibus inquit:
 "di, quibus undarum tempestatisque sonorae
 imperium et magno penitus par regia caelo,
 tuque, fretum divosque pater sortite biformes,

¹ Orion and the Pleiads (the latter being very near to the Bull) are frequently referred to as being the cause of the bad weather that accompanies their setting in early autumn.

² Neptune saves the ship because it will be the means of enticing many other ships to sail upon the sea and thus get shipwrecked; this will be the fault, not of the constellations usually blamed for it, but of Argo herself.

³ The gate of Aeolus, to which the winds are returning after their escapade.

⁴ 'father-in-law,' i.e. of Peleus, who was among the Argonauts.

and think they are but doing what is lawful. O many are the sails that I shall see ere long torn away by the South winds, and the waves ringing with cries of affliction! Neither my son Orion nor the Bull fierce with his train of Pleiads¹ is the cause of this strange form of death. Thou, Argo, thou hast devised death for unhappy nations, and thou, Tiphys, never henceforth dost deserve that any mother pray that thou mayest find peace in Elysium and among the spirits of the holy dead."² So spoke the Father and lulled the sea and the beaten shores, and drove away the South winds, in whose train dark curling waters, surge-laden folds of heavy billows and the rainstorm far behind move on together to the seas of the Aeolian gate.³ The day unprisoned shone forth, a rainbow disclosed the sky, and the clouds rose again to the mountain summits. Now the vessel stands high out of calm waters, and Thetis and father-in-law⁴ Nereus with mighty arms supports it from the bottom of the sea. Therefore the leader covers his shoulders in a sacred robe and takes a goblet pertaining unto Aeson, which Salmoneus for joy at his presents had left him in friendship's name and repaid his arrows and quiver with its gold, not yet the madman he was when he strove to fashion the weapons of high Jupiter from a four-forked beam, and seeking to rival him in his onslaught against Athos or Rhodope himself burnt the tall forests of unhappy Pisa and the hapless fields of Elis. From this goblet he pours a libation into the sea and begins to speak thus: "O ye gods to whom belongs the rule over water and sounding storm, whose palace measures all the depth of the mighty sky, and thou Father, whose lot are the seas and the twy-formed gods, whether that darkness

seu casus nox ista fuit seu, volvitur axis 670
 ut superum, sic stare loco ¹ tollique vicissim
 pontus habet, seu te subitae nova puppis imago
 armorumque hominumque truces consurgere in iras
 impulit, haec luerim satis et tua numina, rector,
 iam fuerint meliora mihi. da reddere terris 675
 has animas patriaeque amplecti limina portae.
 tum quocumque loco meritas tibi plurimus aras
 pascet ² honos, ubicumque rotis horrendus equisque
 stas, pater, atque ingens utrimque fluentia Triton
 frena tenet, tantus nostras condere ³ per urbes." 680
 dixerat haec. oritur clamor dextraeque sequuntur
 verba ducis. sic cum stabulis et messibus ingens
 ira deum et Calabri populator Sirius arvi
 incubuit, coit agrestum manus anxia priscum
 in nemus et miseris dictat pia vota sacerdos. 685
 ecce autem molli zephyros descendere lapsu
 aspiciunt; volat immissis cava pinus habenis
 infurditque salum et spumnas vomit aere tridenti:
 Tiphys agit tacitique sedent ad iussa ministri;
 qualiter ad summi solium Iovis omnia circum 690
 prona parata deo, ventique imbresque nivesque
 fulguraque et tonitrus et adhuc in fontibus amnes.
 At subitus curaque ducem metus acrior omni
 mensque mali praesaga quatit, quod regis adortus
 progeniem raptoque dolis crudelis Acasto 695

¹ stare loco *Madvig*: staret opus *V*.

² pascet *Edd.*: pascit *V*.

³ condere *Heinsius*: concede *V*.

was but chance, or, even as the heavenly vault
 moves round, the sea also must needs stand calm
 and then again be upheaved, or the strange and
 sudden spectacle of a ship and armed warriors
 drove thee to such savage anger, grant that I may at
 least have paid ample atonement, and may thy god-
 head, O Lord, look kindlier on me now. O let me
 restore these lives to the land, and let me embrace
 the portals of my home again. Then in every place
 shall many a sacrifice feed thy well-deserving altars,
 wherever it be that thou, Father, standest terrible to
 view with thy chariot and horses, while on either
 side a huge Triton holds the flowing reins—through-
 out our cities shalt thou be established in all thy
 majesty." So he spake. Then rose a shout, and
 all with uplifted hands approved their leader's words.
 Even so when the heavy anger of the gods and Sirius,
 ravager of the Calabrian fields, has swooped down
 upon pen and cornland, a fearful band of countryfolk
 gathers in an ancient wood, while a priest dictates
 reverent vows for them in their distress. But lo!
 they see the southern breezes come gliding down-
 wards; the hollow vessel flies onward with loosened
 reins, cleaving the brine and dashing up the foam
 with its three-forked brazen prow. Tiphys is at the
 helm, and silently his helpers sit to do his bidding;
 even as by the throne of highest Jupiter all things
 are round about him alert and ready for the god,
 winds, showers, lightning, thunder, and rivers still
 in their springs.

But, on a sudden, fear keener than any anxiety
 and bodings of misfortune rack the leader, in that
 he had assailed the king's son and having cruelly
 seized Acastus by treachery had left the remainder

cetera nuda neci medioque in crimine patrem
liquerit ac nullis inopem vallaverit armis,
ipse procul nunc tuta tenens; ruat omnis in illos
quippe furor. nec vana pavet trepidatque futura.

Saevit atrox Pelias inimicaque vertice ab alto 700
vela videt nec qua se ardens effundere possit.

nil animi, nil regna iuvant; fremit obice ponti
clausa cohors telisque salum facibusque coruscant.
haut secus, aerisona volucer cum Daedalus Ida¹

prosihuit iuxtaque comes brevioribus alis, 705

nube nova linquente domos, Minoia frustra
infremuit manus et visu lassatur inani

omnis eques plenisque redit Gortyna pharetris.

quin etiam in thalamis primoque in limine Acasti
fusus humo iuvenis gressus et inania signa 710

ore premit sparsisque legens vestigia canis

"te quoque iam maesti forsan genitoris imago,
nate," ait "et luctus subeunt suspiria nostri,

iamque dolos circumque trucis discrimina leti
mille vides. qua te, infelix, quibus insequar oris? 715

non Scythicas ferus ille domos nec ad ostia Ponti

tendit iter, falsae sed captum laudis amore

te, puer, in nostrae durus tormenta senectae
nunc lacerat. celsis an si freta puppibus essent

pervia, non ultro invenes classemque dedissem? 720

¹ *Ida Pius Ald.* : ira V : ora C.

¹ Pelias, in revenge for the abduction of his son Acastus, plans to slay Jason's parents, Aeson and Alcimedea.

² Jason, braving the new element of water in the Argo, is well compared to Daedalus braving the element of air.

of his kin exposed to death and his father in the toils of crime, and had not fenced about his unguarded life with arms, while he himself now far away has won safety; for upon them will all the king's wrath burst. Nor are these fears idle, but he has misgivings for things that will come to pass.¹

Savage Pelias rages as from a high peak he beholds the sails of his enemy, and knows not how his anger can find vent. Nor courage, nor empire avail; hemmed in by the barrier of the sea his soldiery chafe, and the brine sparkles with their weapons and torches. Even so when winged Daedalus² soared away from Ida that rang with the clash of bronze, his comrade with shorter pinions at his side, even so did Minos' warriors in vain utter a cry of rage as the strange cloud rose from the homes of man, and every horseman wearied his eyes in aimless gazing, and returned to Gortyn with quivers unemptied. Moreover, Pelias lying stretched upon the ground in the threshold of Acastus' chamber presses with his lips the places where the lad has trod and the empty traces of him, and with his white locks dishevelled goes over every step: "It may be that there rise before thee too," he cries, "the vision of thy mourning father and the sigh of my grief; and now thou seest all around thee treachery and a thousand risks of a cruel death. Where, unhappy child, to what shores can I follow thee? It is not towards the homes of Scythia or the mouth of Pontus that the cruel man directs his voyage; but thee, my boy, ensnared by the love of empty renown, the hard-hearted wretch even now torments to bring anguish on my old age. What! had the straits been navigable by the high ships, would I not of my own accord have given him

o domus, o freti nequiquam prole penates! " ¹
 dixit et extemplo furiis iraque minaci
 terribilis " sunt hic etiam tua vulnera, praedo,
 sunt lacrimae carusque parens." simul aedibus altis
 itque reditque fremens rerumque asperrima versat.
 Bistonas ad meritos cum cornua saeva Thyoneus 726
 torsit et infelix iam mille furoribus Haemus,
 iam Rhodopes nemora alta gemunt, talem incita longis
 porticibus coniunxque fugit natique Lycurgum.

Tartareo tum sacra Iovi Stygiisque ferebat 730
 manibus Alcimede tanto super anxia nato,
 siquid ab excitis melius praenosceret umbris.
 ipsum etiam curisque parem talesque prementem
 corde metus ducit, facilem tamen, Aesona coniunx.
 in scrobibus cruor et largus Phlegethontis operti 735
 stagnat honos, saevoque vocat grandaeva tumultu
 Thessalis exanimis atavos magnaepque nepotem
 Pleiones. et iam tenues ad carmina vultus
 extulerat maestosque tuens natumque nurumque
 talia libato pandebat sanguine Cretheus: 740
 " mitte metus, volat ille mari quantumque propinquat,
 iam magis atque magis variis stupet Aea deorum
 prodigiis quatiuntque truces oracula Colchos.
 heu quibus ingreditur fatis! qui gentibus horror

¹ penates *Balbus*: nepotes *V*: parentes *other MSS. and Edd.*

¹ King of the Edonians, who resisted Bacchus and was driven mad by him in revenge.

² Mercury, son of Maia, one of the Pleiads, who conducts the spirits of the dead.

men and vessels? O my house, O spirits of mine ancestors that trusted to no purpose in your offspring!" He spoke, and straightway frenzy and threatening rage made him fearful to look upon: "Here too, thou robber, are the means to wound thee, and here what shall move thy tears—thy loved father." At the same time he walks to and fro in the lofty palace, muttering to himself, and turning over plots most cruel: even such, when Thyoneus has turned his savage horns against the guilty Thracians, and now the mountains of unhappy Haemus filled with madness a thousandfold, now the tall forests of Rhodope groan—such was Lycurgus¹ before whom wife and sons in flight speed down the long colonnades.

Just then unto the lord of Tartarus and unto the Stygian ghosts was Alcimede bringing holy offerings in fear for her mighty son, if shades summoned forth might give her surer knowledge. Even Aeson himself, who shares her anxiety but who hides such unmanly fears in his heart, yields and is led by his wife. In a trench stands blood and a plenteous offering to hidden Phlegethon, and with fierce cries an aged witch calls upon her departed ancestors and the grandson of great Pleione.² And now at the sound of the spell rose a face, unsubstantial, and Cretheus gazed upon his mournful son and daughter-in-law, and when he had sipped the blood he began to utter these words: "Banish all fear! he is flying over the ocean, and as he draws ever nearer more and more does Aea marvel at the manifold miracles of heaven, and fierce Colchis is shaken by the prophecies. Alas! to what destinies doth he move forward! His coming is the terror of nations!

pergit! mox Scythiae spoliis nuribusque superbus 745
 adveniet; cuperem ipse graves tum rumpere terras.
 sed tibi triste nefas fraternaue turbidus arma
 rex parat et saevos irarum concepit ignes.
 quin rapis hanc animam et tremulos¹ citus effugis
 artus?

i, meus es, iam te in lucos pia turba silentum 750
 secretisque ciet volitans pater Aeolus arvis."

Horruit interea famulum clamore supremo
 maesta domus, regemque fragor per moenia differt
 mille ciere manns et iam dare inssa vocatis.
 flagrantes aras vestemque nemusque sacerdos 755
 praecipitat, subitisque pavens circumspicit Aeson,
 quid moveat. quasi multa leo cunctatur in arta
 mole virum rictuque genas et lumina pressit:
 sic cnrae subiere ducem, ferrumne capessat
 imbelles atque aevi senior gestamina primi 760
 an patres regnique acuat mntabile vulgus.

contra effusa manus haerensque in pectore coniunx
 "me quoque" ait "casus comitem quicumque
 propinquat

accipies, nec fata traham natumque videbo
 te sine, sat caeli patiens, cum prima per altum 765
 vela dedit, potni quae tantum ferre dolorem."
 talia per lacrimas. et iam circumspicit Aeson,

¹ tremulos *Thilo*: famulos *V.*

A little while and he shall return glorying in the spoils and the brides of Scythia; then would I, even I, long to burst the weight of earth. But against thee the violent king prepareth a deadly crime and arms, brother against brother, and is nursing the fierce fires of his passion. Why dost thou not snatch away thy life, and quickly escape from these trembling limbs? Come then, thou art my son, already the silent throng of the sanctified call thee to their glades, and Aeolus thy father who sits in the sequestered fields."

Meanwhile the sorrowing home shuddered with the despairing cries of the slaves, and throughout the walls of the city the rumour spreads that the king is levying a thousand troops and is already giving command to those summoned. In haste the priest leaves the blazing altars and the grove and casts aside his robes, and Aeson in fear at these sudden happenings looks around him wondering what he should devise. Even as a lion hemmed round by a thick mass of men will hesitate a long while, and with huge gaping jaws wrinkles up cheeks and eyes, so do doubts crowd upon the prince—is he to seize a feeble sword? shall he in his old age wield the weapons of early youth? shall he stir up the elders and the fickle folk of the kingdom? But his wife, with outstretched hands, clinging to his breast, cries: "Nay, but thou shalt take me as partner in whatever fortune shall shortly be thine; I will not prolong my life, nor look upon my son without thee, I who had endured long enough the light of day when first he set sail over the main, I who had strength to bear this deep sorrow." So she spoke through her tears. And now Aeson bethinks him by what end he

praeveniat quo sine minas, quae fata capessat
 digna satis: magnos obitus natumque domumque
 et genus Aeolium pugnataque poscere bella. 770
 est etiam ante oculos aevum rudis altera proles,
 ingentes animos et fortia discere facta
 quem velit atque olim leti meminisse paterni.
 ergo sacra novat. veteris sub nocte cupressi
 sordidus et multa pallens ferrugine taurus 775
 stabat adhuc, cui caeruleae per cornua vittae
 et taxi frons hirta comis; ipse aeger anhelans
 impatiensque loci visaque exterritus umbra.
 hunc sibi praecipuum gentis de more nefandae
 Thessalis in seros Ditis servaverat usus. 780
 illum ubi terrifici superesse in tempore sacri
 conspexit, statuit leto supremaeque fatur
 ipse manu tangens damnati cornua tauri:
 " vos, quibus imperium Iovis et non segne peractum
 lucis iter, mihi consiliis, mihi cognita bellis 785
 nomina magnorum fama sacrata nepotum;
 tuque, excite parens umbris, ut nostra videres
 funera et oblitos superum paterere dolores,
 da placidae mihi sedis iter meque hostia vestris
 conciliet praemissa locis. tu, nuntia sontum 790
 virgo Iovi, terras oculis quae prospicis aequis,
 ultricesque deae Fasque et grandaeva Furorum
 Poena parens, meriti regis succedite tectis
 et saevas inferte faces. sacer effera raptet
 corda pavor; nec sola mei gravia adfore nati 795

¹ Probably *Astraea* is meant.

may outstrip the threats of the king, how he may embrace a worthy fate: his son, his home, the race of Aeolus and the wars he has fought demand a noble death. Furthermore, he sees before him his second son of unripe years, into whom he would fain instil high courage and the knowledge of brave deeds, and the memory in days to come of his father's death. Therefore he returns to the holy rites. Beneath the gloom of an ancient cypress, squalid and ghastly with darksome hue, a bull still stood, dark blue fillets on his horns, his brow rough with the foliage of yew; the beast too was downcast, panting and restless, and terrified at the sight of the shade. The witch, according to the custom of her evil race, had kept him, chosen above all others, to use him now at last for these hellish practices. When Aeson saw that the bull still remained at the hour of the awful rites unslain, he dooms him to death, and with one hand upon the horns of the fated victim speaks for the last time: " O ye who received from Jupiter your reign and the light of life not idly spent, names known to me in councils and in wars, names hallowed by the good report of your grandchildren; and thou, my father, summoned forth from the shades to view my death and to endure again the forgotten sorrows of men on earth, O grant me entry to the abode of quiet, and may the victim that I send before me win favour for me in your dwelling. And thou, O maid, that dost report guilty deeds to Jove,¹ who lookest down upon earth with unerring eyes, ye avenging goddesses, thou Divine Law, and thou Retribution, aged mother of furies, enter into the sinful palace of the king, and bring upon him your fierce torches. Let accursed fear ravish his maddened heart; nor let him deem

arma ratemque putet: classes et Pontica signa
 atque indignatos temerato litore reges
 mente agitet semperque metu decurrat ad undas
 arma ciens; mors sera viam temptataque claudat
 effugia et nostras nequeat praecurrere diras, 800
 sed reduces iam iamque viros auroque coruscum
 cernat iter. stabo insultans et ovantia contra
 ora manusque feram. tum, vobis siquod inausum
 arcanumque nefas et adhuc incognita¹ leti
 sors superest, date fallaci pudibunda senectae 805
 exitia indecoresque obitus. non Marte nec armis
 aut nati precor ille mei dignatus ut unquam
 ense cadat; quae fida manus, quae cara suorum
 diripiat laceretque senem nec membra sepulchro
 contegat. haec noster de rege piacula sanguis 810
 sumat et heu cunctae quas misit in aequora gentes."
 tergemina tum placat eram Stygiasque supremo
 obsecrat igne domos iam iam exorabile retro
 carmen agens; neque enim ante leves niger avehit
 umbras
 portitor et vinctae primis stant faucibus Orci. 815
 adstitit et nigro fumantia pocula tabo
 contigit ipsa gravi Furiarum maxima dextra;
 illi avidae exceptum pateris hausere cruorem.

¹ incognita *Edd.*: incondita *V.*

¹ The princes of all the southern shore of the Black Sea, who will come to exact vengeance from Pelias for sending Argo.

² The reference is to the dismemberment of Pelias by his own daughters, who expected in vain that Medea would rejuvenate him.

³ Hecate, who was also Diana and the Moon, must be appeased as goddess of the underworld, in order that the

that my son alone will come with grim weapons in his bark, but let his mind be troubled with fleets and the banners of Pontus and indignant princes from an outraged shore; ¹ let him ever in fear hurry down to the water's edge, calling to his warriors; let death long delayed shut every path of escape he essays, let him not outstrip my curses, but let him behold every moment the heroes returning and the road sparkling with the fleece of gold. I shall stand vaunting, and move before him with countenance and hands triumphant. Then, if there still remain some monstrous deed ye have not dared, some secret horror, some manner of death as yet unknown, oh grant to his old age—the traitor!—a shameful end, a death unseemly. And I pray that he may never be deemed worthy to fall by the War-god's hand, by arms or by the sword of my son; let the band he trusteth, let his own kin that he holds dear tear in sunder and mutilate the aged man, and never bury his limbs in a tomb.² Such be the retribution that my son exacts from the king, and all the nations, alas! whom the king has sent to sea." Then he appeases the goddess of triple form, and with his last sacrifice offers a prayer to the Stygian abodes, rehearsing backward a spell soon, soon to prove persuasive; for without that no thin shade will the dark ferryman take away, and bound they stand at the mouth of Orcus.³ The chief of the Furies stood close by him, and touched with heavy hand the cup that steamed with deadly venom; eagerly they drank and drained the blood from the bowl.

spirits sent up thence might be allowed to return. The lines 781-4 in the MSS. have been transposed here, as they are clearly out of place there.

Fit fragor; irrumpunt foribus qui saeva ferebant
imperia et strictos iussis regalibus enses. 820

in media iam morte senes suffectaque leto
lumina et undanti revomentes peste cruorem
conspiciunt; primoque rudem sub limine rerum
te, puer, et visa pallentem morte parentum
diripiunt adduntque tuis. procul horruit Aeson 825
exedens memoremque tulit sub nubibus umbram.

Cardine sub nostro rebusque abscaisa supernis
Tartarei sedet aula patris, non illa ruenti
accessura polo, victam si volvere molem¹

* * *

ingenti iacet ore Chaos, quod pondere fessam 831
materiem lapsamque queat consumere mundum.
hic geminae infernum² portae, quarum altera dura
semper lege patens populos regesque receptat;
ast aliam temptare nefas et tendere contra; 835
rara et sponte patet, siquando pectore ductor
vulnera nota gerens, galeis praefixa rotisque
cui domus aut studium mortales pellere curas,
culti fides, longe metus atque ignota cupido;
seu venit in vittis castaque in veste sacerdos. 840
quos omnes lenis plantis et lampada quassans
progenies Atlantis agit. lucet via late
igne dei, donec silvas et amoena piorum
deveniant camposque, ubi sol totumque per annum

¹ After this line there is a lacuna in V.

² infernum Jeep: aeternum V.

¹ The spirit of Aeson rises into the upper air on its release from the body, subsequently joining the spirits of the blest in Elysium. Valerius combines the philosophic doctrine

A tumult arose; with a shout there burst in soldiers bearing stern commands and weapons drawn at the king's behest. They beheld the aged pair already in the grip of doom, their eyes dulled in death, and spewing forth a poisonous stream of blood; and thee, child, innocent on the threshold of life and pale at the sight of thy parents' death, they mutilate and set thee with thy kindred. Near by Aeson shuddered as he passed away, and his ghost carried the memory to the clouds above.¹

Beneath our pole, cut off from the things of the upper world, deep down lies the palace of the Tartarean Father; never would it share the fate of the toppling sky, even if the mass were sent rolling wide-mouthed Chaos lies, so huge that it could swallow all matter, wearied with its own burden, and the falling universe. Here are the twin doors of the shades below; one, by stern law ever open, receives nations and kings; but the other none may try, none may struggle to unbar; seldom only and of itself does it open, whenever a leader comes with glorious wounds upon his breast, whose home bears trophies of helmets and chariot-wheels, or one who strove to ease the cares of man, whose honour was kept lively, who had banished fear and knew not desire, or if a priest in fillets and pure apparel draws near. All such the son of Atlas guides forward, moving with gentle step, a torch in his hand. Afar the path gleams with the light of the god, until they come to the woods and the pleasant dwellings of the sanctified and the meads where all the year sun and sunlit days endure, where are revels

with the more popular belief. (Cf. Cic. *Sonn. Scip.* ch. V, Statius, *Silv.* 2. 7. 107 and specially Lucan 9. init.)

durat aprica dies thiasique chorique virorum 845
 carminaque et quorum populis iam nulla cupido.
 has pater in sedes aeternaque moenia natum
 inducitque nurum. tum porta quanta sinistra
 poena docet maneat Pelian, quot limine monstra.¹
 mirantur tantos strepitus turbamque ruentem 850
 et loca et infernos almae virtutis honores.

¹ quot . . . monstra *Postgate*: quo . . . monstrat *V.*

and dancing and singing, and such things as the nations have no desire of now. Into this resting-place and these everlasting walls the father leads his son with his wife. Then he shows them what terrible torments await Pelias by the left gate, how many monstrous creatures stand upon the threshold. They marvel at the mighty uproar, at the onrushing host; they marvel at the region where kindly virtue is rewarded in the world below.

BOOK II

LIBER SECUNDUS

BOOK II

INTEREA scelerum luctusque ignarus Iason
 alta secat; neque enim patrios cognoscere casus
 Iuno sinit, mediis ardens ne flectat ab undis
 ac temere in Pelian et adhuc obstantia regis
 fata ruat placitosque deis ne deserat actus. 5

Iamque fretis summas aequatum Pelion ornos
 templaque Tisaeae mergunt obliqua Dianae;
 iam Sciathos subsedit aquis, iam longa recessit
 Sepias; attollit tondentes pabula Magnes
 campus equos; vidisse putant Dolopeia busta 10
 intrantemque Amyron curvas quaesita per oras
 aequora, flumineo cuius redeuntia vento
 vela legunt, remis insurgitur; inde salutant
 Eurymenas; recipit velumque fretumque reversus
 auster et in nubem Minyis repetentibus altum 15
 Ossa redit. metus ecce deum damnataque bello
 Pallene, circumque vident immania monstra
 terrigenum caelo quondam adversata gigantum,
 quos scopulis trabibusque parens miserata iugisque
 induit et versos extruxit in aethera montes. 20

quisque suas in rupe minas pugnamque melusque
 servat adhuc; quatit ipse hiemes et torquet ab alto
 fulmina crebra pater; scopulis sed maximus illis

¹ Tisaeum is a promontory of Magnesia.

ALL this time Jason, knowing nothing of the crime and of the sorrowing, is cleaving the deep; for Juno suffered him not to learn his father's fate, for fear he should turn in passion midway, and hurl himself blindly against Pelias and his royal destiny that still opposed, for fear too that he should leave undone the task decreed by heaven.

And now they see Pelion and its crown of mountain ashes level with the waves, and the temple of Tisaeum¹ Diana plunge out of sight abeam; and now Sciathos has sunk into the waters, now the long line of Sepias fades; the Magnesian plain raises before them its grazing horses; they think they see the grave of Dolops and the Amyros meeting the sea long sought in winding course, and they furl the sails blown backward by the river breeze and labour at the oars; next they hailed Eurymenae; the South wind returning again possessed sail and sea, and as the Minyae again put outward, again Ossa faded into cloud. Lo! here the terror of the gods, Pallene, their fated battle-ground: all about they saw the monstrous forms of Earth's children, that once made war on heaven, the Giants, whom in compassion their mother clothed with rocks, trees, crags, and piled up to heaven new-shaped as mountains. And still in stone each threatens, battles or cowers; with his own hand their father wields his storms and hurls bolt after bolt from on high; but not among those

horror abest, Sícula pressus tellure Typhoeus.
 hunc profugum et sacras revomentem pectore flam-
 mas, 25
 ut memorant, prensus ipse comis Neptunus in altum
 abstulit implicuitque vadis totiensque cruenta
 mole resurgentem torquentemque anguibus undas
 Sicaniúm vehit usque fretum cumque urbibus
 Aetnam
 intulit ora premens; trux ille eiecat adesi 30
 fundamenta iugi; pariter tunc omnis anhelat
 Trinacria, iniectam fesso dum pectore molem
 commovet experiens gemituque reponit inani.
 Iamque Hyperionius metas maris urget Hiberi
 currus et evectae pronó laxantur habenae 35
 aethere, cum palmas Tethys grandaeva sinusque
 sustulit et rupto sonuit sacer aequore Titan.
 auxerat hora metus, iam se vertentis Olympi
 ut faciem raptosque simul montesque locosque
 ex oculis circumque graves videre tenebras. 40
 ipsa quies rerum mundique silentia terrent
 astraque et effusis stellatus crinibus aether.
 ac velut ignota captus regione viarum
 noctivagum qui carpit iter non aure quiescit,
 non oculis, noctisque metus niger auget utrumque 45
 campus et occurrens umbris maioribus arbor,
 haud aliter trepidare viri. sed pectora firmans
 Hagniadés " non hanc " inquit " sine numine pinum
 derigimus, nec me tantum Tritonia cursus
 cruditi; saepe ipsa manu dignata carinam est. 50

¹ Or perhaps 'hissed', as in l. 373.

rocks is the chiefest dread; Typhoeus lies crushed beneath Sicilian soil. Men say that as he fled, blasting forth accursed fires from his breast, Neptune grasped him by the hair, bore him out to sea and entangled him in the waters, and as the bloody mass rose again and again, churning the waves with serpent limbs, took him far away to the Sicilian waters and down upon his head placed all Aetna with her cities; savage still he throws up the foundations of the caverned mountain; then heaves Trinacria throughout her length and breadth, as he struggles and shifts the burdening mass with weary breast, to let it fall again with a groan—baffled.

And now Hyperion's ear drew close to its goal in the Hiberian sea, and with declining day the reins slackened at the journey's end, what time the ancient Tethys raised her hands for the embrace and the holy Titan thundered¹ as he cleft the floor of Ocean. Their fear deepened with the night as they beheld the face of the heavens turning and the mountains and all places rapt from view and all around thick darkness. The very stillness of Nature, the silent constellations in the heavens, the firmament starred with streaming meteors filled them with fear. And as a traveller by night overtaken in some unknown spot upon the road keeps ear and eye alert, while the darkening landscape to left and right and trees looming up with shadows strangely huge do but make heavier the terrors of night, even so the heroes quailed. But Hagnius' son comforted their breasts, saying: " Not without the help of a god do we pilot this ship; nor has the Tritonian queen but taught me the ways of the sea; oft-times has she herself deigned to guide our keel. What? felt we not her hand when

an non experti, subitus cum luce fugata
 horruit imbre dies? quantis, pro Iuppiter, austris
 restitimus! quanta quotiens en Palladis arte
 incassum decimae cecidit tumor arduus undae!
 quin agite, o socii; micat immutabile caelum 55
 paraque nec gravido surrexit Cynthia cornu,
 nullus in ore rubor, certusque ad talia Titan
 integer in fluctus et in uno decidit auro.¹
 adde, quod in noctem venti veloque marique
 incumbunt magis, it² tacitis ratis ocior horis. 60
 atque adeo non illa sequi mihi sidera monstrat,³
 quae delapsa polo reficit mare: tantus Orion
 iam cadit, irato iam stridet in aequore Perseus;
 sed mihi dux, vetitis qui numquam conditus undis
 axe nitet serpens septenosque implicat ignes.⁴ 65
 sic ait et certi memorat qui vultus Olympi,
 Pleiones Hyadumque locos, quo sidere vibret
 Ensis et Actaeus niteat qua luce Bootes.
 haec ubi dicta dedit, Cereris tum munere fessas
 restituunt vires et parco corpora Baccho; 70
 mox somno cessere; regunt sua sidera puppem.
 Iamque sub Eoae dubio Pallantidos⁴ igne
 albet ager motisque truces ab ovilibus ursi
 tuta domosque petunt, raras et litus in altum
 mittit aves; cum primus equis exegit anhelis 75
 Phoebus Athon mediasque diem dispersit in undas,
 certatim remis agitur mare rostroque cursu
 prima tremunt; et iam summis Vulcania surgit

¹ auro *Editio Bononiensis (marg.)*: euro V.

² it *Ed. Bon. Ald.*: et V. ³ monstrat *Voss*: monstrant V.

⁴ Pallantidos *Madvig*: Atlantidis V.

¹ Considered to be a sign of coming storm.

² Aurora, the Dawn, one of whose ancestors was the giant Pallas; cf. Ovid, *Fasts* 4. 373, *Met.* 9. 320.

suddenly the light was quenched and the day grew
 rough with storm? How great, ye heavens, the tem-
 pests against which we have prevailed! How many a
 time through Pallas' sovran skill the mounting heap of
 the tenth wave has fallen harmless! Nay then, courage,
 comrades! the sky shines unchanging, and clear with
 sharp horns the moon has risen; no ruddy glow¹ is in
 her face, and Titan, who in such matters lies not, sank
 full-orbed into the waters, one blaze of gold. More-
 over, at nightfall the breezes blow stronger upon sail
 and sea: the ship flies swifter in the silent hours.
 Furthermore, she teaches me not to follow those
 stars that go down to draw new strength from Ocean:
 see, mighty Orion is sinking, and Perseus is hissing
 in the angry waters; no, my guide shall be he that
 never hides beneath the forbidden waters as he shines
 about the pole, the serpent that enfolds the seven
 stars." So spake he, and showed them how clear the
 face of the heavens, where Pleione and the Hyades
 were, in what constellation flashed Orion's sword,
 how brilliant shone the Actaeon Bootes. When he
 had thus spoken, they renewed their weary bodies'
 strength with the gift of Ceres and a little wine;
 presently sleep overcame them; kindly stars guide
 the ship.

And now as the fires of the Pallantian maid² grow
 faint in the east, the land lightens; from the scared
 sheepcotes the fierce bears return to the covert of
 their dens; from the shore birds scatter over the
 deep; then the first rays from Phoebus' panting
 horses traversed Athos and flung day abroad over
 the waters. Eagerly the rowers smote the sea and
 made the prow's point quiver with their speed, until
 Lemnos, Vulcan's home, rose above the crest of

Lemnos aquis tibi per varios defleta labores,
ignipotens; nec te furis et crimine matrum 80
terra fugat meritique piget meminisse prioris.

Tempore quo primum fremitus insurgere opertos
caelicolum et regni sensit novitate tumentes
Iuppiter aetheriae nec stare silentia pacis,
Innonem volucri primam suspendit Olympo 85
horrendum chaos ostendens poenasque barathri.
mox etiam pavidae temptantem vincula matris
solvere praerupti Vulcanum vertice caeli
devolvit; ruit ille polo noctemque diemque
turbinis in morem, Lemni dum litore tandem 90
insonuit. vox inde repens ut perculit urbem,
adclinem scopulo inveniunt miserentque foventque
alternos aegro cunctantem poplite gressus.
hinc, rursus superas postquam pater adnuat arces,
Lemnos cara deo, nec fama notior Aetne 95
aut Lipares domus: has epulas, haec templa peracta
aegide et horrifici formatis fulminis alis
laetus adit. contra Veneris stat frigida semper
ara loco, meritas postquam dea coniugis iras
horruit et tacitae Martem tenere catenae. 100
quocirca struit illa nefas Lemnoque merenti
exitium furiale movet; neque enim alma videri
tantum ea cum¹ tereti crinem subnectitur auro
sidereos diffusa sinus, eadem efferat et ingens
et maculis suffecta genas pinumque sonantem 105
virginibus Stygiis nigramque simillima pallam.

¹ tantum ea cum *Madvig*: iam tum ea cum *V.*

¹ See ll. 90-98 below.

the waves, Lemnos, for whose many sufferings thou mournedst, Lord of Fire; not the frenzy and guilt of the women can drive thee from the land, and it is still sweet to think upon its former service.¹

What time Jupiter first heard the rising tide of secret girdings, and felt the anger of the gods kindle against his new sovereignty, and that the calm of peace in heaven could not last, first he hung up Juno from the wheeling sky and showed to her chaos in its horror and the doom of the abyss. And presently when Vulcan would have undone his trembling mother's fetters, down from the sheer height of heaven he cast him; and from the sky daylong and nightlong he fell as in a whirlwind, until at length he thundered upon the shore of Lemnos. Then when his sudden cries thrilled the city, men found him leaning against a rock; they took compassion on him and nursed him, as on weak knees he moved slowly step by step. Hence, ever since the Father suffered him to return to the heights of heaven, Lemnos has been dear to the god, nor is Aetna nor his Liparaean home more renowned: here is the board, here too is the temple where he loves to repair when he has completed the aegis or forged wings for the dire thunderbolt. But there Venus' altar stands ever cold, since the day when the goddess trembled before her husband's righteous anger, while Mars lay bound in the noiseless-woven fetters. For this cause she is plotting evil and scheming destruction for guilty Lemnos like some Fury; for she hath not only a gracious aspect when she binds her hair with golden pin, her bright robes falling loose about her; it is the same goddess that, fierce and huge, her cheeks blotched and dark, seems like a Hell-maid with her crackling torch and black mantle.

Iamque dies aderat, Thracas qui fuderat armis.
 dux Lemni puppes tenui contexere canna
 ausus et inducto cratem defendere tergo.
 laeta mari tum signa refert, plenasque movebant 110
 armentis nuribusque rates; his¹ barbara vestis
 et torques, insigne loci sonat aequore clamor
 "o patria, o variis coniunx nunc anxia curis,
 has agimus longi famulas tibi praemia belli":
 cum dea se piceo per sudum turbida nimbo 115
 praecipitat famamque vagam vestigat in umbra,
 quam pater omnipotens digna atque indigna canentem
 spargentemque metus placidis regionibus arcet
 aetheris: illa fremens habitat sub nubibus imis,
 non erebi, non diva poli, terrasque fatigat, 120
 quas datar; auditam² primi spernuntque foveatque;
 mox omnes agit et motis quatit oppida linguis.
 talem diva sibi scelerisque dolique ministrarum
 quaerit avens. videt illa prior, iamque advolat ultro
 impatiens, iamque ora parat, iam suscitatur aures. 125
 hanc superincendit Venus atque his vocibus implet:
 "vade age et aequoream, virgo, delabere Lemnon
 et cunctas mihi verte domos, praecurrere qualis
 bella soles, cum mille tabas armataque campis
 agmina et innumerum flatus confingis equorum. 130

¹ his *Bachrens*: et *V*.

² auditam *Thilo*: audentem *V*.

¹ The story was that the Lemnian men who had been fighting on the mainland against the Thracians came back with concubines and would have nothing to do with their own wives, who thereupon murdered them—a simpler version of the *Agamemnon* applied to a whole community; in Valerius the fury of the women first arises from a suspicion and rumour that such is the case, though in 344-5 it is implied that the suspicion was not groundless. Another difference is that the disaster is plotted by Venus as a punishment for Vulcan's

And now the day had come which saw the rout of the Thracians in battle.¹ The captain of Lemnos made bold to plait their withes into ships and to cover the wicker-work with layers of hide. Then rejoicing he bears his standards home across the sea, and they rowed ships laden with flocks and women; strange garments had these and necklaces, the marks of their land. Over the waters rang the shout: "O country, O wife now troubled with many a care, see the slaves we bring you, prizes of the long war!" Then the goddess in hot haste threw herself to the earth in a pitchy cloud through the clear sky, and in the darkness tracked wandering Rumour, her whom the almighty Father has shut out from his peaceful world of heaven, whose voice is ever sounding both good and evil and spreading panic; in wrath she dwells deep beneath the clouds, a spirit neither of hell nor of heaven, and troubles the earth; for this is permitted her: at first when men hear her they scorn her, yet cherish her, until presently she assails all men, and cities are shaken with busy tongues. Such an instrument of sin and craft the goddess is eagerly seeking for her purpose. Rumour sees her first, and already unannounced flies up impatient; already she sets her countenance, already pricks up her ears. Venus inflames her yet more and inspires her with these words: "Up, thou! get thee down to sea-girt Lemnos and stir up every home for me, even as when thou comest heralding war, bringing tales of a thousand trumpets and armed multitudes on the plains and the snortings of countless chargers. Tell

detection of her intrigue with Mars, while in Statius, who here follows Apollonius, the goddess is taking vengeance for neglect of her worship.

adfore iam luxu turpique cupidine captos
 fare viros carasque toris inducere Thressas.
 haec tibi principia, hinc rabidas dolor undique matres
 instimulet: mox ipsa adero ducamque paratas."

Illa abit et mediam gaudens defertur in urbem; 135
 et primam Eurynomen ad proxima limina Codri
 occupat exesam curis castumque cubile
 servantem: manet illa viro famulasque fatigat
 velleribus,¹ tardi reputant quae tempora belli
 ante torum et longo mulcent insomnia penso. 140
 huic dea cum lacrimis et nota veste Neaerae
 ieta genas "utinam non hic tibi nuntius essem,
 o soror, aut nostros" inquit "prius unda dolores
 obruat, in tali quoniam tibi tempore coniunx
 sic meritae, votis quem tu fletuque requiris, 145
 heu fuit et captae indigno famulatur amore.
 iamque aderunt thalamisque tuis Threissa propinquat
 non forma, non arte colus, non laude pudoris
 par tibi; nec magni proles praeclara Dorycli,
 picta manus ustoque placet sed barbara mento. 150
 ac tamen hos aliis forsán solabere casus
 tu thalamis fatoque leges meliore penates;
 me tua matris egens damnataque paelice proles
 exanimat, quam iam miseros transversa tuentem

¹ velleribus *Edd.*: litoribus *V.*

how the men are coming, enslaved by delicate living
 and shameful lust, and are bringing women from
 Thrace to share the bed of love. Be that the outline
 of thy tale; from that let resentment sting and
 madden every woman far and wide; presently I
 myself will come and lead them thus wrought
 upon."

The other departed and went down rejoicing into
 the midst of the city; she first accosts Eurynome at
 the house of Codrus near by, as she sat worn by
 anxious fears, still preserving undefiled her marriage-
 bed; faithful to her husband she wears her maids
 with wool-spinning; and they reckon up the days of
 the dragging war by her bedside, as they soothe her
 sleepless nights with their unending toil. To her the
 goddess comes weeping, in the well-known dress of
 Neaera and with smitten cheeks, and says: "Ah,
 sister, would that I were not the bearer of these
 tidings, or might the waters first cover the cause of
 our sorrows, since at this moment the husband thou
 hast served so well, he for whose return thou prayest
 and weepst (oh, shame!), is crazed, the servant
 of a bondslave's shameful love. Yes, soon they will
 be here, and to thy bridal chamber there comes a
 Thracian woman, no match for thee in beauty, in
 skill with the distaff or in fair fame for chastity; no
 glorious scion of the great Doryclus finds favour,
 but a foreign woman with stained hands and a
 branded face. For all that, it may be thou wilt
 find some other bride-bed to comfort thee for this
 loss and wilt choose some happier home; but I, I am
 maddened to think of thy children, their mother lost,
 condemned to a rival wife; and I see her eyeing them
 askance, poor wretches! I see the deadly meats

letaesque dapes infectaque pocula cerno. 155
 seis simile ut flammis simus genus; adde cruentis
 quod patrium saevire Dahis. iam lacte ferino,
 iam veniet durata gelu. sed me quoque pulsam
 fama viro, nostrosque toros vixgata tenebit
 et plastro derepta nurus." sic fata querellas 160
 abscidit et curis pavidam lacrimisque relinquit.
 transit ad Iphinoen isdemque Amythaonis implet
 Olenique domum furiis; totam inde per urbem
 personat, ut cunctas agitent expellere Lemno,
 ipsi urbem Thressaeque regant. dolor iraque
 surgit. 165
 obvia quaeque eadem traditque auditque, neque ulli
 vana fides. tum voce deos, tum questibus implent,
 oscula iamque toris atque oscula postibus ipsis
 ingeminant lacrimisque iterum visuque morantur.
 prosiliunt nec tecta virum thalamosque revisunt 170
 amplius; adglomerant sese nudisque sub astris
 condensae fletus acuunt ac dira precantur
 coniugia et Stygias infanda ad foedera taedas.

Has inter medias Dryopes in imagine maesta
 flet Venus et saevis ardens dea plangentibus instat 175
 primaque "Sarmaticas utinam Fortuna dedisset
 insedis domos tristesque habitasse pruinas,
 plaustra sequi, vel iam patriae vidisse per ignes
 culmen agi stragemque denum; nam cetera belli

and the drugged cup. Thou knowest how like flame
 our nature is; yes, but more than this, a thirst for
 blood is inborn in the Dahae. Soon, hard-reared
 amid frosts on wild beasts' milk, will she be here.
 Nay, rumour says that I too have been cast out by
 my husband, and some tattooed bride snatched from
 her waggon home shall lie in my bed." With these
 words she broke off her tale of sorrow, leaving the other
 to doubt and weep and tremble. She passed on to
 Iphinoe, and spread the same fire in the homes of
 Amythaon and Olenius; next through the whole
 city she cries aloud, that the men are plotting to
 drive them one and all from Lemnos, that they and
 their Thracian women may rule the city. The tides
 of jealous rage and anger begin to rise. And all as
 they met one another passed on and heard again
 the same story, nor was any disbelieved. Then they
 call upon the gods with shrill lament, and now on
 their beds, now on the very door-posts they shower
 kisses, and then again they tarry to weep and to
 look back. Forth they rush and seek no more their
 husbands' roof and the bridal chamber; together
 they throng, and close-packed beneath the naked
 stars wail ever louder, calling down curses on these
 weddings and the fires of hell on these monstrous
 unions.

Midst of them all in the form of the sorrowing
 Dryope Venus stands and weeps. Her fierce and
 passionate complainings never cease, and first she
 spoke: "O would that it had been my lot to find a
 home among the Sarmatians, to dwell amid the grim
 frosts and to follow a waggon, or even to have looked
 upon the flames devouring my father's house, and
 the ruin of our temples; for all the other misfortunes

perpetimur. mene ille novis, me destinat amens 180
 servitiis? urbem aufugiens natosque relinquam?
 non prius ense manus raptoque armabimus igne,
 dumque silent ducuntque nova cum coniuge somnos,
 magnum aliquid spirabit amor? " tunc ignea torquens
 lumina praecipites excussit ab ubere natos. 185
 ilicet arrectae mentes evictaque matrum
 corda sacer Veneris gemitus rapit: aequora cunctae
 prospiciunt simulantque choros delubraque festa
 fronde tegunt laetaeque viris venientibus adsunt.
 iamque domos mensasque petunt; discumbitur
 altis 190
 porticibus; sua cuique furens festinaque coniunx
 adiacet, inferni qualis sub nocte barathri
 adcubat attonitum Phlegyan et Thesea iuxta
 Tisiphone saevasque dapes et pocula libat
 (tormenti genus) et nigris amplectitur hydris. 195
 Ipsa Venus quassans undantem turbine pinum
 adglomerat tenebras pugnaeque adcincta trementem
 desilit in Lemnon; nimbis et luce fragosa
 prosequitur polus et tonitru pater auget honoro.
 inde novam pavidas vocem furibunda per auras 200
 congeminat, qua primus Athos et pontus et ingens
 Thraca palus pariterque toris exhorruit omnis
 mater et adstricto riguerunt ubere nati.
 adcelerat Pavor et Geticis Discordia demens
 e stabulis atraeque genis pallentibus Irae 205
 et Dolus et Rabies et Leti maior imago

¹ It was part of their torture that Tisiphone tasted of their food and defiled it with her snakes.

of war, are they not ours? What? does he, does that madman think to put the strange yoke of slavery on *me*? Or am I to flee the city and leave my little ones? No! before they come, let us arm ourselves with swords and burning brands, and as they rest in slumber each by his new-found bride, love shall inspire some mighty deed!" She cast her flashing eyes around and dashed her children headlong from her breast. At once the women's minds were roused, their tender hearts overcome and swept along by the accursed cries of Venus; one and all gaze out across the sea, and then make show of dancing and of decking the temples with festal garlands, and with smiling faces go down to meet their returning husbands. Soon they depart to their homes to feast; they lie down in the high colonnades, by each man's side his wife, raging and eager to be doing, even as Tisiphone beneath the night of hell's abyss lies close to the terror-stricken Phlegyas and Theseus, and tastes the ghastly meats and wine (her way to torture them), and wreathes them with her foul serpents.¹

Venus herself whirling a pine-torch in spires of flame piles gloom on gloom and girt for the fray sweeps down to quivering Lemnos; storm, lightning and peals are her escort from heaven; the pomp of her father's thunder lends her glory. Then through the terror-stricken air again and again she makes a strange cry ring, whereat all Athos first did shudder, and then the sea and the wide Thracian mere, aye, and every mother in her bed; and children at the breast grew chilled. Straightway Fear and insensate Strife from her Getic lair, dark-browed Anger with pale cheeks, Treachery, Frenzy and towering above

visa truces exerta manus, ut prima vocatu
 intonuit signumque dedit Mavortia coniunx.
 hic aliud Venus et multo magis ipsa tremendum
 orsa nefas gemitus fingit vocesque cadentum 210
 irupitque domos, et singultantia gestans
 ora manu taboque sinus perfusa recenti
 arrectaque coma "meritos en prima verberor
 ulta toros, premit ecce dies." tum verberare victas
 in thalamos agit et cunctantibus ingerit¹ enses. 215
 (unde ego tot scelerum facies, tot fata iacentum
 exequar? heu vatem monstris quibus intulit ordo!
 quae se aperit series! o qui me vera canentem
 sistat et hac nostras exsolvat imagine noctes!)
 invadunt aditus et quondam cara suorum 220
 corpora: pars ut erant dapibus vinoque soporos,
 pars conferre manus etiam magnisque paratae
 cum facibus, quosdam insomnes et cuncta tuentes;
 sed temptare fugam prohibetque capessere contra
 arma metus; adeo ingentes inimica videri 225
 diva dabat, notaque sonat vox coniuge maior.
 tantum oculos pressere manu, velut agmina cernant
 Eumenidum ferrumve super Bellona coruscet.
 hoc soror, hoc coniunx, propiorque hoc nata parensque
 saeva valet; prensosque toris mactatque trahitque
 femineum genus, immanes quos sternere Bessi 231
 nec Geticae potuere manus aut aequoris irae.
 it cruor in thalamis et anhela in pectore fumant

¹ ingerit *Heinsius*: invenit *V.*

the rest Death, her cruel hands bared, come hasten-
 ing up at the first sound of the Martian consort's
 pealing voice that gave the signal. And now Venus
 set her hands to yet another and more awful crime;
 she caused a sound as of groans and cries of men
 struck down; she rushed into houses clutching a
 head still throbbing, with fresh blood staining her
 bosom and her hair streaming in terror. "Look!"
 she cries, "I am the first to return; I have avenged
 the guilty bed! See, day is at hand!" She drives
 them before her lash into the chambers, and forces
 swords into their faltering hands. (How record all
 those scenes of wickedness, all the deaths of the
 fallen? Alas, 'mid what ghastly deeds has his story
 brought the bard! Ah, the long tale of horror that
 opens before me! Oh that some hand would check my
 too faithful tongue, and rid me of this vision in the
 night hours!) They seize the doorways and fall upon
 the bodies of their once loved ones: some, upon the
 men that lay drowsed with feasting and drinking,
 others, armed even to fight and with huge torches,
 upon a few that slumbered not but saw all; but
 flee or take up arms they cannot for fear: so huge
 did the angry goddess make the women seem, and
 their voice rings louder than the wife they knew.
 They did but cover their eyes with their hands as
 though they saw the ranks of the Eumenides, or
 Bellona flashed her sword o'er their heads. Such
 the savagery of sister, of wife, aye, of closer of kin,
 of daughter and of mother; caught in their beds
 woman drags forth and butchers the men whom
 neither the huge Bessi nor the Getic armies nor the
 anger of the sea could overcome. Blood flows in the
 chambers, while in every breast there is a bubbling,

vulnera seque toris misero luctamine trunci
 devolvunt. diras aliae ad fastigia tædas 235
 incipiunt adduntque domos: pars ignibus atris
 effugiunt propere, sed dura in limine coniunx
 obsidet et viso repetunt incendia ferro.
 ast aliae Thressas labem causamque furoris
 diripiunt; mixti gemitus clamorque precantum 240
 barbarus ignotæque implebant æthera voces.

Sed tibi nunc quæ digna tuis ingentibus ausis
 orsa¹ feram, decus et patriæ laus una ruentis,
 Hypsipyle? non ulla meo te carmine dictam
 abstulerint, durent Latius modo sæcula fastis 245
 Iliacique lares tantique palatia regni.

inruerant actæ pariter nataeque nurusque
 totaque iam sparsis exarserat insula monstros.
 illa piæ armata manus "fuge protinus urbem
 meque, pater; non hostis," ait "non moenia læti 250
 Thraces habent; nostrum hoc facinus; ne quaere,
 quis auctor.

iam fuge, iam dubiæ donum rape mentis et ense
 tu potius, miserere, tene." tunc excipit artus
 ohnubitque caput tacitumque ad conscia Bacchi
 templa rapit, primoque manus a limine tendens 255
 "exime nos sceleri, pater, et miserere piorum
 rursus" ait. tacitaavidum tunc sede locavit
 sub pedibus dextraque dei; latet ille receptus

¹ orsa *Heinsius*: ora V.

¹ The lists of Roman magistrates, whose names marked the successive years in imperial as in republican times.

smoking wound, and struggling pitifully the bodies roll from their beds. Some of the women hurl torches of destruction upon the roofs and add their homes to the ruin; some few men make haste to escape from the smoking fires, but their way is barred at the threshold by an unyielding wife, and at the sight of the sword they rush back into the flames. Others rend and tear the Thracian slaves, their men's undoing and the cause of these frenzied deeds; mingled groans, barbaric cries of supplication and unintelligible voices filled the air.

But now what words can I bring worthy of thy high courage, Hypsipyle, thou the glory, the single honour of thy country's fall? Thy story told in my song no ages shall make forgotten, so but the Latian annals¹ still mark the centuries, and the homes from Ilium founded and the palace of our mighty empire. Daughters and the wives of sons, all beneath one impulse had joined the throng, and now the whole island was ablaze with widespread deeds of horror. But good Hypsipyle, sword in hand, cries: "Straightway flee the city, father, and me too; it is no enemy, no exulting Thracian holds the walls; this is our doing; ask not who bade us do it. Up and flee! Up and be swift to profit by my doubting spirit, and do thou (O have pity!), not I, grasp the sword!" Then she supported his limbs, and covering his head brought him swiftly in silence to Bacchus' shrine, partner of their secret, where upon the threshold she stretched forth her hands and said: "Father Bacchus, save me from this sin, and have compassion once more upon thy votaries." Then in the still shrine she placed him trembling, below the feet and the right hand of the god; gathered

veste sacra; voces tholus et trieterica reddunt
 aera sonum fixaeque fremunt in limine lynceas. 260
 regina ut roseis Auroram surgere bigis
 vidit et insomni lassatas turbine tandem
 conticuisse domos, stabilem quando optima facta
 dant animum maiorque piis audacia coeptis,
 sarta patri iuvenisque comam vestesque Lyaei 265
 induit et medium curru locat aeraque circum
 tympanaque et plenas tacita formidine cistas.
 ipsa sinus hederisque ligat famularibus artus
 pampineamque quatit ventosis ictibus hastam
 respiciens, teneat virides velatus habenas 270
 ut pater, in nivea tumeant ut cornua mitra
 et sacer ut Bacchum referat scyphus. impulit acri
 tum validas stridore fores rapiturque per urbem
 talia voce canens: "linque o mihi caede madentem,
 Bacche, domum; sine foedatum te funere pontus 275
 expiet et referam lotos in templa dracones."
 sic medios egressa metus; facit ipse verendam
 nam deus et flatu non inscia gliscit anhelis.
 iamque senem tacitis saeva procul urbe remotum
 occulerat silvis, ipsam sed conscius ansis 280
 nocte dieque pavor frandataque turbat Erinys.
 non similes iam ferre choros (semel orgia fallunt)
 audet, non patrios furtis accedere saltus,¹

¹ Some Edd., as Baehrens and Langen, mark a lacuna after this line.

beneath the folds of the sacred robe no eye might see him; voices issue from the dome and sounds from the festal cymbals, while the sculptured lynxes at the portal roared. When the Lemnian princess saw Dawn mounting in her rosy chariot, and how at length silence had come upon every home spent with the unresting tumult, since good deeds give courage and righteous acts increase boldness, she arrays her father in garlands, with the tresses of a youth and the robes of Lyaeus, and causes him to stand in a chariot, while around him she places the cymbals and drums, and the caskets, full of mysterious awe. She herself twined the Bacchanal ivy about her bosom and her limbs, and brandished a vine-leaved wand that smote the air; looking back to see that her father in his robes should grasp the leaf-decked reins, that the horns should stand out from the snow-white coil, and that a sacred goblet should bring Bacchus before men's eyes. Next with a harsh grating she thrust back the strong doors and moved onward through the city as she cried aloud: "I pray thee, Bacchus, quit thy bloodstained dwelling-place; let the sea cleanse thee of the pollution of death, and let me bring thy snakes again to thy temple when they are purified." Thus she went safe through the terrors about her path, for the god himself made her to be feared, and consciously she glowed with breathless inspiration. So now she hid the old man far from the cruel city in the silent forest; yet by day and by night fear troubles her, and the secret of her bold deed, and Erinys, cheated of her victim. No more she dares to join the dances of her companions (once only can the mock rites deceive), nor to visit in secret the glen that

et fuga diversas misero quaerenda per artes.
visa ratis saevae defecta laboribus undae, 285
quam Thetidi longinqua dies Glaucoque repostam
solibus et canis urebat luna pruinis.

huc genitorem altae per opaca silentia noctis
praecipitem silvis rapit et sic maesta profatur:
"quam, genitor, patriam, quantas modo linquis
inanes 290

pube domos! pro dira lues, pro noctis acerbae
exitium! talin possum te credere puppi,
care parens? possum tantis retinere periculis?
solvimus heu serum furti¹ scelus! adnue votis, 295
diva, soporiferas quae nunc trahis aequore bigas.
non populos, non dite solum, non ulla parenti
regna peto; patria liceat decedere terra.

quando ego servato mediam genitore per urbem
laeta ferar? quando hic lacrimas planctusque vi-
debo?"

dixerat. ille procul trunca fugit anxius alno, 300
Taurorumque locos delubraque saeva Dianae
advenit. hic illum tristi, dea, praeficis arae
ense dato; mora nec terris tibi longa cruentis.
iam nemus Egeriae, iam te ciet altus ab Alba
Iuppiter et soli non mitis Aricia regi. 305

¹ serum *V*: miserum *C*: furti *Thilo*: furtis *V*: furiis *Pius*.

¹ When shall she be able to rejoice openly that she has saved her father, and when will the other women bewail their crime?

² The poet implies that the cult of Diana was transferred from the Tauric Chersonese to Nemi near Aricia in the Alban hills, where the nymph Egeria was also worshipped and the

hides her father, while she must seek escape for him, poor wretch, by other means. She beheld a ship outworn with the toils of the savage sea, long since offered up to Thetis and to Glaucus, which passing time had scorched with its suns and the moon with her hoarfrosts had worn. Hither with all speed through the darkness and silence of midnight she haled her father from the woods, and thus in sorrow spake: "What a land, my father, what homes lately so prosperous, dost thou leave, spoiled of their manhood! Oh horrible pollution! Oh the ruin wrought in one bitter night! How can I trust thee to so frail a ship, father dear? How can I keep thee here amid these great dangers? Alas, I am paying at length for my crime of cunning! Hear my prayer, goddess, thou who now drivest thy slumbrous car across the ocean. I ask no subject peoples for my father, no bounteous land, no throne; only grant that he go forth from his home and country. When shall I be borne through the midst of the city, happy that my father's life was saved? When shall I see tears and lamentations in this land?"¹ She finished; he in fear escapes in the oarless ship afar, and reaches the dwelling of the Tauri and Diana's savage shrine. Here didst thou, goddess, put a sword in his hand, and didst appoint him warden of thy cheerless altar; but thou madest no long sojourn in that bloodstained land. Already there summon thee the glade of Egeria, lord Jupiter at Alba, and Aricia stern to her king alone.²

festival of Jupiter Latiaris held. The priest of the shrine of Diana was called the "rex Nemorensis," and seems to have been a runaway slave who must slay his predecessor before he could be priest himself. The runaways found asylum there.

Arcem nata petit, quo iam manus horrida matrum
congruerat. rauco fremitu sedere parentum
natorumque locis vacuaeque in moenibus urbis
iura novant; donant solio sceptrisque paternis
ut meritam redentque piae sua praemia menti. 310

Ecce procul validis Lemnon tendentia remis
arma notant; rapitur subito regina tumultu
conciliumque vocat. non illis obvia tela
ferre nec infestos deerat furor improbus ignes,
ni Veneris saevas fregisset Mulciber iras. 315

tunc etiam vates Phoebo dilecta Polyxo
(non patriam, non certa genus te,¹ maxima Tethy,
Proteaue ambiguum Phariis effatur ab² antris
huc rexisse vias iunctis super aequora phocis;
saepe imis se condit aquis cunctataque paulum 320

surgit ut auditas referens in gurgite voces)
"portum demus" ait, "fatis³ haec, credite, puppis
advenit et melior Lemno deus aequore flexit
huc Minyas; Venus ipsa volens dat corpora⁴ iungi,
dum vires utero maternaque sufficit aetas." 325
dicta placent portatque preces ad litora Grais
Iphinoe; nec turba nocens scelerisque recentis
signa movent, tollitque loci Cytherea timorem.⁵

* * *

¹ to Heinsius Burmann Lemaire and others: sed V: Tethy B Ed. Bon.: taete V: cete C some Edd.

² Phariis effatur ab Burmann: phariise ab V: Conjectures for these two lines are numerous: Sudhaus would insert munera caelicolium maternaque nomina testans between them, reading iactans for taete of V.

³ fatiis Summers om. V. ⁴ corpora Burmann: tempora V.

⁵ Edd. after Thilo have placed a lacuna after this line.

¹ While in Apollonius she is Hypsipyle's nurse and in Statius one of the Lemnian women, Valerius, as Langen suggests,

His daughter betook her to the citadel, whither an
unkempt throng of women had gathered together.
With harsh clamour they sat them down where fathers
and sons had sat before, and amid the buildings of
the empty city they make new laws: on Hypsipyle
they bestow the throne and sceptre of her father as
by right, and a daughter's love has its fit reward.

Lo! afar off they descri warriors making towards
Lemnos with sturdy strokes of the oar; the queen
starts in sudden alarm, and calls councillors about
her. No reckless rage lacked they to bring arms
or sling brands upon the foe, had not Vulcan quelled
the savage passions of Venus' stirring. Then too
Polyxo,¹ the priestess beloved of Phoebus (of uncer-
tain race and country, she declares that thou, O
mighty Tethys and the ever-changing Proteus
steered their course thither from the Pharian caves,
drawn by a team of seals across the waters; oft-
times she hides in the depths and, tarrying awhile,
rises again as one reporting words she had heard
beneath the waters): "Let us yield them the
harbour," she cries. "Oh trust me, it is destiny
brings this ship, and the god that favours Lemnos
has guided the Minyae hither across the sea; freely
doth Venus herself grant us to mate with them,
while our wombs have strength and our years are
not past child-bearing." Her words find favour, and
Iphinoe bears the entreaty shoreward to the Greeks;
and they shrink not at the guilty people nor at the
traces of yesterday's crime, for Cythera's queen
banishes all fear of the island

seems to have had Eidothea (Homer, *Odyssey* 4. 365) in mind,
and to hint that like her Polyxo may have been a daughter
of Proteus.

protinus ingentem procerum sub nomine taurum
deicit, insuetis et iam pia munera templis 330
reddit, et hac prima Veneris calet ara iuvenca.

Ventum erat ad rupem, cuius pendentia nigris
fumant saxa iugis coquiturque vaporibus aer.
substitit Aesonides, atque hic regina precari
hortatur causasque docens "haec antra videtis 335
Vulcanique" ait "ecce domos: date vina precesque.
forsitan hoc factum taceat iam fulmen in antro;
nox dabit ipsa fidem, clausae cum murmura flammae,
hospes, et incussae sonitum mirabere massae."

moenia tum viresque loci veteresque parentum 340
iactat opes. mediis famulae convivium tectis
expediunt; Tyrio vibrat torus igneus ostro.
stat maerens atavos reges regesque maritos
Thressa manus, quaecumque faces timuisse iugales
credita nec dominae sanctum tetigisse cubile. 345
iam medium Aesonides, iam se regina locavit,
post alii proceres; sacris dum vincitur extis
prima fames, circum pateris it Bacchus et omnis
aula silet; dapibus coeptis mox tempora fallunt
noctis et in seras durant sermonibus umbras. 350

praecipueque ducis casus mirata requirit
Hypsipyle, quae fata trahant, quae regis agat vis,
aut unde Haemoniae molem ratis: unius haeret

¹ It must be assumed that since the massacre of the men there had been a cessation of religious observances.

² *I.e.* by union with the Lemnian men.

³ The partaking of the flesh and wine of the sacrifice is clearly distinguished from the banquet which followed it.

Forthwith he fells a huge ox in the name of the chieftains, and offers up gifts of sacrifice once more in the unused ¹ shrines, and for the first time the altar of Venus smokes with a slain heifer.

They came to a crag, whose pendent rocks and ridges were black with smoke and the air around was warmed with mounting heat. Aeson's son halted; whereat the queen bids him pray and expounds the cause, saying: "Lo, here ye see the caverns of Vulcan, his home; offer wine and supplication. Even now, it may be, a forged bolt lies silent in this very cave; the night will bring thee proof, stranger, when thou shalt marvel at the roar of the prisoned furnace and the clang of smitten metal." Next she points proudly to their bastions, to the strength of the island, and the wealth of her ancestors from olden times. In the midst of the palace the servants make ready a banquet; the couches quiver in the sheen of Tyrian purple. A company of Thracian women stood by, mourning for the kings their forefathers and the kings that were their husbands, all they who, it was believed, had shunned the marriage torch and had not stained the sanctity of their mistresses' bed.² Then midmost of all Jason, and next, the queen, sat down; after them the other captains; while their first hunger is being overcome with the flesh of sacrifice, the wine passes round in cups, and all the hall is hushed; the banquet began,³ and then they while away the night and linger in converse long into the darkness. But most of all Hypsipyle marvels at the prince's fortunes, and asks him what destiny it is that draws him, what power of his king that constrains, and whence comes the great Haemonian ship; she hangs

adloquio et blandos paulatim colligit ignes
iam non dura toris Veneri nec iniqua reversae, 355
et deus ipse moras spatiumque indulget amori.
Pliada lege poli nimboso moverat astro
Iuppiter aeternum volvens opus, et simul undis
cuncta ruunt unoque dei Pangaea sub ictu
Gargaraque et Moesi steterunt formidine luci. 360
saevior haut alio mortales tempore mentes
terror agit; tunc urget enim, tunc flagitat iras
in populos Astraea Iovem terrisque relictis
invocat adsiduo Saturnia sidera questu.
insequitur niger et magnis cum fratribus Euris 365
intonat Aegaeo tenditque ad litora pontus;
et lunam quarto densam videt imbribus ortu
Thespiades, longus coeptis et fluctibus arcet
qui metus. usque novos divae melioris ad ignes
urbe sedent laeti Minyae viduisque vacantes 370
indulgent thalamis; nimbosque educere luxu
nec iam velle vias, zephyrosque audire vocantes
dissimulant, donec resides Tiryntius heros
non tulit, ipse rati invigilans atque integer urbis;
invidisse deos tantum maris aequor adortis 375
desertasque domos fraudataque tempore segni
vota patrum. quid et ipse viris cunctantibus adsit?

¹ It is part of the "law of heaven" that at the setting of the Pleiades (beginning of November) there shall be stormy weather; Valerius goes on to associate this with the demand of Astraea for vengeance against mankind for its wickedness. Astraea is usually identified with Justice, and is spoken of as being the last of the goddesses to leave the earth. Dureau (quoted by Langen) refers to Homer, *Iliad* 16. 384-8, where the autumn tempests are attributed to Zeus' indignation

upon his words, his only, and slowly gathers in the sweet flame, no longer unyielding to wedlock or unkind to passion's return, and the god himself grants a respite and a time for love. By heaven's law Jove had drawn the Pleiads'¹ stormy constellation down from the firmament as he rolled the earth upon its everlasting course, and straightway rain streams everywhere, and at one blow from the god Pangaea and Gargara and the forests of Moesia stood terror-stricken. At no other season of the year does fiercer fear sway men's hearts; for then does Astraea urge her plea, then does she implore Jove's anger against the nations, and leaving the earth importunes Saturn's star with her complaint. Then follows the darkling South-west wind, and with his strong brethren thunders upon the Aegean main, and all the sea strains shoreward; and at her fourth rising Thespian Tiphys sees the moon misty through rain, and fear thereat keeps the Minyae long from their task and from the waves. They, ever waiting till the goddess in kinder mood should show her fires once more, rest glad at heart in the city, and free from toil give themselves up to the marriage-bed; they spend the days of tempest in delicate living, nor wish any more for seafaring, and feign not to hear the breezes calling, until the hero of Tirynt brooked their sloth no longer, as himself he watched the ship nor knew the city's taint; the gods, he cries, are jealous of them for assailing the spaces of the sea; they have deserted their homes, and the prayers of their elders are mocked by these days of idleness. Why should he, aye he, be there to help dalliers? "Oh unhappy against men for their wickedness. The planet Saturn was also supposed to exert an evil influence.

"o miseri quicumque tuis accessimus actis!
 Phasin et Aecten Scythicique pericula ponti
 redde" ait "Aesonide: me tecum solus in aequor
 rerum traxit amor, dum spes mihi sistere montes 381
 Cyaneos vigilemque alium spoliare draconem.
 si sedet Aegaei scopulos habitare profundi,
 hoc mecum Telamon peraget meus." haec ubi dicta,
 haud secus Aesonides monitis accensus amaris 385
 quam bellator equus, longa quem frigida pace
 terra invat, brevis¹ in flexus piger angitur orbis,²
 frena tamen dominumque velit, si Martius aures
 clamor et oblitus rursus fragor impleat aeris.
 tunc Argum Tiphynque vocat pelagoque parari 390
 praecipitat; petit ingenti clamore magister
 arina viros pariter sparsosque in litore remos.

Exoritur novus urbe dolor planctusque per omnes
 et facies antiqua domos. sibi moenia linqui
 en iterum, et quando natorum tempora, gentem 395
 qui recolant, qui scepra gerant? nunc triste nefandae
 noctis opus, vidui nunc illa silentia tecti
 saeva magis, thalamos excussaque vincla quod ausae
 induere atque iterum tales admittere enras.
 ipsa quoque Hypsipyle subitos per litora cursus 400
 ut vidit totaque viros decedere Lemno,
 ingemit et tali compellat Iasona questu:
 "iamne placet primo deducere vela sereno,
 carius o mihi patre caput? modo saeva quierunt

¹ brevis V: resti, quique, vix, bovis various Edd.

² in flexus . . . orbis Baehrens: in laevos . . . orbes V.

are we who have joined thy adventure! Give me
 back Phasis and Aetes and the perils of the Scythian
 sea, thou son of Aeson," he cries; "naught but the
 love of deeds drew me to thy side, so long as I hoped
 to stay the Cyanean rocks and to despoil one vigilant
 monster more. If thy resolve is still to dwell amid
 the cliffs of the Aegean deep, this task my Telamon
 will carry through with me." When he had thus
 spoken, Aesonides was kindled by the bitter admon-
 ishing; even as a war-horse that takes his pleasure
 in a land numb from long peace, and that is idly
 confined to the circlings of a narrow tether, would
 yet wish for bit and rider, were the cry of battle and
 the blare of the forgotten clarion to fill his ears.
 Then he summons Argus and Tiphys and bids them
 swiftly make ready for the voyage; with a loud
 shout the helmsman seeks the tackle and his crew
 and the oars that lie strewn upon the beach.

Grief broke out afresh in the city, the old mourn-
 ing, the old face of things was in every home. Lo!
 once again their city is to be deserted! and when
 comes the time for bearing children, who shall
 establish their race once more and wield the sceptre?
 Bitterer now seems the work of that impious night,
 crueller now the stillness of each widowed home,
 since once again they dared to put on the discarded
 bonds of wedlock, and once again to open their
 hearts to its cares. Even Hypsipyle too, when she
 descried the sudden going to and fro along the
 beach, and the heroes departing utterly from Lemnos,
 groaned aloud and thus plaintively accosted Jason:
 "So quickly, at the first clear sky, dost thou resolve
 to unfurl thy sails, O dearer to me than mine own
 father? But now have the angry seas sunk to rest.

aequora. sic portus fugeret ratis, aspera si te 405
 Plias in adversae tenuisset litore Thraces.
 ergo moras caelo cursumque tenentibus undis
 debuimus? ” dixit lacrimans, haesuraque caro
 dona duci promit chlamydem textosque labores.
 illic servati genitoris conscia sacra 410
 pressit acu currusque pios: stant saeva paventum
 agmina dantque locum; viridis circum horrida late
 silva tremit; mediis refugit pater anxius umbris.
 pars haec frondosae raptus expresserat Idae
 inlustremque fugam pueri; mox aethere laetus 415
 adstabat mensis, quin et Iovis armiger ipse
 accipit a Phrygio iam pocula blanda ministro.
 tunc ensem notumque ferens insigne Thoantis
 “ accipe ” ait, “ bellis mediaeque ut pulvere pugnae
 sim comes, Aetnaei genitor quae flammea gessit 420
 dona dei, nunc digna tuis adiungier armis.
 i, memor i terrae, quae vos amplexa quieto
 prima sinu; refer et domitis a Colchidos oris
 vela per hunc utero quem linquis Iasona nostro.”
 sic ait Haemonii labens in colla mariti. 425
 nec minus Orpheia tristis cervice tuaque,
 Aeacide, et gemino coniunx a Castore pendet.
 Has inter lacrimas legitur piger uncus harenis:
 iam remi rapuere ratem, iam flamina portant;
 spumea subsequitur fugientis semita clavi. 430

¹ Peleus is here referred to, as Telamon stayed with Hercules on the Argo (384), and had not taken one of the Lemnians to wife.

In this manner would thy ship be fleeing from the harbour, had the fierce Pleiads held thee prisoner on Thrace's hostile coast. Is it then to the sky and to the waves that hindered thy course that we owed thy tarrying? ” Weeping she spoke, and brought forth a gift that should abide with her loved prince, a tunic of woven handiwork. Therein she had painted with her needle the rites that told of her father's rescue and the holy car; there stand in fear the savage throng and make way for him; all round sways the wild forest, woven in green; her father in dread seeks refuge in the midmost shade. This part showed the rape on leafy Ida and the famed flight of the boy; presently he was standing joyfully at the table in heaven, nay, even Jove's armour-bearer himself quaffs the beguiling draught from the Phrygian's ministering hand. Next she bears the sword of Thoas, with its renowned emblem: “ Take it,” she said, “ that I may be by thy side in war-time and in the dust where the battle is thickest, the flaming gift of Aetna's god that my father bore; worthy to be worn now along with thine own arms. Go now, go, but forget not the land that first folded you to its peaceful bosom; and from Colchis' conquered shores bring back hither thy sails, I pray thee, by this Jason whom thou leavest in my womb.” So spake she, and sank upon the neck of her Haemonian husband. Not less sadly hung his wife on Orpheus' neck, and thine on thee, thou son of Aeacus,¹ and theirs on Castor and Castor's twin.

Amid this weeping the sluggish anchor is raised from the sand: already the oars have sped the vessel forward, already the breezes bear her on; the wake of the fleeing helm is a path of foam. Then Lemnos

tunc tenuis Lemnos crescitque ¹ Electria tellus
 Threiciis arcana sacris; hic numinis ingens
 horror et incautis decreta piacula linguis.
 hanc demissa Iovi non umquam laedere fluctu
 audet hiemps: sponte ipse deus tunc asperat undas,
 cum vetat infidos sua litora tangere nautas. 436
 obuius at Minyas terris adytisque sacerdos
 excipit hospitibus reserans secreta Thyotes.
 haetenus in populos vati, Samothracea, diemque
 missa mane, sacrisque metum servemus opertis. 440
 illi sole novo laeti pleniue deorum
 considunt transtris. iam quas praeviderat urbes
 navita condebat, proraeque accesserat Imbros,
 et sol aetherias medius condescendat areas.
 Thessala Dardaniis tunc primum puppis harenis 445
 appulit et fatis Sigeo litore sedit.
 desiliunt: pars hinc levibus candentia velis
 castra levat; trito pars frangit adorea velis
 farra; citum strictis alius de cantibus ignem
 obtendit foliis et sulphure paseit amico. 450
 Alcides Telamonque comes dum litora blando
 anfractu sinuosa legunt, vox attigit aures
 flebile succedens, cum fracta remurmurat unda.
 attoniti pressere gradum vacuumque secuntur
 vocis iter; iam certa sonat, desertaque durae 455
 virgo neci quem non hominum superumque vocabat?

¹ crescitque *Hosius*: *transitaque V.*

¹ Samothrace, so called from Electra, daughter of Atlas, who bore Dardanus to Jove in this island. The Samothracian mysteries were celebrated in honour of the Cabiri, primitive deities represented as metal-working dwarfs (see Herodotus, 2. 51, 3. 37, Lobeck, *Aglaophamus*, p. 1202 sqq).

grows faint and Electra's island¹ grows larger, guarding the secret of Thracian rites; for here dwells the great and terrible god, and here are ordained penalties for an unguarded tongue. No storm sent by Jove ever dares to beat with its billows upon this land; of his own will the god makes fierce his waves, what time he would forbid faithless sailors to touch his shores. But Thyotes the priest meets the Minyae and bids them welcome to the land and to the temples, revealing their mysteries to his guests. Thus much, Samothraee, has the poet proclaimed thee to the nations and the light of day; there stay, and let us keep our reverence for holy mysteries. The Minyae, rejoicing in the new light of the sun and full of their heavenly visions, seat themselves upon the thwarts. Now the cities they had seen ahead sank out of sight, and Imbros came up before the prow, and the sun in mid course had scaled heaven's towers. Then for the first time a Thessalian ship put in to the Dardanian strand, and at fate's bidding rested on the shore of Sigeum. They leapt forth; thereupon some raise light tents with the white sails; some grind spelt with a stone drawn to and fro; others to plucked leaves show fire swiftly struck from flints, and feed it with friendly sulphur.

While Hercules with Telamon at his side passed along the shore that broke back in a pleasant inlet, a voice fell upon their ears, ever and anon sounding mournfully as each wave broke and murmured away again. Full of amaze they went slowly, following the viewless track of the voice; now it sounds distinct: a maiden abandoned to a cruel death was calling all men and gods to help her. At this the

acrius hoc instare viri succurrere certi;
 qualiter, implevit gemitu cum taurus acerbo
 avia, frangentem morsu super alta leonem
 terga ferens, coit e sparso concita mapali 460
 agrestum manus et caeco clamore coloni.
 constitit Alcides, visuque enisus in alta
 rupe truces manicas defectaque virginis ora
 cernit et ad primos ¹ turgentia lumina ² fletus; ³
 exanimum veluti multa tamen arte coactum 465
 maeret ebur, Pariusve notas et nomina sumit
 cum lapis aut liquidi referunt miranda colores.
 ductor ait: "quod, virgo, tibi nomenque genusque,
 quae sors ista, doce. tendunt cur vincula palmas?"
 illa tremens tristisque oculos deiecta pudore 470
 "non ego digna malis" inquit; "supremam parentum
 dona vides, ostro scopulos auroque frequentes.
 nos Ili felix ⁴ quondam genus, invida donec
 Laomedonteos fugeret Fortuna penates.
 principio morbi caeloque exacta sereno 475
 temperies, arsere rogis certantibus agri,
 cum subitus fragor et fluctus Idaea moventes
 cum stabulis nemora. ecce repens consurgere ponto
 belua, monstrum ingens; hanc tu nec molibus
 ullis
 nec nostro metire mari. primaeva furenti 480
 huic manus amplexus inter plangensque parentum
 deditur. hoc sortes, hoc corniger imperat Hammon,
 virgineam damnare animam sortitaque Lethen

¹ ad primos *V*: turgentia *MSS.*: surgentia *VO*: umentia *Baehrens.*

² lumina *MSS.*: flumina *VO*.

³ fletus *S*: flectus *V* (fluctus *MC*): flexus *Sudhaus*:
 adsiduo . . . fletu *Koch*.

⁴ felix *Edd.*: veteris *V*.

heroes press on more keenly, resolved to bring succour; even as when a bull fills the wild places with his harsh bellowing, as he bears upon his high back a lion that rends him with his jaws, there rouses and gathers from the scattered huts a band of countryfolk and husbandmen with bewildered shouts. Hercules halted, and straining his gaze upwards sees upon a high crag galling shackles and the worn face of a maiden, her eyes brimful to the verge of weeping; just as when lifeless ivory is yet constrained by mastering skill to weep, or Parian marble assumes man's lineaments and person, or flowing colours bring wonders before us. The hero spoke: "Maiden, what is thy name and thy family? what lot is thine, tell me? wherefore do gyves strain thy hands?" Trembling and casting down her eyes in sorrow and shame she replied: "I do not deserve these sufferings; thou seest here the last gifts of my parents, these rocks covered over ¹ with purple and gold. Our stock sprang of Ilus, happy once until envious Fortune deserted the home of Laomedon. First of all there fell a sickness and the temperate airs were driven from the clear sky; the country blazed with pyre rivalling pyre, when there burst forth a roar, and waves that made all Ida's forests with their lairs shudder. Lo! of a sudden there rose from the sea a beast, of monstrous bulk; not by any mountain, not by the sea we know couldst thou measure it. A band of young maidens is sacrificed to its rage amid the tears and embraces of their parents. This the lot, this doth horned Ammon command—that a maiden's life and her body that drew death's

¹ A somewhat bold use of "frequens," usually of a space or region that is full of people or of things.

corpora; crudelis scopulis me destinat urna.
 verum o iam redeunt Phrygibus si numina tuque 485
 ille ades auguriis promissæ et sorte deorum,
 iam cui candentes votivo in gramine pascit
 cornipedes genitor, nostræ stata dona salutis,
 adhuc meque, precor, defectaque Pergama monstris
 eripe, namque potes; neque enim tam lata videbam
 pectora, Neptunus muros cum iungeret astris, 491
 nec tales umeros pharetramque gerebat Apollo."
 auxerat hæc locus et facies maestissima capti
 litoris et tumuli caelumque, quod incubat urbi,
 quale laborantis Nemees iter aut Erymanthi 495
 vidit et infectæ miseratum flumina Lernaæ.

Dat procul interea signum Neptunus et una
 monstri ferri mugire sinus Sigeaque pestis
 adglomerare fretum, cuius stellantia glauca
 lumina nube tremunt, atque ordine curva trisulco 500
 fulmineus quatit ora fragor, pelagoque remenso
 cauda redit, passosque sinus rapit ardua cervix.
 illam incumbentem per mille volumina pontus
 prosequitur lateri adsultans, trepidisque ruentem
 litoribus sua cogit hiemps. non fluctibus aquis 505
 nubiferi venit unda Noti, non Africus alto
 tantum ovat patriisque manus cum plenus habenis
 Orion bipedum flatu mare tollit equorum.
 ecce ducem placitæ furis crudescere pugnae

¹ Valerius here seems to be guilty of ambiguity, in stating first that a band of maidens was sacrificed, then that Hesione was drawn by lot to be placed upon the rock. Cf. also 563.

² Interpreted by others as a cloud of spray. The lines that follow express the straightening-out movement of snakes, when, as the front half moves forward (passos . . . cervix), the tail seems to move towards the rear. On a large scale this might be described as "reaching backward over the sea it has already covered."

lot be doomed; 'tis I whom the cruel urn condemns
 to the rocks.¹ But oh! if once again Heaven
 inclines to the Phrygians, and if thou art he whose
 coming augury and Heaven's omens promised, he
 for whom my father now feeds snow-white horses in
 the pasture of his vow, the pledged reward for saving
 my life, say Yea and rescue both me and wasted
 Troy from the dragon, for so thou canst; since
 never did I behold so broad a breast while Neptune
 was raising the walls to meet the stars, nor had
 Apollo such mighty shoulders or such a quiver."
 The place lent strength to her words, the doleful
 aspect too of the captive shore, the funeral pyres
 and the sky that brooded o'er the city; even such
 to his pitying eyes had seemed the path to Nemea
 and Erymanthus and Lerna's poisoned meres.

Meanwhile far off Neptune gave the signal, and
 at the same moment a roar came from the gulf, the
 dragon's home, and the curse of Sigeum drove the
 waters on a heap, while its flashing eyes flicker
 beneath a blue-grey film,² and a sound of thunder
 shakes the maw circled with a triple row of fangs,
 as its tail reaches backward over the sea it has
 covered, and the proud neck sweeps the streaming
 coils onward. The burden of its thousand folds is
 upon the waters, and they lap its flanks and move
 with it, while the storm it makes drives it speeding
 forward to the terror-stricken shores. Not so mighty
 are the billows when the sea comes in beneath the
 cloud-compelling South wind, not so fiercely exults
 the South-west wind upon the main, nor Orion
 when grasping his father's reins he heaves the sea
 with the snorting of his two-hooved horses. Lo!
 Telamon stands in amaze at the hero growing

surgentemque toris stupet immanemque paratu 510
 Aeacides pulsantque graves ut terga pharetrae.
 ille patrem pelagique deos suaque arma precatus
 insiluit scopulo, motumque e sedibus aequor
 horruit et celsi spatiosa volumina monstri,
 qualis ubi a gelidi Boreas convallibus Hebri 515
 tollitur et volucres Rîphaea per ardua nubes
 praecipitat, piceo necdum tenet omnia caelo.
 illa simul molem horrificam scopulosaque terga
 promovet ingentique umbra subit; intremere Iden¹
 inidique putes pronasque² resurgere turres. 520
 occupat Alcides arcum totaque pharetrae
 nube premit. non illa magis quam sede movetur
 magnus Eryx, deferre velint quem vallibus imbres.
 iam brevis et telo volucris non utilis aer.
 tum vero fremitus vanique insania coepti 525
 et tacitus pudor et rursus pallescere virgo:
 proicit arma manu, scopulos vicinaque saxa
 respicit, et quantum ventis adiuta vetustas
 impulerat pontive fragor, tantum abscedit imi
 concutiens a sede maris. iamque agmine toto 530
 pîstris adest miseraeque inhiat iam proxima praedae.
 stat mediis elatus aquis recipitque ruentem
 Alcides saxoque prior surgentia colla
 obruit; hinc validos nodosi roboris ictus
 congreginat; fluctus defertur belua in imos 535
 iam totis resoluta vadis; Idaeaeque mater

¹ Iden *MSS.*: idem *V.*

² putes pronasque *Loebbach*: rates pronasque *V.*

fiercer with the frenzy of the chosen battle, at the swelling muscles and the body so huge in its armour, and how the loaded quiver smites his back. But he, with a prayer to his father and the gods of the sea and his own weapons, leapt upon a rock, while he shuddered at the sea stirred to its depths and the towering dragon's vast coils: even as the North wind, when it rises from the ravines of Hebrus and hurls the flying clouds across the Riphæan peaks, but not yet does it cover the world with a pitchy sky. At the same instant the beast reared its awful bulk and its mountainous back, drawing nearer with its huge shadow; one would think all Ida trembled and was being dashed in pieces and that towers overthrown rose up again. Hercules grasped his bow and plied it with all his cloud of arrows. It stirred no more than great Eryx from its foundations, when the rains would wash it down into the valleys. Now the space is short, and useless for the flying shaft. Oh, then he groaned! the madness of that vain task! the silent shame, and the maiden pale once more; he casts his weapons from him, bethinks him of the rocks and stones at hand, and any that time with the wind's help or the crashing sea had loosened, he breaks off, wrenching them from the bottom of the deep sea. And now the monster is upon them with all its coils, now closer than ever it gapes upon its wretched victim. High in the midst of the waters stands Hercules, awaiting its onset, and swifter than the neck can rise he strikes it down with a rock; then redoubles the shattering blows of his knotted club, until the beast sinks beneath the waves, its coils slackening along all the shallows; the Idaean mother with her votaries and the rivers

et chorus et summis ulularunt collibus amnes.
 protinus e scopulis et opaca valle resurgunt
 pastores magnisque petunt clamoribus urbem.
 nuntius hinc socios Telamon vocat, ac simul ipsi 540
 horrescunt subitoque vident in sanguine puppem.
 nec minus in scopulos crudique cacumina saxi
 emicat Alcides vinclisque tenentibus aufert
 virgineas de rupe manus aptatque superbis
 arma umeris; regem inde petens superabat ovante
 litora tuta gradu, qualis per pascua victor 546
 ingreditur, tum colla tumens, tum celsior armis
 taurus, ubi adsueti pecoris stabula alta revisit
 et patrium nemus et bello quos ultus amores.

Obvia cui contra longis emersa tenebris 550
 turba Phrygum parvumque trahens cum coniuge
 natum

Laomedon; iam maestus equos, iam debita posci
 dona gemit. pars aërii fastigia muri
 cingit et ignotis iuvenem mirantur in armis.
 illum torva tuens atque acri lubricus astu 555
 rex subit et patrio fatur male laetus amore:
 "maxime Graiugenum, quem non Sigea petentem
 litora nec nostrae miserantem funera Troiae
 appulit his fors ipsa locis, si vera parentem
 fama Iovem summique tibi genus esse Tonantis, 560
 noster ades iunctisque venis; sator unus et idem
 stirpis honos, quamquam longis disiungunur oris.

from the hill-tops raise lament. Straightway the
 shepherds rise up from the crags and out of the
 shade of the valley, and with loud shouts make
 towards the city. Thereupon Telamon brought the
 tidings and called his comrades, while themselves
 they shudder to see the vessel in a sudden tide of
 blood. Straightway too Hercules springs up the
 crags to the top of the harsh rock, and frees the
 maiden's hands from the fetters that bind her to
 the cliff, and girds his armour on his vaunting
 shoulders. Thence with triumphant steps he passes
 across the safe shore to meet the king; even as
 through the pastures stalks the victorious bull, with
 swelling neck and towering shoulders, when he
 returns to the high fold of the herd he knows, and
 the woods of his home and the loved one he has
 avenged in battle.

Then came out to meet him on his way a throng
 of Phrygians released from their long night, and
 Laomedon with his wife leading his little son; sadly
 he laments that his horses, the due reward, are now
 claimed. Some of the folk fill the circuit of the
 soaring walls and marvel at the hero in his strange
 armour. With grim look the king, all treachery and
 subtle cunning, comes to him, and, half-hearted in
 his joy, speaks as with a father's love: "Mightiest of
 the sons of Greece, whom, when thou soughtest not
 Sigeum's shores and knewest no pity for the doom
 of our Troy, chance alone drove to this region, if
 the tale be true that Jove is thy sire and that thy
 stock is of the Thunderer king, of our kin art thou,
 and to kinsmen comest thou: our sire was one and
 the same, and one the glory of our race, even though
 we dwell sundered by distant shores. After how

quot mihi post lacrimas, post quanta piacula patrum
 serus ades! quam parva tuis iam gloria factis!
 verum age nunc socios fraternis moenibus infer; 565
 crastina lux biuuges stabulis ostendat apertis."
 dixerat haec; tacitosque dolos dirumque volutat
 corde nefas, clausum ut thalamis somnoque gravatum
 immolet et rapta ludat responsa pharetra:
 namque bis Herculeis deberi Pergama telis 570
 audierat. Priami sed quis iam auertere regnis
 fata queat? manet immotis nox Dorica lustris
 et genus Aeneadam et Troiae melioris honores.
 "nos" ait "ad Scythici" Tiryntinus "ostia ponti
 raptat iter; mox huc vestras revehemur ad oras 575
 donaque dicta feram." tum vero plura vocatis
 admittit ille deis: promissa infida tyranni
 iam Phryges et miserae flebant discrimina Troiae.

Panditur hinc totis in noctem carbasus alis,
 litoraue et veteris tumulus praelabatur Ili 580
 Dardanisque pater; vigili simul omnia ludo
 festa vident; hinc unda sacris hinc ignibus Ide
 vibrat et horrissonae respondent Gargara buxo.
 inde ubi iam medii tennere silentia ponti
 stridentesque iuvant aerae, Phrixia subibant 585
 aequora et angustas quondam sine nomine fauces.
 ecce autem prima volucrum sub luce dehiscens
 terruit unda ratem, vittataque constitit Helle,

¹ For the ambiguity see note on 434. ² *i.e.* coming so late.

³ Fated is the night wherein the Greeks will sack Troy, as a result of which the followers of Aeneas will found a mighty Troy in Rome.

⁴ The Phrygians, knowing the king's promises to be false, forebode disaster for their city.

⁵ She had become a sea-goddess, and therefore the sister of Panope and Thetis; she still wears, however, the fillets of the victim (see Introduction, § 2).

many tears of mine, after how many a father's sacrifice¹ thou art come at length! How slight now² is the glory of thy deeds! But come, bring thy comrades within our brotherly walls; let to-morrow's light unbar their stalls and show thee the horses." He ceased; but silently in his heart he ponders treachery and a hateful crime: how he may slay him in his chamber, when sleep has overpowered him, and may seize his quiver and cheat the oracle: for he had heard that twice must Troy fall victim to the shafts of Hercules. But who now can change the destiny of Priam's kingdom? Fixed in the unstirred ages stands the night of the Dorians,³ the race of the Aeneadae and the glories of a better Troy. "Our journey," the hero of Tiryns answered, "hurries us to the mouth of the Scythian sea; soon shall we return hither to your shores, and I will take the gift thou hast promised." Then indeed did the other, calling heaven to witness, vow yet more, while the Phrygians wept to hear the treacherous promises of their lord and the peril to unhappy Troy.⁴

Thereafter the sail spread all its wings into the night, and the shores and the tombs of ancient Ius and of Dardanus his sire glide by: and all the while they mark the country awake and making merry in games; on the one side the sea, on the other Ida flashes with the fire of sacrifice, and Gargara echoes back the fierce sound of the flute. Then when they had gained the silences of mid-sea and the sounding winds were favourable, they entered Phrixus' sea and the narrow gorges that of yore had no name. But lo! as dawn was breaking, the waves opened and scared the flying ship, and there stood before them Helle⁵ chapleted, the sister

iam Panopes Thetidisque soror, iamque aurea laeva
sceptra tenens. tum sternit aquas proceresque
ducemque 590

aspicit et placidis compellat Iasona dictis.
"te quoque ab Haemoniis ignota per aequora terris
regna infesta domus fatisque simillima nostris
fata ferunt; iterum Aeolios Fortuna penates
spargit et infelix Scythicum gens quaeritis amnem.
vasta super tellus, longum (ne defice coeptis) 596
aequor, et ipse procul, verum dabit ostia Phasis.
hic nemus arcanum geminaeque virentibus arae
stant tumulis; hic prima pia sollemnia Phrixo
ferte manu cinerique, precor, mea reddite dicta: 600
non ego per Stygiae quod rere sedita ripae,
frater, agor; frustra vacui scrutaris Averni,
care, vias. neque enim scopulis me et fluctibus
actam

frangit hiemps; celeri extemplo subiere ruentem
Cymothoe Glaucusque manu; pater ipse profundi
has etiam sedes, haec numine tradidit aequo 606
regna nec Inois noster sinus invidet undis."
dixerat, et maestos tranquilla sub aequora vultus
cum gemitu tulit, ut patrii rediere dolores.
tum pelago vina invergens dux talibus inquit: 610
"undarum decus et gentis, Cretheia virgo,
pande viam cursuque tuos age, diva, secundo."
immittitque ratem mediasque intervolat urbes
qua brevibus furit aestus aquis Asiamque prementem
effugit abruptis Europa immanior oris. 615
has etiam terras consertaque gentibus arva

now of Panope and Thetis, and holding in her left hand a golden sceptre. Then she lilted the waves, and looking upon the captains and their leader accosted Jason with gentle words: "Thou too art being driven from Haemonia across strange seas by an unfriendly kingdom at home and a destiny like mine; once more doth Fortune banish the offspring of Aeolus, and you, ill-starred folk, are seeking the Scythian river. A vast land is still before thee, a measureless sea (falter not in what thou hast begun), and Phasis itself lies far off, yet it will grant thee entrance. In that spot is a secret glade, and twin altars piled of turf: there pay the first rites to Phrixus as is due, and, I pray you, bear these my words to his dust: 'My brother, I wander not, as thou fanciest, through the silence of the Stygian shore; vainly, dear one, dost thou search the paths of empty Avernus. For no storm bruises me tossed upon rocks and waves; straightway as I fell, Cymothoe and Glaucus came swift to my succour; this abode too, this realm the father of the deep himself awarded me, willing justly, and our gulf envies not Ino's sea.'" She ceased, and with a sigh hid her sad countenance beneath the calm waters, as the thought of her father's grief came back to her. Then the prince poured wine upon the sea, and thus began: "Daughter of Cretheus, pride of the sea and of our stock, open our path, and, O goddess, prosper thy kinsmen's voyage!" Then onward he steered the ship, and flew on between cities on either hand, where the race boils with its narrow waters, and Europe, grimmer with its cliffs, breaks away from pursuing Asia.¹ These lands too, these fields with their once linked peoples lashed by the

¹ The European coast of the Dardanelles is steeper and more abrupt than the Asiatic.

sic pelago pulsante, reor, Neptunia quondam
 cuspis et adversi longus labor abscedit aevi,
 ut Siculum Libycumque latus, stupuitque fragore
 Ianus et occiduis regnator montibus Atlans. 620
 iam iuga Percotes Pariumque infame fragosis
 exuperant Pityamque vadis, transmissaque puppi
 Lampsacus, Ogygii quam nec trieterica Bacchi
 sacra neque arcanis Phrygius furor invehit antris,
 sed suns in Venerem raptat deus. illius aras 625
 urbe super celsique vident caelamina¹ templi.
 rarior hinc tellus atque ingens undique caelum
 rursus et incipiens alium prospectus in orbem.
 terra sinu medio Pontum iacet inter et Hellen
 ceu fundo prolata maris; namque improba caecis 630
 intulit arva vadis longoque per aequora dorso
 litus agit: tenet hinc veterem confinibus oris
 pars Phrygiam, pars discreti iuga pinea montis.
 nec procul ad tenuis surgit confinia ponti
 urbs placidis demissa iugis; rex divitis agri 635
 Cyzicus. Haemoniae qui tum nova signa carinae
 ut videt, ipse ultro primas procurrat ad undas
 miraturque viros dextramque amplexus et haerens
 incipit "o terris nunc primum cognita nostris
 Aemathiae manus et fama mihi maior imago. 640
 non tamen haec adeo semota neque ardua tellus
 regnaque² iam populis impervia lucis ecae,

¹ caelamina *Bury*: velamina *V.*

² regnaque *Philo*: longaque *V.*

¹ Mentioned as an ancient deity of Italy in the times when these changes took place.

² Priapus.

ocean, Neptune's trident, I think, and the slow
 workings of time the enemy sundered of yore, even
 as they did the shores of Sicily and Libya, when
 Janus¹ and Atlas, lord of the sunset mountains,
 were struck aghast at the crash. And now they win
 past the ridges of Percote, and Parium ill-famed
 from its booming shoals, Pitya too, and Lamp-
 sacus sent sternwards, Lampsacus whose dwellers
 no triennial festival of Bacchus nor Phrygian madness
 bids gather in secret caverns, but their own god²
 hales them to Venus. High over the city they see
 his altars and the carvings of his towering shrine.
 Then land grew less, and again the great vault of
 sky was all about them, and they began to look
 forth into another world. Midway upon the gulf
 between Pontus and Helle lies a land, as it were
 cast up from the bottom of the sea; for its fields
 are boldly set amid treacherous shallows and it
 drives its shore in a long ridge over the waters:
 one end is set towards ancient Phrygia whose shores
 meet it; the other is a mountain, forest-clothed and
 apart. Not far off by the borders of the shallow
 sea there rises a city, built down from the gentle
 slopes; the king of that rich land was Cyzicus. And
 he, as soon as he descried the strange portent of the
 Haemonian ship, of his own accord made haste
 down to the water's edge, and gazed in wonder at
 the heroes, and as he clasped and clung to their
 right hands he thus began: "O ye from Emathia,
 strangers to our land till now, methinks the sight of
 you is even greater than rumour. Yet this land is
 not so remote, nor so hard to attain unto, nor are
 the kingdoms of the morning any more so inaccessible
 to man, when I see captains such as ye are, and so

cum tales intrasse duces, tot robora cerno.
 nam licet hinc saevas tellus alat horrida gentes
 meque fremens tumido circumfluat ore Propontis, 645
 vestra fides ritusque pares et mitia culta
 his etiam mihi corda locis; procul effera virtus
 Bebrycis et Scythici procul inclementia sacri."
 sic memorat laetosque rapit, simul hospita pandi
 tecta iubet templisque sacros largitur honores. 650
 stant gemmis auroque tori mensaeque paratu
 regifico centumque pares primaeva ministri
 corpora; pars epulas manibus, pars aurea gestant
 pocula bellorum casus expressa recentum.
 atque ea prima duci porgens carchesia Graio 655
 Cyziens "hic portus" inquit "mihi territat hostis,
 has acies sub nocte refert, haec versa Pelasgum
 terga vides, mens hic ratibus qui pascitur ignis."
 subicit Aesonides "utinam nunc ira Pelasgos
 adferat et solitis temptet concurrere furtis 660
 cunctaque se ratibus fundat manus: arma videbis
 hospita nec post hanc ultra tibi proelia noctem."
 sic ait hasque inter variis nox plurima dictis
 rapta vices nec non simili lux postera tractu.

¹ The sacrifice of strangers at the shrine of Diana in the Tauric Chersonese.

many mighty men set foot upon them. For though on one side a rugged land breeds savage peoples, and though thundering Propontis with its tossing estuary flows round me, yet here I too find loyalty like your own; alike our worship, and hearts too nurtured in kindness; far from us is the frenzied courage of Bebryx, and the cruelty of the Scythian sacrifice.¹" Thus speaking he hurries on his delighted guests, bidding all men open their doors to them in friendship, while to the temples he pays the tribute of offerings. Couches, jewelled and gilded, stand ready, and tables royally dight, and a hundred youthful slaves of equal years; some bear on the meats, some bring cups embossed with the fortunes of late wars. Then Cyzicus reached forward and gave one of these goblets first to the Graian prince, and said: "Lo! here the enemy is affrighting our harbour, and here beneath the cover of night he renews the battle, and here, see! the backs of the Pelasgians in rout; this fire that devours the rafts is mine." Aeson's son rejoined: "Oh, would that anger might bring the Pelasgians hither now, and that they would try to meet us with their wonted craft, and that all the host would pour forth from their ships: then shalt thou see thy guests in arms, and no more after this night shalt thou live in fear of battles!" So he spake, and thus in the interchange of converse and in manifold discourse a great part of the night was sped, and the day following spent they in like manner.

BOOK III

LIBER TERTIUS

Tertia iam gelidas Tithonia solverat umbras
 exueratque polum; Tiphyn placida alta vocabant.
 it tectis Argoa manus, simul urbe profusi
 Aenidae¹ caris socium digressibus haerent.
 dant Cererem lectumque pecus nec palmitum Bac-
 chum 5

Bithyno Phrygiove satum, sed quem sua noto
 colle per angustae Lesbos freta suggcrit Helles.
 ipse agit Aesonidae iunctos ad litora gressus
 Cyzicus abscessu lacrimans *oneratque superbis*²
 muneribus, primas coniunx Percosia vestes 10
 quas dederat picto et Clite variaverat auro.
 tum galeam et patriae telum insuperabile dextrae
 addidit: ipse ducis pateras³ et Thessala contra
 frena capit manibusque datis iunxere penates.⁴

Tu mihi nunc causas infandaque proelia, Clio, 15
 pande virum; tibi enim superum data, virgo, facultas
 nosse animos rerumque vias. cur talia passus
 arma, quid hospitibus iunctas concurrere dextras
 Iuppiter? unde tubae nocturnaue movit Erinys?

¹ Aenidae *Ald.*: Caeneadae *V.*

² *oneratque superbis Ald.*: coniunx persocia vestes: *V* in
 which *MS.* 10 follows 25.

³ pateras *V*: phaleras *Heinsius.*

⁴ penates *Gronovius*: nepotes *V.*

⁵ The people of Cyzicus, from Aeneas, father of their king
 Cyzicus.

BOOK III

Now for the third time had Tithonus' bride dis-
 solved the chill shadows and uncurtained the heavens;
 the calm deep was calling to Tiphys. Forth from
 the palace goes the crew of Argo, and along with
 them stream out of the city all the sons of Aeneas¹
 clinging to their dear departing comrades. They
 give them corn and the chosen of their flocks, and
 wine not of Bithynian or of Phrygian grapes, but
 that which the god's own isle of Lesbos sends up
 from its famed hillside along the narrow straits of
 Helle. Cyzicus himself, side by side with Aeson's
 son, betakes him to the shore, shedding tears at
 their parting, and loads him with princely gifts,
 garments first, which his wife Percosian Clite had
 given him and embroidered with patterned gold.
 Also he gave him a helmet and the unconquerable
 spear his father bore: himself in return receives a
 goblet from the chief and a Thessalian bridle; they
 clasped hands and made their houses one.

Do thou, Clio, now unfold the causes that drove
 the heroes to affrays unspeakable; since to thee,
 O Muse, has been vouchsafed the power to know
 the hearts of the gods and the ways by which things
 come to be. Wherefore did Jove suffer such violence,
 why that hands once locked in friendship should
 meet in strife? Wherefore was the clarion heard,
 and wherefore did Erinys trouble the night?

Dindyma sanguineis famulum bacchata lacertis 20
 dum volucris quatit asper equo silvasque fatigat
 Cyzicus, ingenti praedae deceptus amore
 adnatum Phrygias dominam vectare per urbes
 oppressit iaculo redeuntem ad frena leonem. 25
 et nunc ille iugas captivaeque postibus ora
 imposuit, spolium infelix divaeque pudendum.
 quae postquam Haemoniam tantae non immemor irae
 aerisano de monte ratem praefixaque regum
 scuta videt, nova monstra viro, nova funera volvit,
 ut socias in nocte manus utque impia bella 30
 conserat et saevis erroribus implicet urbem.

Nox erat et leni caneabant aequora sulco,
 et iam prona leves spargebant sidera somnos.
 aura velut; religant tonsas veloque Procnesson
 et te iam medio flaventem, Rhyndace, ponto 35
 spumosumque legunt fracta Scylaceon ab unda.
 ipse diem longe solisque cubilia Tiphys
 consulit, ipse ratem vento stellisque ministrat.
 at qui illum non ante sopor luctamine tanto
 lenit agens divum imperiis; cadit inscia clavo 40
 dextera demittitque oculos, solataque puppis
 turbine flectit iter portuque refertur amico.

Ut notis adlapsa vadis, dant aethere longo
 signa tubae, vox et mediis emissa tenebris
 "hostis habet portus, soliti rediere Pelasgi." 45

¹ The chief centre of the worship of Cybele, whose votaries frequently cut themselves with knives. Cybele is often spoken of as borne through Phrygia in a chariot drawn by lions; e.g. Lucr. 2. 601, Catull. 63. 76.

² Compare the pictures of Viking ships.

As Cyzicus upon his swift horse shook Dindymus¹ where votaries revel with bloodstained arms, and wearied the woods, he was betrayed by his too great love of the chase; for with his javelin he slew a lion that was wont to bear its mistress through the cities of Phrygia and was now returning to the bridle. And now (madman!) hath he hung from his doorposts the mane and the head of his victim, a spoil to bring sorrow to himself and shame upon the goddess. But she, nursing her great rage, beholds from the cymbal-clashing mountain the ship with its border of kingly shields,² and devises against the hero deaths and horrors unheard of: how in the night to set allied hands at strife in unnatural war, how to enmesh the city in cruel error.

It was night, and the sea was white on the ship's smooth track, and the stars, declining now, were scattering gentle sleep abroad. A breeze bears the ship on; they make fast their oars, and sailing pass by Procnessus and by thee, Rhyndacus, whose stream is still tawny in mid-sea, and Scylaceum where the waves break into foam. With his own eyes Tiphys marks far off the daylight and the sun's setting, with his own hand he sets the ship to wind and stars. But Sleep at the bidding of the gods weighs upon him as never before, and lulls him to rest from his heavy travail; unwitting his hand slips from the tiller, his eyes droop, and unpiloted the ship, caught in a puff of wind, turns its course full circle and is borne back to the friendly harbour.

As it rode into the shallows it had known, trumpets sounded alarm far through the air, and a voice cried in the midst of the darkness: "The enemy have seized the harbour, our old foes the Pelasgians have

rupta quies; deus ancipitem lymphaverat urbem,
 Mygdoniæ Pan iussa ferens saevissima matris,
 Pan nemorum bellique potens, quem lucis ab horis¹
 antra tenent; patet ad medias per devia noctes
 saetigerum latus et torvae coma sibila frontis. 50
 vox omnes super una tubas, qua comas et enses,
 qua trepidis auriga rotis nocturna que muris
 claustra cadunt; talesque metus non Martia cassis
 Enmenidumque comae, non tristis ab aethere Gorgo
 sparserit aut tantis² aciem raptaverit umbris. 55
 ludus et illa deo, pavidum praesepibus aufert
 cum pecus et profugi sternunt dnmeta iuvenci.

Hicet ad regem clamor ruit. exilit altis
 somnia dira toris simulacra que pallida linquens
 Cyzicus. ecce super foribus Bellona reclusis 60
 nuda latus passu que movens orichalca sonoro
 adstitit et triplici pulsans fastigia crista
 inde ciere virum. sequitur per moenia demens
 ille deam et fatis extrema in proelia tendit;
 qualis in Alciden et Thesea Rhoetus iniqui 65
 nube meri geminam Pholoen maiora que cernens
 astra ruit, qualisve redit venatibus actis
 lustra pater Trivianque canens umeroque Learchum
 advehit, at miseræ declinant lumina Thebæ.

¹ ab horis *Edd.*: ad oris *V.*

² tantis, umbris *V.*: tacitis *Heinsius*; undis *Langen.*

¹ Pan was commonly supposed to be the cause of sudden terrors, felt either in war or in the solitary places of the countryside, hence "nemorum bellique potens"; such terrors were called "panic fears." Pindar mentions him as a companion of the Great Mother (Cybele) in *Pyth.* 3. 139.

returned!" Men's rest was broken; the god Pan¹ had driven the doubting city distraught, Pan fulfilling the cruel commands of the Mygdonian Mother, Pan lord of the woodlands and of war, whom from the daylight hours caverns shelter; about midnight in lonely places are seen that hairy flank and the soughing leafage on his fierce brow. Louder than all trumpets sounds his voice alone, and at that sound fall helm and sword, the charioteer from his rocking car and bolts from gates of walls by night; nor might the helmet of Mars and the tresses of the Furies, nor the dismal Gorgon from on high spread such terror, nor with phantoms so dire sweep an army in headlong rout. Sport is it to the god when he ravishes the trembling flock from their pens, and the steers trample the thickets in their flight.

Straightway the cry reached the king. From his high couch leaps Cyzicus, leaving fearsome dreams and sickly visions. Lo! above the open portals appeared Bellona with bare flank, her brazen weapons clanging as she moved, and as with triple plume she smote the housetop she cried thence to the king. He distraught follows the goddess along the city walls, onward to the fight that was to be his last: even as Rhoetus,² clouded with excess of wine and seeing Pholoe double and the stars larger than their wont, rushed upon Alcides and Theseus, or as that father,³ his hunting done, came home singing of the wild beasts' lairs and of Diana, as he bore Learchus' body on his shoulders, while sorrowing Thebes turned

² One of the Centaurs; the reference is to the fight with the Lapiths at the wedding of Pirithous.

³ Athamas, who was driven mad by Juno, and slew his son Learchus.

iamque adeo nec porta ducem nec pone moratur 70
 excubias sortita manus, quae prima furenti
 advolat; hinc alii subeunt, ut proxima quaeque
 intremuit domus et motus accepit inanes.

At Minyas anceps fixit pavor; aegra virorum
 corda labant, nec quae regio aut discrimina cer-
 nunt, 75
 cur galeae clipeique micent, num pervigil armis ¹

donec et hasta volans immani turbine transtris
 insonuit monuitque ratem rapere obvia caeca
 arma manu. princeps galeam constringit Iason 80
 vociferans "primam hanc nati, pater, accipe pugnam
 vosque, viri, optatos huc adfore credite Colchos."
 Bistonas in medios ceu Martius exilit astris
 currus, ubi ingentes animae clamorque tubaeque
 sanguineae iuvere deum, non segnibus ille 85
 occupat arva furens; sequitur vis omnis Achivum.
 adglomerant latera, et densis thoracibus horrens
 stat manus, aegisono quam nec fera pectore virgo
 dispulerit nec dextra Iovis Terrorque Pavorque,
 Martis equi. sic contextis umbonibus urgent, 90
 caeruleo veluti cum Iuppiter agmine nubem
 constituit; certant zephyri frustra que rigentem
 pulsat utrimque notus; pendent mortalia longo
 corda metu, quibus illa fretis, quibus incidat arvis.

Hinc manus infelix clamore impellere magno 95
 saxa facesque atras et tortae pondera fundae;

¹ After this line something has fallen out: *Carric found in the margin of his M.S.* hostis et exciti dent obvia proelia Colchi.

¹ That is, of Cyzicans.

away its gaze. And now, now neither gate can delay the prince nor the appointed night-watch at his back that first flew to meet him on his mad course; then others joined them as house after house quaked and felt the vain tumult.

But the Minyae were struck by doubt and fear; their sick hearts fail, and they cannot see what land it is, what are the dangers, wherefore this flashing of helm and shield, whether watching and armed *some enemy awaits them*, until a spear flying in a fearful rush of wind clanged upon the thwarts, and warned the crew to snatch blindly whatever weapons came in their way. Jason was the first to fasten his helmet, crying aloud: "Lo! father, this is thy son's first battle; and you, my men, deem that the Colchians we have longed for are upon us." Even as Mars' chariot leaps down from the stars into the midst of the Bistonas, when high hearts and the clamour and the bloodthirsty trumpets have filled the god with joy, even so swiftly does he madly seize upon the battle-ground; the whole force of the Achaeans follows him. They close their ranks: grim with massed corselets stands the troop, such as neither the fierce Maid, the clanging aegis on her breast, nor Jove's right hand, nor Fear and Dread, the horses of Mars, might scatter. So do they press forward with knit shields, even as when Jupiter brings up some black mass of cloud; the winds are at battle, from every side they beat upon it in vain: it yields not; men's hearts are long in fear and doubt: will it fall upon the sea? will it fall upon the land?

Hereupon an ill-starred band of men ¹ began with a great shouting to hurl stones, pitchy brands, and the burden of the whirling sling; unmoved the troop

fert sonitus immota phalanx irasque retentant,
 congeries dum prima fluat. stellantia Mopsus
 tegmina et ingentem Corythi notat Eurytus umbram.
 restitit ille gradu seseque a lumine ferri 100
 sustinuit praeceps, subitum ceu pastor ad amnem
 spumantem nimbis fluctuque arbusta ruentem.
 at ¹ Tydens "en intentis quem viribus" inquit
 "opperiar manibusque dari quem comminus optem;
 quo steteris moriere loco." subit ilia cuspis 105
 Olenii; dedit ille sonum compressaque mandens
 aequora purpuream singultibus expulit hastam.
 ac velut in medio rupes latet horrida ponto,
 quam super ignari nunquam rexere magistri
 praecipites impune rates, sic agmine caeco 110
 incurrit strictis manus ensibus. occubat Iron
 et Cotys et Pyrno melior genitore Bienor.

At ² magis interea diverso turbida motu
 urbs agitur. Genyso coninx amoverat arma;
 ast illi subitus ventis vivoque relaxit 115
 torre focus; telis gaudes, miserande, repertis.
 linquit et undantes mensas infectaque pernox
 sacra Medon; chlamys imbelli circumvenit ostro
 torta manum strictoque vias praefulgurat ense.
 talis in arma ruit, nec vina dapesque remota 120
 statque loco torus, inque omen ³ mansere sinistrum.
 inde vagi nec bella ⁴ modis nec casibus isdem
 conseruere manu et longe iacuere perempti.
 ecce gravem nodis pinguique bitumine quassans
 lampada turbata Phlegyas decurrit ab urbe; 125

¹ at C: et V. ² at Junt.: et V.

³ inque omen. sinistrum Postgate: in quo omen. ministri
 V: insomnes Bentley Langen.

⁴ bella Bentley: tela V.

¹ Tydens, from Olenus, a city in Aetolia.

endured the din, refraining their passion, until the
 first spate should have ebbed. Mopsus marked the
 glittering armour and Eurytus the looming bulk of
 Corythus, who halted in his stride and then swift
 drew back from the gleam of the steel, like a shep-
 herd by some sudden stream that foams beneath
 fierce rains and hurries tree-trunks along on its
 waves. But Tydens¹ cried: "Lo! thou—might I
 but await thee in the fullness of my strength, might
 I but meet thee face to face!—die where thou
 standest!" The lance of the Olenian pierced his
 groin; he uttered a groan, and as his closing teeth
 bit the plain his throbs drove forth the crimson spear.
 And as some jagged rock lurks in mid-sea, over which
 the unwitting helmsmen have never steered their
 plunging ships unharmed, so blindly rushed the troop,
 drawn swords in hand. There fell Iron and Cotys
 and Bienor, a better man than his father Pyrnus.

But meantime a wilder tumult shakes the confused
 city. The wife of Genysus had taken away her
 husband's weapons, when of a sudden he sees,
 beneath a gust, a live brand upon the hearth shine
 out; miserable man, thou art glad to find thy sword
 again. All that night Medon too forsakes the laden
 tables and the holy rites unfulfilled; a mantle twisted
 up enwraps his hand with its unwarlike purple, and
 his drawn blade flashes light upon his path. Thus
 goes he forth to battle; the wine and the food are
 not taken off, his couch still stands in its place; and
 there they remained to presage ill. Thence going
 their ways, unlike in fashion as in fortune, they
 joined the fight, and far apart they both lay slain.
 Lo! Phlegyas, brandishing a torch all knotted and
 heavy with thick pitch, comes running from the

ille leves de more manus aciemque Pelasgum
 per noctem remeasse ratus pulsumque requirens
 saepe sibi vano Thamyrim clamore petebat
 arduus et late fumanti nube coruscus;
 quantus ubi immenso prospexit ab aethere Typhon
 igne simul ventisque rubens, quem Iuppiter alte 131
 crine tenet; trepidant diro sub lumine puppes.
 tollitur hinc tentoque¹ ruit Tirynthia arcu
 pectore certa regens adversa spicula flamma;
 per piceos accensa globos et pectus harundo 135
 per medium contenta fugit; ruit ille comantem
 ore facem supra maiorque apparuit ignis.
 Ambrosium Peleus, ingentem Ancaeus Echeclum
 sternit et elatae propius succedere dextrae
 Telecoonta sinit duplicataque² ora securi 140
 disiecit cervice tenus. simul aspera victor
 cingula sublustrī vibrantia detrahit umbra.
 "has, precor, exuvias et opima cadavera" Nestor³
 "inquire" ait: "ferro potius mihi dextera, ferro
 navet opus," presumque manu detruncat Ama-
 strum 145
 diversasque simul socios invadere turmas
 admonuit. pergunt rupta testudine fusi,
 qua tenebrae campique ferunt. gravis invenit Ochum
 Phlias et trepido Pollux impingitur Hebro.
 ipse super vultus taboque natantia⁴ terga 150
 dux campi Martisque potens ut caeca profundo
 currit hiemps, Zelys et Bronten Abarimque relinquit
 semineces; Glaucum sequitur Glaucumque ruentem
 occupat et iugulo vulnus molitur aperto.

¹ tentoque *Baehrens*: totusque *V*: after this line *Postgate* would insert in latoque petit fulgentia baltea bullis.

² duplicataque *Heinsius*: delicataque *V*.

³ Nestor *Ed. Ald.*: nostro *V*: dnetor *Summers*.

⁴ natantia *Heinsius* (or *fluentia*): labantia *MSS.*

troubled city; he, thinking that the light-armed host
 of the Pelasgi had sailed back by night according to
 their wont, and seeking again the oft vanquished
 Thamyris, shouted his loud challenge in vain,
 standing erect and flashing afar beneath the smoky
 cloud; huge as Typho when he glares from the
 measurless sky, red with fire and tempest, while
 Jove on high grips him by the hair; every vessel
 shudders beneath the ominous glow. Then rose the
 Tirynthian hero and rushed forward with bent bow,
 aiming from his breast unerring shafts at the flame
 before him; the arrow caught fire from the gouts
 of pitch and sped with full force through the middle
 of his chest; he fell with face and beard upon the
 torch, and larger flared the flame. Peleus laid
 Ambrosius low, Ancaeus the stout Echeclus, and he
 suffered Telecoon to come near to his uplifted hand,
 then with twofold blow of axe cleft his skull to
 the neck. In that instant the conqueror strips the
 embossed belt that glimmers in the half darkness,
 but Nestor cries: "Nay, leave these spoils, these
 rich carcasses; rather let the steel, the steel in my
 hand speed the work," and seizing Amastrus he lops
 his head, and straightway bids his comrades fall
 upon the scattered host. The cover of shields is
 broken, and hither and thither they lie where dark-
 ness and the plain lead them. Huge Phlias finds
 Ochus, while Pollux dashes against the trembling
 Hebrus. The captain himself, lord of the field and
 of the battle, sweeps over heads and bodies wallow-
 ing in gore, like some black storm over the deep;
 Zelys and Brontes and Abaris he leaves half-dead;
 'tis Glaucus he pursues; Glaucus falls, and he is on
 him, he deals him a wound that gashes his throat.

ille manu contra telum tenet ultima frustra 155
 verba ciens, fixamque videt decrescere cornum.
 hinc Halyn, hinc rigido transcurrens demetit ense
 Protin et insignem cithara cantuque fuenti
 Dorcea, qui dulci festis adsistere mensis
 pectine Bistoniae magnum post ausus alumnum. 160
 nec pharetram aut acres ultra Tirynthius arcus
 exercet, socia sed disicit agmina clava.
 ac veluti magna iuvenum cum densa securi
 silva labat cuneisque gemit grave robur adactis
 iamque abies piccaeque ruunt: sic dura sub ictu 165
 ossa virum malaeque sonant sparsusque cerebro
 albet ager. levis ante pedes subsederat Admon;
 occupat os barbarumque viri clavamque superne
 intonat, "occumbes"¹ et "nunc" ait "Herculis
 armis
 donum ingens semperque tuis memorabile² fatis."
 horruit ille cadens nomenque agnovit amicum 171
 primus et ignaris dirum scelus attulit umbris.
 nec tibi Thessalicos tunc profuit, Ornyte, reges
 hospitium aut mente moras fovisse benigna
 et laribus sacrasse diem; procul advenit Idmon 175
 oblatumque ferit galeam cristasque rubentes,
 heu tua dona, gerens. quem te qualemque videbit
 attonitus, Crenaeae, parens! en frigidus orbes
 purpureos iam somnus obit, iam candor et anni
 deficient vitaque fugit decus omne soluta: 180

¹ occumbes *T Ed. Bon.*: occumbens *SMNO*: et *SMN*:
i C.

² memorabile *Bachrens Schenkl*: mirabile *MSS.*: memora-
 bere *Koch*: mirabere *Summers*.

Glaucus to oppose him grips the weapon, and gasp-
 ing forth his last helpless words sees the planted
 javelin sink in and in. Thence as he passes he cuts
 down Halys with cruel blade, then Protis and Dor-
 ceus, famed for his harping and tuneful song, who
 after Bistonia's mighty son¹ dared to accompany men's
 banquets with his melodious lyre. No more does the
 Tirynthian hero handle quiver or twanging bow, but
 scatters the ranks with his trusty club. And as when
 some great forest totters beneath the woodmen's
 repeated blows, and the heavy oak groans as the
 wedges are driven home, and now fir and pine begin
 to fall, even so beneath the blows sound the hard
 bones and jaws of warriors, while the ground is
 white with scattered brains. The nimble Admon had
 sunk at his feet; Hercules seized his chin and beard
 and brought down his club's thunder-stroke upon
 him from above, and "Now shalt thou fall," he cries,
 "by Hercules' own weapon—no slight guerdon and an
 ever-memorable doom." The other shuddered as he
 fell, for he straightway recognized his friend's name;
 and he bore the horrid deed down to the unwitting
 shades. Naught availed it in that hour, Ornytus,
 that thou hadst cherished the Thessalian princes in
 friendliness, or with kind intent hadst sought to
 delay them and hadst kept the day holy to thy
 household gods; Idmon draws hither from close by
 and smites thee in the encounter, wearing the helmet
 with its scarlet plume, that was, alas! thy gift. In
 what a plight, Crenaeus, shall thy horror-stricken
 sire behold thee! Lo! chilling sleep steals now over
 thy bright eyes, now fail beauty and youth and
 with life's undoing all loveliness flees away: now

¹ Orpheus.

desere nunc nemus et Nympharum, durus, amores!
 at diversa Sagen turbantem fallere nervo
 tum primum puer ausus Hylas (spes maxima bellis
 pulcher Hylas, si fata sinant, si prospera Iuno),
 prostravitque virum celeri per pectora telo. 185

Accessere (nefas) tenebris fallacibus acti
 Tyndaridae in sese: Castor prius ibat in ictus
 nescius; ast illos nova lux subitusque diremit
 frontis apex. tum Castor Ityn, qua caeruleus ambit
 balteus et gemini committunt ora dracones, 190
 frater Hagen Thapsuntem securigerumque Nealcen
 transigit et Canthi pallentem vulnere Cydrum.
 torserat hinc totis conisus viribus hastam
 venatori Erymo, brevis hanc sed fata ferentem
 prodidit et piceo comitem miserata refulsit 195

Luna polo; cessere iubae raptumque per auras
 vulnus et extrema sonuit cita cuspide cassis.
 Nisaeum Telamon et Ophelten vana sonantem
 per clipei cedentis opus cratemque trilecem,
 qua stomachi secreta, ferit laetusque profatur: 200
 "di, precor, hunc regem aut aequo delegerit alta
 fors mihi gente satum, magnusque et flebilis urbi
 conciderit." super addit Aren fratremque Melan-
 thum

Phoceaue Oleniden, Lelegum qui pulsus ab oris
 regis amicitiam et famuli propioris honores 205
 (qua patiens non arte?) tulit. nox alta cadentum

¹ *I.e.* gave way before the spear-point which then hit the helmet's rim; the crest must be imagined as drooping over the helmet.

desert the groves, hard-hearted one, ay, and the loves of the Nymphs! Meantime in another quarter Sages was making havoc when the lad Hylas, then first adventuring, deceived him with his bow (the comely Hylas, men's hope in warfare, if Fate but grant it, if Juno be kind), and laid low his man with a winged arrow through the heart.

There meet (O shame!) the sons of Tyndareus, embroiled by the treacherous darkness: Castor was the first about to strike unknowing, when a strange light and a sudden radiance on their brows bade them sunder. Then Castor pierced Itys where the blue sword-belt girt him and twin serpents locked jaw in jaw; his brother smote through Hages and Thapsus and Nealces, who wielded an axe, and Cydrus, blanching beneath a wound from Canthus. Then, gathering all his strength, he hurled his spear at Erymus the hunter, but a gleam of the Moon's light betrayed the deadly shaft, as in pity for her comrade she flashed out from the black sky; the helmet-crest parted,¹ the spear swept through the air, and on the rim of his helmet the rushing point smote with a clang. Telamon smote Nisaeus and Opheltes, the idle boaster, piercing his huge shield of three-fold wickerwork where it covered his belly, and cried in triumph: "I pray that heaven or chance has chosen me here a king or one sprung of lineage as ancient, and that a mighty one has fallen, and a lamentation to his city!" He slew moreover Arcs and his brother Melanthus, and Phoceus son of Olenus, who, exiled from the land of the Leleges, won the friendship of the king and (schooling himself to every art) the rank of a close attendant. The midnight hour swells the great clamour of fall-

ingentes duplicat¹ sonitus augetque ruinas;
 ut magis Inarime, magis ut mugitor anhelat
 Vesuvius, attonitas acer cum suscitatur urbes,
 sic pugnae crebrescit² opus; neque enim ignea
 cedunt 210

astra loco, lentis haeret nox conscia bigis.
 perge age Tartareae mecum simul omnia noctis,
 Musa, sequi. trepidam Phaeton adflavit ab alto
 Tisiphonen graviorque locos iam luce propinqua
 umbra premit; non signa virum, non funera cer-
 nunt, 215

et rabie magis ora calent. vos prodite, divae,
 Eumenidum noctisque globos, vati que patescat
 armorum fragor et tepidi singultibus agri
 labentium atque acti Minyis per litora manes.

Cyzicus hic aciem vanis discursibus implet 220
 fata trahens; iam pulsa sibi cessisse Pelasgum
 agmina, iam passim vacuos disiecta per agros
 credit ovans; tales habitus,³ ea gaudia fingit
 ira deum. fundo veluti cum Coeus in imo
 vincula Iovis fractoque trahens adamante catenas 225

Saturnum Tityumque vocat spemque aetheris amens
 concepit, ast illum fluvis et nocte remensa
 Eumenidum canis et sparsae iuba reppulit hydrae.
 saevit acerba fremens tardumque a moenibus agmen
 increpitat: " numquamne dolor virtusque subibit 230
 nil ausas sine rege manus? at barbara buxus
 si vocet et motis ululantia Dindyma sacris,
 tunc ensis placet atque furor, modo tela sacerdos

¹ duplicat *Pius*: donec *V*: denset *Gronovius Heinsius*.

² crebrescit *V*: crudescit *C*.

³ habitus *Heinsius*: auditus *V*: ausus *Baehrens*: aestus
Schenkl: flatus *Madvig*.

ing warriors and thickens the slain; as faster pants
 Inarime, and faster the bellowing Vesuvius, when
 of a sudden he rouses the terror-stricken cities, so
 more furious grows the fight; for the flames of the
 stars fail not, but witnessing Night pauses in her
 lagging car. Come then, my Muse, and follow out
 the full tale of that hellish night. Phaethon from
 on high breathed upon the trembling Tisiphone, and
 now as daylight drew near a heavier shade lay upon
 that region; men see not the banners, see not the
 dead bodies, while hotter wax their brows with
 frenzy. Ye goddesses, disclose the troops that the
 Furies gathered in the night, and reveal to your
 seer the clash of weapons, the earth warm with the
 gasps¹ of falling heroes, and the ghosts whom the
 Minyae chased along the shore.

And now Cyzicus ranges vainly through all his
 army, delaying his doom; exultantly he deems that
 already the routed Pelasgians have yielded to him,
 that already they are scattered over the deserted
 fields; such the feelings, such the gladness engendered
 by heaven's spite. As when Coeus² in the lowest
 pit bursts the adamantine bonds and trailing Jove's
 fettering chains invokes Saturn and Tityus, and in
 his madness conceives a hope of scaling heaven,
 yet though he repass the rivers and the gloom the
 hound of the Furies and the sprawling Hydra's crest
 repel him. Shouting bitter taunts Cyzicus rages, and
 girds at his host that is slow to come from the city:
 "What, shall resentment and valour never inspire
 the hands that dare naught without your king?
 But if the savage pipe and all Dindymus yelling
 as the holy emblems proceed called you, then sword

¹ That is, of course, with the blood gasped forth.

² One of the Titans hurled into Tartarus by Jove.

porrigat et iussa sanguis exuberet ulna."
 talibus insultans iamdudum numine divae 235
 deficit; infracti languescunt frigore cursus;
 corda pavent; audit fremitus irasque leonum
 cornuaque et motas videt inter nubila turres.
 tunc gravis et certo tendens stridore per umbram
 Aesonii venit hasta ducis latumque sub imo 240
 pectore rumpit iter. quam nunc incognita vellet
 lustra sibi nullosque datos venatibus annos!
 talia magnanimi diverso turbine fundunt
 tela viri, sonitusque pedum suspectaque motu
 explorant; prensant socios vocemque reposcunt. 245
 quod si tanta lues¹ seros durasset in ortus,
 extinctum genus et solas per moenia matres
 vidisset stratamque dies in litore gentem.

Tum pater omnipotens tempus iam rege perempto
 flectere fata ratus miserisque abrumpere pugnas, 250
 supremam celeravit opem nutuque sereno
 intonuit, quem Nocte satae, quem turbidus horret
 armipotens. tunc porta trucis coit infera leti.
 continuo dant terga metu versique per agros
 diffugiunt, quae sola salus: nec terga ruentum 255
 mens Minyis conversa sequi; stetit anxia virtus.
 ecce levi primo iam spargere lumine portus
 orta dies notaeque (nefas) albescere turres.
 "di maris" attonito conclamat ab agmine Tiphys

¹ lues *Heinsius*: Iovis *V.*

and frenzy would be your pleasure, did but the priest
 give the weapons to your hands and the blood stream
 from your arms at his command." Taunting them
 thus, as the goddess had willed, forthwith he
 flagged; a chill faintness balks his onset; his heart
 misgives him; he hears the roar of lions in anger
 and horns sounding, and sees towers moving across
 the darkness. Then heavy and surely aimed comes
 hissing through the gloom the spear of the Aesonian
 chieftain, and pierces a broad way deep within his
 heart. How he wishes now that he had never known
 the woodlands, that he had never spent his years
 in hunting! Thus the high-souled heroes fling their
 spears in contending whirlwinds, and track out the
 sound of footfalls and suspected stirrings; they
 clutch their comrades and challenge them to speak.
 But if such slaughter had lasted till dawn broke
 at length, then had the day seen the race destroyed
 utterly, naught but mothers upon the walls, and a
 nation lying dead along the shores.

Then the Father Omnipotent bethought him the
 hour was come, their king being slain, to turn aside
 the doom and to break off the miserable fight.
 Swiftly he brought help at the last, and thundered
 with that tranquil nod, whereat Night's children and
 the fiery War-god tremble. Then shuts the hell-gate
 of stern war. Forthwith they turn in terror and
 flee in retreat over the fields, their one hope of
 safety; neither are the Minyae minded to follow
 their headlong rout: valour paused doubting.
 Lo! the dawn began to scatter its first faint rays
 upon the harbour, and white grew the towers (O
 horror!) which they knew. "Ye gods of the sea,"
 exclaimed Tiphys from the amazed ranks, "how

" ut mea fatali damnastis pectora somno! 260
 heu socii quantis compleverunt litora monstria! "
 illi autem neque adhuc gemitus neque conscia facti
 ora levant; tenet exanguis rigor horridus artus;
 ceu pavet ad crines et tristia Pentheos ora
 Thyias, ubi impulsae iam se deus agmine matris 265
 abstulit et caesi vanescunt cornua tauri.
 nec minus effusi grandaevum ad litora vulgus,
 ut socias videre manus, dare versa retrorsus
 terga metu. dextram tendens proclamat Iason
 " quos fugitis? vellem hac equidem me strage
 meosque 270

procubuisse magis. deus haec, deus asper utrisque
 implicuit. sumus heu Minyae, sumus hospita turba.
 cur etiam flammis miserisque moramur honores? "

Tum super exangues confertae caedis acervos
 praecipiti plangore ruunt; agnoscit in alta 275
 strage virum sua texta parens, sua munera coniunx.
 it gemitus toto sinuosa per aquora caelo.
 pars tennis flatus¹ et adhuc stridentia prensant
 volnera, pars sera componunt limina dextra.
 at vero in mediis exanguis rege reperto 280
 aggeribus, tristi sileant ceu cetera planctu,
 sic famulum matrumque dolor, sic omnis ad unum
 versa manus. circa lacrimis ac mentibus aegri
 stant Minyae deflentque nefas et cupidus ictus
 Aesoniae sortemque ducis solantur acerbam. 285

¹ flatus C: flatus V.

¹ The reference is to the slaying of her son Pentheus, king of Thebes, by Agave, who under the influence of the Bacchic frenzy took him for a wild animal; it is a dramatic moment of Euripides' *Bacchae* when she gradually comes to her senses

have ye condemned my heart to a deadly sleep! Alas, for my comrades' fearful deeds that fill the shore!" But they can neither utter a groan nor lift their guilty eyes; freezing horror binds their strengthless limbs; even as the Bacchanal pales at the sight of the hair and sad face of Pentheus, when the god has withdrawn from the frenzy-driven mother's troop, and the horns of the slain bull fade away.¹ Nor less do the aged folk, pouring forth toward the shore, turn terror-struck to flight, when they behold the friendly band. With right hand outstretched Jason exclaims: "Whom do ye flee? would indeed that in this carnage I and mine had rather fallen! A god, ay, a god in his cruelty embroiled us thus. Alas, we are the Minyae, we are these ye befriended. And why delay we the sad honours of the pyre?"

Then the mourners rush wildly upon the dense heaps of bloodless slain; among the high-piled corpses of the heroes a mother recognises her woven work, a wife her gift. Along the winding shores all heaven is filled with their lamentation. Some clutch at faint breathings and wounds yet bubbling loud, some, all too late, close eyelids with their hands. But when in the midst of the heaps the king's pale corpse was found, then as though every other region kept silent from sad lament, even so loud are the cries of servants and of mothers, so do the whole multitude turn toward him alone. The Minyae, weeping and sick at heart, stand round about, bewailing the awful deed and the stroke of the Aesonian spear, and console their prince in his unhappy lot.

and realises what she has done. It is probable that she is the Thyiad referred to in 265.

ille ubi concretos pinguī iam sanguine crines
 pallentesque genas infraetaque pectore caro
 tela neque hesternus agnovit in hospite vultus,
 ingemit atque artus fatur complexus amicos :
 " te tamen ignarum tanti, miserande, furoris 290
 nox habet et nullo testantem foedera questu :
 at mihi luctificum venit iubar. heu quibus adsum
 colloquiis ? cui me hospitio Fortuna revexit ?
 extingui meae (fatis id defuit unum)
 speravi te posse manu ? talisque reliqui 295
 has ego, amice, domos ? quod si iam bella manebant
 et placitum hoc superis, nonne haec mea iustius essent
 funera meque tuus potius nunc ¹ plangeret error ?
 nec Clariū nunc antra dei quereusque Tonantis
 arguerem ; talesne acies, talesne triumphos 300
 sorte dabant ? tantumque nefas mens conscia vatū
 conticuit, patriae exitium crudele senectae
 et tot acerba canens ! heu divise visa sinistris
 regna mihi ! quinam reditus ? quae me hospita tellus
 accipiet ? quae non primis prohibebit harenis ? 305
 invidere dei, ne Phasidis arva remoti
 et Scythicas populatus opes haec rursus adirem
 litora, neve tuos irem tunc ultor in hostes.
 fas tamen est conferre genas, fas iungere tecum
 pectora et exanguis miscere amplexibus artus. 310
 vos age funereas ad litora volvite silvas
 et socios lustrate rogos ; date debita caesis
 munera, quae nostro misisset Cyzicus igni."

¹ potius nunc *C* : nunc *V*.

He, when he saw the locks now matted with rich
 blood and the pallid cheeks and the darts shattered
 on the breast he loved, nor recognised in his host
 the face known but yesterday, groaned, and clasping
 his friend's limbs cried : " Thee at least night holds,
 hapless one, ay, but knowing naught of madness
 so dire nor bitterly making appeal to friendship's
 bond : but to me sorrow-bearing has come the light.
 Ah, what colloquy is this of ours ! to how strange a
 welcome has Fortune brought me back ! Thought
 I ever that my hand could lay thee low (that alone
 was lacking to my destiny), or was I so minded, friend,
 when I left these dwellings ? Yet if it was still our
 doom to fight, and the gods above so willed it, were
 it not more just that I should now be lying dead, and
 thou rather at fault and grieving over me ? Nor
 should I now be blaming the grotto of the Clarian
 god and the oak trees of the Thunderer ; was it such
 battles, such triumphs they appointed me ? Could
 the seers in their knowledge keep silence of such
 horrors, when they sang of the cruel death of my aged
 sire and of so much woe beside ? Alas, under
 heaven's displeasure did I see this realm ! where
 now can I return ? what land will receive me with
 friendly welcome ? what land will not debar me
 even from its extremest shore ? Heaven has be-
 grudged me that having ravaged the lands of distant
 Phasis and the wealth of Scythia I should return to
 these shores, or march then to avenge thee on thy
 foes. Yet may I press cheek to cheek and breast to
 breast, and strain thy pale limbs in my embrace.
 Come, men, roll funeral tree-trunks to the shores, and
 give solemn lustration to our comrades' pyres ;
 afford due honours to the slain, such as Cyzicus
 would have paid to our own burnings."

Parte alia Clite laceras super ora mariti
fusa comas misera in planctus vocat agmina ma-
trum 315

fatur et haec: "primis coniunx ereptus in annis
cuncta trahis; necdum suboles nec gaudia de te
ulla mihi, quis maesta tuos nunc, optime, casus
perpeterer tenui luctum solamine fallens.
Mygdonis arma patrem funestaque proelia nuper 320
natales rapuere domos, Triviaeque potentis
occidit arcana genetrix absumpta sagitta:
tu, mihi qui coniunx pariter fraterque parensque
solus et a prima fueras spes una iuventa,
deseris heu, totamque deus simul impulit urbem! 325
ast ego non media te saltem, Cyzice, vidi
tendentem mihi morte manus aut ulla monentis
verba tuli; quin et ¹ thalaris modo questa morari,
heu talem tantique metus secura recepi."
illam vix gemino maerens cum Castore Pollux 330
erigit haerentem compressaque colla trahentem.

Interea innumeras nudatis montibus urgent
certatim decorantque pyras et corpora maesti
summa locant; vadit sonipes cervice remissa
venatrix nec turba canum pecudumque morantur; 335
munera fert,² quae cuique manus, quae cura suorum,
quae fortuna fuit. medio rex aggere longe
eminet; hunc crebris quatiens singultibus ora
adlevat Aesonides celsoque reponit in ostro.

¹ et *V*: te *Schenkl*.

² munera fert quae *Langen*: funereaque *V*: inferiae quae
Thilo: a lacuna in some editions after 335.

On the other side Clite, her torn tresses streaming
over her husband's face, calls the wretched train of
women to join her mourning, and thus she cries:
"O husband, torn from me in thy prime, thou takest
all things with thee; no offspring nor any joy have
I had of thee, whereby I might endure thy fate,
noblest of men, cheating my grief with feeble solace.
Mygdon's armed might and deadly war bereft me
of my sire, and of the home where I was born, and
powerful Trivia's secret shaft laid my mother low:
thou who alone to me wert spouse and brother and
parent and my sole hope from earliest maidenhood
dost now abandon me (O misery!), and heaven with
one blow has smitten all our city. Ah, Cyzicus, I
saw thee not even holding out thy hands to me in
the hour of death, nor caught any word of counsel
to me; nay, in my chamber I complained of thy
tarrying, and ah! in what plight hast thou come
back to me who ne'er conceived so dire a fear!"
Scarce in their grief can Pollux with twin Castor raise
her up as she clings fast and drags with her the neck
she still embraces.

Meanwhile in rivalry laying bare the hills they press
on with countless pyres and deck them and sadly
set the bodies on the summit; the steed goes with
drooping neck, nor tarry the hunting bands of hounds
nor droves of cattle;¹ as each man's skill of hand,
or fortune, or sorrow for his kin, so are their offerings
to the dead. Conspicuous from afar is the king
upon the midmost pyre: the son of Aeson, his face
convulsed with repeated sobs, lifts him and lays
him down upon the lofty purple. He makes gift

¹ As offerings at the pyre, as, for instance, horses and dogs
are sacrificed at Patroclus' pyre in Homer (*Iliad* 23. 171).

dat pictas auro atque ardentis murice vestes, 340
 quas rapuit telis festina ¹ vocantibus austris
 Hypsipyle; galeam dilectaque cingula regi
 incit; ille suam vultus conversus ad urbem
 sceptrum manu veterum retinet gestamen avorum.
 nam quia nec proles alius nec denique sanguis, 345
 ipse decus regnique refert insigne parenti.
 inde ter armatos Minyis referentibus orbes
 concussi tremuere rogi, ter inhorrui aether
 luctificum clangente tuba; iecere supremo
 tum clamore faces; rerum labor omnis in auras 350
 solvitur et celsis collucent aequora flammis.
 scilicet haec illo iuvenem populosque manebant
 tempore, Peliacis caderet cum montibus arbor;
 hoc volucrumque minae praesagaque fulmina longo
 acta mari tulerant. sed quis non prima refellat 355
 monstra deum longosque sibi non anguret annos?
 iamque solutus honos cineri, iam passibus aegris
 dilapsae cum prole nurus, tandemque quiescunt
 dissona pervigili planctu vada, qualiter arctos
 ad patrias avibus medio iam vere revectis 360
 Memphis et aprici statio silet annua Nili.

At non inde dies nec quae magis aspera curis
 nox Minyas tanta caesorum ab imagine solvit.
 bis zephyri iam vela vocant, fiducia maestis
 nulla viris; aegra adsiduo mens carpitur aestu, 365
 necdum omnes lacrimas atque omnia reddita caesis
 iusta putant; patria ex oculis acerque laborum

¹ festina C: fortuna V.

of raiment gold-embroidered and glowing with
 crimson dye, torn in haste from the looms by Hypsipyle
 when the south winds called; thereon he casts the
 helm and the baldric that the king held dear; he
 with his face turned toward his city holds in his hand
 the sceptre that his forefathers bore of old. For
 since no offspring nor indeed any of his blood sur-
 vived him, he bears back to his sire the proud emblem
 of his realm. Then thrice trembled the stricken
 pyres as the Minyae traced their armed circuit,
 thrice shuddered the air with the bugles' mournful
 clamour; then with final shout they threw the
 brands, and the toil-wrought heap is dissolved into
 the winds, and the waters gleam with the leaping
 flames. In very truth this fate was laid up for prince
 and people, what time the trees fell on the Pelian
 mount; this fate had threatening birds and presaging
 thunder-brands borne far overseas announced. But
 who is not fain to reject heaven's earliest omens,
 and prophesy for himself long years to come? And
 now the ashes had had their meed of honour, now with
 failing steps the wives and the children depart; at last
 the waters have rest from the discordant, sleepless
 lamentation: as when in mid-spring the birds have
 returned to their native north, and Memphis is silent
 now, and their yearly tarrying-ground on sunny Nile.

But thereafter nor day nor night, that but embitters
 sorrow, sets free the Minyae from the haunting
 image of the slain. Twice already do the zephyrs
 invite the sails, but the heroes' grief forbids assurance;
 in unwearying tides it plucks at their sick hearts,
 nor yet do they feel that all their tears are shed, or
 all dues paid to the slain ones; lost to view is the
 home-land, forgotten the keen love of enterprise,

pulsus amor segnique iuvat frigescere luctu.
 ipse etiam Aesonides, quamquam tristissima rerum
 castiganda duci vultuque premente sereno, 370
 dulcibus indulget lacrimis aperitque dolorem.
 tum secreta trahens Phoebeum ad litora Mopsum
 "quaenam" ait "ista lues, aut quae sententia
 divum?"

decretusne venit fato pavor? an sibi nectunt
 corda moras? cur immemores famaеque larisque 375
 angimur? aut pariet quemnam haec ignavia finem?"

"Dicam" ait "ac penitus causas labemque docebo"
 Mopsum, et astra tuens "non si mortalia membra
 sortitusque breves et parvi tempora fati
 perpetimur, socius superi quondam ignis Olympi, 380
 fas ideo miscere necesse ferroque morantes
 exigere hinc animas redituraque semina caelo;
 quippe nec in ventos nec in ultima solvimur ossa;
 ira manet duratque dolor. cum deinde tremendi
 ad solium venere Iovis questuque nefandam 385
 edocuere necem, patet ollis ianua leti
 atque iterum remeare licet; comes una sororum
 additur et pariter terras atque aequora lustrant.
 quisque suos sotes inimicae pectora poenis
 implicat et varia meritis formidine pulsant. 390
 at quibus invito maduerunt sanguine dextrae,
 seu¹ fors saeva tulit miseros, sed proxima culpaе,
 hos variis mens ipsa modis agit et sua carpant

¹ seu *Ellis*: si *V*.

¹ This speech owes something to that of Anchises in Virgil's *Aeneid* 6. 724-51, which deals with the same subject of the soul after death and contains the same Stoic doctrine of the fiery origin of the soul.

and their joy is to grow cold in the languor of distress. Aesonides himself, though as chief he must repress the extremity of sorrow and hide it beneath a tranquil countenance, indulges the sweetness of lament and lays bare his grief. Then, drawing Mopsus, the seer of Phoebus, to a sequestered region of the shore, "What means," he asks, "this plague, or what is the mind of the gods? Is it by fate's decree this terror comes? or do hearts contrive their own anxieties? Why forgetful of home and renown do we suffer anguish, or what end will this faint-heartedness bring to pass?"

"I will tell thee," said Mopsus,¹ "and wholly explain the causes of this plague;" then, looking at the stars, "If we, who once were fire and high Olympus' kin, suffer mortal frames and brief apportionments and a short span of destiny, it is not therefore right to engage in reckless slaughter and to drive hence with the sword souls that yet would tarry, and seeds that will one day return to heaven; for we are not dissolved into the breezes or into mere bones at the last: anger abides and grief endures. Thereafter when they are come to the throne of awful Jove and have set forth all the sorrowful story of their dreadful end, the gate of death is opened for them and they may return a second time; one of the Sisters is given them as a companion, and they range together over lands and seas. Each involves in penalties the guilty souls of his own foes; they rack them with various terrors after their deserving. But those whose hands have dripped with blood unwillingly—or were it cruel mischance, though nigh to guilt, that swept away the wretches—these men their own minds harry in divers

facta viros: resides et iam nil amplius ausi
in lacrimas humilesque metus aegramque fati-
cunt 395

segnitiem, quos ecce vides. sed nostra requireret
cura viam. memori iam pridem cognita vati
est procul ad Stygiae devexa silentia noctis
Cimmerium domus et superis incognita tellus,
caeruleo tenebrosa situ, quo flammae nunquam 400

Sol iuga sidereos nec mittit Iuppiter annos.
stant tacitae frondes immotaque silva comanti
horret verna¹ iugo; specus umbrarumque meatus
subter et Oceani praeceps fragor arvaque nigro
vasta metu et subitae post longa silentia voces. 405

ensifer hic atraque sedens in veste Celaeneus
insontes errore luit culpamque remittens
carmina turbatos volvit placantia manes.
ille mihi quae danda forent lustramina caesis
prodidit, ille volens Erebum terrasque retexit. 410

ergo ubi puniceas oriens accenderit undas,
tu socios adhibere sacris armentaue magnis
bina deis; me iam coetus accedere vestros
haut fas interea, donec lustralia pernox
vota fero. movet en gelidos Latonia currus; 415
flecte gradum, placidis² sileant age litora coeptis."

Iamque sopor mediis tellurem presserat horis
et circum tacito volitabant somnia mundo,
cum vigil arcani speculatus tempora sacri
Ampycides petit adversis Aesepia silvis 420

¹ verna *V*; Averna *Heinsius*.

² placidis *Bon.*; placitis *V*.

ways, and their own deeds vex the doers; languid now and ventureless they decline into tears and spiritless alarms and sickly sloth: such thou dost here behold. Yet shall my thoughtful care seek out a way. Known long since to the unforgetting seer there lies, where afar the land slopes down to silence and Stygian night, the abode of the Cimmerians, a region that the Olympians know not, a land of dark and desolate gloom, where the Sun never drives his flaming car and Jupiter sends not the star-appointed seasons. Soundless and still are all the branches, motionless and stark on the luxuriant ridges stand the vernal woods; below is a cavern and the winding way of the spirits and Ocean's headlong crash, waste stretches of black dread and after long silences sudden cries. Here Celaeneus, sitting sable-shrouded and sword in hand, cleanses the innocent from their error, and remitting their fault unwinds a spell to appease the angry shades. He it was who taught me what lustrations should be made to the slain, he of his good pleasure opened the earth to Erebus below.¹ When therefore the orient sets the crimson seas aflame, do thou summon thy comrades to the sacrifice, and bring two steers to the mighty gods; for me were it wrong meanwhile to approach your gathering, until I spend the night in cleansing prayers. Lo! Latonia's cold chariot is on its way; turn thy steps, and see that the shores are silent for thy placating deeds."

By this time sleep at its midmost hour was lying heavy on the earth, and dreams were fitting here and there over the silent world, when the son of Ampycus² watching in vigil for the time of the mystic rite sets his face to the forest and seeks out

¹ *I.e.* that I might descend to the underworld.

² Mopsus.

flumina et aequoreas pariter decurrit ad undas.
 hic sale purpureo vivaque nitentia lympha
 membra novat seque horrificis accommodat actis.
 tempora tum vittis et supplice castus oliva
 implicat et stricto designat litora ferro: 425
 circum humiles aras ignotaque nomina divum
 instituit silvaque super contristat opaca,
 utque metum mmenque loco sacramque quietem
 addidit, ardenti nitidum inbar emicat¹ alto.
 atque Argoa manus variis insignis in armis 430
 ibat agens lectas aurata fronte bidentes.
 Delius hic longe candenti veste sacerdos
 occurrit ramoque vocat: iamque ipse recenti
 stat tumulo placida transmittens agmina lauro,
 ducit et ad fluvios ac vincula solvere monstrat 435
 prima pedum glaucasque comis praetexere frondes
 imperat, hinc alte Phoebe surgentis ad orbem
 ferre manus totisque simul procumbere campis.
 tunc piceae mactantur oves, prosectaque partim
 tergora,² per medios partim gerit obvius Idmon. 440
 ter tacitos egere gradus, ter tristia tangens
 arma simul vestesque virum hustramina ponto
 pone iacit; rapidis adolentur cetera flammis.
 quin etiam truncas nemorosae effigiesque virorum,

¹ emicat *Froehner*: euocat *V.*

² tergora *Buchrens*: pectora *V.*

¹ Roman religion was very careful to include all gods whether named or unnamed in the performance of sacred rites.

² The rites here described include the purification of the army, the sacrifice and the prayer that the wrath of the offended shades might be transferred to the effigies of warriors; the propitiation is completed by a feast offered to the spirits of the dead, "final" because it is the last that they will share with the living, and the pouring of the libation; the snakes

Aesepus' stream, then hastens adown its course to the ocean waves. Here with the purple brine and fresh spring water he makes his body fresh and shining, and prepares himself for his dread doings. Then chastely he binds his brow with fillets and leaves of suppliant olive, and drawing a sword marks out the shore; low altars he sets up around to gods with names unknown,¹ and sheds a gloom with covering of dark foliage, and when he has filled the place with awe of unseen powers and holy quiet, the bright beam flashes from the burning deep. And lo! there marched the crew of Argo, splendid in manifold accoutrement, leading chosen sheep with gilded foreheads.² Then the Delian priest in white robe shining from afar hastens to meet them and beckons with a branch; and now taking his stand upon the new-made barrow he touches with propitious bay-leaf the troop as they pass by him, and leads them to the river streams and teaches them first to loose the fastenings of their feet and bind grey leaves about their hair, then bids them raise high their hands to the orb of orient Phoebus and together fall prostrate over all the plain. Then pitch-black sheep are slain, and part of the chine reserved, part Idmon going toward them bears through their midst. Thrice in silence did they accomplish the march, thrice does he touch the sad armour and raiment of the men, and throw the lustral offerings behind him in the sea; the rest is consumed by the devouring flames. Moreover, he duly places oak trees stripped of their foliage and shaped to the

that seize it are thought of as the attendants or actual embodiments of the dead. Characteristic of rites performed to the dead are the black sheep, the casting of the offerings behind one, and the triple march (439-43).

rite locat quercus simulataque subligat arma. 445
 huc Stygias transire minas iramque severi
 sanguinis, his orat vigiles incumbere curas,
 atque ita lustrifico cantu vocat: "ite perempti
 ac memores abolete animos; sint otia vobis,
 sit Stygiae iam sedis amor; procul agmine nostro 450
 et procul este mari cunctisque absistite bellis.
 vos ego nec Graias unquam contendere ad urbes
 nec triviis ululare velim, pecorique satisque
 nullae ideo pestes nec luctifer ingruat annus,
 nec populi nostrive luant ea facta minores." 455
 dixerat, et summas frondentibus intulit aris
 libavitque dapes, placidi quas protinus angues,
 umbrarum famuli, linguis rapuere coruscis.

Continuo puppem petere et considere transtris
 imperat Ampycides nec visum vertere terrae: 460
 exciderint quae gesta manu, quae debita fatis.
 illi alacres pars arma locant, pars ardua celsis¹
 insternunt tabulata toris oriturque trementum
 remorum sonus et lactae concordia vocis.
 Iuppiter urgentem ceu summa Ceraunia nubem 465
 cum pepulit movitque iugis, fulsere repente
 et maria et scopuli nitidusque reducit aether:
 sic animi rediere viris, iamque ipse magister
 nutat ab arce ratis remisque insistere tendunt.
 instaurant primi certamina liber amictu 470
 Eurytus et dictis Talaï non territus Idas;

¹ celsis *C*: *om. V*: *summâ MSS.*: *raptis Kramer.*

¹ *i.e.* of the Argonauts.

likeness of the warriors,¹ and fastens thereto pretended armour. To these with prayer he bids pass over the Stygian threats and the shed blood's unrelenting anger, upon these he prays that the wakeful remorse may weigh, and thus with atoning chant he calls to them: "Go, slain ones, make an end of unforgetting wrath; leave us in peace, and be content at last with your Stygian resting-place; far from our course, far from the sea abide, and have naught to do with wars. I would not have you go to Grecian cities or shriek at cross-roads; let no plague come hereby on herds or crops, nor baneful season bear hard upon them; let not our people or our offspring atone these deeds." He spoke, and set the final feast on the leafy altars, and poured libation; forthwith peaceful snakes, the ministers of the shades, seized it with their quick-darting tongues.

Straightway Ampycides gives orders to make for the ship and take seat upon the thwarts, nor turn their gaze toward the land; let them forget what their hands have wrought, and what was owed to fate. Briskly some stow the arms, some spread the high benches with high-piled coverings, and there rises the sound of quivering oars and of voices raised in joyful concord. Even as when Jupiter scatters a cloud that oppresses the Ceraunian heights and moves it from the ridges, of a sudden shine out the forests and the peaks, and the sky is bright once more, so their spirits returned to the heroes; and now the helmsman beckons from the lofty poop, and they pull with a will upon the oars. First Eurytus freeing himself of his clothing and Idas no whit dismayed by Talaus' taunts begin the contest; then

inde alii increpitant atque aequora pectore tollunt.
 par gemitu pulsuque labor, versumque vicissim
 mittitur in puppem retro mare. laetus et ipse
 Alcides "quisquam hos vocat in certamina fluc-
 tus?" 475

dixit, et intortis adsurgens arduus undis
 percussit subito deceptum fragmine pectus,
 atque in terga ruens Talaum fortemque Eriboten
 et longe tantae securum Amphiona molis
 obruit inque tuo posuit caput, Iphite, transtro. 480

Iam summas caeli Phoebus candentior arces
 vicerat et longas medius revocaverat umbras.
 tardior hinc cessante viro quae proxima Tiphys
 litora quosque dabat densa trabe Mysia montes
 advehitur. petit excelsas Tyynthius ornos; 485
 haeret Hylas lateri passusque moratur iniquos.

Illum ubi Iuno poli summo de vertice puppem
 deseruisse videt, tempus rata diva nocendi
 Pallada consortem curis cursusque regentem,
 nequa inde inceptis fieret mora, fallere prima 490
 molitur caroque dolis avertere fratri.

tum sic adloquitur: "procerum vi pulsus iniqua
 germanique manu (repetis, quo crimine) Perses
 barbaricas iam movit opes Hyrcanaeque signa;
 Aectes contra thalamis et virgine pacta 495
 conciliat reges Scythicos, primusque coacta
 advehit Albana Styri gener agmina porta.

others make like challenge, and with labouring
 breasts fling high the waters. There is equal toil
 in their groans and in their strokes, and the sea up-
 turned in regular beat by the oar is driven back stern-
 wards. Alcides himself too cries in high spirits: "Who
 challenges these billows of mine?" and rising in
 towering height against the whirling waves suddenly
 struck his baffled breast with broken oar, and falling
 backward o'erwhelmed Talaus and valiant Eribotes
 and Amphion, who on his far seat feared not so huge
 a mass, and laid his head upon thy thwart, Iphitus.

Already Phoebus, burning ever brighter, had
 surpassed heaven's supremest height and in mid-
 career shortened the long shadows. Sailing with
 slower course thereafter through the hero's idleness
 Tiphys approaches the nearest shore and the moun-
 tains thick in forest that Mysia presented. The Tyryn-
 thian makes for the lofty ash trees; Hylas keeps
 close to his side, delaying the strides that are too
 long for him.

When Juno from the topmost height of heaven
 sees that he has left the ship, the goddess, account-
 ing it a time for working bane, first endeavours to
 deceive Pallas, who was sharing her cares and guiding
 his steps, lest through her delay befall the enterprise,
 and with guile to disserve her from her dear brother.
 Then in such wise she accosts her: "Perses, driven
 out by ruthless might of chieftains and his kinsman's
 troops (thou recallest upon what charge), has already
 set barbarian armies stirring and the banners of
 Hyrcania; Aectes on his side by pledge of a maiden's
 marriage-bower invites to friendship Scythian
 princes, and first Styrius, his daughter's betrothed,
 brings gathered forces from the Albanian gate. A

bellum ingens, atque ipse citis Gradivus habenis
fundit equos. viden Arctoo de cardine quanta
tollat se nubes atque aethere pendeat atro? 500
corripe prima vias; finem cum Phasidis alti
transierit Perses aciemque admoverit urbi,
coepta refer paulumque moras¹ et foedera necte
consiliis atque arte tua. sponde adfore reges
dis genitos, quis arma volens, quis agmina iungat."
at virgo, quamquam insidias astusque novercae 506
sentiat et blandos quaerentem fingere vultus,
obsequitur tamen et iussas petiit ocuis oras.

Ingemuit Iuno tandemque silentia rumpit:
"en labor, en odiis caput insuperabile nostris, 510
quam Nemeen tot fessa minis, quae proelia² Lerna
experiar? Phrygiis ultro concurrere monstis
nempe virum et pulchro reserantem Pergama coepto³
vidimus. en ego nunc regum soror—et mihi gentis
ullus honos? iam tum indecores iustaeque⁴ dolo-
rum 515

primitiae, ut tenero superati protinus angues.
debueram nullos iuveni iam quaerere casus
victa nec ad tales forsitan descendere pugnas:
verum animis insiste tuis astumque⁵ per omnem
tende pudor; mox et Furias Ditemque movebo." 520

¹ moras *Burmann*: notas *V*.

² proelia *Ald*: belua *V*.

³ coepto *Burmann*: ponto *V*.

⁴ iustaeque *Heinsius*: iussaeque *V*: iusaeque *Langen*.

⁵ astumque *Heinsius*: actumque *V*: per omnem *C*:
movebo *V*.

vast encounter threatens, and Mars himself urges
his steeds apace with hurrying reins. Seest thou
from the North how huge a cloud uprises and hangs
in the darkened sky? Do thou first hasten thither;
when Perses has crossed the boundary of deep
Phasis and brought up his host against the city,
bear news of the enterprise and for a while by thy
counsels and craft contrive delays and parleys.
Promise him that god-descended princes will come
to his aid, with whom he may if he will join forces
and armament of war." The Maid, though perceiv-
ing the treacherous ruse of her stepmother
and how she endeavours to mould her looks to bland
persuasion, yet complies and instantly seeks the
bidden shores.

Juno groaned and at length breaks the silence:
"Lo! a heavy task!—this man whom no hate of
mine can overcome; what Nemea, what affray of
Lerna can I find, outwearied by all my threaten-
ings? Why, we have seen the hero engage unbidden
with Phrygian terrors and in brilliant enterprise
unbar the gates of Pergamm. Lo! now the
sister of kings¹ am I—and have I any honour for
my race? Even from the first had I shame and a
just beginning of vexation, when the serpents
were straightway worsted by the babe. Defeated
as I was I should perchance have sought no more
hazards with the hero, nor descended to such battles
as these. Nay, press on with thy resolve, and let
thy modesty stick at no deception: soon shall I stir
the Furies also and Dis himself to action." So she

¹ She was, of course, the sister of Neptune and of Pluto,
but the expression seems to allude more generally to her lofty
breeding and descent.

hæc ait et pariter lævi iuga pinea montis
 respicit ac pulchro venantes agmine Nymphas,
 undarum nemorumque decus. levis omnibus arcus
 et manicæ virides et stricta myrtus habena, 525
 summo palla genu, tenui vagus innatat unda
 crinis ad obscuræ decurrens cingula mammae.
 ipsa citatarum tellus pede pulsa sororum
 personat et teneris summittit gramina plantis.
 e quibus Herculeo Dryope percussa fragore,
 cum fugerent iam tela ferae, processerat ultra 530
 turbatum visura nemus, fontemque petebat
 rursus et attonitos referebat ab Hercule vultus.
 hanc delapsa polo piceæque adelinis opacæ
 Iuno vocat prensaque manu sic blanda profatur:
 "quem tibi coniugio tot dedignata dicavi 535
 Nympha procos, en Haemonia puer appulit alno,
 clarus Hylas, saltusque tuos montesque pererrat.
 vidisti roseis hæc per loca Bacchus habenis
 cum domitas acies et Eoi ferula regni
 duceret ac rursus thiasos et sacra moventem: 540
 hunc tibi vel posito venantem pectine Phoebum
 crede dari. quæ spes Nymphis aufertur Achæis!
 præreptum quanto proles Boebeia questu
 audiet et flavi quam tristis nata Lycormæ!"
 sic ait et celerem frondosa per avia cervum 545
 suscitât ac iuveni sublimem cornibus offert.

¹ "ferula" means literally the barrows on which captives, etc. were displayed in triumphal processions.

² The nymphs of the lake of Boebe in Thessaly.

³ A river in Aetolia.

speaks, and therewith glancing at the pine-clad
 ridges of the hills to leftward she sees a comely
 troop of huntress nymphs, the pride of woods
 and waves. Light bows and green armlets have
 they all, and a shaft of myrtle-wood with tight-
 drawn strap; knee-high are their skirts, and the
 straying tresses float and fall gently rippling to
 the band that confines the hidden breasts. Earth
 herself re-echoes the beating of the sisters' feet,
 and sends up grasses beneath their tender steps.
 Of these Dryope, hearing the crash of Hercules'
 advance, as the quarry fled before his shafts, had
 gone forward to view the havoc of the grove,
 and was returning to her spring, bringing back
 from Hercules an awe-struck face. Her Juno,
 down-gliding from the heavens and leaning against
 a dark pine tree, summons to her side, and
 grasping her hand thus speaks with coaxing words:
 "He whom scorning so many suitors I appointed,
 O Nymph, for thy wedlock—lo! the lad is here,
 come hither in the Haemonian barque, bright Hylas;
 he is wandering through thy glades and over thy
 hills. Thou sawest when Bacchus with his rose-
 hung reins led in triumph¹ through these regions the
 vanquished armies and chariots of an eastern realm,
 and stirred again his votaries to their sacred revels:
 such an one, or Phoebus in hunting guise, his quill
 laid by, be assured is now offered to thee. How
 fair a hope have the nymphs of Achæa lost! with
 what complainings will Boebe's brood² hear that
 thou hast stolen him from them! how sad will be
 the daughter of yellow Lycormas!"³ So saying
 she puts up a swift hart through the trackless
 brushwood, all lofty-antlered, right in the lad's

ille animos tardusque fugae longumque resistens
 sollicitat suadetque pari contendere cursu.
 credit Hylas praedaeque ferox ardore propinque
 insequitur; simul Alcides hortatibus urget 550
 prospiciens. Iamque ex oculis aufertur uterque,
 cum puerum instantem quadripes fessaque minantem
 tela manu procul ad nitidi spiracula fontis
 ducit et intactas levis ipse superfugit undas.
 hoc pueri spes lusa ¹ modo est nec tendere certat 555
 amplius; utque artus et concita pectora sudor
 diluerat, gratos avidus procumbit ad amnes.
 stagna vaga quasi luce micant, ubi Cynthia caelo
 prospicit aut medii transit rota candida Phoebi,
 tale iubar diffudit aquis; nil umbra comaeque 560
 turbavitque sonus surgentis ad oscula Nymphae.
 illa avidas injecta manus heu scra cientem
 auxilia et magni referentem nomen amici
 detrahit; adiutae prono nam pondere vires.
 Iam pater umbrosis Tiryntius arcibus ornum 565
 depulerat magnoque iugi stridore revulsam
 terga super fulvi porrexerat horrida monstri
 litora curva petens; alio nam calle reversum
 credit Hylan captaque dapes anxisse ferina.
 sed neque apud socios structasque in litore men-
 sas 570
 unanimum videt acger Hylan nec longius acrem
 intendens aciem. varios hinc excitat aestus
 nube mali percussus amor, quibus hacserit oris,

¹ pueri spes lusa *Edd. Bon. Ald.*: pueris perfusa *V.*

¹ The Nemean lion whose skin Hercules habitually carried
 as a covering.

path. By tardy flight and lengthy halt it challenges
 his ardour, and provokes him to contend in speed
 of foot. Hylas adventures, and madly asfire for so
 near a quarry, gives chase, while Alcides looking
 after him urges him on with cheering cry. And
 now both are out of sight, when as the boy
 presses on and with weary arm threatens a shot
 the stag leads him far onward to where a bright
 fountain gushes forth, and himself with light bound
 springs clear over the pool. Thus is the lad's hope
 baffled nor is he fain to struggle farther; and since
 sweat had bathed his limbs and labouring breast,
 he greedily sinks beside the pleasant stream. Even
 as the light that shifts and plays upon a lake, when
 Cynthia looks forth from heaven or the bright wheel
 of Phoebus in mid course passes by, so doth he shed
 a gleam upon the waters; he heeds not the shadow
 of the Nymph or her hair or the sound of her as she
 rises to embrace him. Greedily casting her arms
 about him, as he calls, alack! too late for help and
 utters the name of his mighty friend, she draws him
 down; for her strength is aided by his falling weight.

By now had the Tiryntian sire laid an ash tree
 low upon the shady heights, tearing it up while the
 mountain groaned aloud, and laying it on the tawny
 monster's ¹ rough hide was making for the curving
 shore; for he deems that Hylas has returned by
 another path and increased the banquet with the
 flesh of his captured quarry. But neither among
 his comrades at the tables that lined the shore
 does he see his dearest Hylas, nor yet when he
 directs his gaze afar; and his heart sinks. Various
 then are the bewildered fears that affection, beset by
 clouding ill, incites: "In what region has he lost

quis tales impune moras casusve laborve
attulerit; densam interea descendere noctem 575
iam maiore metu; tum vero et pallor et amens
cum piceo sudore rigor. ceu pectora nautis
congelat hiberni vultus Iovis agricolisve,
cum coit umbra minax, comitis sic adfecit error
Alciden saevaeque monet meminisse novercae. 580
continuo, volucris ceu pectora tactus asilo
emicuit Calabris taurus per confraga saeptis
obvia quaeque ruens, tali se conceitat ardens
in iuga senta fuga: pavet omnis conscia late
silva, pavent montes, luctu succensus acerbo 585
quid struat Alcides tantaque quid apparet ira.
ille, velut refugii quem contigit improba Mauri
lancea sanguineus vasto leo murmure fertur
frangit et absentem vacuis sub dentibus hostem,
sic furiis accensa gerens Tirynthius ora 590
fertur et intento discurrit montibus arcu.
heu miseræ quibus ille ferae, quibus incidit usquam
immeritis per lustra viri! volat ordine nullo
cuncta petens; nunc ad ripas deiectaue saxis
flumina, nunc notas nemorum procurrat ad um-
bras. 595
rursus Hylan et rursus Hylan per longa reclamat
avia; responsant silvae et vaga certat imago.
At sociis immota fides austrisque secundis
certa; mora est.¹ nec parvus Hylas, quamquam
omnibus aequè
grata rudimenta: Herculeo sub nomine pendent. 600
illum omnes lacrimis maestisque reposcere votis,

¹ mora est *Eysenhardt*: mora es *V*: morae est *Madvig*.

¹ Sudhaus here, as indeed in many other places, would explain the difficulty of the text by the omission of a line, which he thinks has fallen out after 575.

his way? what chance, what task has delayed him? it grows pitchy dark the while," and at that he fears the more;¹ ay, then turns he pale indeed, and black sweat pours down, and a numb frenzy holds him. As Jove's wintry countenance congeals the hearts of mariners or husbandmen, when threatening darkness gathers, so does his comrade's truancy trouble Alcides and warn him to bethink him of his cruel stepmother. Forthwith, as a bull stung in the breast by a swift gadfly bursts out from a Calabrian thicket and overthrows all obstacles, so violently does he rush out toward the desolate hills: aghast is all the guilty forest far and wide, aghast the mountains, for fear what Alcides inflamed by bitter grief may do, what he may be scheming in his heavy wrath. And, just as a lion that the bold lance of some fleeing Moor has hit dashes forth all bloody and roaring loud, and in empty jaws crushes his absent foe, even so with rage-enkindled countenance dashes forth the Tirynthian and with strung bow ranges over the hills. Alas for the hapless beasts, for the innocent men whom he meets among the wilds! aimless, yet seeking everywhere, he storms on; now rushes he to river-banks and precipitous waterfalls, now to the shady forests that he knows. "Hylas" and yet again "Hylas" he calls through the pathless distances; the forests answer him, and the wandering echo emulates his cry.

Yet unimpaired is the confidence of the crew, and sure though south winds favour: nor does young Hylas cause delay, though to all alike his youth gave pleasure, but the thought of Hercules brings perplexity. 'Tis he they call for with tears and mournful vows, and bewildered with fear

incertique metu nunc longas litore voces
 spargere nunc seris ostendere noctibus ignes;
 ipse vel excelsi cum densa silentia montis
 strata vel oblati ductor videt aequora ventis 605
 stat lacrimans magnoque viri cunctatur amore.
 illius incessus habilemque ad terga pharetram,
 illum inter proceres maestaeque silentia mensae
 quaerit inops quondam ingenti compressa trahentem
 vina manu et durae referentem monstra novercae. 610

Nec minus interea crudelis iapyga Iuno
 adsidue movet et primis cum solibus offert.
 iamque morae impatiens cunctantes increpat ausus¹
 Tiphys et oblato monet otia rumpere cursu.
 ergo animum flexus dictis instantis Iason 615
 concedit sociosque simul sic fatur ad omnes:
 "o utinam, Scythicis struerem cum funera terris,
 vox mihi mentitas tulerit Parnasia sortes,
 agmine de tanto socium qui maximus armis
 adforet, hunc Iovis imperiis fatoque teneri 620
 ante procellosum scopulis errantibus aequor.
 necdum² fama viri nec certior extitit auctor.
 verum agite et, dubiis variant quia pectora curis,
 consulite et, motis seu vos via flatibus urget,
 pergite et inceptos mecum revocate labores; 625
 seu pluris tolerare moras rursusque propinquis
 quaesivisse iugis, pretium haut leve temporis acti."
 dixerat; at studiis iamdudum freta iuventus

¹ ausus V: ultro Koch: orsis Baehrens.

² necdum MSS.: nedum V: nec tum Sudhaus: haec tam Baehrens.

now send their voices far echoing along the shore,
 now show beacons in the deep of night; the captain
 himself when he sees the lofty mountain wrapped
 in unbroken silence or the sea made smooth by the
 offering breezes stands weeping: his great love of
 the hero makes him linger yet. His gait he misses,
 and the quiver well fitted to his back, and helplessly
 he looks for him among the princes and the mournful
 silence at the board, where once he would quaff
 the wine-cup grasped in his mighty hand, and tell
 of the monsters of his ruthless stepdame.

No less meantime does cruel Juno tirelessly bestir
 and with first daylight offer a south-west breeze.
 And now impatient of delay Tiphys chides their
 lingering endeavour, and bids seize the proffered
 sailing and tarry no more. Wherefore Jason,
 moved by his urgency, gives way, and addresses all
 his crew together: "Oh, would that when I was de-
 vising death for Scythian lands the Parnassian voice
 had given me false oracle, how that he who was the
 mightiest in arms of all this band should be held fast
 by fate and Jove's command before he reached the
 sea that storms about the wandering rocks. And not
 yet hath rumour of the hero, or informant truster
 than that, come to us.¹ But come, and because your
 hearts are fluctuating with divers cares, take counsel,
 and if the journey calls with the stirring breeze set
 sail and return to the labours we began together—or
 if it profits more to endure delay and once more to
 search the neighbouring hills, not slight the reward
 for time so spent." He spoke, but the heroes,
 long since confident of their intrigue, beseech him

¹ He has not as yet heard anything to contradict the oracle mentioned above (618) which foretold that Hercules would desert him.

orat inire vias; unum tanto afore coetu,
 nec minus in sese generis dextrasque potentes 630
 esse ferunt. tali mentem pars maxima flatu
 erigit et vana gliscunt praecordia lingua:
 saltibus ut mediis tum demum laeta reducit
 cerva gregem, tum gestit aper reboatque superbis
 comminus nrsa lupis, cum sese Martia tigris 635
 abstulit aut curvo tacitus leo condidit antro.
 at pius ingenti Telamon iam fluctuat ira
 cum fremitu, saevisque furens periuria ¹ dictis
 insequitur magnoque implorat mmina questu.
 idem orans prensatque viros demissaque supplex 640
 haeret ad ora ducis, nil se super Heronle fari,
 sed socio quocumque, gemens, quamquam aspera
 fama
 iam loca iamque feras per barbara litora gentes,
 non alium contra Alciden, non pectora tanta
 posse dari. rursun instimulat dncitque faventes 645
 magnanimus Calydone satus, potioribus ille
 deteriora fovens semperque inversa tueri
 durus et haud ullis unquam superabilis aequis
 rectorumve memor. "non Hercules" inquit "ad-
 empti,
 sed tuus in seros haec nostra silentia questus 650
 traxit honor, dum iura dares, dum tempora fandi.
 septimus hic celsis descendit montibus auster
 iamque ratem Scythicis forsán statuisset in oris;
 nos patriae immemores, maneant ceu nulla revectoros

¹ furens periuria *Kocstlin*: ferens iurgia *V*: serens *Al.*

to set forth; their large company would lack but
 one, they say; their blood is as generous, their
 right hands as strong. Such pride swells high the
 spirits of the greater part, and vain talk makes their
 hearts wax bold: as in the midst of the woodland
 then only does the glad hind lead back the herd,
 then only does the boar desire battle, and the she-
 bear make answering challenge, though cruel wolves
 are nigh at hand, when the warlike tiger is gone,
 or the lion, hid in his winding cave, no longer roars.
 But devoted Telamon is tossed on the tides of mighty,
 clamorous wrath; in furious, harsh rebuke he chides
 their perjury and with loud complaint invokes the
 gods. Again, with beseeching prayers he lays hold of
 the heroes, and as a suppliant moves not from the
 downcast leader's presence; "'tis not on the special
 account of Hercules that I speak; I should do the
 same for any comrade; yet wild regions and bar-
 barous shores peopled by savage tribes await
 us, we have no second Alcides, no heart so
 valiant as his." On the other hand, Calydon's great-
 hearted son ¹ goads and draws on those who are for
 the venture, a fosterer he of worse counsel by
 better argument, ever persistent in aiding a perverted
 course, never yielding to pleas of equity or having
 a thought for his leaders. "Respect, not for lost
 Hercules but for thee, has prolonged our silence
 unto these late complainings, till thou shouldst
 give us right and opportunity of speech. Now
 for the seventh day is the south wind blowing from
 the hills, and would perchance have already beached
 our ship on the Scythian shores; but we, forgetting
 our home, as though no joys awaited our return but a

¹ Meleager.

gaudia, sed duro saevae sub rege Mycenae, 655
 ad medium cunctamur iter. si finibus ullis
 has tolerare moras et inania tempora possem,
 regna hodie et dulcem sceptris Calydonā tenerem
 laetus opum pacisque meae, tutusque manerem
 quis genitor materque locis. quid deside terra 660
 haeremus? vacuus cur lassant aequora visus?
 tu comitem Alciden ad Phasidis amplius arva
 adfore, tu socias ultra tibi rere pharetras?
 non ea pax¹ odiis oblitave numine fesso
 Iuno sui. nova Tartareo fors semine monstra 665
 atque iterum Inachiis iam nuntius urget ab Argis.
 non datur haec magni proles Iovis; at tibi Pollux
 stirpe pares Castorque manent, at cetera divum
 progenies, nec parva mihi fiducia gentis.
 en² ego te quocumque vocas sequar, agmina³
 ferro 670
 dura⁴ metam; tibi dicta manus, tibi quidquid in ipso
 sanguine erit, iamque hinc operum quae maxima
 posco.

scilicet in solis profugi stetit Herculis armis
 nostra salus; nempe ora aequae mortalia cuncti
 ecce gerunt; ibant⁵ aequo nempe ordine remi. 675
 ille vel insano iamdudum turbidus aestu
 vel parta iam laude tumens consortia famae
 despicit ac nostris ferri comes abnuat aetis.
 vos, quibus et virtus et spes in limine primo,
 tendite, dum rerum patiens calor et rude membris 680
 robur inest; nec enim solum dare funera Colchis

¹ pax Heinsius: fax V: lex Loebbach.

² en Heinsius: ego te Bury.

³ vocas sequar, agmina Jacobs: et ego et . . . voces qua
 tegmina V.

⁴ dura Bury: plura V.

⁵ ibant V: ibunt Ald. Bachrens Langen who explains
 aequo atque antea.

cruel king in pitiless Mycenae, are halting in mid
 course. Could I endure these barren days of waiting
 anywhere, I should be ruling my realm of pleasant
 Calydon, happy in its peace and plenty, abiding
 in the home where my sire and mother dwell.
 Why linger we in a slothful land? why does the sea
 weary our unrewarded vision? dost thou think
 that our comrade Alcides will yet join us in the land
 of Phasis, that his quiver will any more be allied
 to thine? Hatred knows no such truce, nor is
 Juno, though her godhead be weary, forgetful of
 herself. Perchance new portents of Tartarean seed
 and another message from Inachian Argos is vexing
 him. This scion of mighty Jove we may not have,
 but Pollux and Castor, in birth no less, are with thee
 still, and all the other progeny of gods, nor is my
 boast of lineage small. Lo! I will follow thee
 wheresoever thou callest me; I will mow down
 lines of steel-clad warriors; to thee is dedicated
 my hand, to thee all my very life-blood can give,
 and from this moment I beg for myself the hardest
 task. Our safety, forsooth, rested on the arms of
 truant Hercules alone: all men for sure are, look
 you, in aspect equally mortal, and for sure all
 our oars moved to an equal beat. As for him,
 whether a surge of madness has long since confused
 his mind, or he is swollen with glory already won,
 he scorns partnership in our renown, and refuses to
 sail on and share the exploits of our arms. But you¹
 who have valour and fresh-budding hope, go onward,
 while you have a spirit to bear what may befall and
 vigour is fresh within your limbs; for let it not suffice
 only to deal destruction to the Colchians, and to

¹ Here he addresses all the heroes.

sit satis et tota pelagus lustrasse iuventa.
 spes mihi quae tali potuit longissima casu
 esse fuit; quicumque virum perquirere silvis
 egit amor; loca vociferans non ulla reliquit. 685
 nunc quoque, dum vario untat sententia motu,
 cernere devexis redeuntem montibus opto.
 sat lacrimis comitique datum, quem sortibus aevi
 crede vel in mediae raptum tibi sanguine pugnae.”

Talibus Oenides urget: simul incita dictis 690
 heroum manus. ante omnes Argoa iubebat
 vincla rapi Calais. furias miratur ovantum
 Aeacides, multusque viri cunctantia corda
 fert dolor, an sese comitem tam tristibus actis
 abneget et celsi maerens petat ardua montis. 695
 non tamen et gemitus et inanes desinit iras
 fundere. “quis terris pro Iuppiter” inquit “Achaëis
 iste dies! saevi capient quae gaudia Colchi!
 non hi tum flatus, non ista superbia dictis,
 litore cum patrio, iam vela premeuntibus austris, 700
 cunctus ad Alciden versus favor: ipse iuvaret,
 ipse ducis curas meritosque subiret honores.
 iamne animis, iam gente pares? aequae¹ inclita vulgi
 dextera? nulla fides, nulli super Hercule fletus?
 nunc Parthaonides, nunc dux mihi Thracia proles? 705
 aspera nunc pavidos contra ruunt agna leones?
 hanc ego magnanimi spoliū Didymaonis hastam,
 quae neque iam frondes virides nec proferet umbras,

¹ aequae Voss: adque V: vulgi MSS: vulvi V: fulgiti Madvig.

¹ Meleager, grandson of Parthaon, and Calais, son of Thracian Boreas.

² Borrowed from the famous scene in Homer, *Iliad* 1. 234-44. Cf. also Apollonius, 1. 466-71; Virgil, *Aeneid* 12. 206-11.

have spent all your prime in traversing the sea. My hope was as enduring as hope in such a case could be: love drove me to seek the man through every forest; no region did I neglect as I called aloud. Even now, while various impulse makes my judgment waver, I hope to see him descending the mountain slopes. Enough have we given to friendship, enough to tears; deem that the hazards of life or the heat of battle-carnage have reft him from thee.”

With such words the son of Oeneus incites them, and sets the heroic band aflame, Calais above all urges that Argo's cables be unloosed. The son of Aeacus marvels at their frenzied joy, and deep grief perplexes the hero's mind, whether he shall deny his comradeship to so distasteful a deed, and in sorrow betake himself to the mountain heights. Yet he ceases not to pour forth laments and words of empty wrath. “O heaven, what a day is this for Achaean lands!” he cries; “what joy will the savage Colchians feel! Not such boasting was there then, no words so arrogant when on our country's shore, while the south winds already wooed the sails, the favour of all was turned toward Alcides; let himself give aid, they cried, himself undertake the cares and merited honours of a leader. Are ye now his match in valour, or in birth? hath the might of us common men equal renown? Is there no loyalty, are there no tears for Hercules? Is now Parthaon's son or a scion of Thrace to be my chief? ¹ Does the lamb now spring fiercely at timid lions? By this spear, ² once the spoil of great-souled Didymaon, which never more will put forth green shade of foliage, since once it was torn

ut semel est evulsa iugis ac matre perempta
fida ministeria et duras obit horrida pugnas, 710
testor et hoc omni, ductor, tibi numine firmo:
saepe metu, saepe in tenui discrimine rerum
Herculeas iam serus opes spretivae vocabis
arma viri, nec nos tumida haec tum dicta iuvabunt."

Talibus Aeacides socios terroribus urgens 715
inlacrimat multaue comas deformat harena.
fata trahunt, raptusque virum certamine ductor
ibat et optenta mulcebat lumina palla.
hic vero ingenti repetuntur pectora luctu,
ut socii sedere locis nullaeque leonis 720
exuviae tantique vacant vestigia¹ transtri.
flet pius Aeacides, maerent Poecantia corda,
ingemit et dulci frater cum Castore Pollux.
omnis adhuc vocat Alciden fugiente carina,
omnis Hylan, medio pereuntia nomina ponto. 725

Dat procul interea toto pater aequore signum
Phorcys et immanes intorto murice phocas
contrahit antra petens; simul et Massylus et una
Lyctius et Calabris redit armentarius arvis.
ilicet extremi nox litore Solis Hiberas 730
condidit alta domos et sidera sustulit axis.
flamina conticuere, tacet² cum flatibus aequor.
Amphitryoniades nec quae nova lustra requirat,
nec quo temptet iter, comitis nec fata parenti
quae referat videt aut socios qua mente revisat. 735
urit amor, solisque negat decedere silvis.

¹ vestigia V: fastigia Sandstroem Langen.

² tacet Burmann: iacet V.

from the rocks and bereft of its mother tree and now,
a knotted shaft, gives trusty service in hard-fought
encounters, by this spear I swear and confirm this
oath to thee, O chieftain, by every power divine:
often in fear, often in closest hazard of thy fortunes
wilt thou too late call on the might of Hercules
and the arms of the hero ye despised; nor shall
these swelling words assist us then.

As with such terrors he assails his comrades,
Aeacides weeps and with much dust befouls his hair.
Fate sweeps them on, and the chief carried away by
the eagerness of his crew went forward, and sought
to dry his eyes, veiling them with his cloak.
Then once more comes deep grief to their hearts,
when the comrades sat in their places and no lion's
hide was there to see, but the empty seat upon that
mighty thwart. Loyal Aeacides weeps, the heart
of Philoctetes is sad, brother Pollux with his dear
Castor makes lament. The ship is flying fast, and
still all cry "Hercules," all cry "Hylas," but the
names are lost in the middle of the sea.

Meanwhile from far away old Phorcys gives a
signal over all the deep, and making for his cave
gathers his huge shell-encrusted seals together; at
the same time Massylian and Lyctian herdsmen, and
they of Calabria, are returning from the fields.
Straightway on the sun's extremest shore deep night
has buried Hiberian abodes, and the sky has raised
aloft the stars. The breezes have sunk to rest, and
wind and sea are silent. The son of Amphitryon
knows not what fresh regions to search, nor whither
to turn his steps, nor what news of his friend's fate
to take to his parent, nor in what mind to rejoin his
comrades. Love sears his heart, and he will not

non aliter gemitum ¹ quondam lea prolis ademptae
 aegra ² dedit; sedet inde viis inclusaque longo
 pervigilant castella metu; dolor attrahit orbes
 interea et misero manat iuba sordida luctu. 740

¹ gemitum *Heinsius*: gemitu *V.*

² aegra *Heinsius*; terga *V.*

leave the lonely woods: not otherwise upon a time
 hath a lioness groaned in anguish for her lost cub;
 then doth she beset the roadways, and the barricaded
 strongholds keep long and anxious vigil; meanwhile
 her eyes are drawn with grief, and her mane droops
 low in unkempt misery and distress.

BOOK IV

LIBER QUARTUS

BOOK IV

Atque ea non oculis divum pater amplius aequis
 sustinuit, natiq̄ue pius miseratus amores
 Iunonem ardenti trepidam gravis increpat ira:
 "ut nova nunc tacito se pectore gaudia tollunt!
 haeret inops solisque furit Tyrrhēus oris; 5
 at comite immemores Minyae facilesque relicto
 alta tenent. sic Iuno ducem fovet anxia curis
 Aesonium, sic arma viro sociosque ministrat!
 iam quibus incertam bellis Scythicaeque paventem
 gentis opes, quanta trepidam formidine cernam! 10
 tum precibus, tum me lacrimis et supplice dextra
 adtemptare veto; rerum mihi firma potestas.
 i, Furias Veneremque move; dabit impia poenas
 virgo nec Aetæae gemitus patiemur inultos."
 dixit et arcano redolentem nectare rorem, 15
 quem penes alta quies liquidique potentia somni,
 detulit inque vagi libavit tempora nati.
 ille graves oculos et Hylan resonantia semper
 ora ferens, ut nulla deum superare potestas,
 procumbit. tandem fessis pax reddita silvis, 20
 fluminaque et vacuis auditæ montibus auræ.
 Ecce puer summa se tollere visus ab unda
 frondibus in croceis et iniquae munere Nymphae.
 stansque super carum tales caput edere voces:

¹ In "Venus and the Furies" he foreshadows the love of Medea (the sinful maid) for Jason, and the murder of her brother Absyrtus. By Jason's desertion of Medea Aetæes her father was avenged.

No longer then did the Father of the gods endure to turn thereon indifferent eyes, but pitying the loyal affection of his son, in blazing wrath he sternly rebuked the trembling Juno: "Ah! so now new joys are springing in thy secret heart! Baffled and helpless the Tyrrhēian is raging on the deserted shore; but the Minyae in easy forgetfulness have abandoned their comrade and put out to sea. Such is Juno's anxious care for her Aesonian chieftain, thus does she give arms and comrades to her hero! With what wars distraught and in terror of Scythian power, with what fears aghast shall I presently see her! When that time comes, try me not with tears and prayers and suppliant hand; unshakable is my sovereignty. Go, stir up the Furies and Venus; punished shall be the sinful maid, nor shall we suffer Aetæes' sorrow to go unavenged."¹ He spoke, and brought fragrant dew of mystic nectar, that hath the power of deep quiet and untroubled sleep, and bedewed the temples of his restless son. He, with heavy eyes and lips that ever cry "Hylas," since no power can overcome the god, sinks to the ground. At last the weary woods once more have peace, once more the streams and the breezes are heard upon the vacant hills.

Lo! in a vision the boy rises from the water's level, clad in saffron weeds, the gift of the unkind Nymph, and standing by his dear head utters such

“quid, pater, in vanos absumis tempora questus? 25
hoc nemus, haec¹ fatis mihi iam domus, improba
quo me

Nympha rapit saevae monitu Iunonis; in amnes
nunc Iovis accessus et iam mihi numina² caeli
conciat lungitque toros³ et fontis honores.

o dolor! o dulces quas gessimus ante pharetrae! 30
iam socii laetis rapuerunt vincula ventis,
hortator postquam furis et voce nefanda
inpulit Oenides. verum cum gente domoque
ista luet saevaeque aderunt tua numina matri.
surge age et in duris haut umquam defice; caelo 35
mox aderis teque astra ferent; tu semper amoris
sis memor et cari comitis ne abscedat imago.”

talibus orantem dictis visuque fruentem
ille ultro petit et vacuis amplexibus instat
languentisque movet frustra conamina dextrae: 40
corpus hebet somno refugaque eluditur umbra.
tum lacrimis, tum voce sequi, tum rumpere questus;
cum sopor et vano spes maesta resolvitur actu.

fuctus ab undisoni ceu forte crepidine saxi
cum rapit halcyones miseræ fetumque laremque, 45
it super aegra parens queriturque tumentibus undis
certa sequi, quocumque ferant, audetque pavetque,
icta fatiscit aquis donec domus haustaque fluctu
est;

illa dolens vocem dedit et se sustulit alis:
haut aliter somni maestus labor. exilit amens 50
effusisque genas lacrimis rigat. “ibimus” inquit,

¹ haec V: heu *Langen*: ac *Sudhaus*.

² numina *Langen*: lumina V.

³ toros om. V add. *Burmann*.

words as these: “Why, father, dost thou waste time in vain lament? Mine now by fate’s appointing is this glade, this home, whither at cruel Juno’s behest the wanton Nymph has stolen me; now doth she win me power to consort with the streams of Jove and the heavenly deities, and shares with me her love and the honours of the fountain. Alas, for the beloved quiver which once I bore! Now have our comrades loosed the cables to favouring winds, urged on by Oenides’ frenzied appeals and evil tongue. Nay, but with house and home shall he pay for it, and thy spirit shall aid his remorseless mother.¹ Arise, now, fail never in adversity; soon shalt thou draw nigh to heaven and the stars shall bear thee; be thou ever mindful of thy love, and let not the image of thy dear comrade fade.” While thus in such words he pleaded and indulged his gaze, eagerly the other seeks to seize him, urgent with unsatisfied embrace, and plies in vain the effort of his languid arm; but his body is dull with slumber and is foiled by the fugitive shade. Then with tears, with cries, he essays to follow, and breaks into complaints, till sleep with that vain struggle and sorrowful hope are ended. Even as when perchance from the base of some wave-echoing rock a breaker snatches a hapless halcyon’s home and brood, the mother in distress hovers complaining above the swelling billows, resolved to follow wheresoever they take them, and ventures and is afraid, until beaten and broken by the waves the home is swallowed by the flood; in her anguish she cries aloud and rises upon her wings: not otherwise was the sad striving of his dream. Madly he leaps up and streaming tears bedew his cheeks. “Shall I go then,” he cries, “and shalt thou dwell

¹ Althaea, mother of Meleager (Oenides).

"solus et hos montes desertaque lustra tenebis,
 care puer, nec res ultra mirabere nostras?"
 haec fatus relegitque vias et vallibus exit
 incertus, quid Iuno ferat, quas apparet iras. 55
 nec minus et socios cernit procul aequore ferri
 praecipites tacitumque pudet potuisse relinqui.

Iamque iter ad Teucros atque hospita moenia
 Troiae
 flexerat Iliaci repetens promissa tyranni;
 cum maestis Latona simul Dianaque vultu 60
 ante Iovem stetit et supplex sic fatur Apollo:
 "in quem alium Alciden, in quae iam tempora differs
 Caucasum, rex magne, senem? nullumne malorum
 finem adeo poenaeque dabis? te cuncta precatur
 gens hominum atque ipsi iam te, pater optime,
 montes 65

fessaque cum silvis orant iuga. sat tibi furtum
 ignis et aetherae defensa silentia mensae."
 dixit ubi, e scopulis media inter pabula diri
 vulturis ipse etiam gemitu maestaque fatigat
 voce Iovem saevis relevans ambusta pruinis 70
 lumina; congeminant amnes rupesque fragorem
 Caesaeae; stupet ipse dei clamoribus ales.
 tunc etiam superas Acheronte auditus ad arces
 Iapetus; gravis orantem procul arcet Erinys
 respiciens celsi legem Iovis. ille dearum 75
 fletibus et magno Phoebi commotus honore
 velocem roseis demittit nubibus Irim.

alone on these hills and desolate wilds, dear youth, nor marvel any more at my deeds?" So speaking he retraces his path and leaves the glens, uncertain what Juno may have in store, what angers she may be preparing. Then too he beholds his comrades faring afar in hot haste upon the sea, and feels shame that with no word spoken he could have borne to be left behind.

And now he had bent his steps to the Trojans and Troy's hospitable walls, claiming the promise of the Ilian monarch,¹ when Latona and Diana together stood mournful-eyed before Jove, and Apollo thus supplicating speaks: "Until what other Alcides come, until what time indeed, great king, dost thou put off the old man of Caucasus?"² Grantest thou no end at all of punishment and of misery? The whole race of mankind beseeches thee, ay, the very mountains, worthy sire, and the weary ridges with their forests supplicate thee. Sufficiently hast thou punished the theft of fire and safeguarded the secrets of the ethereal board." Even as he spoke, from the crags and amidst the very ravening of the dreadful vulture Prometheus too himself besets Jove with groans and piteous pleas, uplifting eyes that the cruel frosts have seared; the rivers and rocks of Caucasus redouble the loud complaint; the bird itself is amazed at the clamour of the god. Then too from Acheron up to heaven's heights is heard the cry of Iapetus himself; sternly, as he pleads, does Erinys thrust him aside, looking to the law of lofty Jove. He moved by the goddesses' tears and Phoebus' high renown sends down swift Iris on her

¹ The reward promised to Hercules by Laomedon, king of Troy, for his help in building the walls of that city.

² Prometheus, who stole fire from heaven (66), but it was Tantalus who betrayed the secrets entrusted to him by Jupiter (67).

" i, Phrygas Alcides et Troiae differat arma.
nunc " ait " eripiat dirae Titana voluceri."
diva volat defertque viro celeranda parentis 80
imperia atque alacrem laetis hortatibus implet.

Iam Minyae mediis clarae per sidera noctis
fluctibus intulerant placido cava lintea cursu
multaque deserto memores super Hercule volvunt.
Thracius at summa sociis e puppe sacerdos 85
fata deum et miserae solans incommoda vitae
securum numeris agit et medicabile carmen;
quo simul adsumpta pulsus ¹ fide luctus et irae
et labor, et dulces cedunt e pectore nati.

Interea magni iam iam subeuntibus astris 90
Oceani genitale caput, Titania frenis
antra sonant; Sol auricomis urgentibus ² Horis
multifidum iubar et bissono sidere textam
loricam induitur; ligat hanc qui nubila contra
balteus undantem variat mortalibus arcum. 95
inde super terras et eoi cornua montis
emicuit traxitque diem candentibus undis;
at Minyas viso liquerunt flamina Phoebō.

Proxima Bebrycii panduntur litora regni,
pingue solum et duris regio non invida tauris. 100
rex Amycus; regis fati et numine freti
non muris cinxere domos, non foedera legum
ulla colunt placidas aut iura tenentia mentes.
quales Aetnaeis rabidi Cyclopes in antris

¹ quo . . . pulsus *Ed. Bon.*: quod . . . pulsum *V.*

² urgentibus *Edd.*: ingentibus *V.*: eurgentibus *Bon.*

rosy cloud. " Go," he says, " let Alcides put off the Phrygians and the war of Troy. Now let him rescue the Titan from the dreadful bird." Fast flies the goddess and bids the hero quickly perform his sire's commands, and pours the glad message into his eager ears.

Already through the clear and starry night the Minyae had brought their bellying sails to mid-ocean in placid course, and were revolving many memories of the Hercules they had left behind. But from the high poop the Thracian bard in solace for heaven's destiny and life's distressful miseries sings to his comrades a melody whose measures bring healing and relief: no sooner had he taken his lyre than grief and anger and weariness were dispelled, and the sweet memory of children fades away.

Meanwhile the stars are now gliding into the life-giving springs of mighty Ocean, and the bridles are jingling in the Titanian caves; hastened by the golden-haired Hours the Sun puts on his diadem of myriad rays and the corselet woven of twelve stars and bound by the belt which athwart the rain-clouds shows for men its many hued bow. Then above the earth and above the horns of the eastern mount he shone forth, and drew a train of light over the sparkling waves; but at the sight of Phoebus the breezes left the Minyae.

Next open out the shores of the Bebrycian realm, a land of fertile soil and a good friend to sturdy bulls. Amycus was its king, and trusting to his destiny and power divine they girded not their homes with walls nor observed conditions of treaties or laws that constrain peaceful minds. Even as the wild Cyclopes in Aetna's caverns watch the straits during stormy

nocte sub hiberna servant freta, sicubi saevis 105
 advectet ratis acta notis tibi pabula dira
 et miseris, Polypheme, dapes: sic undique in omnes
 prospiciunt cursantque vias, qui corpora regi
 capta trahant. ea Neptuno trux ipse parenti
 sacrifici pro rupe iugi media aequora supra 110
 torquet agens; sin forma viris praestantior adsit,
 tum legere arma iubet sumptisque occurrere contra
 caestibus; haec miseris¹ sors est aequissima leti.
 huc ubi devectam Neptunus gurgite puppem
 sensit et extremum nati prospexit in oras 115
 et quondam lactos domini certamine campos,
 ingemit ac tales evolvit pectore questus:
 " infelix imas quondam mihi rapta sub undas,
 nec potius magno, Melie, tum mixta Tonanti!
 usque adeone meam quacumque ab origine prolem
 tristia fata manent? sic te olim pergere sensi, 121
 Iuppiter, iniustae quando mihi virginis armis
 concidit infelix et nunc chaos implet Orion.
 nec tibi nunc virtus aut det fiducia nostri,
 nate, animos opibusque ultra ne crede paternis. 125
 iam iam aliae vires maioraque sanguine nostro
 vincunt fata Iovis, potior cui cura suorum est.
 atque ideo neque ego hanc tumidis avertere ventis
 temptavi tenuive ratem, nec iam mora morti
 hinc erit ulla tuae. reges preme, dure,² secundos."
 abstulit inde oculos, natumque et tristia linquens
 proelia sanguineo terras pater alluit aestu. 132

¹ miseris *Burmans*: miseris *V*.

² preme dure *V*: doliture *C*: promit ille *Schenkl*.

nights, should any vessel driven by fierce south winds
 draw nigh, bringing thee, Polyphemus, grim fodder
 and wretched victims for thy feasting, so look they
 forth and speed every way to drag captive bodies to
 their king. Them doth the cruel monarch himself
 on the rocky verge of a sacrificial ridge, that looms
 above mid-sea, take and hurl down in offering to his
 father Neptune; but should the men be of finer
 build, then he bids them take arms and meet him
 with the gauntlets; that for the hapless men is the
 fairest doom of death. When Neptune saw the
 vessel borne hither upon the flood and for the last
 time looked upon his son's domain and the fields that
 once rejoiced in their master's contests, he sighed
 and poured from his heart such plaints as these:
 "Melie, 'tis pity thou wast long ago carried off by
 me beneath the waves, and didst not rather yield
 to the Thunderer! So utterly then does a sad fate
 await my offspring, from whomsoever born? Ere
 now have I known thee so to act, O Jupiter, when
 hapless Orion¹ fell by the cruel virgin's shaft and
 now fills Chaos. And let not thy valour, O my son,
 nor confidence in me afford thee courage, trust no
 more in thy father's power. Now other might has
 the mastery, and the destinies of Jove, more eager
 to protect his own, are too strong for blood of mine.
 Therefore I strove not to turn away this ship with
 boisterous winds nor stayed her course, nor now can
 I in aught delay thy death. Make lesser kings thy
 prey, hard-hearted one!" Then he turned his gaze
 away, and the father, leaving his son and the ill-
 starred combat, laved the shores with a tide of blood.

¹ Slain by Diana according to one version for assaulting her, but in Homer, *Odyssey* 5. 121, through the jealousy of the gods, because he was the lover of Eos, the Dawn.

Principio fluvios gentemque et litora ductor
 explorare iubet, paulumque egressus Echion
 invenit obscura gemitus in valle trahentem 135
 clam juvenem et caesi maerentem nomen amici.
 ille virum ut contra venientem umbrataque vidit
 tempora Parrhasio patris de more galero
 paciferaeque manu nequiquam insignia virgae,
 "heu fuge" ait "certo quicumque es, perдите,
 passu, 140
 dum datur." obstipuit visu Nonacria proles,
 quid ferat admirans. postquam remeare monentem
 ocius et dictis perstantem cernit in isdem,
 abripit et sociis, quae sint ea, promere cogit.
 ille manus tendens "non haec" ait "hospita vobis
 terra, viri, non hic ullos reverentia ritus 146
 pectora; mors habitat saevaeque hoc litore pugnae.
 iam veniet diros Amycus qui tollere caestus
 imperet et vasto qui vertice nubila pulset.
 talis in advectos Neptuni credita proles 150
 aeternum furit, atque aequae virtutis egentes
 ceu superum segnes ad iniqua altaria tauros
 constituit, tantum ¹ ut misero lavet arma cerebro.
 consulite atque fugae medium ne temnite tempus.
 namque isti frustra quisquam concurrere monstro 155
 audeat; et quaenam talem vidisse voluptas?"
 ductor ad haec "Bebryxne venis diversaque regi
 corda gerens (melior vulgi nam saepe voluntas),
 hostis an externis fato delatus ab oris?
 et tua cur Amycus caestu nondum obruit ora?" 160

¹ tantum *Burmann*: tandem V.

¹ The broad-brimmed hat ("petasus") which Mercury, the Arcadian god, is commonly represented as wearing.

Straightway the chieftain bids explore the rivers and the coasts and the folk, and Echion going forward a little way finds a youth secretly uttering groans in a secluded vale and lamenting the name of a murdered friend. He when he saw the hero coming toward him, and the brow shaded after the fashion of his sire by an Arcadian hat,¹ and in his hand the vain emblem of a peace-bringing branch, "Ah, flee, while yet thou canst," he cried; "hesitate not, doomed man, whoever thou art!" At the sight the Nonacrian halted in amaze, wondering what he brings. But when he sees him bidding him swiftly return and persistent in the same warning, he carries him off and compels him to reveal his story to the crew. The other with hand outstretched replies: "No friendly land is this to you, O heroes, here are no hearts that reverence any rites; this shore is the home of death and cruel combats. Soon Amycus will come bidding you raise the dread gauntlets aloft and striking the clouds with overtopping head. In such wise rages he, deemed Neptune's son, against voyagers continually, and them that lack valour to match his he stations like sluggish bulls at the cruel altars of the gods, only that he may wet his weapons in the wretches' brains. Take counsel then, and scorn not the time that yet remains for flight. For with that monster in vain would anyone dare to engage; and what pleasure is there in the sight of such an one?" The chief to this: "Comest thou as a Bebrycian, with heart estranged from thy prince (for oft have the common people kindlier feelings), or as a stranger whom fate has brought from foreign shores? And why then has Amycus not shattered thy face with his gauntlet?" "I followed," he said,

"nomen" ait "praedulce mihi famamque¹ secutus
 Otreos unanimi. decus ille et laeta suorum
 gloria nec vestros comes aspernandus in actus,
 Hesionam et Phrygiae peteret cum gaudia nuptae,
 hic Amycum contra iussus stetit atque ego palmas
 implicui; sed prima procul vixdum ora levantis 166
 fulminea frontem dextra disiectaque fudit
 lumina; me numquam leto dignatus et armis,
 sed lacrimis potius luctuque absumor inertis.
 spes tamen, his fando si nuntius extitit oris 170
 et Mariandynum patrias penetravit ad urbes,
 unde genus fraterque viro—sed et ille quierit
 oro nec vanis cladem Lycus augeat armis."

Haec ubi non ulla iuvenes formidine moti
 accipiunt, videt² et dura sic pergere mente, 175
 terga sequi properosque iubet coniungere gressus.
 litore in extremo spelunca apparuit ingens,
 arboribus super et dorso contacta minanti,
 non quae dona die, non quae trahat aetheris ignem,
 infelix domus et sonitu tremebunda profundis. 180
 at varii pro rupe metus: hic trunca rotatis
 brachia rapta viris strictoque immortua caestu
 ossaque taetra situ et capitum maestissimus ordo;
 respicias quibus adverso sub vulnere nulla
 iam facies nec nomen erat; media ipsius arma 185
 sacra metu magnique aris imposta parentis.
 hospitibus hic primum monitus rediere Dymantis,

¹ famamque *Langen*: nomenque *V*.

² videt *Schenkl*: dolet *V*: dura sic *V*: durent si *Buehrens*.

¹ The speaker's name is Dymas (187), who laments the fate of his friend Otreus, brother of Lycus, king of the Mariandyni, a Bithynian people.

"the name, to me surpassing sweet, and the renown of Otreus, sharer of my soul. The pride and glory he of his comrades, nor one that you might despise as a partner of your deeds. In search for Hesion and the enjoyment of a Phrygian bride he was bidden stand against Amycus, and I it was who enlaced his hands; but scarce had he drawn nigh and lifted his head when the other with lightning blow dashed out the eyes from his shattered brow; me he never deemed worthy of a violent death, rather do I consume myself with tears and helpless sorrow. Yet hope I still, if a spoken message has left these shores and reached the cities of my native Mariandyni, whence come the hero's brother and his race—but may Lycus, I pray, remain inactive, nor increase the slaughter with vain attempt of arms."¹

The youths listen unperturbed, and seeing that they persist with unimpaired resolve he bids them follow behind and add their speed to his. On the limit of the strand was seen a mighty cave, covered by trees above and threatening ridge of rock, debarred from heaven's blessings and from the sky's radiance,² a grim abode that trembled with the roaring of the deep. But before the rock were various terrors: severed arms torn from men sent flying, and lifeless though still clad with the gauntlet, and bones all foul and mouldering, and heads in a dismal row. You could see those for whom the straight-pitched blow had left nor name nor visage; in the midst were the weapons of the monarch himself, held sacred through fear and placed on the altar of his mighty sire. Here first they remembered the warnings of the stranger

² A rock which did not enjoy the sunlight and on which no flowers or crops could grow.

et pavor et monstri subiit absentis imago,
 atque oculos cuncti inter se tenuere silentes,
 donec sidereo Pollux interritus ore 190
 "te tamen hac, quicumque es," ait "formidine faxo
 iam tua silva ferat, modo sint tibi sanguis et artus."
 omnibus idem animus forti decernere pugna,
 exoptantque virum contraque occurrere poscunt.
 qualiter ignotis spumantem funditus annem 195
 taurus aquis qui primus init spernitque tumentem¹
 pandit iter, mox omne pecus formidine pulsa
 pone subit, iamque et mediis præcedit ab undis.

At procul e silvis sese gregibusque ferebat
 saevus in antra gigans; quem nec sua turba tuendo
 it taciti secura metus. mortalia nusquam 200
 signa manent; instar scopuli, qui montibus altis
 summus abit longæque iugo stat solus ab omni.
 devolat inde furens, nec quo via curvæ profecti
 nec genus ante rogat, sed tali protonat ira: 205
 "incipite, o iuvenes; etenim fiducia, credo,
 huc tulit auditas et sponte lacessitis oras.
 sin errore viæ necdum mens gnara locorum:
 Neptuni en domus atque egomet Neptunia proles.²
 hic mihi lex caestus adversaque tollere contra 210
 brachia. sic ingens Asiae plaga quique per arcton
 dexter et in laevum pontus iacet hæc mea visit
 hospitia; hoc functi remeant certamine reges.
 iam pridem caestus resides et frigida raris 214
 dentibus aret humus. quis mecum foedera iunget?

¹ This line, necessary to the sense, is found only in C.

² This line, which in V follows 212, was transferred here by Schenkl.

¹ Amycus is as tall and solitary as a mountain peak unfrequented by man; no human beings are to be seen anywhere near him.

Dymas; fear came upon them with the thought of the absent monster, and all fixed their silent looks upon each other, until Pollux with starry countenance undismayed said: "Ay, but for all this terror I will cause this wood of thine to bear thee anon, whoever thou art, if thou have but blood and limbs withal!" All are alike emboldened to try the issue in valiant fight, they call for the foe and ask to challenge him face to face. Even as when a river foams from its depths with untried waters, the bull that first goes in and spurms its eddies opens up the way, then all the herd, their terror lost, follow behind him, ay, from mid-stream they even take the lead.

But from the woods and from his flocks hard by the ruthless giant was striding to the cave; not even his own folk as they gazed at him went free from secret fears. No signs of mortal man remain; ¹ as it were a rocky peak that soars above high mountains and stands alone far apart from all the ridge. Then he swoops down in fury, and asks not their race or whither they are bound or why, but thunders in his wrath: "Begin, ye striplings; assurance it was, I ween, that brought you hither; ye have heard of our shores, and straight are come to vex them. But if it was error of the way and ye have not yet knowledge of these lands, this is Neptune's house and I am Neptune's son. Here it is my law to raise gauntlet and arms in opposing combat. Only so does Asia's vast tract and sea that lies northward to the right and leftward seek here my welcome; this contest concluded do kings return.² Long since do my gauntlets lie idle, and the ground is cold and dry, and but few teeth bestrew it. Who will strike a bargain with me?"

² Spoken in irony; they do not return alive.

prima manu cui dona feram? mox omnibus idem
 ibit honos. fuga sub terras, fuga nulla per auras.
 nec lacrimae (ne ferte¹ preces) superive vocati
 pectora nostra movent; aliis rex Iuppiter oris.
 faxo Bebrycium nequeat transcendere puppis 220
 ulla fretum et ponto volitet Symplegas inani."

Talia dicta dabat, cum protinus asper Iason
 et simul Aeacidae simul et Calydonis alumni
 Nelidesque Idasque prior quae maxima surgunt
 nomina; sed nudo steterat iam pectore Pollux. 225
 tum pavor et gelidus defixit Castora sanguis;
 nam nec ad Elei pugnam videt ora parentis,
 nec sonat Oebalium caveae favor aut iuga nota
 Taygeti, lavitur patrios ubi victor ad amnes,
 nec pretium sonipes aut sacrae tauris harenae, 230
 praemia sed manes reclusaque ianua leti.
 illum Amycus nec fronte trucem nec mole tremendum
 vixdum etiam primae spargentem signa iuventae
 ore ridenti lustrans obit et fremit ausum,
 sanguineosque rotat furis ardentibus orbes. 235
 non aliter iam regna poli, iam capta Typhoeus
 astra ferens Bacchum ante acies primamque deorum
 Pallada et oppositos doluit sibi virginis angues.
 sic adeo insequitur rabidoque ita murmure terret:
 "quisquis es, infelix celera puer; haut tibi pulchrae
 manserit hoc ultra frontis decus orave matri 241
 nota feres. tune, o sociis electus iuvis,

¹ ne ferte *V*: nec forte *MSS. Langen.*

¹ Tydens and Meleager.

² Periclymenus.

³ Spartan, from Oebalus, a king of Sparta.

⁴ The mountain range that divides Laconia from Messenia.

'To whom may I hand the prize? The same guerdon
 will come to all in time. No escape is there
 beneath the earth, none through the air. My heart
 is proof against tears (no grovelling prayers!) and
 appeals to heaven; 'tis elsewhere Jupiter counts for
 king. I shall see that no vessel sails Bebrycian
 waters, and that the Clashers dance to and fro on
 an empty sea!"

Such words he was uttering, when in a moment up
 leaps stern Jason and the sons of Aeacus and the
 Calydonian pair¹ together and Neleus' son,² and
 before him Idas—the mightiest names of all: but
 already Pollux with bared breast had taken his stand.
 Then did fear grip Castor and icy chill of blood; for
 it is no contest before the face of his Elean sire that
 he watches, nor do the cheers of the Oebalian³ ring
 re-echo or Taygetus'⁴ well-known range, where the
 victor washes himself by his native streams, nor is the
 prize of the accursed sand a bull or a steed with sound-
 ing hooves, but the guerdon is a man's life and the
 gate of death unbarred. But Amycus with smiling
 look surveys a foe neither fierce of brow nor terrible
 in bulk, scarce as yet showing signs of earliest man-
 hood; he rages at his boldness, and in blazing fury
 rolls his bloodshot eyes. Not otherwise did Typhoeus,
 boasting that already the kingdom of the sky and
 already the stars were won, feel aggrieved that
 Bacchus in the van and Pallas, foremost of the gods,
 and a maiden's snakes confronted him. Thus too he
 continues and tries to cow him with rabid clamour:
 "Make haste, whosoever thou art, unhappy boy;
 no longer shall the beauty of that fair brow remain to
 thee, nor shalt thou take back to thy mother the face
 she knew. Wilt thou, the choice of cruel comrades,

tunc Amyci moriere manu? " nec plura moratus
 ingentes umeros spatiosaque pectoris ossa
 protulit horrendosque toris informibus artus. 245
 deficiunt visu Minyae, miratur et ipse
 Tyndarides; redit Alcidae iam sera cupido
 et vacuos maesto lustrarunt lumine montes.
 at satus aequoreo fatur tunc talia rege:
 " aspice et haec crudi durata volumina tauri; ¹ 250
 nec pete sortis opem, sed quos potes indue caestus."

Dixit et urgentis per ² sera pericula fati
 nescius extremum hoc armis innectere palmas
 dat famulis; dat et inde Lacon. odia aspera
 surgunt

ignotis prius atque incensa mente feruntur 255
 in medium sanguis Iovis et Neptunia proles.
 hinc illinc dubiis intenta silentia votis;
 et pater orantes caesorum Tartarus umbras
 nube cava tandem ad meritae spectacula poenae
 emittit; summi nigrescunt culmina montis. 260
 continuo Bebryx, Maleae velut arce fragosa
 turbo rapax, vix ora virum, vix tollere passus
 brachia torrenti praecipit agit undique nimbo
 cursibus involvens, totaque immanis harena
 insequitur. vigil ille metu cum pectore et armis
 huc alternus et hinc, semper cervice reducta, 266
 semper et in digitis et summi pulvere campi,

¹ crudi . . . tauri *Thilo*: crudis . . . tauris *V.*

² per *Bachrens*: post *V*: pro *Madvig* (*exclam.*).

wilt thou die by the hand of Amycus?" No more he tarries, but displays his huge shoulders and the spacious breast-bones and the unsightly sinews of his terrible limbs. The hearts of the Minyae fail at the sight, and even the son of Tyndareus marvels; too late they long once more for Alcides, and with sad gaze scan the deserted hills. But the son of the ruler of the sea then accosts him thus: "Look, here too are hardened wrappings of raw bull's-hide; and seek not the aid of chance, but put on what gloves thou canst."

He spoke, and unaware that fate was driving him on the path of tardy expiation, gives his arms for this last time to his attendants to bind with harness; then so too does the Laconian. Fierce hatred wells up in those who were erstwhile strangers, and with minds inflamed the seed of Jove and Neptune's son stride forth into the midst.¹ On both sides silence is strung taut by suspense and hope, and at their entreaty father Tartarus sends forth in a hollow cloud shades of the slain to view at last the well-earned retribution; the mountain-tops grow black with them. Straightway the Bebrycian, like a hurricane sweeping down from Malea's roaring summit, scarce suffers the hero to raise his head, scarce to lift his arms, but drives him headlong and with swift steps encompasses him about in a storm and torrent of attack, and in vast bulk pursues him over all the ground. The other alert with fear turns breast and gauntlets now this way, now that, ever with head drawn back, ever a-tiptoe on the surface dust of the plain, or lung-

¹ The fight here described follows that in Apollonius (II 62-97) in the main; in both cases the combatants pause for breath, and there are thus two phases of the fight; in each poet Amycus begins by rushing fiercely on his adversary, and there is a simile of a vessel weathering a storm of wind; then

they belabour each other (another simile); after the pause Valerius is somewhat fuller, and somewhat elaborates the finish of the fight.

proiectusque redit. spumanti qualis in alto
 Phiae capta ratis, trepidi quam sola magistri
 cura tenet, rabidum ventis certantibus aequor 270
 intemerata secat: Pollux sic providus ictus
 servat et Oebalia dubium caput eripit arte.
 ut deinde urgentes effudit nubibus iras
 ardoremque viri, paulatim insurgere fesso
 integer et summis manibus deducere ¹ caestus. 275
 ille dies aegros Amyci sudoribus artus
 primus et arenti cunctantem vidit hiatu:
 nec sua defessum noscunt loca nec sua regem
 agmina. respirant ambo paulumque reponunt
 brachia; ceu Lapithas aut Paeonas aequore in ipso
 cum refovet fixaque silet Gradivus in hasta. 281
 vix steterant, et iam ecce ruunt infictaque late
 terga sonant; nova vis iterum, nova corpora surgunt.
 hunc pudor, hunc noto iam spes audentior hoste
 instimulat; fumant crebro praecordia pulsu. 285
 avia responsant gemitu iuga: pervigil ut cum
 artificum notat ipse ² manus et fulmina Cyclops
 prosubigit, pulsus strepitant incudibus urbes.
 emicat hic dextramque parat dextramque minatur
 Tyndarides; redit huc oculis et pondere Bebryx 290
 sic ratus, ille autem celeri rapit ora sinistra.
 conclamant socii et subitas dant gaudia voces.
 illum insperata turbatum fraude furentemque

¹ summis . . . deducere *Langen*: summos . . . deducere
V: summis . . . diducere *Baehrens*.

² notat ipse *C*: notata et *V*: tonat *Aetna Baehrens*.

ing forward returns upon the foe. Just as a vessel
 caught by the Pleiads on the foaming deep and kept
 safe only by its anxious helmsman's care cleaves
 unharmed the sea that contending winds make
 boisterous, so Pollux warily watches the blows and
 with Oebalian skill withdraws his head from the peril.
 Then when he had wasted the urgent wrath and fury
 of the man upon the clouds,¹ by slow degrees he rises
 to the attack, still fresh against a tired foe, and rains
 down blows with uplifted arms. That day first
 beheld Amycus' limbs drooping with sweat and
 himself halting with fevered gasps, nor do his own
 land or people know their weary lord. Both take
 breath awhile and drop their arms; as when on the
 very field of war Gradivus refreshes the Lapithae or
 the Paeonians, leaning silent upon his fixed spear.
 Scarce a moment had they stood, when lo! already
 they rush to the fray, and their gloves resound afar
 with hail of blows; with fresh might once more, with
 fresh bodies do they rise. Shame urges the one, the
 other hope, more confident now from knowledge of
 his foe; their breasts are asteam with repeated blows.
 The desolate hillsides re-echo their loud cries: as
 when in nightly vigil the master marks the labours
 of his workmen and the Cyclops prepares the metal
 for the thunderbolt, while cities echo the clang of
 stricken anvils. Then the son of Tyndareus leaps
 forward and shows his right and threatens with it;
 that way go the eyes and the lunge of the Bebry-
 cian, so fancying, but the other with swift left makes
 havoc of his face. His friends raise a shout and in a
 sudden cry give vent to joy. From his foe dazed and
 maddened by the unexpected guile the Oebalian

¹ *I.e.* made Amycus waste his blows upon the air.

Oebalides prima refugit dum detonet ira,
 territus ipse etiam atque ingentis conscius ausi. 295
 saevit inops Amycus nullo discrimine sese
 praecipitans avidusque viri (respectat ovantes
 quippe procul Minyas), tum caestri elatus utroque
 inruit. hos inter Pollux subit et trucidat ultro
 advolat ora viri: nec spes effecta, sed ambae 300
 in pectus cecidere manus. hoc saevior ille
 ecce iterum vacuas agit inconsulta per auras
 brachia. sentit ubi¹ Pollux rationis egentem,
 dat genibus inunctis latus effusumque secutus
 haud revocare gradum patitur, turbatque premitque
 ancipitem crebros et liber congerit ictus 306
 desuper averso; sonat omni vulnere vertex
 inclinis ceciditque² malis. iam tempora manant
 sanguinaeque latent aures, vitalia donec
 vincula, qua primo cervix committitur artu, 310
 solvit dextra gravis. labentem propulit heros
 ac super insistens "Pollux ego missus Amyclis
 et Iove natus" ait, "nomen mirantibus umbris
 hoc referes, sic et memori noscere sepulchro." 314
 Bebrycas extemplo spargit fuga; nullus adempti
 regis amor; montem celeres silvamque capessunt.
 haec sors, haec Amycum tandem manus arcuit ausis
 effera servantem Ponti loca vimque iuventae
 continuam et magni sperantem tempora patris.
 tenditur ille ingens hominum pavor arvaque late

¹ sentit ubi *Thilo*: sentit enim *V*.

² ceciditque *V*: ceciditque *Edd. and some MSS.*: ceciditque
 manus *Baehrens*.

shrinks back until the first thunder of his wrath be spent, terrified himself even and conscious of his great daring. In helpless rage Amycus hurls himself forward without regard and greedy for his foe (for he sees the Minyae exulting afar), then raising aloft both gauntlets he dashes upon him. Pollux slips between them and undaunted flies at the face of his fierce enemy, nor was his hope fulfilled, but both fists fell upon his chest. The other, all the fiercer, lo! once more waves his arms at random through the empty air. When Pollux sees him bereft of wits, he plants his legs close and presents his side, and as he sprawls forward follows up nor suffers him to recover his stand, but hustling and pressing him hard in his perplexity rains down from behind a shower of blows at his own pleasure; his bowed head resounds with all manner of wounds, and he sinks beneath the punishment. Already his temples stream and his ears are hidden by the gore, until a heavy blow with the right snaps the vital bond where the first joint connects the head and neck. As he reels the hero thrusts him down, and standing over him cries: "Pollux am I, who hail from Amyclae and am born of Jove; this name shalt thou bear down to the wondering shades; thus shall it be told of thee on thy recording tomb."

Forthwith the Bebrycians scatter in flight; no love have they for the slain king; swiftly they hie them to the mountains and the forests. Such was the lot, such the hand that at length thrust Amycus from his ambition, as he guarded the wild haunts of Pontus and hoped for youth's enduring vigour, and a life that should rival his mighty sire's. Outstretched lies that vast terror of men, and in broad bulk covers the

occupat, annosi veluti si decidat olim 321
 pars Erycis vel totus Athos; qua mole iacentis
 ipse etiam expleri victor nequit oraque longo
 comminus optutu mirans tenet. at manus omnis
 heroum densis certatim amplexibus urgent, 325
 armaque ferre iuvat fessaque attollere palmas.
 "salve vera Iovis, vera o Iovis" undique "proles"
 ingeminant, "o magnanimis memoranda palaestris
 Taygeta et primi felix labor ille magistri!"
 dumque ea dicta ferunt, tenues tamen ire cruores
 siderea de fronte vident; nec sanguine Pollux 331
 territus averso siccabat vulnera caestu.
 illius excelsum ramis caput armaque Castor
 implicat et viridi conectit tempora lauro,
 respiciensque ratem "patriis" ait "has precor oris,
 diva, refer frondes cumque hac freta curre corona."
 dixerat; hinc valida caedunt armenta bipenni 337
 perfusique sacro placati gurgitis amne
 graminea sternuntur humo; tunc liba dapesque
 frondibus adcumulant; exsortia terga Laconi 340
 praecipinnt pecudum. toto mox tempore mensae
 laetus ovat nunc laude virum nunc vatis honoro
 carmine, victori geminans cratera parenti.
 Iamque dies auraeque vocant, rursusque capessunt
 aequora, qua rigidos eructat Bosphoros amnes. 345
 illos, Nile, tuis nondum dea gentibus Io
 transierat fluctus, unde haec data nomina ponto.

¹ The sea, because Amycus was a son of Neptune.

fields, as if a portion of aged Eryx or all Athos were one day to fall; the victor himself cannot be sated with the huge prostrate mass, and marvelling gazes long and fixedly from close at hand. But the whole company of heroes throng him with emulous embraces, and rejoice to carry his gauntlets and raise his weary arms. "Hail, true offspring, ay, true offspring indeed of Jove!" they cry again and again on every side. "Hurrah for Taygetus, renowned for great-hearted wrestling-schools, and for the fruitful lessons of thy earliest teacher!" Even while they utter these cheers, yet still they mark thin blood streams flowing from that starry forehead, and Pollux unterrified was stanching the wound with the back of his glove. Castor entwines his lofty head and his weapons with leaves, and wreathes his temples with laurel, and glancing at the ship, "Bring back, I pray, O goddess," he cries, "this foliage to our native shores, and with this garland speed over the sea." So ended his prayer; thereupon they slay with strong axe steers of the herd, and bathing themselves in the sacred water of the flood they have appeased,¹ lie down upon the grassy ground; then they heap dainties of the banquet upon leaves, and ordain for the Laconian prime portions of all the meat. Then throughout all the feast he exults with joy now at the heroes' praise, now at the bard's honouring song, twice pouring the bowl to his victorious sire.

And now day and the breezes call them, and once more they take to the seas, where Bosphorus spews forth its frozen streams. These very waves Io, not yet a goddess to thy folk, O Nile, had crossed, whence the strait had its name. Then the pious bard of

tum pius Oeagri claro de sanguine vates,
admonita genetrix, refert casusque locorum
Inachidosque vias pelagusque emensa iuvencae 350
exilia intentisque canit: "videre priores
saepe Iovem in terras Argivaque regna Pelasgum
virginis Iasiae blandos descendere ad ignes.
sentit Iuno dolos curaque accensa iugali
aethere desiluit; dominam Lyrcia tellus 355
antraque deprensae tremuerunt conscia culpa.
tum trepida Inachiae paelex subit ora iuvencae
sponte dei; plausu fovet hanc et pectora mulcet
Iuno renidenti cohibens suspiria vultu.
mox ita adorta Iovem: 'da quam modo ditibus
Argis 360
campus alit primae referentem cornua Phoebes
indomitamque bovem, da carae munera nuptae.
ipsa ego dilectae pecudi iam pascua digna
praecipuosque legam fontes.' qua fraude negaret
aut quos inventos¹ tenuisset Iuppiter astus? 365
muneris illa potens custodem protinus Argum
adiungit; custos Argus placet, in scia somni
lumina non aliter toto cui vertice, quam si
Lyda nurus sparso telas maculaverit ostro.
Argus et in scopulos et monstris horrida lustra 370
ignotas iubet ire vias heu multa morantem
conantemque preces inclusaque pectore verba.
ultima tum patriae cedens dedit oscula ripae.
flevit Amymone, fierunt Messeides undae,
flevit et effusus revocans Hyperia lacertis, 375
illa ubi vel fessi tremerent erroribus artus,
vel rueret summo iam frigidus aethere vesper,

¹ inventos *Harless*: inventus *V*: tenuisset *Harless*:
tenuisset *V*: finxisset *Kramer*.

renowned Oeagrus' line invoking his mother's aid
tells of the places and their story, of Inachus' daughter
and her wanderings, and how the heifer ranged the
sea in exile: eagerly do they hearken to his song.
" Oft did our fathers see Jupiter come down to earth
and the Pelasgians' Argive realm, aflame for the coy
Iasian maid. Juno, aware of his deceit and aglow
with bridal fears, leapt down from heaven; the
Lyrcian land and its bowers, their guilty secret
known, trembled before the queen. Then did the
frightened paramour with the god's will take on the
form of an Inachian heifer; Juno caresses her and
soothes her breast, stifling her own sighs beneath a
smiling countenance. Then she accosts Jove thus:
' Give me the untamed heifer that feeds on Argos'
fertile plains and is just showing the horns of the
infant moon; give her as a gift to thy dear bride.
Myself now will I choose fit pastures and choicest
fountains for my pet.' What ruse could Jove find to
say her nay? what trickery, once found, could he
have maintained? She, possessed of the gift,
straightway sets Argus on guard; Argus as guardian
pleases her, for everywhere on his head are sleepless
eyes, as though a Lydian bride should bedeck her
web with flecks of purple. At Argus' bidding must
she go on paths unknown, over rocks, through
monster-haunted wilds, tarrying oft, alas! and
struggling with prayers and words fast locked within
her breast. Then departing gave she last kisses to
her father's banks; wailed Amymone, wailed
Messeis' waters, wailed Hyperia with arms out-
stretched to call her back. But she, when her limbs
trembled weary of her wandering or when now
chilly evening sped down from heaven's height—ah!

heu quotiens saxo posuit latus! aut ubi longa
 aegra siti, quos ore lacus, quae pabula carpsit!
 verbere candentes quotiens exhorruit armos! 380
 quin et ab excelso meditantem vertice saltus
 audentemque mori valles citus egit in imas
 Argus et arbitrio durus servavit erili:
 cum subito Arcadio sonuit cava fistula ritu
 imperiumque patris celerans Cyllenius ales 385
 advenit et leni modulatur carmina avena
 'quo' que ait 'hinc diversus abis? heus respice
 cantus!'
 haud procul insectans Argum languentia iam iam¹
 lumina cuncta notat dulcesque sequentia somnos,
 et celerem mediis in cantibus exigit harpen. 390
 iamque refecta Iovi paulatim in imagine prisca
 ibat agris Io victrix Iunonis, at ecce
 cum facibus flagrisque et Tartareo ululatu
 Tisiphonen videt: ac primo vestigia visu
 figit et in miseræ rursus bovis ora recurrit, 395
 nec qua valle memor, nec quo se vertice sistat.
 Inachias errore etiam defertur ad undas
 qualis et a prima quantum mutata iuvenca!
 nec pater aut trepidæ temptant accedere nymphae.
 ergo iterum silvas, iterum petit invia retro 400
 ceu Styga dilectum fugiens caput; inde per urbes
 raptatur Graias atque ardua flumina ripis,
 oblato donec paulum cunctata profundo
 incidit: absistunt fluctus et gnara futuri
 dant pavidæ² alta viam; celsis procul ipsa refulget
 cornibus ac summa palearia sustinet unda. 406
 ast Erebi virgo ditem volat aethere Memphin

¹ iam iam *Bachrens om. V*: somno, cantu *MSS.*

² pavidæ *Edd. Bon. Ald*: pavida *V.*

how often laid she her body on a stone, or when long
 thirst made her faint, what pools did her lips drink,
 what pastures graze, how oft did her white shoulders
 quail before the lash! Nay, too, as daring death she
 planned to leap from some lofty height, swift did
 Argus drive her down to the vale beneath, and cruelly
 saved her at his queen's behest: when on a sudden
 a hollow flute pipes out a measure of Arcady, and
 the winged Cyllenian, hastening to obey his sire,
 draws nigh, and tuning his soft reed to melody
 cries, 'Whither away? where roamest thou? Ho
 there! give heed to my music!' Following Argus
 close he notes that all his eyes are already languish-
 ing and seeking after sweet slumber, and in the
 midst of his song out he flashes his swift blade.
 And now, her former shape gradually restored by
 Jove, Io is walking the fields victorious over Juno,
 when lo! she sees Tisiphone with brands of fire and
 coiling snakes and fiendish yells; at the first sight
 she stops and passes once again into the shape of a
 hapless heifer, nor bethinks her in what vale or on
 what height to stay her steps. Wandering she comes
 even to the waters of Inachus, how faring and how
 changed from that first heifer that she was! Nor do
 her father or the frightened nymphs try to draw
 nigh her. Therefore once more she seeks the woods,
 once more the pathless wilds, fleeing from that dear
 head as from hateful Styx: and thence is she hurried
 through Grecian towns and steep-banked rivers, until
 the deep waters meet her, and hesitating awhile she
 plunges in: the waves part and the ocean foreknow-
 ing the future yields her timid steps a path; with
 high horns she gleams afar, and upholds her dewlaps
 on the summit of the wave. But the maid of Erebus
 flies through the air to rich Memphis to be before-

praecipere et Pharia venientem pellere terra.
 contra Nilus adest et toto gurgite torquens
 Tisiphonen agit atque imis inlidit harenis 410
 Ditis opem ac saevi clamantem numina regni;
 apparent sparsaeque faces disiectaque longe
 verbera et abruptis excussis manibus hydri.
 nec Iovis interea cessat manus; innotat alto
 insurgens caelo genitor curamque fatetur, 415
 atque ipsa imperium Iuno pavet. haec procul Io
 spectat ab arce Phari iam divis addita iamque
 aspide cincta comas et ovanti persona sistro.
 Bosphoron hinc veteres errantis nomine divae
 vulgavere; iuvet nostros nunc ipsa labores 420
 immissisque ratem sua per freta provehat Euris."
 Dixerat; et placidi tendebant carbasa venti.
 postera non cassae Minyis Aurora retextit
 noctis iter; nova cuncta vident Thyneaque iuxta
 litora fatidici poenis horrentia Phinei, 425
 dura deum summo quem vis urgebat in aevo.
 quippe neque extorrem tantum nec lucis egentem
 insuper Harpyiae Typhoides, ira Tonantis,
 depopulant ipsoque dapes praedantur ab ore.
 talia prodigia et tales pro crimine poenas 430
 perpetitur; spes una seni, quod pellere saevam
 quondam fata luem dederant Aquilone creatis.

¹ Io was identified with the Egyptian goddess Isis, who was worshipped with the rattling of the "sistrum," for which see *Dict. Ant.* and Apuleius, *Met.* 11. 3: "In her right hand she bore a brazen sistrum, through the narrow rim of which . . . passed a few little rods, producing a sharp shrill sound, while her body imparted motion to the triple chords" (Bohn). In the same passage she is described as wearing on her head a flat circlet representing the moon, on either side of which are serpents. Snakes are also mentioned in connection with

hand and repel the new-comer from the Pharian land. But Nile withstands Tisiphone and driving her with all his eddying flood plunges her to the depths of his sandy bed, calling for help to Dis and all the powers of that cruel realm; here and there are seen her brands and whips far scattered, and the serpents shaken from her dishevelled hair. Nor meanwhile is Jove's hand idle; the Father arising thunders from high heaven and makes his anger known, and Juno herself quails before his word. All this from Pharos' height afar Io beholds, now added to the gods, with snake-girt hair and loud triumphant sistrum.¹ Hence was it that men of old spread abroad the story of Bosphorus, so called from the wandering goddess; may she herself now help our toils, and sending winds to aid us urge our vessel through her own strait.'

His tale was done; and calm winds were making the canvas fill. The morrow's dawn showed to the Minyae that the night's journey had not been vain; all that they see is new—the Thynian shores near-by aghast at the fate of prophetic Phineus, oppressed at his life's close by the gods' stern might. For not only is he a stranger from his land, not only blind, but moreover the Harpies, daughters of Typhoeus, ministers of the Thunderer's wrath, do ravage him, thieving his food from his very mouth. Such portents and such penalties doth he suffer for his crimes; one hope alone the old man hath: the Fates decreed of yore that the sons of Aquilo should dispel the cruel

Isis by Ovid (*Am.* 2. 13. 13, and *Met.* 9. 693). Epaphus, the son of Io by Zeus, was identified by the Greeks with Apis, the Egyptian deity. The worship of Isis was introduced into Rome about 80 B.C., and became very popular there.

ergo ubi iam Minyas certamque accedere Phineus
 sentit open, primas baculo defertur ad undas
 vestigatque ratem atque oculos attollit inanes. 435
 tunc tenuem spirans animam "salve o mihi longum
 expectata manus nostrisque" ait "agnita votis.
 novimus et divis geniti quibus et via iussos
 quae ferat ac vestri sectabar¹ tempora cursus
 proxima quaeque legens, quantum Vulcania Lemnos
 traxerit, infelix tulerit quae Cyzicus arma; 441
 sensi et Bebrycio supremam in litore pugnam
 iam propior iamque hoc animam solamine mulcens.
 non ego nunc, magno quod cretus Agenore Phineus,
 aut memorem, mea quod vates insecdit Apollo 445
 pectora; praesentis potius miserescite fati.
 nec mihi diversis erratum casibus orbem
 amissas aut flere domos aut dulcia tempus
 lumina; consuetis serum est ex ordine fatis
 ingemere. Harpyiae semper mea pabula servant,
 fallere quas nusquam misero locus: ilicet omnes 451
 deveniunt niger intorto ceu turbine nimbus,
 iamque alis procul et sonitu mihi nota Celaeno;
 diripiunt verruntque dapes foedatque turbant
 pocula, saevit odor surgitque miserrima pugna, 455
 parque mihi monstrisque fames. sprevere quod
 omnes
 pollueruntque manu quodque unguibus excidit atris
 has mihi fert in luce moras. nec rumpere fata
 morte licet; trahitur victu crudelis egestas.
 sed vos o servate precor, praedicta deorum 460
 si non falsa mihi, vos finem imponite poenis.
 nempe adsunt, qui monstra fugent, Aquilonia proles

¹ sectabar *Bury*: rebar sic *V*: reputavi *Bachrena*.

plague. So Phineus, aware that the Minyae and sure succour are drawing nigh, goes down with his staff's aid to the water's edge, and lifting up sightless eyes seeks out the ship. Then, drawing faint breath, he cries: "All hail, O long-expected band, well known to my prayers! I know of what gods ye are sprung and what errand speeds your hidden course, and I followed the stages of your voyage, recalling each incident in turn, how much delay Vulcan's Lemnos caused, how ill-starred Cyzicus fought; I knew too the last combat on the Bebrycian shore, nearer to you already and soothing my spirit with that solace. Not now would I tell you how Phineus is sprung from great Agenor, or how prophetic Apollo hath his seat within my breast: pity rather my present fate. Nor is it the time to bewail my divers adventures in wandering over the world, my loss of home and eyesight sweet: too late is it to sigh over the tale of sufferings I have grown to bear. The Harpies ever watch my food; never, alas! can I elude them; straightway they all swoop down like the black cloud of a whirling hurricane, already by the sound of her wings I know Celaeno from afar; they ravage and sweep away my banquet, and befoul and upset the cups, there is a violent stench and a sorry battle arises, for the monsters are as famished as I. What all have scorned or polluted with their touch, or what has fallen from their filthy claws, helps me to linger thus among the living. Nor may I break fate's bond by death: by nourishment is my cruel need prolonged. But do you save me, I beseech you, if heaven's presage to me be not false, do you set a term to my punishment. Surely Aquilo's sons are here to rout the monsters, nor are they alien to

non externa mihi; nam rex ego divitis Hebræ
iunctaque vestra meo quondam Cleopatra cubili."

Nomen ad Actæae Calais Zetesque sororis 465
prosiliiunt, Zetesque prior "quem cernimus?" inquit.
"tunc ille Odrysiæ Phineus rex inclitus orae?
tu Phoebæ comes et nostro dilecte parenti?
o ubi nunc regni generisque ubi gloria? quam te
exedit labor et miseris festina senectus! 470
quin age, mitte preces; namque est tibi nostra
voluntas,

si non ira deum, vel si placabilis urget."
sustulit hic geminas Phineus ad sidera palmas
"te" que ait "iniusti, quæ nunc premis, ira
Tonantis

ante precor, nostræ tandem iam parce senectæ;
sit modus; et fore credo equidem; nam vestra
voluntas 476

non, iuvenes, sine pace deum. nec credite culpam
sævitiae scelerumve mihi nunc crimina pendi;
fata loquax mentemque Iovis quæque abdita solus
consilia et terris subito ventura parabat 480
prodideram miserans hominum genus; hinc mihi tanta
pestis et offusæ mediâ inter dicta tenebræ.
iam tandem cessere iræ; nec casus ab alto,
ipse volens nostris sed vos deus appulit oris."
sic ait et, fati ita iam cedentibus, omnes 485
impulsi et duræ commovit inagine poenæ.
instituire toros mediisque tapetibus ipsum
accipiunt circumque iacent: simul æquora servant,
astra simul, vescique iubent ac mittere curas:
cum subitus misero tremor et pallentia primæ 490

¹ Sister of Calais and Zetes, and wife of Phineus. She is called Attie because their mother Orithyia was a daughter of Erechtheus, king of Athens.

me; for I am king of rich Hebrus, and once was your Cleopatra¹ joined to me in wedlock."

At the name of their Attie sister Calais and Zetes spring forward, and first Zetes asks: "Whom do we behold? Art thou that Phineus, famous king of the Odrysian shore? Art thou the friend of Phoebus, beloved of our sire? O where is now the glory of thy race and realm? How hath hardship devoured thee, and old age that to the wretched comes too quickly! But see now, have done with prayers, for our goodwill is on thy side, if the gods' wrath pursue not, or pursuing may be appeased." Then Phineus raised his two hands to heaven and cried: "Thee first do I supplicate, wrath of the unjust Thunderer, that now oppressest me, spare now my grey hairs at the last, some limit let there be; ay, that there will be I verily think, for 'tis not without heaven's favour, O youths, that I have your goodwill. And deem not that I am now expiating a sin of cruelty or evil deeds: the fates, vain babblers, and Jove's purpose and the counsels he framed, hid from all else, and suddenly to be made manifest on earth—these had I disclosed, pitying the human race; hence this great plague and the darkness that even as I spoke o'erclouded me. Now at last is his wrath assuaged, nor is it chance but God's own will that hath brought you from the deep unto our shores." So he spoke, and (for so the fates now granted it) deeply stirred and excited them all with the picture of his cruel punishment. They set the couches, and welcome him to the midmost cushions, and themselves recline around; withal they watch the waters and withal the skies, and bid him dine and banish care: when suddenly the wretched old man trembled, and his fingers dropped

ora senis fingere manus; nec prodita pestis
 ante, sed in mediis dapibus videre volucres.
 fragrat acerbus odor patriæque expirat Averni
 halitus; unum omnes incessere planctibus, unum 495
 infestare manus; inhiat Cocytia nubes
 luxurians ipsoque ferens fastidia visu.
 tum sola conluvie atque illulis stramina mensis
 foeda rigant; stridunt alae, praedaeque retenta
 saevit utrimque fames; nec solum horrenda Celaeno
 Phineae, sed miseras etiam prohibere sorores. 500
 emicat hic subito seseque Aquilonia proles
 cum clamore levat, genitor simul impulit alas.
 hoste novo turbata lues lapsaeque rapinae
 faucibus, et primum pavidae Phineia tecta
 pervolitant, mox alta petunt; stant litore fixi 505
 Haemonidae atque oculis palantia monstra secuntur.
 sicut prorupti tonuit cum forte Vesevi
 Hesperiae letalis apex, vixdum ignea montem
 torsit hiemps iamque eoas cinis induit urbes;
 turbine sic rapido populos atque aequora longe 510
 transabeunt, nullaque datur considerare terra.
 iamque et ad Ionii metas atque intima tendunt
 saxa; vocat magni Strophadas nunc incola ponti.
 hic fessae letique metu propioris anhelae
 dum trepidant humilique graves timidoque volatu
 implorant clamore patrem Typhona nefando, 516
 extulit adsurgens noctem pater imaque summis

from his paling lips; nor was there warning of the
 plague, but among the very dishes were seen the
 birds. A rank smell floats abroad, and a breath of
 their sire's Avernus is exhaled; one only do all
 attack with flapping wings, one alone does the band
 molest; in savage glee doth the cloud of Cocytus
 gape at him, rousing disgust by their very sight.
 Then upon the ground and upon the fouled coverlets
 of the mocked banquet do they pour a filthy stream;
 there is a whirring of wings, and from the withholding
 of the prey hunger ranges on either side; for the
 horrible Celaeno debars not Phineus only, but her
 wretched sisters also. Thereat on a sudden dart
 forth the sons of Aquilo, and rise with a shout into
 the air, their sire impelling their wings the while.
 The new foe dismays the pests, and the plunder
 drops from their jaws, and first in fear they
 flutter about Phineus' palace, then seek the deep;
 the Haemonians stand transfixed upon the shore,
 and follow the roving monsters with their gaze. As
 when it happens that the peak of Vesevus bursts
 forth in thunder, bringing destruction to Hesperia,
 scarce yet has the fiery hurricane wrung the moun-
 tain, and already eastern cities are coated with the
 ash: in so fleet a whirlwind do they pass over peoples
 and seas afar, nor are suffered to settle in any land.
 And by now are they drawing nigh the bounds of
 the Ionian sea and the rocks in its midst: to-day the
 dweller in that mighty sea calls them the Isles of
 Turning. Here while they hovered, weary and pant-
 ing with fear of death's approach, and weighed down
 in low and timorous flight implored with ghastly
 shriek their father Typho, he rose and brought up the
 darkness with him, mingling high and low, while

miscuit, et mediis vox exaudita tenebris :
 " iam satis huc pepulisse deas ; cur tenditis ultra
 in famulas saevire Iovis, quas, fulmina quamquam
 aegidaque ille gerens, magnas sibi legit in iras ? 521
 nunc quoque Agenoreis idem decedere tectis
 imperat ; agnoscunt monitus iussaeque recedunt.
 mox tamen et vobis similis fuga, cum premet arcus
 letifer. Harpyiae numquam nova pabula quaerent,
 donec erunt divum merita mortalibus irae." 526
 haesit uterque polo dubiisque elanguit alis ;
 mox abit et sociae victor petit agmina pubis.

Interea Minyae pulsa lue prima Tonanti
 sacra novant ; tum vina toris epulasque reponunt.
 ipse inter medios cen dulcis imagine somni 531
 laetus ad oblatae Cereris suspirat honores ;
 agnoscit Bacchi latices, agnoscit et undam
 et nova non pavidae miratur gaudia mensae.
 hunc ubi reclinem stratis et pace fruentem 535
 aspicit et longae ducentem obliviae poenae,
 talibus appellat supplexque ita fatur Iason :
 " vota, senex, perfecta tibi ; nunc me quoque curis
 eripe et ad nostros animum converte labores.
 omnis adhuc sors laeta quidem, nec numine vano
 (siqua fides curae superum) tantum aequor adorti
 tendimus ; ipsa mihi puppem Iovis optima proles
 instituit, dedit et socios Saturnia reges. 543
 fidere mens sed nostra nequit, quantumque pro-
 pinquat

¹ According to one legend the sons of Boreas were slain by Hercules.

² Minerva. ³ Juno.

from the heart of the gloom a voice was heard :
 " It is enough to have chased the goddesses so far ;
 why strive ye farther in rage against the ministers of
 Jove, whom, though he wield the thunderbolt and
 the aegis, he has chosen to work his mighty wrath ?
 Now also hath that same Jove commanded them to
 depart from the dwellings of Agenor's son ; they
 hearken to his prompting, and withdraw upon his
 word. Yet anon will ye also in like manner flee,
 when the fatal bow shall bring doom upon you.¹
 Never shall the Harpies lack fresh sustenance, so
 long as mortals shall merit the anger of the gods."
 The twain stopped short in the air, and hovered
 awhile with doubtful wing ; then they depart, and
 in triumph rejoin their comrades' ranks.

Meanwhile the Minyae, the plague dispelled,
 renew their first sacrifice to the Thunderer ; then
 once more they set wine and meat before the couches.
 In the midst the king himself, as though in the sweet
 mazes of a dream, sighs with joy at Ceres' forgotten
 bounties ; he recognises the liquor of Bacchus and the
 water, and marvels at the new delights of a feast that
 is free from fear. Beholding him as he reclines upon
 the cushions and enjoys peace and tastes forgetful-
 ness of his long ordeal, Jason addresses him and
 supplicates him thus : " Reverend sire, thy vows are
 accomplished ; now deliver me too from my cares,
 and turn thy mind to our labours. So far, 'tis true,
 all hath been fortunate, nor with vain sanction
 (if one may trust heaven's care) do we venture to
 sail so vast a sea ; herself did Jove's peerless off-
 spring² prepare my bark, and the Saturnian³
 gave me my crew of princes. But my mind will
 not be assured, and the nearer Phasis approaches

Phasis et ille operum summus labor, hoc magis
angunt 545

proxima, nec vates sat iam mihi Mopsus et Idmon."

ille ducem nec ferre preces nec dicere passus
amplius, hic demum vittas laurumque capessit
numina nota ciens. stupet Aesonis inclita proles
Phinea ceu numquam poenis nullaque gravatum
peste Iovis: tam largus honos, tam mira senectae
maiestas infusa; vigor novus auxerat artus. 552

tum canit: "o terras fama venture per omnes,
quem sociis ducibusque deis atque arte benigna
Pallados ipse ultro Pelias ad sidera tollit, 555

demens, dum profugū non sperat vellera Phirixi,
fata locosque tibi, possum quas reddere grates,
expediam rerumque vias finemque docebo.
ipse etiam, qui me prohibet sua pandere terris
saecula, te propter fandi mihi Iuppiter auctor. 560

hinc iter ad Ponti caput errantesque per altum
Cyaneas. furor his medio concurrere ponto,
ne dum ullas videre rates: sua comminus actae
saxa premunt cautesque suas. tum ¹ vincula mundi
ima labant, treinare ecce solum, tremere ipsa repente
tectata vides: illae redeunt, illae aequore certant.
di tibi progresso propius, di forsitan ipsi 567

auxilium mentemque dabunt. ast ipse iuvare
ausa quibus monitis possim tua? quippe per altum
tenditis, unde procul ventī, procul unde volucres.

¹ tum *Ed. Bon.*: cum *V.*: ceu *Heinsius.*

and the crowning task of all, the more am I tortured by what is next to come, and the sooth-saying of Mopsus and Idmon suffices for me no longer." Then at last, no longer suffering him to plead or speak, Phineus took up the fillets and the laurel wreath, calling on the powers he knew so well. Amazed is Aeson's famous son to see Phineus as though never had punishment or plague of Jove oppressed him: so ample the dignity, so wonderful the majesty of old age that was shed upon him; a new vigour had inspired his limbs. Then doth he utter prophecy: "O thou who in fame shalt travel through all lands, thou whom with gods to aid and guide thee and by Pallas' friendly skill Pelias himself exalts all unknowing to the stars (fool that he is, never thinking to see the fleece of banished Phrixus!), I will set forth to thee (such grateful recompense can I make) thy destiny and the places thou shalt visit, and show thee the train and issue of events. Jupiter himself, who suffers us not to reveal to mankind its future story, hath on thy account inspired my speech. Hence thy way lies to the beginnings of Pontus and the Cyaneans that wander o'er the deep. Their madness is to clash together in mid-sea, nor yet have they seen any ships; they crush their own cliffs, their own boulders when they meet. Then rock the deepest fastenings of the world, lo! the ground trembles, the very houses suddenly quake before thy sight; once more they return and fight upon the sea. Heaven itself when thou hast drawn nigh them, heaven itself perchance will give thee aid and wisdom. But I, with what counsel could I help thy enterprise? For ye are sailing a sea from which winds and birds keep far away, nay, the very father

et pater ipse maris pavidas detorquet habenas. 571
 siqua brevis scopulis fiet ¹ mora, si semel orsis
 ulla quies, fuga tunc medio properanda recursu;
 vix repetunt primæ celeres confinia terræ,
 iamque alio clamore ruunt, omnisque tenetur 575
 pontus et infestis anceps cum montibus errat.
 verum animo redit illa meo sors cognita divum
 (fabor enim nec spe dubios solabor inani):
 cum mihi Tartareas saevo clangore volucres
 protulit ira Iovis, vox hæc simul excidit auris ²: 580
 'ne vanas impende preces finemque malorum
 expete, Agenoride; pontum penetraverit ulla
 cum ratis et rapidi steterint in gurgite montes,
 tunc sperare modum poenæ veniamque licebit.'
 sic deus. aut vobis ergo fera saxa patescunt 585
 aut mea iam saevæ redeunt ad pabula Diræ.
 verum inter medias dabitur si currere cautes
 (certe digna manus) vacuumque exhibis in æquor,
 proxima regna Lyci, remeat qui victor ab oris
 Bebryciis: toto non ullus litore Ponti 590
 mitior. hic lecto comitum de robore siquem
 perculerit vicina lues, ne defice casus
 prædicti memor atque animos accinge futuris.
 illic pestiferas subter iuga concava torquet
 alter aquas Acheron vastoque exundat hiatu 595
 fumeus, et saeva sequitur caligine campos:
 linque gravem fluvium et miseris sua fata colonis;
 sic quoque non uno dabitur transcurrere luctu.
 quid tibi nubifera surgentem rupe Carambin,

¹ fiet *Bachrens*: fiet *V*.

² auris *Lachmann*: aures *V*.

of the ocean turns his frightened reins aside. Should the rocks delay but for a moment, if once started they rest at all, then even in mid withdrawal make your dash; scarce have they swiftly regained the confines of the shore, and already with new uproar they are rushing on, and all the sea is beset, flowing bewildered among the invading mountains. But to my mind returns the knowledge of that heavenly decree (for I will speak, nor in your perplexity solace you with empty hope): when Jove's anger sent against me the fierce flapping of those Tartarean birds, there fell withal this voice from heaven: 'Waste not vain prayers, O son of Agenor, nor search out the ending of thy toils; only when a ship has penetrated the sea and the fleet mountains have stood fast in the flood, may you hope for pardon and the term of your punishment.' So spake the god. Either then the savage rocks open for you, or the fierce Furies even now are returning to my food. But if it be granted to run between the cliffs—and surely your band deserves it—and to pass out into the open sea, next lies the realm of Lycus, who returns in triumph from Bebrycian shores: none more courteous than he on all the coasts of Pontus. If here the pestilence of the place strike any of thy chosen heroes, lose not heart, remembering the foretelling of the mischance, and gird up thy spirit for the future. There beneath mountain caves another Acheron whirls plague-bringing waters, and through a vast chasm boils up in steam, and with its dire mist infests the fields; leave behind thee the dangerous river, and the wretched folk to bear their doom; even so not one sorrow only will thy passing cost thee. Why should I tell thee of Carambis that

quid memorem, quas Iris aquas aut torqueat Ancon?
 proxima Thermodon hinc iam secat arva fluento; 601
 inclita Amazonidum magnoque exorta Gradivo
 gens ibi; femineas nec tu nunc crede catervas,
 sed qualis, sed quanta viris insultat Enyo
 divaque Gorgonei gestatrix innuba monstri. 605
 ne tibi tunc horrenda rapax ad litora puppem
 ventus agat, ludo volitans cum turma superbo
 pulvereis exultat equis ululataque tellus
 intremit et pugnas mota pater incitat hasta.
 non ita sit metuenda tibi saevissima quamquam 610
 gens Chalybum, duris patiens cui cultus in arvis
 et tonat adflicta semper domus ignea massa.
 inde omnem innumeri reges per litoris oram,
 hospitii quis nulla fides; sed limite recto
 puppis et aequali transeurrat carbasus aura. 615
 sic demum rapidi venies ad Phasidis amnem;
 castra ibi iam Scythiae fraternaue surgit Erinys;
 ipse truces illic Colchos hostemque iuvabis
 auxiliis. nec plura equidem discrimina cerno;
 fors etiam optatam dabitur contingere pellem. 620
 sed te non animis nec solis viribus aequum
 credere; saepe acri potior prudentia dextra.
 quam tulerit deus, arripe opem. iamque ultima nobis
 promere fata nefas; sileam,¹ precor." atque ita facto
 sine dedit tacitis iterum responsa tenebris. 625

Tum subita resides socios formidine Iason
 praecipitat rumpitque moras tempusque timendi.
 ipse viros gradiens ad primi litoris undam

¹ sileam *Loebbach*: sileo *V*: sine me *Langen*.

¹ Aetes proved in the end to be their enemy.

rises upon her cloud-encircled cliff, why of the whirling waters of Iris or of Ancon? Next are the fields that Thermodon's stream doth cleave; the famous tribe of Amazons, sprung from great Mars, is there; nor deem those warriors women, but of such a sort and of such might as Enyo triumphant over men, or the Virgin goddess who bears the monstrous Gorgon. Let not then the driving blast carry thy ship to those dreadful shores, what time the troop in arrogant sport fly here and there exultant on dusty steeds, and the ground trembles to their halloing, and their sire incites them to battle with brandished spear. Have not such terror of the race of Chalybes, savage though it be, whose patient husbandry lies in stubborn fields, while ever their fiery dwellings thunder with stricken ores. Then along all the line of coast come kings innumerable whose welcome none may trust; but let thy canvas speed past with straight course and level breeze. So at length shalt thou come to rapid Phasis' stream; there already is a Scythian camp, and surging war between the brothers; thyself shalt succour with thine aid the fierce Colchians and thy foe.¹ No further dangers do I see; perchance even shall it be granted thee to gain the longed-for fleece. But thou shouldst not trust to valour or strength alone; often is wisdom better than vigour of arm. Such help as heaven offers be quick to take. And now 'tis forbidden me to reveal the final destiny; suffer me, I pray, to be silent." And so making an end hewhelmed his oracle once more in shrouding silence.

Then, as sudden fear unnerves his comrades, Jason sends them hurrying and cuts short the time for cowardly delay. Phineus himself walks to the water's

prosequitur Phineus. "quaenam tibi praemia"
dixit

"quas, decus o Boreae, possim persolvere grates?
me Pangaea super rursus iuga meque paterna 631
stare Tyro dulcesque iterum mihi surgere soles
nunc reor. exactae verumne abiere volucres?
nec metuam tutaeque dapes? date tangere vultus,
dem sinite amplexus, propiusque accedite dextrae."
dixerat. abscedunt terris et litora condunt. 636

Omnibus extemplo saeva sub imagine rupes
Cyanaeae propiorque labor, quando adfore quaque
parte putent; stant ora metu nee fessa recedunt
lumina diversas circum servantibus undas, 640
cum procul auditi sonitus insanaque saxa,
saxa neque illa viris, sed praecipitata profundo
siderei pars visa poli. dumque ocius instant,
ferre fugam maria ante ratem, maria ipsa repente
deficere¹ adversosque vident discedere montes; 645
omnibus et gelida lapsi formidine remi.
ipse per arma volans et per iuga summa carinae
hortatur supplexque manus intendit Iason
nomine quemque premens. "ubi nunc promissa
superba
ingentesque minae, mecum quibus ista secuti? 650
idem Amyci certe viso timor omnibus antro
caecus erat²; stetimus tamen et deus adfuit ausis.

¹ deficere *Burm.*: defigere *V*: diffugere *O*.

² caecus erat *Edd.*: perculerat *V*.

¹ Valerius is describing the action of the sea as caused by the rapid movement of the rocks; its flight before the ship

edge to bid the men farewell. "What reward can I pay thee," he says, "how show my gratitude, O glory of Boreas? Once more I fancy that I am standing on the Pangaeian heights or in my native Tyre, and that once more the sweet suns are rising for my eyes. Are the birds in real truth chased away? need I fear no more for my banquet's safety? Grant me to touch your faces, suffer me to embrace you, and come you nigh to my right hand." He had done. They draw away from the land and hide the shore from sight.

Straightway comes to all the grim thought of the Cyanean rocks, and their more instant task: when and on what side are they to think they will come; their faces are stark with fear, nor do their weary eyes give over their watching of the waters on every side, when from afar are heard the sounds of the raging rocks, yet not rocks seemed they to the heroes but a part of the starry pole plunged into the deep. And while they press on more quickly, they behold¹ the seas taking fright before the ship, the very seas of a sudden failing and the opposing mountains parting asunder, and all in chill terror dropped their oars. Then Jason himself, hastening over the tackle and the topmost thwarts of the ship, exhorts them, holding out pleading hands, urging each man by name. "Where are now those proud promises, where the loud-mouthed threats with which in my presence you sought the rocks? Surely the same blind fear was on us all when we saw the cave of Amycus: yet we stood firm, and heaven aided our

and its "failing" is caused by their parting after they have met, which makes the water flow into the space vacated by them.

quin iterum idem aderit credo deus." haec ubi fatus,
 corripit abiecti remumque locumque Phaleri
 et trahit; insequitur flammata pudore iuventus. 655
 unda laborantes praeceps rotat ac fuga ponti
 obvia; miscentur rupes, iamque aequore toto
 Cyaneae iuga praecipites inlisa remittunt.
 bis fragor infestas cautes adversaque saxis
 saxa dedit, flamma expresso bis fulsit in imbri. 660
 sicut multifidus ruptis e nubibus horror
 effugit et tenebras nimbusque intermicat ignis
 terrificique runnt tonitrus elisaeque noctem
 lux dirimit, pavor ora virum, pavor occupat artus:
 haud secus implevit pontum fragor; effluit imber 665
 spumeus et magno puppem procul aequore vestit.

Advertere dei defixaque lumina ponto,
 quid scopulis praeclusa ratis, quid dura inventus
 expediat; pendet magnis favor ortus ab ausis.
 prima coruscanti signum dedit aegide virgo 670
 fulmineam iaculata facem; vixdum ardua cautes
 cesserat, illa volans tenui per concita saxa
 luce fugit; rediere viris animique manusque,
 ut videre viam. "sequor, o quicumque deorum"
 Aesonides "vel fallis"¹ ait, praecepque fragores
 per medios ruit et fumo se condidit atro. 676
 coeperat hinc cedens abductis montibus unda
 ferre ratem pelagoque dies occurrere aperto.
 sed neque permissis iam fundere rector habenis

¹ fallis *M* T*: fallit *V*.

¹ Caused by the collision of the rocks.

daring, and once again that same heaven, I ween,
 will aid us." Having spoken thus he seizes the oar
 and the place of terror-stricken Phalerus and pulls the
 oar: the youths fired with shame follow his lead.
 As they toil they are whirled round by a furious wave
 and the flight of the sea that meets them; the rocks
 meet together, and now again send back their
 battered cliffs in headlong flight over all the sea.
 Twice crashed together cliff with cliff and rock with
 rock, twice shone the flame¹ in the upward-flung
 spray. Just as from the rent clouds flies forth a
 manifold terror and fire flickers through the darkness
 of the storm and fearsome thunders roll and the
 escaping flash destroys the night, while panic holds
 the faces, panic the limbs of men: so did uproar fill
 the ocean; the spray falls in a rain and from afar
 shrouds the vessel in a watery deluge.

The gods took heed and their gaze was fixed on
 the ocean, to see how the rock-barred ship would
 fare, what its hardy crew would devise; their good-
 will called forth by the bold emprise is in suspense.
 First with flashing aegis the Maiden gave a sign,
 and hurled a lightning brand; scarce had the
 steep cliff given place when through the hurrying
 rocks the brand with thin flame takes its
 flight; back to the heroes came their courage and
 their strength as they marked its path. "I follow,"
 cried the son of Aeson, "whatever god thou be—aye
 even if thou deceivest!" and speeds headlong through
 the midst of the uproar and plunges into the murky
 smoke. Then as the mountains drew away the
 ebbing wave began to bear the ship, and daylight
 met them across the opened sea. But neither can
 the captain by now give rein and spread the sails,

vela, nec eniti remis pote: cum super adsunt 680
 Cyaneae: premit umbra ratem scopulique feruntur
 comminus. hic Iuno praecepsque ex aethere Pallas
 insiliunt pariter scopulos: hunc nata coerces,
 hunc coniunx Iovis; ut valido qui robore tauros
 sub iuga et invito detorquet in ilia cornu. 685
 inde, velut mixtas Vulcanius ardor harenis
 verset aquas, sic ima fremunt, fluctuque coacto
 angitur et clausum scopulis super effluit aequor.
 contra omnes validis tenui discrimine remis
 pergere iter mediosque ratem transferre per ictus;
 saxa sed extremis tamen increpuere corymbis, 691
 parsque (uefas) deprensa iugis; nam cetera caelo
 debita. conclamant Minyae, latera utraque quippe
 dissiluisse putant; fugit ipse novissimus ictus
 Tiphys et e mediis sequitur freta rapta ruinis; 695
 nec prius obsessum scopulis respexit ad aequor
 aut sociis temptata quies, nigrantia quam iam
 litora longiniquae exirent flumina Rhebae.
 tunc fessas posuere manus, tunc arida ankeli
 pectora, discussa quales formidine Averni 700
 Alcides Thesusque comes pallentia iungunt
 oscula, vix primas amplexi luminis oras.

Nec vero ipse metus curasque resolvere ductor,
 sed maria aspectans "heu qui datus iste deorum
 sorte labor nobis! serum ut veniamus ad amnem 705
 Phasidis et mites" inquit "dent vellera Colchi,

nor struggle out with oars, when lo! the Cyaneans
 are lowering over them; their shadow looms over
 the ship, and the rocks are borne to close conflict.
 Hereupon Juno and Pallas leap sheer down from
 the sky upon the rocks; this one the daughter of
 Jove, that one his spouse constrains, even as one
 who with brawny strength thrusts down beneath
 the yoke toward their bellies the unwilling horns of
 bulls.¹ Then as though the heat of fire were
 churning water and sand together, even so the
 depths rave, and choked with close-pressed waves
 the imprisoned sea pours in flood over the rocks.
 For their part all with valiant oarage urge their way
 through the narrow strait and guide their bark
 between the colliding masses; yet crashed the rocks
 upon the extremities of the poop, and part (oh,
 horror!) was caught by the crags: the rest was
 owed to heaven. The Minyae cry aloud, for they
 deem that both sides have sprung apart; latest of
 all does Tiphys himself escape the blow, and from
 the midst of the ruin follows the streaming waters;
 nor looked he back to the cliff-beleaguered sea, nor
 ventured the crew to take repose before they had
 passed the dark shores and stream of distant
 Rheba. Then let they fall their weary arms, then
 gave relief to their dry and panting breasts, even as
 Alcides and Theseus his companion, the terror of
 Avernus past, join in a pallid embrace, ere well
 they greet the first precincts of the light.

Nor verily did the leader himself forget all fears
 and cares, but gazing on the seas, "Alas," he cried,
 "how hard a task is here set us by heaven's will!
 Even though at last we come to the river Phasis and
 the Colchians in courtesy give up the fleece, how

¹ To get their horns beneath the yoke the heads must
 be forced downwards till they are turned towards their
 bellies.

unde per hos iterum montes fuga? " talia fundit,
imperio fixos Iovis aeternumque revinctos
nescius. id fati certa nam lege manebat,
siqua per hos undis umquam ratis isset apertis. 710

Tum freta, quae longis fuerant impervia saeculis,
ad subitam stupuere ratem, Pontique iacentis
omne solum regesque patent gentesque repostae.
non alibi effusis cesserunt longius undis
litora; nec tantas quamvis¹ Tyrrhenus et Aegon 715
volvatur aquas, geminis tot desint Syrtibus undae.
nam super huc vastos tellus quoque congerit amnes;
num septemgemini memorem quas exitus Histri,
quas Tanais flavusque Tyres Hypanisque Novasque
addat opes, quantosque sinus Maeotia laxent 720
aequora? flumineo sic agmine fregit amari
vim salis hinc Boreae cedens glaciantibus auris
Pontus et exorta facilis concresecere bruma.
utque vel immotos ursae rigor invenit amnes
vel freta versa vadis, hiemem sic unda per omnem
aut campo iacet aut tumido riget ardua fluctu, 726
atque hac Europam curvis anfractibus urget,
hac Asiam Scythicum specie sinuatus in arcum.
illuc umbrosae semper stant aequore nubes
et non certa dies, primo nec sole profundum 730
solvitur aut vernis cum lux aequata tenebris,
sed redit extremo tandem in sua litora Tauro.

Iam Mariandynis advertit puppis harenis,

¹ nec tantas quamvis V: quavis Kramer Vollmer: functus Thilo Bachrens: sed tantae quam vix Langen (tantas Koestlin). No satisfactory reading has been proposed; if that of V is to be kept it must be explained nec tantas aquas ullum mare volvatur quamvis T. et A. sit.

² The reading is doubtful, and the masculine ("Tyrrhenus") is certainly odd. For Aegon = Aegaeon cf. Statius, *Theb.* 5. 88.

can we sail a second time between these mountains? " Such words he utters, not knowing that they are fixed and eternally bound by Jove's command. For that remained sure by Fate's unalterable law, should ever a ship pass between them through an open sea.

Then those waters which for long ages had been untravelled saw with amaze the sudden bark, and all the land of low-lying Pontus and its kings and remote peoples are laid bare. Not elsewhere have the coasts retired further before the pouring flood, nay, waters so vast not even the seas Tyrrhenian and Aegean¹ roll, nor can both Syrtes equal them. For, moreover, earth sweeps hither mighty rivers; must I tell what abundance the mouth of sevenfold Danube adds, or Tanais, yellow Tyres, Hypanis and Novas,² or into what huge bays the Maeotian waters open? Thus by its hosts of rivers³ has Pontus broken the force of the bitter salt, giving way thereby to Boreas' icy airs and easily freezing when winter comes. And according as the rigour of the Bear comes upon rivers motionless or churned to the depths of their waters, so the winter long doth the sea lie like a plain or stiffen into lofty swelling billows, and on this side it touches Europe with its winding curves, on that side Asia, where it is bent to the shape of a Scythian bow. There ever stand shadowy clouds upon the sea, and the daylight is fitful, nor at the sun's first returning is the ocean melted nor when the light draws level with the dark in spring, but at length at the end of Taurus⁴ doth it return to its own shores.

And now the ship draws near the sands of the

² Otherwise unknown.

³ The rivers flowing into Pontus are regarded as parts of an army advancing against the salt sea.

⁴ At the end of May.

atque celer terras regemque requirit Echion
 dicta ferens, lectos (fama est si nominis unquam)
 Haemoniae subisse viros, det litora fessis. 736
 adproperat Lycus auditis laetatus Achivis,
 ac simul Aesoniden omnemque in regia turbam
 tecta trahit modo Bebryciis praefixa trophaeis,
 mitis et in mediis effatur talia Grais: 740
 " haud temere est: fato divum reor ad mea vectos
 litora vos, odium quibus atque eadem ira furentis
 Bebryciae saevaue pares de gente triumphi.
 certa fides animis, idem quibus incidit hostis.
 nos quoque, nos Amycum, tanto procul orbe remoti,
 sensimus et saevis frater mihi fusus harenis. 746
 ultor ego atque illuc cunctis accensus in armis
 tunc aderam, cum vos mediis contenta ferebant
 vela fretis. illum in sanie taboque recenti
 vidimus aequoreo similem per litora monstro. 750
 nec vero praerepta mihi suprema tyranni
 fata queror bellove magis laetarer et armis
 procubuisse meis, quam lege quod occidit ultus
 ipse sua meritoque madent quod sanguine caestus."
 excipit Aesonides " tuus ergo in montibus ignis 755
 ille? tuas acies medio de gurgite vidi? "
 fatur, et ostentans prolem Iovis " hic tibi Pollux
 en " ait, " invisio¹ solvit cui pectore poenas ";
 ille virum circa mirantia lumina volvit.
 festa dehinc mediis inenunt convivia tectis 760
 communesque vocant superos, quorum eruta nutu
 Bebrycia, et votis pariter praedaque fruuntur.

¹ invisio V: invito *Schenkli*: inliso *Baehrens*.

Mariandyni, and swift Echion seeks out the country and its king, bearing the message (if anywhere their name be known) that chosen heroes of Haemonia are come, so let him open his shores to weary voyagers. Lycus, rejoicing to hear the Achaean name, hastens toward them, and brings Aesonides and all his company with him into the royal house, of late adorned with trophies of Bebrycia, and in kindly welcome thus speaks in the midst of the Grecians: " Not by hazard are ye come; divine fate, I ween, hath brought you to my shores, who share our angry hatred of Bebrycia and our triumph over that savage race. 'Tis a sure pledge of loyalty when men have known the same foe. We too, by so wide a tract of earth removed, we too have known Amycus, and my brother lies felled upon those cruel sands. Myself in vengeance and fiery zeal was drawing nigh with full armament of war, when the mid seas were bearing hither your straining sails. Him we beheld in new-shed gore and foul corruption like to some sea monster upon the sands. Nor complain I that I was robbed of the tyrant's death, nor should I rather rejoice had he fallen in war and by my arms than by the vengeance of his own law, and that his gauntlets are drenched with blood deservedly shed." " Was that then thy beacon upon the hills? " Aesonides replies, " was it thy host I saw from the mid ocean? " He speaks, and pointing to the son of Jove, " Look, here is Pollux, " he adds, " to whom that hated breast paid penalty; " the other turned marvelling eyes upon the hero. Then in the midst of the palace they begin the festal banquet, and call upon their common gods, by whose decree Bebrycia had been overthrown, and enjoy alike their vows' fulfilment and the booty won.

BOOK V

LIBER QUINTUS

BOOK V

Altera lux haud laeta viris emersit Olympo :
 Argolicus morbis fatisque rapacibus Idmon
 labitur extremi sibi dudum conscius ¹ aevi.
 at memor Aesonides nimium iam vera locuti
 Phineos hinc alios raptō pavet Idmone luctus, 5
 tum comiti pia iusta tulit caelataque multa
 arte Dolionii donat velamina regis,
 hospes humum sedemque Lycus. flens arma revellit
 Idmonis e celsa Mopsus rate; robora caedunt
 pars silvis portantque arae: pars auguris alba 10
 fronde caput ² vittisque ligant, positumque feretro
 congemuere; dies simul et suus admonet omnes.

Ecce inter lacrimas interque extrema virorum
 munera, quem cursus penes imperiumque carinae,
 Tiphyn agit violenta lues, cunctique pavore 15
 attoniti fundunt maestas ad sidera voces:
 "arquipotens adverte, precor, nunc denique Apollo;
 hoc, pater, hoc nobis refove caput, ulla laboris
 si nostri te cura movet, qui cardine summo
 vertitur atque omnis manibus nunc pendet ab unis."
 dicta dabant ventis nec debita fata movebant. 21
 qualem praecipiti gravidum iam sorte parentem
 natorum flet parva manus trepidique precantur,

¹ sibi dudum conscius *Langen*: sibi tum non incoisus *V*.

² caput *add. Edd. Bon. and Ald. om. V.*

¹ Because he sends plague by means of it; cf. *Homor, Iliad* 1. 43-52.

THE next day's light brought no joy to the heroes as it broke forth from Olympus: Argive Idmon falls before disease and ravaging fate, having long known that his life was near its end. But Jason, remembering that Phineus had spoken all too truly, from Idmon's taking apprehends yet other sorrows. Then he pays to his comrade the dues of friendship, and brings as a tribute the skilfully embroidered raiment of the Dolionian prince, while Lycus their host offers ground for his last resting-place. Mopsus in tears takes Idmon's armour from the lofty vessel; some cut down timber from the woods and bring it to the pyre; others bind fillets and white foliage about the angur's head, and setting him on the bier unite in lamentation; all alike bethink them of their own appointed day.

But lo! amidst their tears and their last offerings Tiphys, in whose hands lay the ordering of the vessel's course, is racked by a violent disease, and all aghast with terror pour sad complaints to heaven: "Give heed, we pray, Apollo, now if ever, O wielder of the bow! ¹ this life, O sire, this life revive for us, if thou carest aught for our enterprise, which is at its supreme turning-point and wholly hangs on the skill of one alone." Their words were spoken to the breezes nor swayed appointed fate. And even as when a father lies grievously beset by swift advancing doom, the puny band of children wail over him and with sinking hearts make supplication, that he may endure to

duret ut invalidis et adhuc genitoris egenis :
 haut aliter socii supremo in tempore Tiphyn 25
 ante alios superesse volunt. mors frigida contra
 urget, et ille recens oculis intervolut Idmon.
 exanimum frustra Minyae clamore morantur
 avellique negant; vix membra rigentia tandem
 imposuere rogo lacrimasque et munera flammis 30
 vana ferunt; crescit donis feralis acervus.
 ut vero amplexus fessi rupere supremos
 et rapidae sonuere faces, tunc ipsa cremari
 visa ratis medioque viros deponere ponto.
 non tulit Aesonides geminis flagrantia cernens 35
 corpora cara rogis, sed pectore ductor ab imo
 talia voce gemit: "quid tantum infensa repente
 numina? qui nostri poenas meruere labores?
 bina (nefas) tuto pariter mihi funera surgunt
 litore. magna adeo comitum numerosaque pubes?
 aut socios rapit atra dies aut ipse relinquo 41
 sontibus impulsus Furiis. ubi Tiphys? ubi Idmon:
 fata canens? ubi monstiferæ par ille novercæ?
 te sine, Thespiade, nos ulla movebimus ultra
 æquora? nec summa speculantem puppe videbo 45
 Pleiadumque globos et agentes noctibus Arctos?
 cui Minyas caramque ratem, cui sidera tradis?
 carpere securas quis iam iubet Aesona noctes?
 hoc labor, hoc dulci totiens fraudata sopore
 lumina et admotis nimium mens anxia Colchis 50
 246

save them, weak as they are and still in need of
 their sire: not otherwise do his comrades hope in
 his fateful hour that Tiphys beyond all others may
 be spared. Against them chilly death advances,
 and Idmon's late doom hovers before their eyes.
 As his life ebbs, the Minyæ with vain cries strive
 to stay his passing, and refuse to be torn from
 him; hardly at length they set on the pyre the
 rigid limbs, and bring tears and vain offerings
 to the flames; the melancholy pile grows high with
 gifts. But when they wearily broke off the last
 embraces and the devouring torches crackled, then
 seemed it as though the ship herself were burning
 and sinking the heroes in mid-sea. The son of Aeson
 endured not to behold those bodies that he loved
 consuming on twin pyres, but groaning from his
 inmost soul the leader spoke such words as these:
 "Why of a sudden are the powers so hostile? What
 labours of ours have merited punishment? Safe is
 this coast, yet—oh, horror!—I see two funeral pyres
 rise side by side. Is then my band of comrades so
 great, so numerous? Either a day of doom carries
 off my friends, or driven on by guilty Furies I myself
 abandon them. Where is Tiphys? Where is Idmon
 our soothsayer? Where is he that was a match for
 his step-dame with all her monsters? Without
 thee, O Thespian, shall we cleave any further
 seas? Am I not to see thee watching from the high
 poop the clustering Pleiads and the nightly guidance
 of the Bear? To whom dost thou bequeath the
 Minyæ and the beloved vessel and the stars? Who
 now bids Aeson sleep peacefully of nights? Is this
 the reward thy toil has won, and thine eyes so often
 cheated of sweet slumber, and thine anxious care as

profuit? heu quantum Phasis, quantum Aea recessit!
nunc quoque, si tenui superant in imagine curae,
adsis umbra, precor, venturi praescia caeli,
rectoremque tuae moneas ratis." haec ubi fatus,
sola virum flammis vidit labentibus ossa. 55

"quod tamen extremis unum solamen in oris
restat" ait, "caras humus haec non dividat umbras
ossaque nec tumulo nec separe contegat urna,
sed simul, ut iunctis venistis in aequora fatis,"
haud mora; reliquias socii defletaque miscent 60
nomina. tum vivo frondens e cespite tellus
aggeritur, cineremque Lyco commendat Iason.

Maesti omnes dubique, ratem fidissima cuius
dextra regat; simul Ancaeus sollersque petebat
Nauplius. Erginum fato vocat ipsa monenti 65
quercus, et ad tonsas victi rediere magistri.
ac velut ille, gregis cessit cui regia, taurus
fertur ovans; hunc omnis honos, hunc omnis in unum
transit amor; primo laetus sic tempore rector
ingreditur cursus; etenim dat candida certam 70
nox Helicen. iam prora fretum commoverat et iam
puppe sedens diras¹ dimiserat anchora terras.

Inde, premente noto, tristes Acherusidos oras
praeterit et festa vulgatum nocte Lyaei
Callichoron; nec vana fides. his Bacchus in undis 75

¹ diras *add. Loebbach om. V: miseras Baehrens; Langen marks a lacuna between sedens and dimiserat.*

¹ The anchor was usually in the bows of the ship, but Langen quotes Acts xxvii. 29: "they cast four anchors out

the Colchians drew nigh? Ah! how far now has Aea, how far has Phasis drawn away! Yet even now, if thought survives in a frail ghost, be present, I pray, a shade that foreknows approaching storms, and warn the steersman of thy ship." So spake he, and as the flames sank down saw nought but their bones remaining. "One solace yet remains," he cried, "on distant shores though we be; let not this earth under these loving shades, nor hold their bones in separate tomb or urn, but joined together, as with joint destiny ye went to sea." Without delay their comrades unite their relics and the names they mourned. Then a green mound of living turf is heaped, and Jason entrusts their ashes to Lycus' care.

Downcast were all, and doubtful whose hand most faithfully should guide the ship; together Ancaeus and wise Nauplius made request. The oak itself at Fate's prompting summons Erginus, and the defeated helmsmen went back to their oars. And just as that bull who has won the kingship of the herd paces in proud triumph; all love, all honour passes now to him alone: so joyfully does the steersman start on his first voyage; for a bright night shows Helice clear and true. Already the prow had stirred the water, and already set on the stern¹ the anchor had sundered them from the dreadful land.

Then 'neath the South wind's pressure she passes the grim Acherusian shores² and Callichoros famed for the nightly revels of Lyaeus; nor is report ill-founded. In these waters Bacchus washed the

of the stern," also a ship on the column of Trajan which has an anchor hanging by the rudder.

² A promontory of Bithynia.

abluit eoo rorantes sanguine thyrsos.
 illum post acies rubrique novissima claustra
 aequoris hic resides thiasos, hic aera moventem
 udaq̄ue pampinea nectentem cornua vitta
 nunc etiam meministis, aquae, Boeotia qualem 80
 Thyas et infelix cuperet vidisse Cithaeron.

Fama per extremos quin iam volat improba manes
 interea et magnis natorum laudibus implet,¹
 addita iamque fretis referens freta iamque patentes
 Cyaneas. ardent avidos attollere vultus, 85
 quos pietas vel tangit adhuc quos aemula virtus.
 fata immota manent; unum, qui litore in illo
 conditus, ad carae mittunt spectacula turbae.
 it Sthenelus: qualem Mavortia vidit Amazon
 cumque suis comitem Alcides ut condidit armis, 90
 talis ab aequorei consurgens aggere busti
 emicuit; fulsere undae, sol magnus ut orbem
 tolleret aut nubem quateret polus. atque ea vixdum
 visa viris atra nox protinus abstulit umbra.
 ille dolens altum repetit chaos. omnia Mopsus 95
 dum stupet, in prima tumultum procul aspicit acta,
 obnubensque caput cineri dat vina vocato.
 carmina quin etiam visos placantia manes
 Odrysius dux rite movet mixtoque sonantem
 percutit ore lyram nomenque relinquit harenis. 100

¹ In some MSS. followed by *venturam caelo fatis melioribus Argo.*

¹ A group of legends told how Bacchus had conquered Eastern realms and then returned in a triumphal progress to the West.

² The reference is to Agave, mother of Pentheus, King of Thebes, whom she tore to pieces when he spied upon the revelling Maenads.

³ A companion of Hercules in the war against the Amazons,

wands that dripped with Eastern blood.¹ Him do ye still remember, ye waters, how after returning from his wars and from breaking the Red Sea's farthest barriers, here did he arouse his sluggish votaries and their cymbals and bind his moist horns with wreaths of vine-leaves, in such mood as the Theban Maenad and unhappy Cithaeron would fain have seen.²

But meantime Fame irrepressible has flown already through the farthest regions of the world below, and filled the ghosts with the high praises of their sons, telling that sea is now added to sea, and that now the Cyanean rocks lie open. They burn to raise their eager faces, all whom love of kindred or jealous valour still doth stir. Their destinies abide unchanged: one only, whose grave was on that shore, send they to view the beloved band. Sthenelus³ goes forth: as he was when the martial Amazon beheld him and when Alcides buried his comrade, clad in his own armour, even so flashed he forth as he rose from his funeral mound upon the strand; so glistened the waves, as though the mighty sun were lifting his orb into the sky or heaven were crashing cloud on cloud. Scarce beheld they the vision, when straight-way night rapt it away in sombre shade. In grief the spirit sought the deep void again. While Mopsus marvels at the omen, he sees the barrow far away at the limit of the strand, and veiling his head pours wine and calls upon the ghost. Moreover, the Odrysian chief begins in order due the chant that shall appease the spirit they have seen, and strikes his echoing lyre, singing the while, and bequeaths a name to the sands.

and buried by Hercules when he met his death here on his return.

Acrius ¹ hinc ventos recipit ratis, ac fugit omne
 Crobiali latus et fatis tibi, Tiphys, negatum
 Parthenium, ante alios Triviae qui creditur amnis
 fidus et Inopi materna gravior unda.
 mox etiam Cromnae iuga pallentemque Cytoron 105
 teque cita penitus condunt, Erythia, carina.
 iamque reducebat noctem polus; alta Carambis
 raditur et magna pelago tremit umbra Sinopes.
 Assyrios complexa sinus stat opima Sinope,
 nympa prius blandosque Iovis quae luserat ignes
 caelicolis immota prociis: deceptus amatae 111
 fraude deae nec solus Halys nec solus Apollo.

Addidit hic casu comites Fortuna benigno
 Autolycum Phlogiumque et Deileonta, secutos
 Hercules arma viros; vagus hos ibi fixerat error. 115
 ut Graiam videre manum puppemque Pelasgam,
 prima ruunt celeres ad litora seque precantur
 accipiant socios. nova dux accedere gaudet
 nomina desertos et iam sibi currere remos.
 transit Halys longisque fluens amfractibus Iris 120
 saevaque Thermodon medio sale murmura volvens,
 Gradivo sacer et spoliis ditissimus amnis,
 donat equos, donat votas cui virgo secures,
 cum redit ingenti per Caspia claustra triumpho,
 Massageten Medumque trahens. est vera propago
 sanguinis, est ollis genitor dens. hinc magis alta 126

¹ acrius *Bachrens*: altius *V*.

¹ From its box-trees.

² There was a tradition that Assyrians had lived by the mouth of the Thermodon.

³ The reference is to the Amazons, a warlike race of women, who were supposed to have been daughters of Mars, according to Apollonius (2. 992), by Harmonia. Various explanations have been given of the traditions about them; one is that

Thereafter the ship receives a fresher breeze, and all the coast of Crobialus flees back behind them, and Parthenium denied thee, Tiphys, by the Fates, a river held more faithful to Trivia than all others, and more pleasing than her mother's fountain of Inopus. And next, as the vessel speeds along, they send deep beneath the horizon Cromne's ridge and pale¹ Cytorus and thee, Erythia. And now heaven was bringing back the night; closely skim they high Carambis, and vast upon the sea trembles the shadow of Sinope. Embosoming Assyrian² bays stands rich Sinope, once a nymph and one who mocked Jove's ardent wooing, unmoved by heavenly suitors; not Halys only or Apollo were deceived by the trickery of the nymph they loved.

Here Fortune's kindly chance brings them new comrades, Autolycus and Phlogius and Deileon, heroes who had followed the arms of Hercules; there had their wanderings stranded them. When they saw the Grecian band and the Pelasgian ship, swiftly they ran to the water's edge and prayed that they take them as companions. The leader welcomes the new names, glad that at last the oars left unmanned can ply for him. Halys goes by, and the long meanderings of Iris' stream, and Thermodon that rolls even in mid-sea his angry tumult, a river sacred to Gradivus and most rich with spoils, for to it the maiden presents horses and promised battle-axes, when in great triumph she returns through the Caspian gates, with Medians and Massagetæ at her chariot-wheels. True breed and blood are they, the War-god is their sire.³ Hence did the Hæthe Amazons were really Mongols, who being beardless were thought to be women.

Haemonidae petere et monitus non temnere Phinei.
 ipse autem comitum conversus ad ora novorum
 "vos mihi nunc pugnas" ait "et victricia" ductor
 "Herculis arma mei vestrasque in litore Martis 130
 interea memorate manus." sic fatur et aegro
 corde silens audit cursus bellique labores
 virginiei, exciderit frenis quae prima remissis,
 semianimem patrius quam vexerit amnis in aequor,¹
 quae pelta latus atque umeros nudata pharetris 135
 fugerit Herculeae mox vulnere prensa sagittae,
 utque securigeras stimulaverit Ira catervas
 fleturusque pater, quantus duce terror in ipsa,
 qui furor, insignis quo balteus arserit auro.
 Nocte sub extrema clausis telluris ab antris 140
 pervigil auditur Chalybum labor; arma fatigant
 ricolae, Gradive, tui; sonat illa creatrix
 prima manus belli terras crudelis in omnes.
 nam prius ignoti quam dura cubilia ferri
 eruerent ensesque darent, Odi aegra sine armis 145
 errabant Iraeque inopes et segnis Erinys.
 inde Genetaei rupem Iovis, hinc Tibarenum
 dant virides post terga lacus, ubi deside mitra
 feta ligat partuque virum foveit ipsa soluto.
 vos quoque non notae mirati vela carinae 150
 Mossyni, vos et stabulis Macrones ab altis
 Byzeresque vagi Philyraeque a nomine dicta
 litora, quae cornu pepulit Saturnus equino.
 Ultimus inde sinus saevumque cubile Promethei

¹ vexerit amnis in aequor *C*: sanguine vexerit amnis *V*.

² Cf. Apollonius 2. 1013; Langen refers to Diodorus 5. 14 and Strabo 3. 4. 17, who attribute the same custom to the Corsicans and Spaniards respectively.

³ Philyra was a nymph wooed by Saturn in the form of a horse.

monians rather seek the deep, and despised not
 Phineus' warnings. Jason himself turns to face his
 new companions, and "Do you now meanwhile,"
 says he, "narrate the battles and victorious affrays
 of my own Hercules, and your own exploits on the
 shore of Mars." So he speaks, and silently with
 regretful heart he hears of the pursuits and the
 labours of the maidens' warfare, which first let go
 the reins and fell, which one her father's stream bore
 half-dead to the sea, which fled away stripping the
 targe from her side and the quiver from her shoulder,
 overtaken soon and pierced by the shaft of Hercules;
 how Anger and a sire whom tears awaited urged on
 the axe-wielding companies, what terror the leader
 herself inspired, what fury drove her on, and how
 her baldrick blazed conspicuous with gold.

At the dead of night they hear from the closed
 caverns of the earth the unresting labour of the
 Chalybes; thy husbandmen, Gradivus, they ply
 their weary tools; loud rings the travail of those
 hands that first created war, the scourge of all the
 earth. For ere they dragged unknown iron from its
 stony bed and provided swords, Hatred roamed feeble
 because unarmed, Anger was resourceless and
 Revenge but slow. Thence the heroes put behind
 them the rock of Genetaean Jove, then the green
 lakes of the Tibarenes, where she that has given
 birth binds her husband's head with indolent turban,
 and herself tends him after her babe is born.¹ Ye
 too, Mossynians, marvelled at the sails of the
 unknown bark, and ye, Macrones, from your lofty
 lairs, and nomad Byzeres, and ye shores named of
 Philyra which Saturn trampled with horse's hoofs.²

Then the last bay and the cruel resting-place

cernitur, in gelidas consurgens Caucasus arctos. 155
 ille etiam Alciden Titania fata moventem
 attulerat tum forte dies; iamque aspera nisu
 undique convellens veteris cum strage pruinae
 vincula prensa manu saxis abduxerat imis
 arduus et laevo gravior pede; consonat ingens 160
 Caucasus, et summo pariter cum monte secutae
 incubuere trabes abductaque flumina ponto.
 fit fragor, aetherias ceu Iuppiter arduus arces
 impulerit, imas manus aut Neptunia terras.
 horruit immensum Ponti latus, horruit omnis 165
 Armeniae praetentus Hiber, penitusque recusso
 aequore Cyaneas Minyae timuere relictas.
 tum gemitu propiore chalybs densusque revulsis
 rupibus audiri montis labor et grave Titan
 vociferans, fixos scopulis dum vellitur artus. 170
 contra autem ignari (quis enim nunc credat in illis
 montibus Alciden dimissave vota retemptet?)
 pergere iter socii; tantum mirantur ab alto
 litora discussa sterni nive ruptaque saxa
 et simul ingentem moribundae desuper umbram 175
 alitis atque atris rorantes imbribus auras.
 Sol propius flammabat aquas, extremaque fessis
 coeperat optatos iam lux ostendere Colchos,
 magnus ubi adversum spumanti Phasis in aequor
 ore ruit. cuncti pariter loca debita noscunt 180
 signaque commemorant emensasque ordine gentes,

¹ The description is not very clear; Hercules' efforts cause the mountain-summit and the trees upon it to fall, the result being that the mountain streams are blocked and prevented from reaching the sea.

of Prometheus comes into view, where Caucasus rises in the cold northern air. That day by chance had brought Alcides also thither, to change the Titan's fate; and now wrenching sturdily at the rough fetters on every side, 'mid wreckage of the long-gathered ice, with gripping hands he had torn them from the bed-rock, towering high and with left foot bearing the weight; huge Caucasus echoes the sound, as tree-trunks following the mountain-summit fall, and rivers are turned back from the sea.¹ There is a crash, as though Jupiter had risen in might and overthrown the citadels of heaven, or Neptune's arm had rocked the foundations of the world. The vast length of Pontus trembled, and all the Iberian land that lies beside Armenia, and as the ocean shook to its utmost depths the Minyae feared the Cyanean Rocks they had left behind. Then as the noise grew nearer the sound of the iron and the rending of the crags and the manifold travail of the mountain is heard, and the loud clamour of Prometheus while his rock-bound limbs are torn. But in their ignorance (for who could have believed that Alcides was on those hills, or ventured once more on hopes abandoned?) his comrades proceed upon their way; only they wonder from the deep at the wide-flung snow that strews the beaches, at the cloven crags and the huge shadow of a dying bird above them and the gory dew that drizzles through the air.

The sun was kindling the waters with nearer ray, and the last light began to show the longed-for Colchis to the weary crew, where mighty Phasis with foaming mouth rushes to meet the ocean. Together all recognise their destined goal, and mark the signs and tell the tale of peoples they have

dantque ratem fluvio. simul aethere plena corusco
Pallas et alipedum Iuno iuga sistit equorum.

Ac dum prima gravi ductor subit ostia pulsu,
populeos flexus tumulumque virentia supra 185
flumina cognati medio videt aggere Phrxi,
quem comes infelix pariter de marmore iuxta
stat soror, hinc saevae formidine maesta novercae,
inde maris, pecudique timens imponere palmas.
sistere tum socios iubet atque hinc prima ligari 190
vincula, ceu Pagasas patriumque intraverit amnem.
ipse gravi patera sacri libamina Bacchi.
rite ferens umbram vocat et sic fatur ad aras:
"per genus atque pares tecum mihi, Phrixe, labores
tu, precor, orsa regas meque his tueris in oris 195
tot freta, tot brumae¹ properantia sidera passum.
Phrixe, fave et patrias placidus² reminiscere terras.
tu quoque nunc, tumulo nequiquam condita inani,
adnue diva maris numeroque accede tuorum.
quando egomet rursus per te vehar? aurea quando
Seston et infaustos adgnoscent vellera fluctus? 201
vos etiam silvae, vos Colchidos hospitis orae,
pandite, dives ubi pellis micet arbore sacra.
tunc tibi, fecundi proles Iovis, orte nivali
Arcados axe deae, fluvio modo, Phasi, quieto 205
Palladium patiare ratem, nec dona nec arae
defuerint tellure mea; reverenda tuenti³
effigies te, Phasi, manet, quam magnus Enipeus

¹ brumae *Ellis*: durae *V*: dure *Bury*: proza *Bachrens*:
properantia *C*: properanti *V*: durae pr. s. brumae *Sudhaus*.
² placidus *C* and *Edd.* om. *V*: passum. Phrixe, fave etc.
Sudhaus.

³ reverenda *Heinsius*: tuenti *Sandstroem*: verenda fluentis *V*.

¹ Helle had been drowned, and though a tomb had been made for her she needed none, as she was now a goddess.

passed, as they set their vessel for the river. At the same time Juno and Pallas, in full panoply of glittering cloud, bring to a halt the chariots of their wing-footed steeds.

And while the chieftain enters the river-mouth with heavy beat of oar, he sees a ring of poplars and a mound that rises above the green river, the tomb of his kinsman Phrixus, beside whom stands wrought in marble his sister, ill-starred companion, dreading on this side her cruel step-mother, on that the sea, and afraid to put her hands upon the ram. Then he bids the rowers stop and here first make fast the cables, as though he had entered Pagasae and his native stream. Himself duly bearing in a heavy bowl the sacred offering of wine calls to the shade and thus speaks at the altar: "Phrixus, I pray thee, by our kindred blood and kindred labours, guide thou my enterprise and protect me in these lands who have endured so many seas, so many hurrying northern stars. Be favourable, Phrixus, and in kindly mood remember thy native land. Do thou too now, who wert vainly laid in an empty tomb,¹ give mark of approval, goddess of the sea, and aid the cause of thy kinsfolk. Ah, when shall I once more be borne upon thee? When shall the fleece of gold recognise Sestus and those unlucky waters? You too, ye woods and shores of hospitable Colchis, reveal where the rich pelt glitters on the sacred tree. Then do thou, O Phasis, offspring of fecund Jove, born in the snowy region of the Arcadian nymph, do thou but accept with tranquil stream the bark of Pallas, neither gifts nor shrines shall be lacking to thee in my land; an effigy awaits thee, O Phasis, that whose beholds may reverence, as mighty as great Enipeus

et pater aurato quantus iacet Inachus antro." dixerat. atque illi dextra sine versa magistri 210
 protinus in proram rediit ratis omine certo
 fluminis os pontumque tuens. "promittis ut ecce
 utque vocas revehemur" ait. sic deinde precatas
 arma iubet celsa socios depromere puppe.
 dona dehinc Bacchi casusque ut firmet in omnes 215
 rapta Ceres, viridesque premunt longo ordine ripas.

Incipe nunc cantus alios, dea, visaque vobis
 Thessalici da bella ducis; non mens mihi, non haec
 ora satis. ventum ad furias infandaque natae
 foedera et horrenda trepidam sub virgine puppem:
 impia monstiferis surgunt iam proelia campis. 221
 ante dolos, ante infidi tamen exsequar astus
 Soligenae falli meriti meritique relinqui,
 inde canens: Scythica senior iam Solis in urbe
 fata laborati Phrixus compleverat aevi. 225
 illius extremo sub funere mira repente
 flamma poli magnoque aries apparuit astro
 aequora cuncta movens. at vellera Martis in umbra
 ipse sui Phrixus monumentum insigne pericli
 liquerat ardenti quercum complexa metallo. 230
 quondam etiam tacitae visus per tempora noctis
 effigie vasta, socerumque exterruit ingens
 prodita vox: "o qui patria tellure fugatum
 quaerentemque domos his me considerare passus
 sedibus, oblata generum mox prole petisti, 235

or father Inachus outstretched in golden cave." He spoke, and at once the vessel turning for him without helmsman's art swung round by the bow, and with sure omen looked toward the sea and the river's mouth. "Lo! as thou dost promise and call us, so shall we return," he cries. So prays he, and then bids the crew bring down the weapons from the lofty poop. Then swiftly they prepare the gifts of Bacchus and Ceres to strengthen them for every hazard, and in long line burden the green banks.

Begin now, goddess, another strain, and relate the wars of the Thessalian chief which ye yourselves beheld; no power have I, no utterance meet. We are come to the madness and unholy compact of the princess, and how the vessel shuddered beneath the terrible maid; the accursed contests on the portent-bearing fields arise before me. Yet first must I explain the guile, the cunning of the faithless offspring of the Sun, how he deserved to be abandoned, deserved to be betrayed; from that point shall my song begin: by now had Phrixus, now grown old in the Scythian city of the Sun, fulfilled the appointed term of his long life of toil. When at the last he died, on a sudden appeared a marvellous flame in heaven, and the ram in a vast constellation stirring up all the sea. But the fleece had Phrixus left in the War-god's shady grove, a conspicuous memorial of his peril, embracing an oak tree with its glowing metal. Once too did he appear, a vast phantom, in the silent hours of night, and a great voice spoke forth and struck terror into the father of his bride:¹ "O thou who didst suffer me, a fugitive from my native land in search of a home, to settle in these abodes, and soon offering thy daughter invited me

¹ Aetes, whose daughter Chalcope Phrixus married.

tunc tibi regnorum labes luctusque supersunt,
 rapta soporato fuerint cum vellera luco.
 practerea infernae quae nunc sacrata Dianae
 fert castos Medea choros, quaecumque procorum
 pacta petat, maneat regnis ne virgo paternis." 240
 dixit et admota pariter fatalia visus
 tradere terga manu, tum falso fusus ab auro
 currere per summi fulgor laquearia tecti.
 membra toris rapit ille tremens, patriumque precatur
 numen et eoo surgentes litore currus: 245
 " haec tibi, fatorum, genitor, tutela meorum
 omnituens; tua nunc terris, tua lumina toto
 sparge mari; seu nostra dolos molitur opertos
 sive externa manus, primus mihi nuntius esto.
 tu quoque, sacrata rutilant cui vellera quercu, 250
 excubias, Gradive, tene; praesentia luco
 arma tubaeque sonent, vox et tua noctibus extet."
 vix ea, Caucaseis cum lapsus montibus anguis,
 haud sine mente dei, spiris nemus omne refusis
 implicuit Graiumque procul respexit ad orbem. 255
 ergo omnes prohibere minas praedictaque Phruxi
 invigilat, plena necdum Medea iuventa
 admittitur thalamis Albani virgo tyranni.

Interea auguriis monstribusque minacibus urbem
 territat ante monens semper deus et data seri 260
 signa mali; reddi iubet exitiale sacerdos
 vellus et Haemoniis infaustum mittere terris.
 contra Sole satus Phruxi praecepta volutans

to be thy son-in-law, dolour and ruin of thy realm
 shall abound for thee what time the fleece is stolen
 from the sleep-drugged grove. Moreover, Medea,
 who now is consecrated to Diana of the underworld
 and leads the holy dance—let her look for be-
 trothal to any suitor, suffer her not to abide in
 her father's kingdom." He spoke, and seemed
 therewith to put forth his hand and proffer the
 fateful hide, and from the visionary gold there
 poured a gleam which glanced about the coffered
 ceiling of the palace. Trembling the other started
 from his couch, and prayed to the godhead of his sire
 and to his chariot as it rose above the eastern strand:
 " This prayer do I make to thee, O father, guardian
 of my destiny, all-seeing one! Cast now thine eyes
 upon the land, upon all the sea; whether it be men
 of my own land or strangers that are planning secret
 treachery, be first to bear me news. Thou too,
 Gradivus, in whose sacred oak the fleece doth glitter,
 keep watch; present to aid let thy arms clash and
 trumpets sound in thy grove and thy voice ring
 through the darkness." Scarce had he spoken, when
 a serpent gliding from the Caucasian mountains, not
 without the will of the god, entwined all the grove
 with its circling coils and looked toward the Grecian
 land. Therefore is he watchful to foil all threats
 and the dangers foretold by Phruxus, and Medea,
 though her girlhood be not yet mature, is pledged
 to the Albanian prince's marriage chamber.

Meantime the god who ever forewarns terrifies
 the city with omens and threatening portents and
 gives signs of late-arriving ill; the priest bids the
 fatal fleece be given back and sent to bring ill
 luck to the Haemonian land. But the Sun's offspring

aegro corde negat, nec vulgi cura tyranno,
 dum sua sit modo tuta salus. tunc ordine regi 265
 proximus et frater materno sanguine Perses
 increpitare virum; sequitur duce turba reperto.
 ille furens ira solio se proripit alto,
 praecipitatque patres: ipsum quin talibus ausis
 spem sibi iam rerum vulgi levitate serentem 270
 ense petit. rapit inde fugam crudelia Perses
 signa gerens omnemque quatit rumoribus arcton.
 iamque aderat magnis regum cum milibus urbi,
 primaque in adversos frustratus proelia muros
 constiterat. datus et sociis utrimque cremandis 275
 ille dies alterque dies, cum Marte remisso
 debitus Aeaeis dux Thessalus adpulit oris.

Nox hominum genus et duros miserata labores
 rettulerat fessis optata silentia terris.
 at Iuno et summi virgo Iovis intima secum 280
 consilia et varias sociabant pectore curas.
 virgo prior: " magna pariter quos mole petamus? "
 " cernis " ait " Colchos habeant quae proelia, quique
 nunc status. hinc Perses, illinc non viribus aequis
 apparat Aeetes aciem. quibus addimur armis? "
 cui Iuno " dimitte metus, ne proelia forte 286
 hic tibi grata negem; manet ingens¹ aegida sudor
 et nostros iam sudor equos. stat pectore fixum
 Aeetae sociare manus. scio perfida regis
 corda quidem; nullos Minyis exsolvet honores. 290

¹ ingens *C om. V.*

ponders with faint heart the warnings of Phrixus
 and says nay; the tyrant recks not of his folk, so
 his own safety be assured. Then Perses, next in
 rank to the king and blood-brother on his mother's
 side, assails him with reproach: the crowd, finding
 a leader, lend support. But he in furious rage starts
 from his lofty seat, and sends the fathers flying
 headlong; nay, against Perses himself, as by such
 ventures he boldly sows for himself hopes of power,
 thanks to the mob's favour, he rushes with the sword.
 Perses flees thence, with marks of cruelty upon him,
 and with rumours stirs up all the North. And
 now was he present before the city with princes
 in their mighty thousands, and had halted, baffled
 in his first assault upon the walls. That day and
 the next were given over on either side to burning
 their slain comrades, when in the lull of war the
 Thessalian leader landed as Fate ordained upon the
 Aeaean strand.

Night in pity of mankind and its heavy toil had
 brought back longed-for silence to weary earth.
 But Juno and the virgin daughter of supreme Jove
 were sharing heart to heart their inmost counsels
 and distracting cares. First spoke the maid:
 " Against whom do we direct our united forces?
 Thou seest what a contest holds the Colchians in its
 grip, and how the issue stands to-day. On this
 side Perses, on that with strength unequal Aeetes
 prepares to fight. Which army shall we join? "
 Juno replied: " Dismiss thy fear lest perchance I
 refuse thee the battle thou lovest; already sore toil
 awaits thy aegis, and my steeds too must toil. My
 mind is resolved to join Aeetes' host. True, the
 king's heart is treacherous, I know; no guerdon will

verum alios tunc ipsa dolos, alia orsa movebo."
 "sint, precor, haec; tua namque mihi comitanda
 potestas"

Pallas ait, "liceat Grais ut reddere terris
 Aesonium caput et puppem, quam struximus ipsae,
 iactatam tandem nostro componere caelo." 295

Talia tunc hominum superi pro laude movebant.
 tristior at numquam tantove paventibus ulla
 nox Minyis egesta metu; nil quippe reperto
 Phaside, nil domitis actum Symplegados undis;
 cunctaque adhuc, magni veniant dum regis ad urbem,
 ambigua et dubia rerum pendentia summa. 301

praecipue Aesoniden varios incerta per aestus
 mens rapit undantem curis ac multa novantem.
 qualiter ex alta cum Iuppiter arce coruscat,
 Pliadas ille movens mixtumque sonoribus imbrem
 horriferaeve nivem, canis ubi tollitur omnis 306
 campus aquis, aut sanguinei magna ostia belli
 aut alios duris fatorum gentibus ortus:

sic tum diversis hinc atque hinc motibus¹ anceps
 pectora dux crebro gemitu quatit, optat et alnum 310
 iam iubar et certi tandem discriminis horas.
 tunc defixa solo coetuque intenta silenti
 versus ad ora virum "quod pridem ingentibus ausis
 optavistis" ait "veterumque quod horruit aetas,
 adsumus en tantumque fretis enavimus orbem. 315
 nec pelagi nos mille viae, nec fama fefellit

¹ motibus *Heinsius*: molibus *V.*

he pay the Minyae. But then will I myself set other devices, other plots, in motion." "So be it, I pray," said Pallas, "for thy power must join with mine, that we be allowed to restore Jason again to Grecian lands, and bring the bark which we wrought ourselves after all its tossing at last to rest in our own sky."

So planned at that time the heavenly ones for men's renown. But never was night passed by the Minyae in deeper gloom or in such alarm and fear; naught have they accomplished, though Phasis be found, though the billows of the Clashing Rock be tamed; and all as yet, till they come to the great king's city, is uncertain and hangs upon the doubtful issue of events. Most of all is the son of Aeson whirled in wavering thought on the shifting tides and surges of perplexity, devising plan upon plan. Even as when¹ Jupiter darts lightning from his high citadel, ay, when he stirs the Pleiads and mingled rain and thunder or freezing snow, when the whole plain is hidden by the white downpour, or when he opens the wide gates of bloody war, or brings other beginnings of destiny to stubborn nations: even so then did the leader halt between divers impulses from this quarter and from that, and rack his heart with many a groan, and wish that the kindly dawn were already come and the hours that bring sure decision at the last. Then turning toward his men whose gaze was fixed upon the ground or bent on the silent gathering: "That mighty enterprise," he said, "which long since has been your hope and prayer, and from which former ages shrank in horror—lo! we are at its goal, and the great world's waters lie behind us. Nor have the thousand paths of ocean played us false, nor the tale that Sun-born Aeetes

¹ Valerius is here imitating Homer, *Iliad* 10. 5-10.

Soligenam Aceten media regnare sub arcto.
 ergo ubi lux altum sparget mare, tecta petenda
 urbis et ignoti mens experienda tyranni.
 adnuet ipse, reor; neque inexorabile certe 320
 quod petimus: sin vero preces et dicta superbus
 respuerit, iam nunc animos firmate repulsae,
 quaque via patriis referamus vellera terris,
 stet potius: rebus semper pudor absit in artis."
 dixerat, et Scythicam qui se comitentur ad urbem
 sorte legit, numeroque novem ducuntur ab omni. 326
 inde viam qua Circaei plaga proxima campi
 corripiunt regemque petunt iam luce reducta.

Forte deum variis per noctem territa monstris,
 senserat ut pulsas tandem Medea tenebras, 330
 rapta toris primi iubar ad placabile Phoebi
 ibat et horrendas lustrantia flumina noctes.
 namque soporatos tacitis in sedibus artus
 dum premit alta quies nullaeque in virgine curae,
 visa pavens castis Hecates excedere lucis; 335
 dumque pii petit ora patris, stetit arduus inter
 pontus et ingenti circum stupefacta profundo,
 fratre tamen conante sequi: mox stare paventes
 viderat intenta pueros necesse sequere trementum
 spargere caede manus et lumina rumpere fletu. 340
 his turbata minis fluvios ripamque petebat
 Phasidis aequali Scythidum comitante caterva.
 florea per verni qualis inga duxit Hymetti
 aut Sicula sub rupe choros hinc gressibus haerens

reigns in the midmost region of the north. Therefore when light shall fleck the deep, we must seek the dwellings of the city and make trial of an unknown tyrant's mind. He will give assent himself, I ween, nor is our quest one that entreaty should not win; yet if he haughtily reject our supplication, harden even now your spirits to a refusal, and let us rather be resolved how to bring back the fleece to our native shores: away with scruple in adversity!" He spoke, and sought by lot those who should bear him company to the Scythian town, and from the whole number nine are drawn. Then they hasten upon the way that leads soonest to the Circean plain, and with day now dawning seek out the king.

It chanced that Medea, alarmed in the night by heavenly portents, had sprung from her couch so soon as she saw the shadows fled, and was going toward the sun's first heartening gleam and the river-streams that purge night's horrors.¹ For while in her silent bower deep quiet held her slumbering limbs and no trouble was in her maiden heart, she seemed to her terror to be stepping forth from Hecate's holy grove, and when she sought her loving father's presence, the tall sea stood between them and she was aghast at the vast deep all around, yet her brother assayed to follow; then had she seen children stand terror-stricken at the threat of sudden death, and herself as they trembled stain her hands with their murder, while tears burst from her eyes. Distracted by these threatening signs she sought the banks of Phasis' stream amid a band of Scythian maids, her peers in age. As Proserpine in spring-time led the dance over Hymettus' flowery ridges or beneath the cliffs of Sicily, on this side stepping

¹ Tolling a dream to the sun or washing in clear water was thought to avert evil consequences; cf. Aesch. *Pers.* 201, Soph. *Elec.* 424, Eur. *Iph. Taur.* 41, Prop. 3. 10. 13, *Pers.* 2. 16.

Pallados hinc carae Proserpina iuncta Dianae, 345
 altior ac nulla comitum certante, prius quam
 palluit et viso pulsus decor omnis Averno:
 talis et in vittis geminae cum lumine taedae
 Colchis erat, nondum miseros exosa parentes.
 ut procul extremi gelidus a fluminis undis 350
 prima viros tacito vidit procedere passu,
 substitit ac maesto nutricem adfata timore est:
 " quae manus haec, certo ceu me petat agmine, mater,
 advenit haud armis, haud umquam cognita cultu?
 quaere fugam, precor, et tutos circumspice saltus."
 audit virginis custos grandaeva pudoris 356
 Henioche, cultus primi cui creditur aevi;
 tum trepidam dictis firmans hortatur alumnam.
 " non tibi ab hoste minae nec vis " ait " ulla propinquit
 nec metus; externo iam flammea murice cerno 360
 tegmina, iam vittas frondemque imbellis olivae.
 Graius adest, Graio sunt cuncta simillima Phrixo."
 Sic ait. at Iuno, pulchrum longissima quando
 robur cura ducis magnique edere labores,
 mole nova et roseae perfudit luce iuventae. 365
 iam Talaum iamque Ampyciden astroque comantes
 Tyndaridas ipse egregio supereminet ore;
 non secus, autumnno quam cum magis asperat ignes
 Sirius et saevo cum nox accenditur auro
 luciferas crinita faces, hebet Arcas et ingens 370
 Iuppiter; ast illum tantum¹ non gliscere caelo
 vellet ager, vellent calidus iam roribus amnes.

¹ tantum *Langen*: tanto *V.*

¹ Medea, as priestess of Hecate, was carrying the two torches commonly associated with her as the goddess of darkness and the underworld.

² Henioche had known Phrixus and so become acquainted with Greek dress.

close by Pallas, on that side hand in hand with her beloved Diana, taller than they and surpassing all her fellows, ere she grew pale at the sight of Avernus and all her beauty fled: so fair also was the Colchian in her sacred fillets by the twin torches' light,¹ while yet she hated not her hapless parents. When first she saw, at a distance from the cool waters of the river-side, men proceeding with silent pace, she stopped, and called to her nurse in dismay and fear: " Mother, what band is this approaching, as though it made toward me with sure advance? Neither by armour nor by dress do I know them. Seek flight, I pray thee, look about for some glen to hide us." Henioche, aged guardian of the maiden's honour, to whom was entrusted her girlhood's upbringing, hears her cry; then with encouraging words she assures her frightened ward: " No enemy's threat, no violence or cause of fear draws nigh thee," she says; " already I see their garments flame-bright with foreign dye, ay, and now their fillets and the peaceful olive leaves. It is a Greek approaching, so close doth all their attire resemble Grecian Phrixus."²

So doth she speak. But Juno, since long anxiety and heavy toil had taken from the leader the beauty of his strength, shed over him new might and the sheen of roseate youth. And now in peerless aspect doth he outvie Talaus and Ampycides and the sons of Tyndareus with star-illuminated hair; just as when Sirius in autumn sharpens yet more his fires, and his angry gold gleams in the shining tresses of the night, the Arcadian and great Jupiter grow dim; fain are the fields that he would not blaze so fiercely in heaven, fain too the already heated waters of the streams.

regina, attonito quamquam pavor ore silentem
 exanimet, mirata tamen paulumque reductis
 passibus in solo stupuit duce. nec minus inter 375
 ille tot ignoti socias gregis haeret in una
 defixus sentitque ducem dominamque catervae.
 " si dea, si magni decus huc ades " inquit " Olympi,
 has ego credo faces, haec virginis ora ¹ Dianae,
 teque renodatam pharetris ac pace fruentem 380
 ad sua Caucaseae producunt flumina Nymphae.
 sin domus in terris atque hinc tibi gentis origo,
 felix prole parens, olimque beator ille,
 qui tulerit longis et te sibi iunxerit annis.
 sed fer opem, regina, viris. nos hospita pubes 385
 advchimur, Graium proceres tua tecta petentes.
 duc, precor, ad vestri quicumque est ora tyranni,
 ac tu prima doce fandi tempusque modumque.
 nam mihi sollicito deus ignaroque locorum
 te dedit; in te animos atque omnia nostra repono."

Dixit et opperiens trepidam stetit. illa parumper
 virgineo cunctata metu sic orsa vicissim: 392
 " quem petis Aecten, genitor meus, ipsaque iuxta
 moenia, si vivos possis discernere calles.
 hac adeo duce ferte gradus; ingentia namque 395
 castra alios aditus atque impius obsidet hostis."
 dixerat haec patriumque viam detorquet ad amnem,
 sacraque terrificae supplex movet inrita Nocti.
 Ille autem inceptum famula duce protinus nrget
 aere saeptus iter, patitur nec regia cerni 400

¹ ora C: arma V.

¹ *I.e.* ways afforded by the natural lie of the land as opposed to artificial roads.

The princess, though amaze holds her in speechless stupor, yet drawing back a space gazed marvellous at the chief, and at him alone. He likewise is entranced by her alone of all the unknown company of maidens, conscious of her as queen and mistress of the band. " If thou art a goddess," he says, " a glory of great Olympus come to earth, these are the torches, I ween, and this the face of virgin Diana, and thy Nymphs escort thee, at peace and thy quiver-string unloosed, to their Caucasian streams. But if thy home is on earth and thy race hath here its origin, happy thy parents in their offspring, and happier one day he who will bear thee away and join thee to himself in long-enduring union. But, O queen, give succour to heroes. Strangers are we, who have sailed hither, Grecian princes in search of thy house. Lead us, I pray, to the presence of your lord, whoe'er he be, and do thou first instruct us in the time and manner of address. For heaven hath sent thee to me, bewildered as I am and ignorant of this region; to thee I entrust our purpose and our all."

He spoke, and stood awaiting her timorous reply. She, a while hesitating in maiden fear, thus in her turn began: " Hard by is Aetes my father, whom thou seekest, and the city itself, if thou canst discover natural paths.¹ Go on your way, this girl will guide you; for the other approaches are beset by a huge camp and a traitor foe." So she spoke, and turned her steps toward her native stream, and begins her fruitless sacrifice to terror-bringing Night.

But he forthwith sets out in haste upon his road, with the handmaid as his guide, encompassed by a mist, for royal Juno suffers not the hero to be seen,

Iuno virum, prior Aetæae ne nuntius adsit.
 iamque inerat populo mediaeque incognitus urbi,
 cum comes orsa loqui. "Phœbi genitoris ad aras
 ventum" ait. "huc adytis iam se de more paternis
 rex feret; hic proceres audit populosque pre-
 cantes 405
 adloquis facilis: praesens pater admonet aequi."

Dixerat; ast illi prope monstrata capessunt
 limina. non aliter, quam si radiantis adirent
 ora dei verasque aeterni luminis arces,
 tale iubar per tecta micat. stat ferreus Atlas 410
 Oceano genibusque tumens infringitur unda;
 at mediis per terga senis rapit ipse nitentes
 altus equos curvoque diem subtexit Olympo;
 ponc rota brevior soror densaeque sequuntur
 Pliades et madidis rorantes crinibus ignes. 415
 nec minus hinc varia dux laetus imagine templi
 ad geminas fert ora fores canabula gentis
 Colchidos hic ortusque tuens; ut prima Sesostris
 intulerit rex bella Getis, ut clade suorum
 territus hos Thebas patriumque reducat ad
 amnem, 420
 Phasidis hos imponat agris Colchosque vocari
 imperet: Arsinoen illi tepidaeque requirunt
 otia laeta Phari pinguemque sine imbribus annum,

¹ The sun as he goes up the sky seems to pass over the body of Atlas, the mountain, before he fills the sky with light.

² The Hyades.

³ This expedition is related by Herodotus (2. 103), who holds the Colchians to have been of Egyptian origin.

lest before him a message should reach Aetes. And now he was among the folk, in the city's midst, unknown, when his companion began to speak: "We have reached the altar of Phœbus our sire. Soon will the king proceed hither to his father's shrine as is his wont; here doth he listen to the chieftains and the people's prayers, nor scorns he their addresses; his sire by his presence inspires him to judge aright."

She was silent; and they make haste to gain the threshold shown them. Even as though they drew nigh the presence of the radiant god and the very citadel of light eternal, so bright are the rays with which the palace gleams. There iron Atlas stands in ocean, the wave swelling and breaking on his knees; but the god himself on high hurries his shining steeds across the old man's body,¹ and spreads light about the curving sky; behind with smaller wheel follows his sister and the crowded Plejads and the fires whose tresses are wet with dripping rain.² Delighted with the temple's varied imagery the leader likewise casts his gaze upon the double doors, beholding here the infancy and origin of the Colchian race; how first their king Sesostris³ waged war upon the Getæ, how terrified by the slaughter of his people he withdrew some to Thebæ and his native stream, and settled others upon the land of Phasis and bade them be called Colchians: while those seek once more Arsinoe⁴ and the happy ease of sun-bathed Pharos and the fruitful rainless

⁴ An Egyptian town at the head of the Sinus Heroopolites (Suez Canal): Pharos was an island at the mouth of the Nile. Aea (426) is a nymph invented for the occasion by Valerius.

hi iam Sarmaticis permutant carbasa brasis.
 barbarus in patriis sectatur montibus Aean 425
 Phasis amore furens: pavidas iacit illa pharetras
 virgineo turbata metu, discursibus et iam
 deficit, ac volucris victam deus alligat unda.
 flebant populeae iuvenem Phaethonta sorores,
 ater et Eridani trepidum globus ibat in amnem; 430
 at iuga vix Tethys sparsumque recolligit axem
 et formidantem patrios Pyroenta dolores.
 aurea quin etiam praesaga Mulciber arte
 vellera venturosque olim caelarat Achivos.
 textitur Argoa pinus Pagasaea securi, 435
 ipse subit nudaque vocat dux agmina dextra.¹
 iamque eadem remos, eadem dea flectit habenas;
 exoritur notus et toto² ratis profundo
 cernitur; Odrysio gaudebant carmine phocae.
 apparent trepidi per Phasidis ostia Colchi 440
 clamantemque procul linquens regina parentem.
 urbs erat hinc contra gemino circumflua ponto,
 ludus ubi et cantus taeda pernocte iugales
 regalique toro laetus gener: ille priorem
 deserit; ultrices spectant a culmine Dirae. 445
 deficit in thalamis turbataque pacifice coniunx
 pallam et gemmiferae donum exitiale coronae
 apparat ante omnes secum dequesta labores.
 munere quo patrias paclex ornatur ad aras
 infelix; et iam rutilis correpta venenis 450

¹ Follows 437 in *V*: transposed by *Langen*: ipse *O*: ipsa *V*.

² toto *O*: torto *V*.

³ Son of the Sun-god, who entrusted him with his chariot for one day; the horses took fright and Phaethon fell into

year, these are already changing their linen robes for Sarmatian trews. In frenzied desire savage Phasis pursues Aea upon her native hills; in maiden distress and panic she shoots frightened arrows, and now her strength fails from her running to and fro and the god has overcome her, and binds her fast beneath his rapid wave. His poplar sisters were weeping for young Phaethon,¹ while the charred lump fell into the terrified waters of Eridanus; but scarce can Tethys gather the fragments of yoke and axle, or rescue Pyroeis who fears the father's grief. Nay, Mulciber with prophetic skill had also carved the golden fleece and the Achaeans who would one day come. The axe of Argo is interweaving the pines of Pagasae; the captain himself steps aboard and with bare hand beckons to his men; and now the same goddess is bending the oars and the sails alike; a southern breeze springs up, and on all the deep one vessel alone is seen; the seals delight in the Odrysian chant. On the mouths of Phasis are seen excited Colchians, and a princess who leaves far behind her parents' cries. Here again was a city between the waters of two seas, with mirth and song and marriage torches at night, and a bridegroom proud of his royal bride; his former spouse he abandons: avenging Furies watch from the palace roof. His wife, sore distressed in her chamber and moved to anger by her rival, prepares a robe and the deadly gift of a jewelled crown, first bewailing all her sufferings. With this gift the unhappy rival is adorned before her country's altars; and already, in the grip of the

the river Eridanus (Po). His sisters who wept for him were turned into poplars that wept tears of amber. Pyroeis was one of the horses.

implicat igne domus. haec tum miracula Colchis
struxerat ignipotens nondum noscentibus, ille
quis labor, aligeris aut quae seceat anguibus auras
caede madens: odere tamen visusque reflectunt.

Quin idem Minyas operum defixerat horror,¹ 455
cum se Sole satus patriis penetralibus infert.
filius hunc iuxta primis Absyrtus in annis,
dignus avo quemque insontem meliora manerent.
tum gener Albanis Styrys qui advenerat oris, 459
distulerant sed bella toros; tum Phrontis et Argus
Acolidae fraterque Melas, quos advena Phrixus
progenuit; pariterque levī Cytisorus in hasta.
post alii, quos praecipuo Titania tellus
legit honore patres, motique ad proelia reges.
admonet hic socios nebulamque erumpit Iason, 465
siderea ora ferens; nova lux offusa² Cytaeis.
conveniunt stipantque³ viros rogitantque, quid ausi
quidve ferant. postquam primis inhiantia dictis
agmina suppressumque videt iam murmur Iason,
talī mirantī promptus tulit orsa tyranno: 470
"rex Hyperionide, quem per freta tanta petendum
caelicolae et prima dignum statuere carina,
siquando hic aliquam nostro satus orbe solebat
Thessaliam, siquos Phrixus memorare Pelasgos:
hi tibi, tot casus, horrenda tot avia mensi, 475
cernimur. ipse egomet proprio de sanguine Phrīxi:
namque idem Cretheus ambobus et Aeolus auctor

¹ horror *Meyncke*: error V.

² offusa *Gronovius*: effusa V.

³ stipantque *Loebach*: rogitantque V.

⁴ Another name for Colchians, from a town in that country.

flaming poison, wraps all the palace in fire. These
marvels had the Fire-god wrought for the Colchians,
though as yet they knew not what enterprise was
that, or who it is that with winged serpents cleaves
the air, dripping with murder; they hate them
nevertheless, and turn away their gaze.

The same shuddering dread the works inspired
had held the Minyae spellbound, when the Sun's
offspring made entry into his father's shrine. Beside
him was his son Absyrtus, a stripling worthy of his
grandsire, and one whose innocence deserved a fairer
future. Then Styrys, who had come from Albania
to be his son-in-law, but war had postponed his
marriage, then Phrontis and Argus, sons of Aeolus,
and their brother Melas, sons all these of the exile
Phrixus, Cytisorus likewise with his light hunting-
spear. After them others, whom the Titanian land
chose in high honour to be its senators, and princes
who had heard the call to arms. Hereupon Jason
gives the sign to his comrades, and bursts forth in
starry presence from the cloud; the new light dazzles
the Cytaeans.¹ They gather close and press the
heroes, asking what is their venture, what their
message. When Jason saw them agape to hear his
earliest words and their murmuring now silent, he
readily addressed the wondering monarch: "O
king, Hyperion's son, whom the heavenly gods have
decreed that I must seek over seas so wide, a worthy
quest for the first ship—if ever landsman of ours was
wont to speak at all of Thessaly, if Phrixus ever let
fall word of the Pelasgians, lo! here are we before
thine eyes, so many hazards borne, such fearful deso-
late distances measured. I myself am own kin to
Phrixus; for both of us have Cretheus and Aeolus

cum Iove Neptunoque et cum Salmonide nympha.
 meque nec huc enses araeque egere paternae,
 nec, tua Thessalicis quamquam inclita nomina
 terris, 480
 sponte sequor. cui non iusso tot adire voluptas
 monstra maris? cui Cyaneos intrare fragores?
 sceptrata tui toto Pelias sub numine Phoebi
 maxima sorte tenens, totque ille prementia clivos¹
 oppida, tot vigili pulcherrima flumina cornu; 485
 ille meum imperiis urget caput, ille labores
 dat varios, suus ut magnum rex spargit ab Argis
 Alciden, Sthenelo ipse satus. tamen aspera regum
 perpetimur iuga, nec melior parere recuso.
 hic sibi me auratae pecudis quiscumque periclis 490
 exuvias perferre iubet. tibi gratia nostri
 sit, precor, haec meritique loco,² quod iussa recepi
 teque alium quam quem Pelias speratque cupitque
 promisi et meliora tuae mihi foedera dextrae.
 si petere hoc saevi statuissem sanguine belli, 495
 Ossa dabat Pindusque rates quotque ante secuti
 inde nec audacem Bacchum nec Persea reges.
 sed me nuda fides sanctique potentia iusti
 huc tulit ac medii sociatrix gratia Phrixii,
 iamque tibi nostra geniti de stirpe nepotes. 500
 nec tamen aut Phrygiis reges aut arva furentis
 Bebryciae spernendus adi: seu fraude petivit

¹ prementia clivos *Baehrens*: cremantia divos V.

² loco *Heinsius*: locus V.

¹ As had been the case with Phrixus (see Introduction).

² *I.e.* unfailing in its outpouring of water; river gods are frequently so represented.

³ Different from the Sthenelus of 89; this one was a son of Perseus and Andromeda, and father of Eurysthenes, king of Argos, who imposed the labours upon Hercules.

for our ancestors, ay, Jove too and Neptune and the nymph Salmonis. No father's sword or altar¹ drove me hither, nor yet of my own will do I seek thee, though thy name is renowned in Thessaly. Whose pleasure were it, save he were bidden, to face so many monsters of the deep? or to sail into the thunders of the Cyanean Rocks? Pelias, who holds as his portion the mightiest of realms under all the sway of thine own Phoebus, so many towns that lie upon the hillsides, so many fairest streams with never idle horn,² he it is lays his heavy ordinance on me, and sets me divers tasks, even as his own prince, himself the son of Sthenelus,³ sends great Alcides hither and thither from Argos. Yet we endure the cruel yoke of kings, nor though the better man do I refuse obedience. It is he that bids me bring him at whatever risk the slough of the golden ram. Let this be a cause of favour to me, I pray, and count as a merit that I have accepted his command, and have promised myself that I shall find thee other than as Pelias hopes and wishes and thy right hand joined to mine in friendlier compact. Had I determined to seek this prize by war and cruel bloodshed, Ossa and Pindus offered ships, and princes more than ever followed Perseus and daring Bacchus of yore. But naked honesty and the power of sacred justice has borne me hither, and the favour that Phrixus won will unite our hearts in fellowship, and the grandchildren whom our house has already borne to thine. Yet⁴ Phrygian princes and Bebrycia's furious land found me no despicable visitor: whether they

⁴ "tamen": though he had not come with warlike purpose, but in peace.

seu quis honore meos, sua reddita dona deumque
 nos genus atque ratem magnae sensere Minervae.
 vix tandem longis quaesitam Colchida votis 505
 contigimus, qualemque dabat te fama videmus.
 tu modo ne claros Minyis invideris actus
 (non aliena peto terrisve indebita nostris,
 siquis et in precibus iuri¹ locus), atque ea Phrixo
 crede dari, Phrixum ad patrios ea ferre penates. 510
 munera tu contra victum mihi vecta per aequor
 accipe Taenarii chlamydem de sanguine aeni
 frenaque et accensum gemmis fulgentibus ense:
 hoc patrium decus, haec materni texta laboris,
 his Lapithes adsuerat eques. da iungere dona,² 515
 da Scythicas sociare domos: sciat effera regis
 ira mei, quem te horrifero sortitus in axe
 Caucasus atque tuis quantum mitescat habenis."

Talibus orantem vultu gravis ille minaci
 iam dudum fremit et furis ignescit opertis. 520
 ceu tumet atque imo sub gurgite concipit austros
 unda silens, trahit ex alto sic barbarus iras,
 et nunc ausa viri, nunc heu! sua prodita Grais
 regna fremit, quin et facili sibi mente receptum
 iam Phrixum dolet et Scythiae periisse timores. 525
 nunc quassat caput ac iuvenis spes ridet inanes,
 quid vesanus agat, quod vellera poscat ab angue.

¹ iuri *Bury*: vero *V*.

² dona *V*: dextram *C Langen*.

met us with injury or honour, they found their gifts repaid, and knew us for the sons of gods and our vessel for great Minerva's own. Scarce now at length have we reached Colchis, for so long the object of our prayers, and find thee such as fame described. Only grudge not the Minyae their glorious enterprise (it is not others' wealth I seek or ought not owed to my own land, if even in prayers justice may claim a place), and deem that it is to Phrixus thou dost give it, that Phrixus is bearing it to his father's house. In turn do thou accept these gifts that have journeyed over the vanquished sea, a cloak blood-red from a Taenarian cauldron, a bridle, and a sword aflame with glittering gems: this was my sire's adornment, that woven by my mother's toil, the other Lapithes the horseman was wont to use. Suffer me to set thy gift with mine, to win the friendship of Scythian homes: let my prince's wild anger learn what a ruler the dreadful region of Caucasus hath found in thee, and how gentle it grows beneath thy sway."

While thus he spake, the other, his brow heavy with threats, had long been muttering and smouldering with hidden fire. Just as a billow swells and silently in the lowest deep becomes pregnant with the southern blast, so from the depths does the savage king draw anger; and now he exclaims against the hero's daring, now that his realm has been betrayed, alas! to the Greeks, nay, now he grieves that he offered too ready a welcome to Phrixus, and taught men to fear Scythia no more. Now shaking his head he mocks the young man's idle hopes: "What madman's scheme is this, to demand the fleece from the serpent?" Then too the

urit et antiquae memorem vox praescia sortis,
 cur simul ac Persen illinc sibi moverit atque hinc¹
 Thessalicam Fortuna ratem; num debitus ista 530
 finis agat saevaeque petant iam vellera Parcae.
 interea quoniam belli pugnaeque propinqua
 cura prior, fingit placidis fera pectora dictis
 reddīt et haec: "cuperem haut tali vos tempore
 tectis
 advenisse meis, quo me gravis adsidet hostis. 535
 frater enim (sceptri sic omnibus una cupido)
 excidium parat et castris me ingentibus urget.
 quare age cognatas primum defendite sedes,
 nec decus oblati dimiseris advena belli;
 namque virum trahit ipse chalybs. tum vellera
 victor 540
 tam² meritis, nec sola dabo." contra inscius astus
 "ergo nec hic nostris deerat labor arduus actis"
 excipit Aesonides "et ceu nihil aequore passis
 addit iste dies? veniant super haec quoque fato
 bella meo. non hunc parva mihi caede dolorem 545
 quasque dedit luct ille moras." tum Castora mittit,
 qui ferat Aeaei sociis responsa tyranni.
 acribus ast illos enris mora saeva trahebat,
 ac simul ut medio viderunt Castora campo,
 crebrior incessit mentem pavor. "o Iovis alma 550
 progenies, fare, an patriam spes ulla videndi,
 fare" omnes. ille in mediis sic orsus Achivis:
 "nec ferus Aectes, ut fama, nec aurea nobis
 terga negat; bello interea sed pressus iniquo

¹ atque hinc *Langen*: aut hinc *V*.

forecast of an ancient oracle burns in his memory: why should Fortune have sent against him together from one quarter Perses and from the other the Thessalian bark? can doom be claiming its due, and are the stern Fates demanding the fleece already? Meanwhile, since war and the approaching conflict demand his prior care, he shapes the fierceness of his heart into peaceful words, and thus replies: "I could wish that ye had not at such a time drawn nigh my dwelling, when a powerful foe assails me. For my brother (so lust all men for sovereignty) plots my destruction and besets me with a mighty force. Come then, first defend a kindred land, nor, though a stranger, forgo the glory of war thus offered; for iron of itself attracts a hero. Then once victorious I will bestow the fleece on thy deserts and not the fleece alone." Ignorant of guile Aesonides replies: "This hard task also then was among our destined deeds, and as though we had suffered naught upon the sea this day is set thereto. Let then this war too be added to my fate. With no small slaughter will he atone for this annoyance, and for the delay he causes thereby." Then sends he Castor to bear to his men the answer of the Aeacan tyrant. But the cruel tarrying was racking them with sharp anxiety, and as soon as they saw Castor in mid-plain, fear knocked more wildly at their hearts. "Kind son of Jupiter, speak," cried they all, "speak, is there any hope of seeing home?" And thus began he in the midst of the Achaeans: "Aectes is no savage, as rumour has it, nor does he deny us the golden fleece: but meantime under pressure of

² tam *Burmans*: tum *V*.

auxilium petit; armatos dux protinus omnes 555
 adcelerare iubet; longo nam tuta recessu
 puppis et adposita fluvius defenditur urbe."

Haud mora; prosiliunt, quos nec Riphæa iuventus,
 quos nec Hiber aut tota suis Aurora pharetris
 sustineat. stetit explicito prius agmine pubes, 560
 expertique simul, si tela artusque sequantur.

nec quisquam freta nec patrias iam respicit urbes,
 sed magis ad praesens itur decus. incita cristas
 aura quatit, variis floret via discolor armis,
 qualis ab Oceano nitidum chorus aethera vestit, 565
 qualibus adsurgens nox aurea cingitur astris.

illos Sole satus tacita maestissimus ira
 miratur temere adsumptos, nec talia mallet
 robora quam medios hostem subiisse penates.
 interea laeto patitur convivia vultu¹ 570

et iuxta Aesoniden magno cratere lacessit
 nunc sibi monstrantem natos Iovis oraque iuxta
 Aeacidum, nunc ingentes Calydonos alumnos;
 audit et Alciden infando errore relictum
 defletosque duces terraeque marisque labores. 575

ipse autem tantis concita furoribus arma
 expetit Aesonides et amicos ordine reges:
 "quis procul ille virum, nodis quem balteus asper
 subligat et stricto stat proximus armiger arcu,
 ceu pugnam paret et positas confundere mensas?"
 contra flammigeri proles Perseia Solis 581

¹ vultu *Edd. Bon. and Ald.*: cultu *V.*

¹ Scythian and Armonian (cf. 5. 166); by "quivers of the Dawn" he means Eastern bowmen, perhaps Parthian.

adverse war he seeks our aid; our chief bids arm and straightway hasten; for the ship is safe in her distant hiding-place, and the nearness of the city assures the river's safety."

Without delay they spring forward, men whom neither the Riphæan nor Hiberian¹ youth nor all the quivers of the Dawn could check. The warriors stand first in extended line, and together make trial, if weapons and limbs obey their bidding. None any more casts a look toward the sea or the cities of his own land, rather they march toward the glory that awaits them. A keen breeze shakes their crests, and the road blooms with the varied hues of arms, even as rising from ocean stars in their multitudes clothe the sparkling air, even as the constellations girdle at her arising the golden night. The offspring of the Sun in silent, wrathful dismay marvels at the array so rashly made allies; he had rather the enemy were in the midst of his palace than such warriors as they. Meanwhile with joyful looks he suffers the banquet, and plies with a great bowl the son of Aeson at his side, who points out now the children of Jove, now next them the faces of the sons of Aeacus, now the great nurslings of Calydon; he hears too how Alcides was left behind in wanderings unspeakable, and of the heroes they had lamented and all their toils by land and sea. Jason too seeks to learn about the war so passionately aroused and the array of friendly princes: "Who is that hero yonder, girt with a studded belt, and near him a squire with drawn bow, as though preparing battle and to bring havoc on the ordered tables?" In answer spake the Persean² offspring of the flaming

² So called from his mother Perse.

"quem rogitas, Carmeius" ait; "mos comminus
 arma
 semper habere viro, semper meminisse pharetrae."
 "illum" ait Aesonides "pariter refer, horrida signis
 cui chlamys et multa spirat coma flexilis aura." 585
 respicit Aetes atque hunc quoque nomine reddit:
 "dives Aron; croceos sic illius omnis odores
 iactat eques, cunctis sic est coma culta manipulis:
 sed ne sperne virum et comptis diffide capillis.
 Campesus hic spoliis in tigridis; ille profundo 590
 incumbens Odrussa mero; vide lata comantem
 pectora et ingenti turbantem pocula barba."
 hunc et Iaxarten dictis stupet hospes acerbis
 immodicum linguaque gravem, cui multa minanti
 non superum, non praesentis reverentia Phoebi. 595
 contra autem Aetes "non frustra magna superbo
 dicta volant" ait. "et vocem paria arma secuntur;
 nec requies, quin Marte diem noctemque fatiget;
 atque ubi Rhiphaea stupuerunt flumina bruma,
 iam pavidi cum prole Getae, iam pervigil illum 600
 Medus et oppositis expectat Hiberia claustris.
 quid Latagum, quid si amnigenam mirere Choaspen?
 bellatoris equi potantem cerne cruores;
 nec tamen immissis hic segnior ibit habenis.
 hos autem quae quemque manus, quae signa se-
 quantur, 605
 si memorem, prius umentem lux solverit umbram.
 cras acies atque illa ducum cras regna videbis
 dissona, saxiferae surgat quibus imber habenae,
 quae iaculo gens apta levi, quae picta pharetris

Sun: "Tis Carmeius of whom thou askest; it is
 his custom ever to have his weapon ready, ever to
 be mindful of his quiver." "Tell me of him likewise,"
 said Jason, "whose cloak is rough with embroideries,
 and whose curled hair exhales many a fragrant
 breath." Glancing at him Aetes tells his name
 also: "Rich Aron is he; not a horseman of his
 but scatters such saffron odours, not a man of his
 company but curls his tresses thus; yet despise not
 the man nor distrust his tended locks. Here is
 Campesus in a tiger's spoils; there Odrussa deep in
 his wine-cup; mark his breast with its broad growth
 of hair and the great beard that fouls the goblet."
 The guest gazes at him in wonder, and at Iaxartes
 immoderate in bitter speech and violent tongue,
 flinging many a threat without regard of gods above
 or present Phoebus. But Aetes in his turn says:
 "Those mighty taunts fly not in vain from his proud
 mouth, and he has a sword to match his words, nor
 by day or by night rests he from assiduous warfare;
 ay, even when the rivers are struck motionless by
 Rhiphaean frost, still do the terrified Getae with their
 progeny, still does the watchful Mede and Iberia
 with confronting barriers await his onset. What
 if thou shouldst marvel at Latagus or river-born
 Choaspen? mark him drinking his charger's blood:
 yet none the slower will he gallop when the reins
 are loosed. But were I to tell what troop, what
 standards follow each chieftain, ere that would the
 light disperse the humid shades. To-morrow shalt
 thou see the armies, and to-morrow the chieftains'
 realms in various array, those from whom rises the
 sleet of the stone-bearing sling, those who are skilful
 with the light javelin, those who are gay with painted

venerit. ingentes animo iam prospice campos, 610
 atque hanc alipedi pulsantem corpora curru
 Euryalen, quibus exultet Mavortia turmis
 et quantum elata valeat peltata securi,
 cara mihi et veras inter non ultima natus."
 fatur et occiduo libat cratera parenti. 615
 quisque suis tum vota deis et pocula fundit,
 dent aciem, dent belligeros superare labores.

Ecce autem Geticis veniens Gradivus ab antris
 ingentemque trahens arctoa per aequora nubem
 aspicit Aeaëa Minyas stupefactus in urbe 620
 ambitumque senem promissaque vellera pubi¹
 Thessalicac. citus ad summi stellantia patris
 tecta ruit questuque Iovem testatur acerbo:
 " quae studiis, rex magne, quies? iam mutua divi
 exitia in solos hominum molimur honores, 625
 teque ea cuncta iuvant, rabidam qui Pallada caelo
 non abigis neque femineis ius obicis ausis.
 num queror, extracta quod vexerit ipsa carina
 vellera sacra meis sperantem avertere lucis,
 quodque palam tutata viros? sic cetera pergat, 630
 si valet. insidiis quid nunc fallacibus ambit,
 nostra ut Phrixæo spolientur templa metallo?
 non opus auxilio Colchis nec foedere vestro:
 et Persen simul et Minyas deprecimur hostes.

¹ pubi *Heinsius*: puppi *V.*

¹ A princess of the Amazons.

² Apparently Jason and Minerva; that he turns to address Minerva here is clear from "tuns," "tu" (636, 638). What Mars suspects is a compact, engineered by Minerva, between Aetes and Jason, by which, in return for his help against

quivers. Now let thy mind's eye range the spreading plains, and see Euryale¹ here trampling the corpses with her wing-swift car, how she exults, the warrior-maid, in her valiant troops, how terrible she is with uplifted battle-axe and targe, dear to me not least among my true-born daughters." He speaks, and pours the bowl in honour of his sire now setting. Then each to his own gods pours alike goblet and entreaty, that they suffer them to do battle, suffer them to survive their warlike deeds.

But lo! Gradivus coming from his Getic caverns and trailing a huge cloud over the northern seas beholds in amazement the Minyans in the Aeaean city and the old king entreated and the fleece vouchsafed to the Thessalian youth. Swiftly he hastens to the starry palace of his sire on high, and with bitter complaint calls Jove to witness: "What end is there, great king, to faction? Now are we gods plotting mutual destruction for naught but human glory, and all this pleases thee, who drivest not the insensate Pallas from heaven nor settest thy law against a woman's daring. Do I complain that she herself has constructed a ship and conveyed him who hopes to rob my grove of the sacred fleece, and has openly kept the heroes safe? Let her continue so hereafter, if she can. Why now does she deceive with crafty wives, that my temple may be despoiled of Phrixus' gold? The Colchians have no need of aid or of your² alliance. We claim both Perses and the Minyae

Perses, Jason shall have the fleece. This, to Mars, is underhand work; he says he is perfectly capable of repulsing Perses and the Minyans as well. Straightforward hostility (cf. "palam" in 630) he does not mind; he suggests a single combat between himself and Minerva.

quin age (quid tantae coeunt in proelia gentes? 635
 quid tuus Aesonides?) imus nos, protinus imus
 in nemus auriferum et sumptis decernimus armis?
 vel tu sola polo tacitis inopina tenebris
 labere: quantus ibi deus experiere nec illas
 adstiteris impune trabes. an Martia templa 640
 intemeranda minus, tantum mihi lucus et agger
 quod rudis et sola colimur si gentibus umbra?
 est amor et rerum cunctis tutela suarum.
 et tibi, magne pater, terris donaria certant,
 est honor his etiam suus. at si ego clara Mycenae 645
 culmina, virgineas praeder si Cecropis arces,
 iam coninx, iam te gemitu lacrimisque tenebit
 nata querens. metuant ergo nec talia poscant."¹

Non tulit haec animis, quin longa silentia Pallas
 rumperet inridens strepitumque minasque
 Gradivi 650
 " non tibi Aloidae, quibus haec fera murmura iactes,
 non Lapithae, sed Pallas " ait; " neque ego aegide
 digna,

nec vocer ulterius proles Iovis, excidat iste
 ni tibi corde tumor: lituus miser armaque faxo
 oderis et primis adimam tua nomina bellis. 655
 quin simili matrem, demens, gravitate secutus?
 digna quidem, monstrum superis quae tale creavit.
 quod tamen adgressae scelus aut quo crimine sontes,
 si iuvenem, qui iussa sui tam dira tyranni
 impavidus maria et nondum qui nota subibat, 660

¹ poscant *Ed. Ald.*: possint *V.*

¹ *I.e.* of a grove.

² Foes more distinguished for ferocity than for skill in fight; the Aloidae were among the giants who tried to take heaven by storm.

as foes. Nay, come (why should folk so mighty, why should thy Jason take part in battle?), why go we not, go straightway to the gold-decked grove, and there take arms and decide the quarrel? Do thou now, alone, unsuspected in the silent gloom, glide down from heaven; there shalt thou learn how great a god I am, nor without rueing it advance against those boughs. What, are the shrines of Mars then less inviolate, because I have but a grove and a rude mound and only in shade¹ do the people worship me? All love and guard their own domains. Thy shrines of offering too, great father, have their own rivalry in different lands, and their own glory too. But were I to plunder Mycenae's famous heights or the virgin citadel of Cecrops, soon would thy sponse, thy daughter be clasping thee with tears and groans and protestation. Let them fear, therefore, nor make such bold demands."

Pallas' proud spirit brooked not this, but she broke her long silence laughing to scorn the noisy threats of Mars: " No Aloids or Lapiths hast thou here,"² she answered, " to assail with these savage cries, but Pallas; nor were I worthy of the aegis, nor should I any more be called the child of Jove, if thy spirit give not over its proud boasting. Wretch, I shall make thee loathe thy arms and trumpets, and in the first combat rob thee of thy fame. Why didst thou not pursue thy mother, fool, with speech so violent? Verily she deserved as much, for creating such a monster among the gods. Yet what crime have we wrought, wherein lies our guilt, if we have helped a youth who fearlessly obeyed the dire behest of his own lord and faced the as yet unknown main,

iuuimus et magnis aliquam spem movimus ausis?
 an nullas perferre preces nec foedera regis
 ulla sequi, caeca sed cuncta impellere pugna
 debuimus? sic Thraces agunt, sic turbidus iste,
 siqua petit. cuperem haec etiam nunc bella remitti
 nec socias armare manus. da vellera, rector, 666
 et medio nos cerne mari. quod sin ea Mavors
 abnegat et solus nostris sudoribus obstat,
 ibimus indecores frustra que tot aequora vectae?
 fessaque nunc cedam tibi¹ femina?" coeperat
 ardens 670

hic iterum alternis Mavors insurgere dictis;
 excipit hinc contra pater et sic voce cohercet:
 "quid vesane fremis? cum vos iam poenitet acti
 peccatumque satis, tunc ad mea iura venitis.
 quolibet ista modo, quacumque impellite pugna, 675
 quae coepistis, habent quoniam sua fata furores.
 te tamen hoc, coniunx, et te, mea nata, monebo:
 sit Pensen pepulisse satis, nec vana retentet
 spes Minyas finemve velint imponere bello.
 illum etenim talis rerum manet, accipite, ordo. 680
 victa retro nunc castra dabit bellumque remittet
 territus adventu ducis et virtute Pelasgi:
 mox ubi Thessalicis referent hos flamina terris,
 tunc aderit victorque domos et scepra tenebit,
 donec et Aeeten inopis post longa senectae 685
 exilia (heu magnis quantum luet² impia fatis)
 nata iuuet Graiusque nepos in regna reponat.

¹ fessaque nunc cedam tibi *Schenkl*: fas aliquae noqueat
 sic *V* (*various conjectures*).

² luet *Meyncke*: licet *V*: libet *some Edd.*

¹ Let us have the fleece and we will leave Colchis at once
 and sail for home.

if we have stirred in him some hope of accomplishing
 a mighty enterprise? Ought we to have made no
 prayers, sought no agreement with the king, but
 plunged all into battle's doubtful issue? So act the
 Thracians, and so this turbulent fellow here, whenever
 he seeks aught. I could wish that even now this
 war were broken off, and that kindred hands took
 up no arms. Grant us the fleece, O king, and behold
 us in mid-sea.¹ But if Mars refuses and alone resists
 our efforts, shall we depart disgraced after traversing
 so many seas in vain? And shall I now yield to
 thee because I am weary and a woman?" Once
 more was Mavors rising to the attack, in hot
 rejoinder; but the Sire cuts him short and with
 these words constrains him: "What means this
 insane uproar? As soon as you repent of your acts
 and have done misdeeds enough, you come to my
 tribunal. Further your enterprises by what means
 you will, by any war, for madness hath its own doom.
 Yet I warn thee, wife, and thee, my daughter, of
 this: let it suffice to have routed Perses, let no vain
 hopes hold the Minyae, nor let them wish to set an
 end to the war. This is the order of events (hearken!)
 that awaits him. At first will he move backward his
 stricken camp and abandon the war, terrified by
 the approach and valour of the Pelasgian chief;
 soon when the breezes waft these heroes back to
 Thessalian lands, he will return and in triumph hold
 the sceptre and the kingdom, until his daughter (ah,
 what atonement will she pay to the mighty fates
 for her impiety!) bring Aeetes aid, when in long
 exile he hath spent a helpless old age, and a Grecian
 grandson² place him on his throne once more. Such

² Medus, son of Medea by Aegeus, king of Athens.

hic labor amborumque haec sunt discrimina fratrum.
vadite et adversis, ut quis volet, inruat armis."

Dixerat. instaurat mensas pacemque reducit, 690
et iam sideream¹ noctem demittit Olympo.
tunc adsuetus adest Phlegraeas reddere pugnas
Musarum chorus et citharae pulsator Apollo,
fertque gravem Phrygius circum cratera minister.
surgitur in somnos seque ad sua limina flectunt. 695

¹ sideream *V*; sidereo *Heinsius*.

will be the labours and the fortunes of the two brothers. Go now, rush into battle, if such be your will."

His words were ended. He renews the banquet and brings back harmony, and at last sends starry night down from Olympus. Then the choir of Muses and Apollo, striker of the lyre, whose wont it is to tell of the Phlegraeian fight, appear, and the Phrygian henchman¹ bears round the heavy bowl. They rise when slumber calls, and turn themselves each to his own dwelling.

¹ Ganymede.

BOOK VI

LIBER SEXTUS

BOOK VI

At vigil isdem ardet furis Gradivus et acrí
 corde tumet nec quas acies, quae castra sequatur,
 invenit; ire placet tandem praesensque videri,¹
 sternere si Minyas magnoque rependere luctu
 regis pacta queat Graiamque absumere pubem.² 5
 impulit hinc currus, monstrum inrevocabile belli
 concutiens, Scythiaeque super tentoria sistit.
 protinus e castris fugit sopor; excita tela,
 turbati coiere duces: hos insuper ingens
 fama movet, rate quae sacra vulgabat Achivos 10
 advenisse sui repetentes vellera Phrixi,
 quos malus hospitio iunctaque ad foedera dextra
 luserit Aeetes atque in sua traxerit arma.

Ergo, consiliis dum nox vacat alta movendis,
 legatos placet ire duces, mandataque Perses 15
 edocet, adfari Minyas fraudemque tyranni
 ut moneant; quinam hinc animos averterit error?
 se primum Haemoniis hortatum ea vellera terris
 reddere et exuvias pecudis dimittere sacrae:
 hinc odium et tanti venisse exordia belli. 20
 quin potius dextramque suam suaque arma sequantur,
 aut remeant; neque enim Aeetae promissa fidemque
 esse loco; abstineant alienae sanguine pugnae.

¹ videri *V*: tueri *C Langen*.

² pubem *Edd. Bon. and Ald.*: puppem *V*.

¹ His spear.

BUT Gradivus takes no rest; still the same passion burns in the fierce tumult of his heart, yet knows he not which camp, which battle-array to join; at length he resolves to go and appear in visible presence, if haply he may lay low the Minyae and take reprisal of sore distress for their compact with the king and destroy the youth of Greece. On then he drives his chariot, brandishing the irrevocable portent of war,¹ and draws rein above the tents of Scythia. Straightway slumber leaves the host: all spring to arms, and the chiefs anxiously take counsel, disturbed, moreover, by the strong rumour that told how Achaeans have come in a sacred ship claiming the fleece that once their own Phrixus had, and how crafty Aeetes has tricked them with hospitable welcome and right hands joined in treaty, and has won them for his own warfare.

And so while midnight still gives room for scheming, they decide to send an embassy of chieftains; Perses tells them his message, to accost the Minyae and tell them of the tyrant's cunning: "What delusion can have blinded them thereto? 'Twas he that first advised Aeetes to restore the fleece to Haemonia and let go the slough of the sacred beast; hence hatred and the prelude of a mighty war. Nay, let them rather choose his friendship, his alliance, or else return home, for no surety was there in Aeetes' word and promise; let them shrink from bloodshed in another's cause. Not for that have

non illos ideo tanti venisse labores
 per maris. ignotis quid opus concurrere nec quos 25
 oderis? haec medio Perses dum tempore mandat,
 aureus effulsit campis rubor, armaque et acres
 sponte sua strepuere tubae. Mars saevus ab altis
 "hostis io," conclamat equis "agite ite, propinquat,"
 ac simul hinc Colchos, hinc fundit in aequora Persen.
 tunc gens¹ quaeque suis commisit proelia telis, 31
 voxque dei pariter turmas audita per omnes.

Hinc age Riphæo quos videris orbe furores,
 Musa, mone; quanto Scythiam molimine Perses
 concierit, quis fretus equis per bella virisque. 35
 verum ego nec numero memorem nec nomine cunctos
 mille vel ora movens; neque enim plaga gentibus ulla
 ditior: aeterno quamquam Maeotia pubes
 Marte cadat, pingui numquam tamen ubere defit,
 quod geminas arctos magnaumque quod impleat
 anguem. 40

ergo duces solasque, deae, mihi promite gentes.
 Miserat ardentis, mox ipse scutus, Alanos
 Heniochosque truces iam pridem infensus Anaensis,
 pacta quod Albano coniunx Medea tyranno;
 nescius heu, quanti thalamos ascendere monstri 45
 arserit atque urbes maneat qui terror Achaëas,
 gratior ipse deis orbaque beatorum aula.
 proxima Bisaltæ legio ductorque Colaxes,
 sanguis et ipse deum, Scythicis quem Iuppiter oris
 progenuit viridem Myraëen Tibisenaque iuxta 50
 ostia, semifero (dignum si credere) captus

¹ gens *Meynake*: et *V*: telis *Ed. Ald.*: terris *V*.

¹ The North, symbolised by the constellations of the Greater and Lesser Bear and the Dragon which winds between them.

they passed through the travails of so great an ocean. What need to fight with strangers for whom they felt no hate?" Yet even while Perses gives them this message, a golden sheen lights up the fields, of their own accord arms clashed and blaring trumpets brayed. From his chariot on high Mars fiercely cries: "The foe, the foe! on with you! forward to the fray! the foe draws nigh!" and therewith he sends here the Colchians, there Perses rushing into the plain. Then each folk joined battle with its own weapons, and alike in every quarter of the field was heard the War-god's voice.

And now, O Muse, come tell of the wild deeds thou didst see in that Riphæan land, of the mighty endeavour wherewith Perses drave Scythia to battle, of the horses and men wherein he put his trust. Truly neither by number nor by name could I tell them all, had I even a thousand tongues, for no other region is more populous; ay, though Maeotian manhood fall in everlasting warfare, yet never fails that fertile womb to fill the land of the Two Bears and the mighty Serpent.¹ Therefore, O goddesses, recount me the leaders and the peoples alone.

The fiery Alani and fierce Heniochi had Anaensis, himself soon following, dispatched, long since indignant that Medea was betrothed to Albania's monarch; alas, he knew not how dire a monster was she for whose marriage couch he yearned, nor what terror was in store for Achaean cities; more pleasing was he to the gods and happier in his lonely hall. Next came Bisalta's legion and Colaxes its chief, himself too of the seed of gods, begotten by Jupiter in Scythian land by green Myraë and the mouths of Tibisis, enchanted, if the tale is

corpore, nec nymphae geminos exhorruit angues.
 cuncta phalanx insigne Iovis caelataque gestat
 tegmina dispersos trifidis ardoribus ignes;
 nec primus radios, miles Romane, corusei 55
 fulminis et rutilas scutis diffuderis alas.
 insuper auratos collegerat ipse dracones,
 matris Horae specimen, linguisque adversus utrimque
 congruit et tereti serpens dat vulnere gemmae.
 tertius unanims veniens cum milibus Auchus 60
 Cimmerias ostentat opes, cui candidus olim
 crinis inest, natale decus; dat longior aetas
 iam spatium; triplici percurrens tempora nodo
 denittit sacro geminas a vertice vittas.
 Datin Achaemeniae gravior de vulnere pugnae 65
 misit in arma Daraps, acies quem Martia circum
 Gangaridum, potaque Gerus quos efferat unda,
 quique lacum cinxere Bycen. non defuit Anxur,
 non Rhadalo cum fratre Sidon, Acesinaque laevo
 omine fatidicae Phrixus movet agmina cervae. 70
 ipsa comes, saetis fulgens et cornibus aureis,
 ante aciem celsi vehitur gestamine conti
 maesta nec in saevae lucos reditura Dianae.

worthy of belief, by a nymph's half-human body nor afraid of her twin snakes.¹ The whole troop bears Jove's emblem, their targes are embossed with the darting fires of the triple thunderbolt; nor, soldiers of Rome,² are ye the first with your shields to spread abroad the flash and glare and flaming pinions of the brand. Thereon had he himself joined serpents of gold, in likeness of Hora his mother; from either hand did the snakes' tongues meet, darting wounds upon a shapely gem.³ Third, Auchus comes with thousands of like heart and displays the riches of Cimmeria; long since has he had a white lock of hair, a distinction of his birth; by now has age left bare a space; a triple fastening runs around his temples and the twin fillets fall from his consecrated head.⁴ Daraps, ailing from a wound in the Achaemenian conflict, sent Datis to the fray; around him throng the martial Gangaridae and they whom draughts of Gerus' wave make fierce and they who ring round the lake of Byce.⁵ Anxur failed not, nor Sidon with his brother Rhadalus, and Phrixus⁶ sets in motion the armies of Acesinus by the ill-omened portent of a prophetic hind. Its effigy, with shining coat and golden horns, is borne upon a lofty staff before the host, grieving nor fated ever to return to fierce

¹ Valerius has combined the legends in Herodotus 4. 5 and 4. 9, in which Colaxais is the grandson of Jupiter by a nymph, and Hercules begets sons by a woman whose lower half is serpent; he also makes her end in two snakes instead of one, if that is the point of "geminos."

² The reference is probably to the Twelfth Legion, called Fulminata.

³ The snakes are represented as facing one another, and darting their tongues upon a jewel placed between them.

⁴ Auchus is holy because of the white hair that he had at birth; hence he wears fillets. There was also a sacredness in the number three (cf. Virg. *Ecl.* 8. 73-4). Langen thinks the triple band was due to his baldness.

⁵ Gerus is a river flowing into the Lacus Maeotis, and Byce or Byze is in that neighbourhood. The Gangaridae are not known except as an Indian tribe. Langen suggests that the poet had the Dandaridae in mind, quoting Tac. *Ann.* 12. 15, Strabo 11. 2. 11.

⁶ If this is the Phrixus of the fleece, it is not clear what the poet means by saying that he sets the troops in motion, nor does Langen, who takes this view, explain it; it is more likely that Phrixus is the chieftain of the tribe who live by the river Acesinus, in the Tauric Chersonese.

movit et Hylaea supplex cum gente Syenen
impia germani praetentans volnera Perses. 75
densior haut usquam nec celsior extulit ulla
silva trabes, fessaeque prius rediere sagittae¹
.....

quin et ab Hyrcanis Titanius expulit antris
Cyris in arma viros, plaustrisque ad proelia cunctas 80
Coelaetae traxere manus; ibi sutilis illis
est² domus et crudo residens sub vellere coniunx
et puer e primo torquens temone cateias.
linquitur abruptus pelago Tyra, linquitur et mons
Ambenus et gelidis pollens Ophiusa venenis. 85
degeneresque ruunt Sindi glomerantque paterno
crimine nunc etiam metuentes verbera turmas.
hos super aeratam Phalces agit aequore nubem
cum fremitu, densique levant vexilla Coralli,
barbaricae quis signa rotae ferrataque dorso 90
forma suum truncaequae Iovis simulacra columnae;
proelia nec raucos curant incendere cornu,
indigenas sed rite duces et prisca snorum
facta canunt veterumque viris hortamina laudes.
ast nbi Sidonias inter pedes aequat habenas, 95
illinc inratos in se trahit Aea Batarnas,
quos, duce Teutagono, crudi mora corticis armat
aequaque nec ferro brevior nec rumpia ligno.
nec procul albentes gemina ferit aclyde parmas,

¹ A line seems to have dropped out bearing some such sense as appears in the translation.

² est *Lochbach*: et *V*.

¹ They were descendants of slaves who, while the Scythian men were away from home, had married the women; the men on their return had punished them with the lash and driven them out (Justin 2.5).

Diana's woodland. Syene also and the Hylaean folk did suppliant Perses rouse, displaying the wounds his cruel kinsman had wrought. Nowhere does denser or loftier wood stretch forth its boughs, and arrows return outwearied ere *they have reached the tree-tops*. Moreover, Titanian Cyris drove forth his men to arms from Hyrcanian glens, and the Coelaetae brought all their troops in waggons to the fight; there sewn skins make homes for them, and their wives sit beneath raw hides while the lads hurl javelins from the end of the waggon-pole. Tyra with its swift seaward course is left behind, left is Mount Ambenus and Ophiusa powerful with chilling poisons. The degenerate Sindi come flocking in hot haste, still fearful of the lash for the crime their fathers wrought.¹ Next to these Phalces leads over the plain a cloud of shouting bronze-clad warriors, and the serried Corallians lift their banners; barbaric wheels are their emblems and the shapes of swine with iron-coated backs,² and broken columns, effigies of Jove; nor care they to fan the fire of battle with the raucous horn, but duly sing of their native chiefs and the deeds of their ancestors and the praises of heroes of old to stir their men to valour. But where the intermingled footmen keep pace with Sidonian reins, thence Aea draws to her the sworn Batarnae, whom, Teutagonus at their head, a barrier³ of raw bark arms and an even-balanced spear, not shorter in steel or stem. Hard by with twin javelins doth he strike his white targes who with an axe digs out the

² *I.e.* porcupines. The "broken columns" in the following line must be herms, short pillars with an effigy at the top.

³ So called ("mora") because it delays the passage of darts.

hiberni qui terga Novae gelidumque securi 100
 eruit et tota non audit Alazona ripa;
 (quosque Taras niveumque ferax Evarchus olorum).
 te quoque venturis, ingens Ariasmene, saeculis
 tradiderim, molem belli lateque ferentem
 undique falcatos deserta per aequora currus. 105
 insequitur Drancaea phalanx claustrisque profusi
 Caspiadae, quis turba canum non segnius acres
 exilit ad lituos pugnasque capessit eriles.
 inde etiam par mortis honos, tumulisque recepti
 inter avos positusque virum; iam pectora ferro 110
 terribilesque innexa iubas ruit agmine nigro
 latratuque cohors, quanto sonat horrida Ditis
 ianua vel superas Hecates comitatus in auras.
 ducit ab Hyrcanis vates sacer agmina lucis
 Vanus; eum Scythiae iam tertia viderat aetas 115
 magnanimos Minyas Argoaque vela canentem.
 illius et dites monitis spondentibus Indi
 et centumgeminae Lagea novalia Thebes
 totaque Riphaco Panchaia rapta triumpho.
 discolor hastatas effudit Hiberia turmas, 120
 quas Otaces, quas Latris agunt et raptor amorum
 Neurus, et expertes canentis Iazyges aevi,
 namque ubi iam viresque aegrae¹ notusque recusat
 arcus et inceptus iam lancea temnit erilis,
 magnanimis mos ductus avis, haut segnia mortis 125

¹ *aegrae Baehrens*: aliae *V*: *recusat Lanzen*: *refutat V*.

¹ This line seems out of place, as it lacks a verb; Taras is unknown, and Evarchus, a river near Sinope, can hardly have sent Scythians to the war.

surface of wintry Novas and frozen Alazon, nor hears any sound from him all along his banks; they too whom Taras sends and Evarchus abundant in white swans.¹ And thee, great Ariasmenus, mighty man of war, would I hand down to coming ages, who didst scour the deserted plain from end to end with scythed chariots. There follows Drancae's host and the Caspians streaming forth from their barrier, whose pack of dogs² dashes forth no less swiftly at the trumpet's blare, and joins in their masters' battles. Therefore in death also have they equal honours, and they are received among ancestors and heroes' tombs; now, their breasts and dreadful crests entwined with iron, the troop rushes on in black array and with baying loud as that which rings at the grim gate of Dis or from Hecate's escort to the world above. Vanus, a consecrated seer, leads forth his troop from the Hyrcanian groves; him had now the third generation beheld foretelling the Minyae and Argo's sails. Through the sure warrant of his counsel rich Indians and the Lagean meadowlands of hundred-fold Thebes and all Panchaia fell victims to Riphaea's triumphant arms. Many-hued Hiberia poured forth her spear-armed squadrons, whom Otaces and Latris lead and Neurus ravisher of his loves, and the Iazyges who know not hoary eld. For when now their strength begins to fail and the well-known bow denies them and the lance despises the efforts of its lord, a custom have they, inherited from great-hearted sires of old, not to suffer the slow laws of death but to give a sword to

² The use of dogs in war is referred to by Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* 8. 143; cf. also the mysterious allusion in Prudentius, *Apotheosis* 216.

iura pati, dextra sed carae occumbere prolis
 ense dato; rumpuntque moras natusque parensque,
 ambo animis, ambo miseri tam fortibus actis.
 hic et odorato spirantes crine Mycaei¹
 Cessaeaeque manus, et qui tua iugera nondum 130
 eruís, ignotis insons Arimaspe metallis;
 doctus et Auchates patulo vaga vincula gyro
 spargere et extremas laqueis adducere turmas.
 non ego sanguineis gestantem tympana bellis
 Thyrsageten cinctumque vagis post terga silebo 135
 pellibus et nexis viridantem floribus hastas.
 fama, duces Iovis et Cadmi de sanguine Bacchum
 hac quoque turiferos, felicia regna, Sabaeos,
 hac Arabas fudisse manu; mox rumpet Hebrum
 cum vada, Thyrsagetas gelida liquisse sub arcto. 140
 illis omnis adhuc veterum tenor et sacer aeris
 pulsus et eoque memoratrix tibia pugnae.
 iungit opes Emoda² suas; sua signa secuti
 Exomatae Torynique et flavi crine Satarchae;
 mellis honor Torynis, ditant sua mulctra Sa-
 tarchen, 145
 Exomatas venatus alit, nec clarior ullis
 arctos equis; abeunt Hypanin fragilemque per
 undam
 tigridis aut saevae profugi cum prole leaenae,
 maestaque suspectae mater stupet aggere ripae.
 impulit et dubios Phrixei velleris ardor 150

¹ Mycaei *Langen*: Mycaei *V.*

² Emoda *Ed. Bon.*: Emoda *V Langen.*

¹ This custom of the Iazyges is mentioned by Claudian (*in Ruf.* l. 328), and told of the Spaniards by Silius (l. 226),

their own dear offspring and die by his right hand; so child and parent break through delays, in courage both, in gallant deed both miserable.¹ Then the Mycaei also with fragrance of perfumed locks, and Cessae's troop, and thou, Arimaspus, who not yet dost dig thy acres, guiltless in thy ignorance of precious metals; Auchates, too, skilled to hurl the wide circle of the flying noose and with the lasso to draw to him the farthest warriors. I will not be silent of the Thyrsagetae who carry drums to their gory battles and fasten behind their back floating skins and bind their spear-shaft with fresh flowers. It is said that Bacchus, of Cadmus' seed and Jove's, led this host to war and with them routed the Sabaeans, whose fortunate realms are rich in incense, and with them too the Arabs; then when he had broken through the waters of Hebrus he left the Thyrsagetae beneath the frozen North. Still do they keep all their ancestral ways, the holy beating of the bronze and the pipe that calls those Eastern fights to mind. Emoda adds her might; the Exomatae follow their banners, and the Toryni and the yellow-haired Satarchae; the Toryni have pride in honey, their milking-pails are the wealth of the Satarchae, the Exomatae live by the chase, nor is the North more famous for any steeds; over the Hypanis and its fragile waves they speed, carrying off in their flight the cub of a tiger or fierce lioness, while the mother stands dazed with grief on the rampart of the treacherous bank. Frenzy kindled by the fleece of Phrixus urged to the fray also the

of the Indians by Herodotus (3. 99); according to Prudentius the mode of death was to be pushed off a bridge (*c. Symm.* 2. 294).

Centoras et diros magico terrore Choatras;
 omnibus in superos saevus honor, omnibus artes
 monstrificae: nunc vere novo compescere frondes,
 nunc subitam trepidis Maeotim solvere plaustis.
 maximus hos inter Stygia venit arte Coastes; 155
 sollicitat nec Martis amor, sed fama Cytaeae
 virginis et paribus spirans Medea venenis;
 gaudet Averno palus, gaudet iam nocte quieta
 portitor et tuto veniens Latonia caelo.
 ibant et geminis aequantes cornibus alas 160
 Balloniti comitumque celer mutator equorum
 Moesus et ingentis frenator Sarmata conti.
 nec tot ab extremo fluctus agit aequore nec sic
 fratribus adversa Boreas respondet ab unda,
 aut is apud fluvios clamor volucrum,¹ aethera quantum
 tunc lituum concentus adit lymphataque miscet 166
 milia, quot foliis, quot floribus incipit annus.
 ipse rotis gemit ictus² ager tremibundaque pulsu
 nutat humus, quatit ut saevo cum fulmine Phlegram
 Iuppiter atque imis Typhona reverberat arvis. 170

Prima tenent illic patriis Absyrtus in armis
 et gener ingentesque inter sua milia reges.
 at circa Aesoniden Danaum manus ipsaque Pallas

¹ clamor volucrum *Schenkl*: volucrum clamor *V*: volucrum canor *Heinsius*.

² ictus *Heinsius*: intus *V*.

¹ Ghosts are not called up from the underworld any more, now that Coastes has gone to war, and Charon can sleep in peace at night; also the moon is not continually being drawn down by his magic.

² This is *Koestlin's* explanation, but *Langen* understands the words in a military sense, that the Sarmatian tribe had as many detachments ("alas") at their end of the line ("cornu") as the Balloniti and the Moesi at theirs. By

doubting Centors and the Choatrae feared for horrid magic; all honour the gods with savage rites, all have skill to work portents; now do they hold the leaves of spring in check, now suddenly thaw Maeotis beneath trembling waggons. Mightiest among them in Stygian arts Coastes comes: not love of war excites him, but the fame of the Cytaean maid and Medea breathing poisons to match his own; glad is the Avernian lake, glad the ferryman that night is now untroubled, and Latonia that she can ride in a safe heaven.¹ There also marched the Balloniti, whose bow-tips twain give speed that matches wings,² and the Moesian changing nimbly from steed to companion steed, and the Sarmatian who puts a rein upon his huge lance. Boreas drives not so many billows from ocean's bounds, nor so answers his brothers from opposing waves:³ not so loud is the clamour of birds about the rivers, as is then the blare of trumpets that ascends to heaven, filling with frenzy the mingled myriads, numerous as leaves or flowers in the opening year. The plain itself groans beneath the beat of wheels, and the ground trembles and quakes at the shock, as when Jupiter strikes Phlegra with his angry brand and hurls back Typhon to the deepest recesses of the earth.

Upon the other side Absyrtus in his father's armour holds first place, and the suitor prince, and mighty kings amid their thousands. But around Aesonides stand the Danaan heroes and Pallas herself

his mention of a rein the poet means that there was a thong attached by which the lance could be jerked back from the wound it had made and so retrieved (see *R. Syme, op. cit. p. 132*).

³ Boreas shouts from the waves that he is driving, against the other winds who shout from theirs.

aegide terrifica, quam nec dea lassat habendo
 nec pater horrentem colubris vultuque tremendam
 Gorgoneo. nec semineces ostendere crines 176
 tempus adhuc primasque sinit concurrere pugnas.
 impulit hos contra Mavors pater et mala leti
 Gandia Tisiphoneque caput per nubila tollens
 ad sonitum litui mediaque altissima pugna 180
 necdum certa quibus sese Fuga mentibus addat.

Illi ubi consertis iunxere frementia telis
 agmina virque virum galeis adflavit adactis,
 continuo hinc obitus perfractaque caedibus arma
 corporaque, alternus cruor alternaeque ruinae; 185
 volvit ager galeas et thorax egerit¹ imbres
 sanguineos; hinc barbarici glomerantur ovatus,
 hinc gemitus, mixtaeque virum cum pulvere vitae.
 Caspius Aeaecum correpto crine Monesen
 abstulit; hunc pariter Colchi Graique sequuntur 190
 missilibus; rapit ille necem praedamque relinquit,
 nec sociis iam cura viri. Dipsanta Caresus
 Strymonaque obscura spargentem vulnera funda
 deicit; Albani cadit ipse Cremedonis hasta, 194
 iamque latet currusque super turmaeque feruntur.

Processere Melas et Idasmenus; incipit hasta
 ante Melas, levis ast abies elusit utrumque.
 ensibus inde ruunt; prior occupat aere citato
 cassidis ima Melas; infracta est vulnere cervix.
 mixta perit virtus: nescit cui debeat Ocheus, 200

¹ egerit *O*: erigit *V*.

¹ The snakes of the aegis, but it is not clear why they are called "half-dead," unless because the Gorgon's head which they encircled had been severed from its body.

with terrifying aegis, which, bristling with snakes and fearful with Gorgon visage, nor the goddess nor her sire wear out by wielding. Not yet does the time permit to display those half-dead tresses,¹ nor to join the shock of battle. Against these drove father Mars evil Death-lust and Tisiphone raising her head to the clouds at the bugle's sound and Panic stalking huge through the battle lines nor as yet determined which hearts she will enter.

So then when steel met steel and the yelling ranks closed in conflict and hero breathed on hero through clashing helmets, forthwith ensued the falling of warriors and the breaking of bodies and weapons in the carnage and bloodshed and collapse on either side; helmets roll upon the field, and from corselets spouts up the bloody rain; barbarians swarm, here shouting in triumph, there with groans, while the lives of warriors are mingled with the dust. Caspius bore away Aeaean Monaeses, grasping him by the hair; Colchians and Greeks alike follow him with missiles; he slays his foe and leaves the booty, but the dead man is no more heeded by his friends. Caresus strikes down Dipsas and Strymon who scatters wounds in concealment from a sling; he falls himself by the spear of Albanian Cremedon, and already is lost to view; chariots and squadrons sweep over him.

Melas and Idasmenus strode forward; Melas first hurls his spear, but the light fir-shafts play both men false. Then they rush in with the sword; Melas first gets home a swift blow on the bottom of the helm; the neck is shattered by the stroke. In the mêlée valour goes for naught: neither Ocheus nor Tyres know to whom they owe their

aut cui fata Tyres. dum sibila respicit Iron
 cuspidis Argivae, Pyliam latere accipit hastam.

Viderat Hyrcanos paribus discurrere fratres
 Castor equis, pater armento quos dives ab omni
 nutrierat fatisque viam monstrarat iniquis. 205

tum magis atque magis peditem candore notato
 Tyndariden incendit amor, simul obvius hastam
 pectus in adversum Gelae iacit alipedemque
 insilit¹ excusso victor duce; risit ab alta
 nube pater prensisque equitem cognovit habenis. 210

at pariter luctuque furens visuque Medores
 Tyndariden petit et superos sic voce precatur:
 "nunc² age vel caeso comitem me reddite fratri
 primus vel³ nostra sonipes cadat impius hasta,
 credita qui misero non rettulit arma parenti 215
 meque venit contra captivaque terga ministrat."
 dixerat; Actaei sed eum prior hasta Phaleri
 deicit; ad socias sonipes citus effugit alas.

Quis tibi fatales umquam metuisset Amyclae
 Oebaliamque manum, tot, Rhyndace, montibus
 inter 220

diviso totidemque fretis? cadit impiger una
 inguine transfosso clari Taulantis alumnus
 semidea genetrice Tages, cui plurima silvis
 pervigilat materna soror cultusque laborat.
 tenuia non illum candentis carbasa lini, 225
 non auro depicta chlamys, non flava galeri
 caesaries pictoque iuvant subtegrmine bracae.
 iamque novus mediae stupefacta per agmina pugnae

¹ insilit *Heinsius*: constitit *V.*

² nunc *Baehrens*: hunc *V.*

³ vel *Baehrens*: et hic *V.*

fate. While Iron looks round at the whistling of
 an Argive spear, he receives a Pylian javelin in his
 flank.

Castor had seen Hyrcanian brethren scouring the
 field on like chargers, which their wealthy sire had
 marked out from the stud for special nurture and
 pointed the way for cruel destiny. Then more and
 more when he noticed their whiteness did desire of
 them inflame the son of Tyndareus as he fights on
 foot, and forthwith meeting Gela he hurls his lance
 right at his breast, and as the rider fell he leapt in
 triumph on the wing-footed steed; from a cloud on
 high his father laughed, and knew the horseman by
 his handling of the reins. But Medores, frenzied
 at once with grief and at the sight, makes for the
 son of Tyndareus and prays thus to the gods above:
 "Come now, either grant me to join my murdered
 brother or let my spear first fell this traitor steed,
 who hath not restored to my unhappy sire the arms
 entrusted to him, but charges against me and offers
 his back to his victor." He spoke, but ere that the
 shaft of Attic Phalerus casts him down; swiftly his
 steed gallops off to his friends' array.

Who would ever have feared that Amyclae and
 the Oebalian arm would have proved thy undoing,
 Rhyndacus, parted by so many mountains and so
 many seas? With thee, his loins pierced, falls
 Tages, strenuous son of famous Taulas and a mother
 half-divine—Tages, for whom full many a sister of
 his mother¹ works at his raiment in nightly watches
 in the woodlands. No aid hath he from delicate
 white linen sheet or gold-embroidered cloak, nor in
 the bonnet's yellow plume or the crews with their
 coloured thread. And now a horseman fresh to

¹ The nymphs of the woodland.

vadit eques densa spargens hastilia dextra,
 fulmineumque viris profundens¹ ingerit ensem 230
 huc alternus et huc; cum saevior ecce iuventus
 Sarmaticae coiere manus fremitusque virorum
 semiferi; riget his molli lorica catena;
 id quoque tegmen equis; at equi porrecta per armos
 et caput ingentem campis hostilibus umbram 235
 fert abies obnixa genu vaditque virum vi,
 vadit equum, docilis relegi docilisque reponi²
 atque iterum medios non tardior³ ire per hostes.
 orbibus hos rapidis mollique per aequora Castor
 anfractu levioris equi deludit anhelos 240
 immemoresque mori; sed non isdem artibus aequae
 concurrunt ultroque ruunt in funera Colchi.
 Campesus impacta latus inter et ilia quercu
 tollitur ac mediam moriens descendit in hastam.
 Oebasus infestum summisso poplite Phalcen 245
 evasisse ratus laevum per luminis orbem
 transigitur; tenerae liquuntur⁴ vulnere malae.
 contra autem geminis fidens thoracibus ictum
 sustinet et gladio Sibotes ferit ultima teli,
 nequiquam; iam cuspis inest, nec fragmina curat 250
 Ambenus et trunco medium subit Ocrea ligno.
 seminecem Taxes Hypanin vehit atque remissum
 pone trahit fugiens et cursibus exiit hastam;
 dumque recollectam rursus locat, inruit ultro
 turbatumque Lacon et adhuc invadit inermem. 255
 impulit adverso praeceps equus Onchea conto

¹ profundens *M Langen*: profundis *V*: pro fundis *Koestlin*
Bury.

² reponi *Baehrens*: relinqui *V*.

³ tardior *Heinsius*: altior *V*.

⁴ tenerae liquuntur *O*: tenero liquuntur *V*.

¹ For a discussion of these lines see R. Syme, *op. cit.*, pp.
 132, 133.

war he rides through the reeling ranks of hottest
 battle, flinging shaft after shaft with his right hand,
 and plies his lightning-sword upon his foes,
 laying them low now this side and now that: when
 lo! a fierce band of Sarmatians came thronging with
 savage yells: stiff are their corselets with pliant
 mail, and such too the armour of their steeds; but
 stretching out over the horse's head and shoulders
 the fir-wood shaft, firm resting on their knee, casts a
 long shadow upon the enemy's field and forces its
 way with all the might of both warrior and steed,
 easily gathered up and set in rest again, and once
 more as swift to go through the midst of the foe.¹
 Rapidly circling and nimbly wheeling his lighter
 horse upon the plain Castor baffles them, as they
 pant and reckon not of death; but not so skilfully do
 the Colchians charge and rush upon their fate.
 Campesus falls from a spear that drives between his
 ribs and loin, and dying sinks down to the middle of
 the shaft. Oebasus, thinking to have escaped
 Phalces' attack by sinking on his knee, is pierced in
 his left eye; his tender cheeks are made bloody by
 the wound. But on the other side Sibotes trusting
 in two breastplates rises to a blow, and with his
 sword strikes the end of the spear, but all in vain;
 already the point is on him, nor cares Ambenus that
 his lance is broken, but with the headless shaft lunges
 at Ocreus' middle. Taxes bears Hypanis along half-
 dead, then letting him fall to the ground drags him
 behind him as he flees, and in his course pulls the
 spear free; and while he gathers it up and sets it in
 rest once more, the Laconian attacks him and rushes
 at him while in confusion and still unarmed. Oncheus
 was carried by his headlong steed straight upon a

nequiquam totis revocantem viribus armos
 in latus; accedit sonipes, accedit et ipse¹
 frigidus; arma cadunt, rorat procul ultima cuspis;
 qualem populeae fidentem nexibus umbrae 260
 siquis avem summi deducat ab aere rami,
 ante manu tacita cui plurima crevit harundo;
 illa dolis viscoque super correpta sequacl
 implorat ramos atque inrita concitat alas.

Parte alia infestis (nam fors ita iunxit) in armis 265
 Styrys adest, laetusque virum cognoscit Anaasis,
 et prior "en cuius thalamis Aetia virgo
 dicta manet nostrosque feret qui victor amores.
 non" ait, "invitoque gener mutabere patri."
 tum simul adversas collatis cursibus hastas 270
 coniciunt; fugit adductis Albanus habenis
 saucius atque datum leto non sperat Anaasin,
 nec videt. ille autem telo moribundus adacto
 "ad soceros pactaeque sinus en coningis" inquit,
 "Styre, fugis, vulnus referens, quod carmine nullo 275
 sustineat nullisque levet Medea venenis."
 dixerat, extremus cum lumina corripit error,
 voxque repressa gelu percussaue vertice tellus.

Hinc animos acies auget magnoque doloris
 turbine Gesandrum Mavors rapit: ille morantes 280
 increpat et stricto sic urget Iazygas ense:
 "nempe omnes cecidere senes, nempe omnis ademptus
 ante pater. quae vos subito tam foeda senectus

¹ *Baehrens punctuates and reads* armos. in latus accepit sonipes, accepit et ipse frigidus.

¹ The reference is to 123-8.

pike, though in vain with all his might he tugs the horse's shoulders sideward; on went the steed, on went the rider, cold with terror; his weapons fall, the spear-point far behind his back drips blood; as when a man brings down from its airy perch upon the topmost branch a bird that has trusted in the interwoven poplar shade, a man from whose secret hand has uprisen many a length of reed: the bird caught by the guile of the clinging lime implores the boughs and flaps its wings in vain.

In another region with weapons eager for the fray (since chance has brought this meeting) Styrys stands ready, and Anaasis recognises him with joy, and first cries out: "Lo! he whose wedlock Aetes' daughter awaits, his plighted bride; he who in triumph shall carry off the maid I love! Not so!" cries he, "ay, though her father like it not, he will change sons-in-law!" Then rushing forward together they hurl their spears; the Albanian, wounded, grasps his reins and flees, and neither hopes nor sees that he has stricken Anaasis to death. But he, dying from the spear-wound, cries: "Styrys, thou fleest to the bosom of thy betrothed and to her parents' home; thou fleest, bearing a wound that Medea will find no spells to succour nor any herbs to heal." He spoke, and the dizziness of death seizes his eyes, his voice is choked in the death-chill, and his head falls back upon the ground.

Then the combat incites Gesander's valour, and Mars drives him on in a storm of passionate grief; he rebukes the Iazygians for laggards, and with bared blade thus urges them on: "Methought all our old men had fallen, methought all our sires were slain¹ already. What shameful old age hath seized you

corripuit fregitque animos atque abstulit iras?
aut mecum mediam, iuvenes, agite ite per
urbis¹ 285

Argolicamque manum aut caris occumbite natis."
inruit et patrias coeptis ferus advocat umbras:
"sancte mihi Vorapte pater, tua pectora nato
suggere nunc animamque parem, si fata peroso
tarda tibi turpesque moras non segniss ipsi 290
paruimus parvique eadem didicere nepotes."
haec ait, auditusque Erebo. tunc corripit ensem
turbidus et furis ardens quatit arma paternis.
indigenis sacratus aquis magnique sacerdos
Phasidis Arctoïis Aquites errabat in armis 295
(populeus cui frontis honor conspectaque glauco
tempora nectuntur ramo), te, Cyrne, parentis
immemorem durae cupiens abducere pugnae;
iamque omnes impune globos diversaque lustrans
agmina non usquam videt; utque iterum acrior
instat 300

vociferans, iterum belli diversa peragrat,
lancea caeruleas circum strepit incita vittas:
opprimit admissis ferus hinc Gesander habenis.
ille manum trepidans atque irrita sacra tetendit
"te" que "per hanc genitor" inquit "tibi si manet,
oro 305

canitiem, compece minas et si tibi natus²
parce meo." dixit; contra sic victor adacto
ense refert: "genitor, turpi durare senecta
quem mihi reris adhuc, ipse hac occumbere dextra
maluit atque ultro segnes abrumperetelas, 310
et tibi si pietas natî, si dextra fuisset,

¹ urbis *Madvig*: urbem *V.*

² si tibi natus *Koestlin*: sicubi nato *V.*

on a sudden, and broken your valour and taken away your ire? Come, men, either charge with me through the midst of the Argives and the city's host, or meet doom at your dear children's hands!" Forward he rushes, and fiercely invokes his father's shade to bless his deeds: "Holy sire Voraptus, lend now thy courage to thy son and a soul to match thine own, if thou, who hatedst a tardy fate and base delaying, hast found me as quick to obey thee, and if thy small grandsons have learnt a like obedience." So spake he and was heard in Erebus. Then he wildly grips his sword and brandishes his weapons, ablaze with his father's frenzy. Aquites, priest of mighty Phasis, consecrated to his native waters, roamed among the warriors of the North (poplar decked his brow and his temples were conspicuous with its gray entwining sprays); thee, Cynus, forgetful of thy sire, would he fain withdraw from the stern battle; and now he has ranged unharmed through all the companies and the regiments far and wide, yet sees him not; and as yet again he continues more urgently, calling out his name, and yet again traverses far and wide the battle-scene, a flung lance whistles about the dark-blue fillets: at full gallop the fierce Gesander is upon him. He in alarm holds out in his hand the unavailing emblems, and cries: "By this white hair I pray thee, if thou hast yet a father, spare me, and if thou hast a son, spare mine!" He spoke; but the victor, thrusting home his sword, rejoins: "My sire, whom thou deemest still to endure a shameful eld, himself preferred to fall by this hand of mine and of his own will to cut the tardy thread. And hadst thou the love of thy son, the service of his right hand, thou hadst

haut medii precibus tereres nunc tempora belli,
 praeda future canum. iuveni sors pulchrior omnis :¹
 et certasse manu decet et caruisse sepulchro.”
 dixerat; ille deos moriens caelumque precatur, 315
 dextera ne misero talis foret obvia nato.

Te quoque, Canthe, tui non inscia funeris Argo
 flevit ab invita rapientem tela carina.
 iam Scythicos miserande sinus, iam Phasidis amnem
 contigeras, nec longa dies, ut capta videres 320
 vellera et Euboicis patrios de montibus ignes.
 illum, ubi congressu subiit Gesander iniquo,
 territat his: “tu, qui faciles hominumque putasti
 has, Argive, domos, alium hic miser aspicias annum
 altricemque nivem festinaque taedia vitae. 325
 non nos aut levibus componere brachia remis
 novimus aut ventos opus expectare ferentes;
 imus equis, qua vel medio riget aequore pontus
 vel tumida fremit Hister aqua; nec moenia nobis
 vestra placent: feror arctois nunc liber in arvis 330
 cuncta tenens; mecum omnia ago iacturaque plaustri
 sola; nec hac longum victor potiere rapina;
 ast epulae quodcumque pecus, quaecumque ferarum.
 mitte Asiae, mitte Argolicis mandata colonis,
 ne trepident; numquam has hiemes, haec saxa
 relinquam, 335

Martis agros, ubi tam saevo duravimus amne
 progeniem natosque rudes, ubi copia leti
 tanta viris. sic in patriis bellare pruinis

¹ omnis *Lennep*: omni *V*.

² Borrowed from Homer, *Iliad* 22, 71.

not now been with prayers delaying the battle at its height, prey of dogs as thou shalt be! A young man's lot is in all ways more glorious; both to strive in battle and to lie unburied becomes him.”¹ So said he; the other, dying, prays to heaven and the gods that his hapless son meet not so ruthless an arm.

Thee too, O Canthus, did Argo not ignorant of thy fate bewail, as thou didst snatch thy weapons from her unwilling bark. Already, unhappy one, hadst thou reached the Scythian bay and Phasis river, nor lacked there yet many days that thou shouldst see the fleece a prize, and the beacons of thy land upon the Euboean hills. Him did Gesander meet in unequal combat, and thus terrifies: “Argive, who thoughtest these to be the kindly homes of men, other seasons, poor fool, dost thou behold here, snows for our rearing and early weariness of life. We have not learnt to apply our arms to the nimble oar, nor need we to wait for winds to bear us onward; on horses do we ride, be it where the sea lies stiff in mid-expanse or where the swelling waves of Hister roar; nor care we for your city walls: now am I borne unhindered in northern fields, with all that I possess; all my goods do I carry with me, a wain is all I have to lose, nor is this a booty that thou canst long possess; nay, for our banquets serve whatever cattle we own, whatever beast we slay. Send this message to Asia, to thine Argive husbandmen, that they be not fearful; never will I leave these wintry rocks, these fields of Mars, where we have hardened our infants and young sons in such ruthless streams, where for men is such abundance of carnage. 'Tis thus we delight in our frozen land to wage war

praedarique iuvat, talemque hanc accipe dextram."

dixit, et Edonis nutritum missile ventis 340

conciat; it medium per pectus et horrida nexu

letifer aera chalybs. trepidus super advolat Idas

ac simul Oenides pariterque Menoetius et qui

Bebrycio nuper remeavit ab hospite victor.

at vero ingentem Telamon procul extulit orbem 345

exanimem te, Canthe, tegens; ceu saeptus in arto

dat catulos post terga leo, sic comminus adstat

Aeacides gressumque tenet contraque ruentes

septeno validam circumfert tegmine molem.

nec minus hinc urget Scythiae manus armaque

Canthi 350

quisque sibi et Graio poenam de corpore poscens.

arduus inde labos medioque in corpore pugna

conseritur. magno veluti cum turbine sese

ipsius Aeoliae frangunt in limine venti,

quem pelagi rabies, quem nubila, quemque sequatur

ille dies: obnixi virum sic comminus haeret 356

pugna nec arrepto pelli de corpore possunt.

ut bovis exuvias multo qui frangere olivo

dat famulis, tendunt illi tractuque vicissim

taurea terga domant, pingui fluit unguine tellus: 360

talis utrimque labos, raptataque limite in arto

membra viri miseranda madent.¹ hi tendere contra,

hi contra, alternaeque virum non cedere dextrae.

hinc medium Telamon Canthum rapit, hinc tenet

ardens

colla viri et molles galeae Gesander habenas, 365

¹ madent *Meyncke*: meant *V.*

and to despoil, and such a right hand do thou now

welcome!" So speaking he hurled a lance that Edo-

nian winds had nourished; through mid-breast and

through the rough links of bronze passes the deadly

iron. In alarm Idas and with him Oenides hasten

to the spot, Menoetius likewise and he who of late

returned a victor from his Bebrycian host. But

Telamon held forth his mighty shield, guarding thy

dead body, Canthus: just as a lion hemmed in a

narrow strait puts his cubs behind him, so doth

Aeacides stand nigh and abide unmoving and turn

against all onslaughts the sevenfold covering of that

mighty mass. Yet none the less does the Scythian

host press hard upon him, each man striving to win

the arms of Canthus for himself and wreak vengeance

on the Grecian corpse. Then arduous was the toil

of the battle joined on every side about the body.

As when in fierce commotion the winds shatter them-

selves on the very threshold of Aeolia, contesting

which of them shall sway the storm-clouds and the

fury of the sea, which shall have the lordship of that

day, even so rages the close-packed struggle of the

warriors, nor can they be driven from the body they

have seized. Just as a man gives the spoils of a

steer to his thralls to be softened with much oil,

and they by stretching it and pulling it this way

and that tame the bull's hide, while earth flows with

the rich unguent: such is the toil on either side, and

the hero's piteous limbs stream, dragged to and fro in

the narrow space. These this way strive, those that

way, nor either way will the warriors' hands give

ground. Here Telamon drags Canthus by the waist,

there Gesander in hot rage grips his neck and the

soft fastenings of the helm, which rang out as it fell

insonuit quae lapsa solo dextramque fefellit.
 ille iterum in clipei septemplex improbus orbem
 arietat et Canthum sequitur Canthumque reposit,
 quem manus a tergo socium rapit atque receptum
 virginis Euryales curru locat. advolat ipsa 370
 ac simul Haemonidae, Gesandrumque omnis in unum
 it manus. ille novas acies et virginis arma
 ut videt, "has etiam contra bellabimus?" inquit;
 "heu pudor!" inde Lycen ferit ad confine papillae,
 inde Thoen, qua pelta vacat; iamque ibat in Harpen
 vixdum prima levi ducentem cornua nervo, 376
 et labentis¹ equi tendentem frena Menippen:
 cum regina gravem nodis auroque securem
 congeminans partem capitis galeaeque ferinae
 dissipat. hinc pariter telorum immanis in unum 380
 it globus; ille diu coniectis sufficit hastis,
 quis iam iam gravior nutansque² exterruit Idam.
 tunc ruit ut montis latus aut ut machina muri,
 quae scopulis trabibusque diu confectaue flammis
 procubuit tandem atque ingentem propulit urbem.

Ecce locum tempusque ratus iamque et sua posci
 proelia, falcatos infert Ariasmenus axes 387
 saevaue diffundit socium iuga protinus omnes
 Graiugenas, omnes rapturus ab aegmine Colchos.
 qualiter exosus Pyrrhae genus aequora rursus 390
 Iuppiter atque omnes fluvium si fundat habenas,

¹ et labentis *Heinsius*: inlabentis *V*.

² quis iam iam gravior nutansque *Baehrens*: quin etiam
 gravior nutusque carens *V*: quin gravior motuque carens
Langen: quis gravior nutusque carens *Bury*.

to the ground and cheated his grip. Once more
 tirelessly he charges against the sevenfold circle
 of the shield; Canthus he follows, for Canthus he
 clamours, but from behind his comrades drag
 Canthus away, and once regained set him in the
 chariot of the maiden Euryale. Forward she flies,
 and the Haemonidae with her, and the whole band
 attack Gesander alone. He when he sees the new
 conflict and the maiden's weapons cries: "Women
 too, then, are we to fight? ah, for shame!" Then
 he strikes Lyce near the breast and Thoe where
 her targe leaves a space; and now was he rushing
 against Harpe, who scarce yet had begun to draw
 the bow-horns with the light string, and Menippe,
 who was pulling up her stumbling horse, when the
 princess, with redoubled blows of a battle-axe heavy
 with knobs of gold, cleaves in sunder his head and
 his helm of wild beast's hide. A vast hail of missiles
 assails him at the same time; long while sustains he
 the flung spears, and overburdened now and tottering
 he yet strikes Idas¹ with terror. Then he falls like
 a mountain-side, or like the masonry of a wall,
 which long weakened by stones and shafts and flames
 at last collapses and crushes a mighty city.

Lo! Ariasmenus, thinking that place and time
 are now calling him to fight, brings on his scythed
 axes and spreads abroad the fierce chariots of his
 comrades, with intent to sweep straightway all
 Greeks, ay, and all Colchians from his path. Even
 as were Jove in utter hatred of Pyrrha's race to pour
 forth once again the seas and all the rivers unre-

¹ Mentioned as one of the most valiant Argonauts (3. 471,
 4. 224, 7. 574); even so he is frightened at the sight of
 Gesander.

ardua Parnasi lateant iuga, cesserit Othrys
 piniger et mersis decreseant rupibus Alpes :
 diluvio tali paribusque Ariasmenus urget
 excidiis nullo rapiens discrimine currus. 395
 aegida tum primum virgo spiramque Medusae
 ter centum saevis squalentem sustulit hydris,
 quam soli vidistis equi. pavor occupat ingens
 excussis in terga viris, diramque retorquent
 in socios non sponte luem. tunc ensibus uncis 400
 implicat et trepidos lacerat discordia currus.
 Romanas veluti saevissima cum legionibus
 Tisiphone regesque movet, quorum agmina pilis
 isdem aquilisque utrimque micant, eademque parentes
 rura colunt, idem lectos ex omnibus agris 405
 miserat infelix non haec ad proelia Thybris :
 sic modo concordēs externaque fata petentes
 Palladii rapnere metus, sic in sua versi
 funera concurrunt dominis revocantibus axes.
 non tam foeda virum Laurentibus agmina terris 410
 eiecere noti, Libyco nec talis imago
 litore, cum fractas involvunt aequora puppes.
 hinc biuges, illinc artus cernuntur eriles,
 quos radii, quos temo secat;¹ trahiturque trahiturque
 currus caede madens atroque in pulvere regum 415
 viscera nunc aliis, aliis nunc curribus haerent.
 haut moti Colchorum animi : neque mittere parcent²
 tela, set implicitos miseraque in peste revinctos
 confodiunt, ac forma necis non altera surgit

¹ temo secat *Langen* : irona secant *V*.

² haut moti *C. a. n.* mittere parcent *Bachrens* : haut usquam
C. a. n. in peste revinctos *V* : haut usquam *C. a. n.* cura
 cavere *C*.

¹ The chariots were thrown into confusion by their own
 scythes.

strained, hidden would be Parnassus' lofty range,
 Othrys' pines would vanish and the Alps shrink as
 their crags were merged in flood : such is the deluge
 and destruction as Ariasmenus hurries his chariots
 in indiscriminate course. Then first did the Maid
 uplift her aegis and Medusa's coils all bristling with
 three hundred savage snakes, which ye, his steeds,
 alone beheld. Great terror seizes them, their drivers
 are flung backward to the ground, and they perforce
 wreak dire destruction upon their comrades. Then
 with the curved blades doth discord entangle and
 lacerate the panic-stricken cars.¹ As when fierce Tisi-
 phone stirs Roman legions and their princes to war,
 whose lines on either side glitter with the same
 eagles and spears ; their fathers till the same rural
 lands, and the same unhappy Tiber has sent, not to
 such wars as these, the chosen levies of all the
 countryside : so were they, but now of one mind
 as they sought their foemen's death, swept away by
 the panic that Pallas sent, so turned the chariots
 and dashed together to their own ruin, while their
 masters strove to hold them back. Not so hideous
 the ranks of men that South winds have hurled upon
 the Laurentian shore, nor is such the appearance of
 the Libyan beaches, when the seas roll shattered
 hulks to land. Here yoked steeds, there drivers'
 limbs are strewn, mangled by wheel-spokes or by
 shaft ; the chariot dripping with gore drags and is
 dragged along, and in the dark dust entrails of leaders
 are entangled now with this car, now with that.
 Unmoved are the Colchians, nor do they cease to
 hurl their darts, but slaughter their foes trapped and
 bound in hopeless doom, and a form of battle arises

quam cervos ubi non Umbro venator edaci, 420
 non pinna petit, haerentes sed cornibus altis
 invenit et caeca constrictos excipit ira.
 ipse recollectis audax Ariasmenus armis
 desilit; illum acies curvae secat undique falcis
 partiturque rotis, atque inde furentia raptus 425
 in iuga Circaeos tetigit non amplius agros.
 Talia certatim Minyae sparsique Cytaei
 funera miscebant campis Scythiamque premebant,
 cum Iuno Aesonidae non hanc ad vellera cernens
 esse viam nec sic reditus regina parandos, 430
 extremam molitur opem, funesta prius quam
 consilia ac saevas aperit rex perfidus iras.
 increpat et seris Vulcanum maesta querellis,
 cuius flammiferos videt inter regia tauros
 pascua Tartaream proflantes pectore noctem. 435
 haec etenim Minyas ne iungere Marte peracto
 monstra satis iubeat Cadmei dentibus hydri,
 ante diem timet et varias circumspicit artes.
 sola animo Medea subit, mens omnis in una ¹
 virgine, nocturnis qua nulla potentior aris; 440
 illius ad fremitus ² sparsosque per avia sucos
 sidera fixa pavent et avi stupet orbita Solis;
 mutat agros fluviumque vias, suus alligat ingens
 cuncta sopor, recoquit ³ fessos aetate parentes

¹ *LL. 439-76 are lacking in V owing to loss of one leaf.*

² *ad fremitus C: ad fletus MNT: adfatus Bury.*

³ *recoquit Gronovius: recolit MSS.*

¹ A line of feathers strung at intervals on a cord was used to frighten wild animals and drive them upon the ambushed hunters.

² He gets among the scythed chariots, so that on either side of him he comes in contact with the blades.

like as when a hunter hunts stags not with his hungry Umbrian hound or with the feather,¹ but finds them held fast by their branching horns and catches them interlocked in blind fury. Bold Ariasmenus himself gathers up his arms and leaps down; but on this side and on that² the edge of a curved blade cleaves him and casts the fragments among the wheels; then caught upward by the furious car he touched no more the Circean fields.

Thus in rivalry were the Minyae and scattered Cytaei dealing death upon the plains and putting Scythia to rout, when royal Juno, seeing that this is no way for Aesonides to win the fleece or accomplish his return, contrives a last resource ere the faithless king reveals the deadly plotting of his savage wrath. Moreover, with tardy sorrowful complaint she chides Vulcan, whose flame-emitting bulls she can see snorting forth from their breasts Tartarean gloom in the royal grazing-fields. For she fears beforehand lest when the warfare be over he bid the Minyae sow the Cadmean dragon's teeth and yoke these monsters, and casts about for divers ruses. Medea alone comes to her mind, all her thoughts are centred on the maiden only, than whom is none more potent at the nightly altars; for responsive to her cry and to the juices she scatters in desolate places the stars are halted trembling and the Sun her grand-sire is aghast as he runs his course; she changes the aspect of the fields and the tracks of the rivers, all things are bound fast in their own deep slumber, old folk she seethes again to youth³ and lawlessly

³ The reference must be to Medea's subsequent feat in restoring Aeson to youth, as related, for instance, in Ovid, *Met.* 7. 251-93, although in fact in this poem Aeson kills himself (l. 814).

datque alias sine lege colus; hanc maxima Circe 445
 terrificis mirata modis, hanc advena Phrixus,
 quamvis Atracio lunam spumare veneno
 sciret et Haemoniis agitari cantibus umbras.
 ergo opibus magicis et virginitate tremendam
 Iuno duci sociam coniungere quaerit Achivo; 450
 non allam tauris videt et nascentibus armis
 quippe parem nec quae medio stet in agmine flammae,
 nullum mente nefas, nullos horrescere visus;
 quid si caecus amor saevusque accesserit ignis?
 hinc Veneris thalamos semperque recentia sertis 455
 tecta petit. visa iamdudum prosilit altis
 diva toris volucrumque exercitus omnis Amorum.
 ac prior hanc placidis supplex Saturnia dictis
 adgreditur veros metuens aperire timores.
 "in manibus spes nostra tuis omnisque potestas 460
 nunc" ait; "hoc en iam magis adnue vera fatenti,
 durus ut Argolicis Tirynthius exulat oris,
 mens mihi non eadem Iovis atque adversa voluntas,
 nullus honor thalamis flammaeve in nocte priores.
 da, precor, artificis blanda adspiramina formae 465
 ornatusque tuos terra caeloque potentes."
 sensit diva dolos iam pridem sponte requirens
 Colchida et invisi genus omne excindere Phoebi.
 tum vero optatis potitur; nec passa precari
 ulterius dedit acre ¹ decus fecundaque monstris 470
 cingula, non pietas quibus aut custodia famae,
 non pudor, at contra levis et festina cupido

¹ acre *M*: ecce *NT*.

assigns them yet more spindles; at her did Circe, mightiest in the ways of terror, at her did the stranger Phrixus marvel, though he knew that Atracian poisons made the moon to foam and that spells of Haemonia were rousing up the ghosts. Her therefore, awe-inspiring with magic power and maidenhood, would Juno fain join in alliance with the Achaean leader; for none other can she see to be a match for the bulls and for the up-springing warriors and for the flame¹ that stands in her mid path, fearing nothing, shrinking from no sight of ill; what if blind passion add thereto its merciless flame? Then seeks she Venus' bower and the garlands ever fresh that deck her abode. At the sight of her the goddess straightway springs from her high-piled couch, and all the troop of winged Loves. And first with calm and humble speech, afraid to reveal her real fears, the Saturnian accosts her: "In thy hands all my hope now lies," she says, "and all my power; all the more then grant this boon, for it is truth I tell thee. Ever since the stern Tirynthian hath been an exile from Argolic shores, Jove hath not the same mind toward me, his will is contrary; no regard hath he for my chamber, no nightly passion as of yore. Grant me, I pray, the winning allure-ment of a cunningly wrought beauty, grant me thy own adornments that have power both in earth and heaven." The goddess perceived her craft, for long had she sought herself to destroy the Colchian land and all the hated race of Phoebus. Now at last she has what she desires: suffering no further prayer she gives her the dangerous ornament, the girdle fruitful in dire issues, that knows not piety nor care of good repute nor honour, but rather fickleness and

¹ Apparently that breathed out by the bulls.

adfatusque mali dulcisque labantibus error
 et metus et demens alieni cura pericli. 474
 " omne " ait " imperium natorumque arma meorum
 cuncta dedi; quascumque libet nunc concute mentes."
 Cingitur arcanis Saturnia laeta venenis,
 atque hinc virgineae venit ad penetralia sedis
 Chalciopen imitata sono formaque sororem.
 fulsit ab invita lumen¹ procul, et pavor artus 480
 protinus atque ingens Aetida perculit horror.
 " ergo nec ignotis Minyas luc fluctibus " inquit
 " advenisse, soror, nec nostro sola parenti
 scis socias iunxisse manus? at cetera muros
 turba tenet fruiturque virum caelestibus armis, 485
 tu thalamis ignava sedes, tu sola paterna
 fixa domo? tales quando tibi cernere reges? "
 illa nihil contra, nec enim dea passa manumque
 implicat et rapidis mirantem passibus aufert.
 ducitur infelix ad moenia summa futuri 490
 nescia virgo mali et falsae commissa sorori;
 lilia per vernos lucent velut alba colores
 praecipue, quis vita brevis totusque parumper
 floret honor fuscis et iam notus imminet alis.
 hanc residens altis Hecate Perseia lucis 495
 flebat et has imo referebat pectore voces:
 " deseris heu nostrum nemus aequalesque catervas,
 a misera, ut Graias haut sponte vageris ad urbes!
 non iniussa tamen; neque te, mea cura, relinquam.

¹ lumen *Pius*: numen *V*.

hot desire, and inducement to ill and sin that allures the wavering, and fear and the distracting terror of another's peril. " All my power and all the armoury of my sons have I given thee," she says; " now make havoc of what hearts thou wilt."

Joyfully the Saturnian girds herself with the mysterious magic, and thence betakes herself to the inmost chamber of the maiden's dwelling, counterfeiting in voice and shape her sister Chalciopé. In her own despite fire flashed from her afar, and straightway panic and a mighty shuddering shook the frame of Aetes' daughter. " Thou alone then art ignorant, O sister," she begins, " that the Minyae are come hither, braving the unknown deep, and with our sire have joined confederate bands? Nay, the rest of the folk are on the walls, delighting in the heavenly armour of the heroes, and dost thou sit slothful in thy bower and alone stir not from our father's dwelling? When wilt thou see again such princes?" Naught answered she, for the goddess suffered her not, but takes Medea's hand and with swift steps leads her marvelling away. Ignorant of future ill, surrendering herself to her feigned sister, the hapless maid is led to the summit of the walls: even as white lilies gleam conspicuous through the hues of springtime, lilies whose life is short and their glory reigns but for a while and already the dark pinions of the South wind hover near. Persean Hecate dwelling in her lofty groves bewailed her, and from the depth of her heart uttered these words: " Alas! thou dost leave our woodland and thy maidens' bands, unhappy girl, to wander in thy own despite to the cities of the Greeks. Yet not unbidden goest thou, nor, my dear one, will I forsake

magna fugae monumenta dabis, spernere nec
usquam 500

mendaci captiva viro, meque ille magistram
sentiet et raptu famulae doluisse pudendo.”
dixerat; ast illae murorum extrema capessunt
defixaeque virum lituumque fragoribus horrent,
quales instanti nimborum frigore maestae 505
succedunt ramis haerentque pavore volucres.

Iamque Getae, iamque omnis Hiber Drangaeaque
densa
strage cadit legio et latis prosternitur arvis.
semineces duplicesque inter sua tela suosque
inter equos saevam misero luctamine versant 510
congeriem et longis campos singultibus implent.
victores patrium contra paeana Geloni
congeminant; eadem redeunt mox gaudia victis,
qua deus et melior belli respexit imago.

Quis tales obitus dederit, quis talia facta, 515
dic age, tuque feri reminiscere, Musa, furoris.
Absyrtus clipei radiis curruque coruscus
Solis avi (cuius vibrantem comminus hastam
cernere nec galeam gentes potuere minantem,
sed trepidae cedunt et verso vulnera tergo 520
accipiunt magnisque fugam clamoribus augent)
proterit impulsu gravis agmina corporaque actis¹
sternit equis gemitusque premit spirantis acervi.
nec levior comitatur Aron, horrentia cuius

¹ actis *Heinsius*; atris *V*; altis *Balbus*.

thee. A signal record of thy flight shalt thou
leave behind, nor though a captive shalt thou ever
be despised by thy false lord, nay, he shall know
me for thy teacher, and that I grieved with shame
that he robbed me of my handmaid.” She spoke;
but they gaining the extremity of the walls
listen motionless and in fear to the cries of men and
the trumpets’ blaring; even as birds dismayed at
the oncoming chill of the storm-clouds flock to the
branches and cling to them in terror.

By now the Getae and by now all Hiberia and the
Drangaeon host is falling in dense carnage, strewn
far and wide about the plain. Cowering half-dead
amid their weapons and their steeds they miserably
thrust and struggle to get free from the grim pile
of bodies, and their gasping cries fill all the fields.
But the victorious Geloni redouble the paeon of
their native land; soon do the conquered also know
the same delights, where heaven and war in kindlier
shape hath looked upon them.¹

Who wrought such slaughter, who performed such
deeds, tell now, O Muse, and recollect his furious
frenzy. Absyrtus, amid the effulgence of his flashing
shield and of the chariot of his grandsire the Sun
(whose quivering spear and threatening helm the folk
could not look on close at hand, but in fear gave ground
and turning their backs were stricken, while their
loud cries enhance the panic)—he with the impact of
galloping steeds lays warriors low, and tramples the
groans of the living mass. As fiery is his comrade
Aron, upon whose bristling armour and shoulders

¹ In other parts of the field the invading army do better,
and so, like the victors, can sing the paeon.

discolor arma super squalentesque aere lacertos 525
 barbarica chlamys ardet acu tumefactaque vento
 implet equum, qualis roseis it Lucifer alis,
 quem Venus inlustri gaudet producere caelo,
 at non inde procul Rambelus et acer Otaxes
 dispulerant Colchos pariterque inglorius Armes, 530
 fraude nova stabula et furtis adsuetus inultis
 depopulare greges, frontem cum cornibus auxit
 hispidus inque dei latuit terrore Lycaei.
 haec tunc attonitos facie defixerat hostes;
 quem simul ignota¹ formidine bella moventem 535
 vidit Aron, "pavidos te" inquit "nunc rere magistros
 et stolidum petiisse pecus? non pascua nec bos
 hic tibi; nocturnis mitte haec simulacra rapinis,
 neve deum mihi finge; deus quoque consere dex-
 tram."
 sic ait, intentaque adiutum missile planta 540
 derigit et lapsis patuerunt vulnera villis.
 nec minus Aeolii proles Aetia Phrixi
 fertur et ipsa furens ac se modo laeta Cytaeis
 agminibus, modo cognatis ostentat Achivis.
 atque hos in medio duri discrimine belli 545
 laudibus inque ipsis gaudens ubi vidit Iason,
 "macte" ait "o nostrum genus et iam certa propago
 Aeoliae nec opina domus; sat magna laborum
 dona fero, satis hoc visu quaecumque rependo."
 dixit et in Sueten magnique in fata Ceramni 550
 emicuit clipeumque rotans hunc poplite caeso

¹ ignota *Ed. Junt.*: agnota *V*: ac nota *Burm.*

scaled with bronze there burns the barbaric em-
 broidery of a many-coloured cloak, which belling
 in the wind streams out all over his horse: even as
 Lucifer sails upon roseate wings, whom Venus
 rejoices to lead forth in a glorious sky. But not far
 from thence Rambelus and fierce Otaxes had routed
 the Colchians, and likewise inglorious Armes, wont
 by a new device and still unpunished ruse to ravage
 flocks and herds, for clothed in shaggy hide he wore
 stags' horns upon his face and lurked in the terrors
 of the Lycaean god. In such aspect had he then held his
 enemies spellbound, when Aron saw him plying this
 unwonted terror in the fight, and "Now thinkest
 thou," said he, "that thou art assailing timid herds-
 men and brute cattle? No pastures or oxen hast
 thou here; keep thy counterfeits for nocturnal raids,
 and pretend not to be a god; nay, even if a god,
 do battle with me!" So doth he speak, and aims
 the missile to which his firmly planted foot gives aid;
 the shaggy hide fell away, and the wound showed
 clear. Nor less gallantly do the Aetian sons of Ae-
 olian Phrixi charge, inspired themselves with battle
 frenzy and exulting to display their prowess now to
 the Cytaean host, now to their Grecian kinsmen.
 Jason rejoiced to see them in the fiercest peril of
 the stubborn conflict and in the midst of glorious
 deeds; "Heaven prosper you," he cried, "men of
 my own race, sure offspring, not fancied only, of
 the Aeolian stock. Gifts enough do I win in
 recompense for your labours, solace have I enough
 in this sight for whatever may befall." He spoke,
 and dashed forth against Suetes and to slay mighty
 Ceramnus, and whirling his shield the while lays
 low the one by a stroke behind his knee, and opens

deicit, illum aperit lato per pectus hiatu.
 Argus utrumque ab equis ingenti porrigit arvo
 et Zacorum et Phalœen, peditem pedes haurit
 Amastrin.

sanguinis ille globos effusaque viscera gestat 555
 barbarus et cassa frendens sublabitur ira.

dat Calais Barisanta neci semperque propinquas
 Riphea venali comitantem sanguine pugnas.
 centum lecta boum bellator corpora, centum
 pactus equos; his ille animam lucemque rependit 560
 crudelis; tandem dulces iam cassus in auras
 respicit ac nulla caelum reparabile gaza.

labitur intortos per tempora caerulea crines
 tunc quoque materna velatus harundine Peucon;
 at genetrix imis pariter Macotis ab antris 565
 implevit plangore lacus natumque vocavit,
 iam non per ripas, iam non per curva volantem
 stagna nec in medio truncantem marmore cervos.

Eurytus Exomatas agit aequore. Nestoris hastae
 immoritur primaevus Helix, nec reddita caro 570
 nutrimenta patri brevibus ereptis in annis.

at Latagum Zetemque Daraps; illum excipit hasta,
 hic fugit, ingentem subiti cum sanguinis undam
 vidit et extremo lucentia pectora ferro.

Ecce autem muris residens Medea paternis 575
 singula dum magni lustrat certamina belli
 atque hos ipsa procul densa in caligine reges
 agnoscit quaeritque alios, Iunone magistra
 conspiciet Aesonium longe caput, ac simul acres

a broad gash in the other's breast. From their horses Argus stretches out upon the broad plain two warriors, Zacorus and Phalœes, and on foot, as he was himself, makes Amastris' blood to flow. The barbarian coughs up gory gobbets and holds his entrails as they pour forth, and gnashing his teeth expires in fruitless wrath. Calais slays Barisas, and Ripheus who ever frequented neighbouring wars, selling his blood for hire. For one hundred chosen bodies of oxen and one hundred steeds had the warrior made compact; these did he weigh against his life and the light of day, ruthless one; now at last too late he bethinks himself of the pleasant air and the heaven that no treasure will buy. Peucon falls, his hair that curled over his dark temples still veiled in his mother's reeds; but at the self-same hour in her deep cave his Macotian parent filled the lakes with lamentation as she called upon her son, who no more would scour the banks and undulating meres, nor slay hinds upon the marble surface of mid-ocean.¹ Eurytus chases the Exomatae from the field. Young Helix dies upon Nestor's spear, nor repays to his dear sire his debt of nurture, snatched away in the outset of his life. But Daraps slays Latagus and Zetes, the one with his spear, and the other is fleeing when of a sudden he beholds a mighty gush of blood and his breast agleam with an iron point.²

But lo! Medea seated upon her father's walls scans the separate conflicts of this mighty battle, and while she recognises some princes in the murky haze and asks about others, at Juno's prompting spies afar the head of Jason, and hither turns her eager

² One faces him, and is killed with the spear, the other turns to flee, when suddenly he finds himself transfixed from behind.

¹ *I.e.* when frozen, as in 323-9.

huc oculos sensusque refert animumque faventem, 580
 nunc quo se raperet, nunc quo diversus abiret,
 ante videns, quotque unus equos, quot funderet arma,
 errantesque viros quam densis sisteret hastis.
 quaque iterum tacito sparsit vaga lumina vultu
 aut fratris quaerens aut pacti coniugis arma, 585
 saevus ibi miserae solusque occurrit Iason.
 tunc his germanam adgreditur, ceu nescia, dictis :
 " quis, precor, hic, toto iamdudum fervere campo
 quem tueor quemque ipsa vides ? nam te quoque tali
 attonitam virtute reor." contra aspera Iuno 590
 reddit agens stimulis ac diris fraudibus urget.
 " ipsum " ait " Aesoniden cernis, soror, aequore tanto
 debita cognati repetit qui vellera Phrivi,
 nec nunc laude prior generis nec sanguine quisquam.
 aspicias, ut Minyas inter proceresque Cytaeos 595
 emicet effulgens quantisque insultet acervis ;
 et iam vela dabit, iam litora nostra relinquet,
 Thessaliae felices opes dilectaque Phrivo
 rura petens. eat atque utinam superetque labores ! "
 tantum effata magis campis intendere suadet, 600
 dum datur, ardentisque viri percurrere pugnas.
 At simul hanc dictis, illum dea Marte secundo
 impulit atque novas egit sub pectora vires.
 ora sub excelso iamdudum vertice coni
 saeva micant cursuque ardescit nec tibi, Perse, 605

eyes and senses and favouring mind, picturing before-
 hand now whither he would dash, now to what other
 part he would ride off, and how many steeds, how many
 weapons he would strike down alone, and with what
 hail of spears he would bring roaming warriors to a
 halt. And wherever again she cast her wandering
 glance and silent look, seeking the armour either of
 her brother or of her betrothed spouse, there fierce
 Jason and he alone met her passionate gaze. Then,
 as though ignorant, she addressed her sister thus :
 " Who, pray, is he whom I have long been watching
 rage furiously over all the plain and whom thou
 thyself dost see ? for I ween that thou too art amazed
 at valour so great." Cruel Juno makes answer,
 plying the goad and driving her on in deadly fraud.
 " 'Tis Aesonides himself, sister, thou seest," she
 says, " who over so vast a sea is come to recover the
 fleece of his kinsman Phrixus that is his due, nor is
 any before him now in nobility of race or blood.
 Thou seest how he shines out and flashes amid
 the Minyae and the Colchian chieftains, and over
 what heaps of slain he triumphs ; and soon will he
 set sail, soon will he leave our shores, bound for
 the wealth of prosperous Thessaly and the country-
 side that Phrixus loved. Ay, would that he could
 go, and all his toils be ended ! " So saying she urges
 her to attend yet more eagerly to the battlefield
 while yet she may, and to scan with her gaze the
 fierce combats of the hero.

But, even while she incited Medea with words,
 the prince too did the goddess urge on with success
 in battle and implanted new vigour in his breast.
 Straightway 'neath the lofty summit of his helm
 do his eyes flash fury, and as he speeds along his

nec tibi, virgo, iubae laetabile sidus Achivae,
acer ut autumno canis iratoque locati
ab Iove fatales ad regna iniusta cometae.
nec sua Crethiden latuit dea vimque recentem
sentit agi membris ac se super agmina tollit, 610
quantus ubi ipse gelu magnoque incanuit imb्रे
Caucasus et summas abiit hibernus in aretos.
tunc vero, stabulis qualis leo saevit opimis
luxurians spargitque famem mutatque cruores,
sic neque parte ferox nec caede moratur in una 615
turbidus inque omnes pariter furit ac modo saevo
ense, modo infesta rarescunt cuspidē pugnae :
tunc et terrificis undantem crinibus Hebrum
et Geticum Priona ferit; caput eripit Anchi
brachiaque et vastis volvendum mittit harenis. 620
At genitus Iove complebat sua fata Colaxes;
iamque pater maesto contristat sidera vultu
talibus aegra movens nequiquam pectora curis :
“ ei mihi, si durae natum subducere sorti
moliar atque meis ausim confidere regnis, 625
frater adhuc Amyci maerens nece cunctaque divum
turba fremant, quorum nati cecidere cadentque.
quin habeat sua quemque dies cunctisque negabo,
quae mihi.” supremos misero sic fatus honores
congerit atque animis moriturum ingentibus implet.
ille volat campis immensaque funera miscet 631

¹ Jason, whose father Aeson was the son of Cretheus.

Achaean plume blazes like a star, bringing no joy to thee, O Perses, nor yet, O maid, to thee; like the fierce hound of autumn is it or comets sent to mark the doom of unjust kings by angry Jove. Nor was Crethides¹ blind to his own goddess, but felt the new strength working in his limbs, and rears himself up above the host; huge as Caucasus when white with frost and storms of snow he soars in winter-time to the Bears aloft. Then, indeed, like a lion that wreaks his fury upon the fatlings of the stall, and in luxury of slaughter sates his maw now here, now there, and passes from bloodshed to bloodshed, so Jason storming on carries not to sate his ire in one quarter or one scene of carnage, but rages against all alike, and now through the fury of his sword, now of his relentless spear-point do the fighting ranks grow scant and dwindle; then smites he both Hebrus with terrible streaming hair and Getic Prion; he slashes off Auchus' head and arms, and sends him rolling on the desolate plain.

But Colaxes, son of Jove, had fulfilled his fate; and now his sire with mournful countenance makes the heavens gloomy as he gives utterance to his soul's distress with such complaints as these: "Alas! were I to endeavour to save my son from inexorable doom, and boldly trust in my own empire, my brother, now mourning for the death of Amycus, and all the host of gods would make loud uproar, whose sons have fallen and yet must fall. Nay, let his day of destiny claim each hero: what I deny to myself I suffer none else to take." So speaking, he heaps final honours upon the hapless man, and inspires him with boundless valour ere he dies. Over the field he flies, and deals deaths innumerable through-

per cuneos, velut hiberna proruptus ab arcu
 imber agens scopulos nemorumque operumque ruinas,
 donec ab ingenti bacchatus vertice montis
 frangitur inque novum paulatim deficit amnem. 635
 talis in extremo proles Iovis emicat aevo,
 et nunc magnanimos Hypetaona Gessithoumque,
 nunc Arineni Olbumque necat;¹ iam saucius Aprem
 et desertus equo Thydrum pedes excipit² hasta
 Phasiaden, pecoris custos de more paterni 640
 Caucasus ad primas genuit quem Phasidis undas;
 hinc puero cognomen erat famulumque ferebant
 Phasidis intonso nequiquam crine parentes.
 iamque aliis instabat atrox, cum diva supremas
 rumpit iniqua colus victorque advenit Iason. 645
 excipit hunc saeva sic fatus voce Colaxes:
 " vos Scythiae saturare canes Scythiaeque volucres
 huc miseri venistis? " ait saxumque prehensum,
 illius et dextrae gestamen et illius aevi,
 concussa molitur humo, quod regia Iuno 650
 flexit ad ignotum caput infetumque Monesi.
 praecipit ille ruit; nato non depulit ictus
 Iuppiter, Aesoniae vulnus fatale sed hastae
 per clipeum, per pectus abit, lapsoque cruentus
 advolat Aesonides mortemque cadentis acerbat. 655
 spargitur hinc miserisque venit iam notus Alanis.

At regina virum (neque enim deus amovet ignem)
 persequitur lustrans oculisque ardentibus haeret;
 et iam laeta minus praesentis imagine pugnae

¹ necat *C*: notat *V*: rotat *Balbus*.

² excipit *Edd.*: excidit *V*: exigit *Sudhaus*.

¹ Usually taken to refer to the fire of love kindled by Cupid, but Langen takes "deus" as meaning Juno, as there has been no mention of Cupid, and gives authority for "deus" used for a goddess.

out the columns, like a rain-storm that bursting from a wintry bow sweeps boulders before it and the wreck of woods and tillage, until after racing riotously from the great mountain-top its strength is broken and little by little brought to naught in the new-made stream. So violently darts forth the son of Jove at his life's ending, and now he slays the great-hearted Hypetaon and Gessithous, and now Arines and Olbus; already wounded and on foot, his charger lost, he slays with his lance Apres and Thydrus Phasiades, whom Caucasus, guarding as was his wont his father's flock, begat by the side of Phasis' waters; hence had the boy his surname, and his parents called him the servant of Phasis, keeping in vain his locks unshorn. And already was he fiercely assaulting other foes, when the cruel goddess breaks off his latest thread and victorious Jason draws nigh. With angry words Colaxes greets him thus: " Is it to sate the dogs and birds of Scythia that ye, poor wretches, are hither come? " he says, and grasps and hurls from the upheaved earth a rock, a missile suited to that right hand and to that age, but royal Juno turned it away to the head, unknown and unlamented, of Monesus; headlong falls Monesus, but from his son Jupiter turned not aside the blow, but the fatal stroke of the Aesonian spear passes through both shield and heart, while murderous Aesonides dashes up to him where he lies and embitters the fallen warrior's death. Thence speeds he away, and comes to the hapless Alani who already know him well.

But the princess with roving gaze follows the hero (for the god quenches not the fire),¹ upon him her burning eyes are ever fixed; and now she has less delight in the battle-scene before her, and chides

castigatque metus et quas alit inscia curas, 660
 respiciens, an vera soror; nec credere falsos
 audet atrox vultus, eademque in gaudia rursus
 labitur et saevae trahitur dulcedine flammae.
 ac velut ante comas ac summa cacumina silvae
 lenibus adludit flabris levis auster, at illum 665
 protinus immanem miseræ sensere carinae:
 talis ad extremos agitur Medea furores.
 interdum blandæ derepta monilia divæ
 contrectat miseroque aptat flagrantia collo,
 quaque dedit teneros aurum furiale per artus, 670
 deficit; ac sua virgo deæ gestamina reddit,
 non gemmis, non illa levi turbata metallo,
 sed facibus, sed mole dei, quem pectore toto
 iam tenet; extremus roseo pudor errat in ore.
 ac prior his: "credisne patrem promissa daturum,
 o soror, Argolicus cui dis melioribus hospes 676
 contigit? aut belli quantum iam restat acerbi?
 heu quibus ignota sese pro gente periculis
 obicit!" hæc fantem medio in sermone reliquit
 incepti iam Iuno potens securaque fraudis. 680
 Imminet e celsis audentius improba muris
 virgo nec ablatam sequitur quaeritve sororem.
 at quotiens vis dura ducum densique repente
 Aesoniden pressere viri cumque omnis in unum
 imber iit, totiens saxis pulsatur et hastis. 685

her fears and the trouble cherished she knows not
 why, wondering if it be in truth her sister; nor dares
 she harden herself and deem that countenance false,
 but yields again to the same entrancing fancies and
 is drawn on by the sweetness of the cruel flame.
 And just as at first the South wind makes gentle
 sport as it softly stirs the leaves and topmost branches
 of the woodland, but soon the unlucky ships are feel-
 ing all its terrible strength: even so is Medea led
 on to the height of madness. At whiles she fingers
 the necklace plucked from the winsome goddess, and
 fits it, flashing fire, about her hapless neck, and where
 she has set the maddening gold upon her tender
 limbs there her strength fails; and the maiden gives
 back the ornament to the goddess, overcome not by
 the gems nor by the light metal, but by the fire, by
 the strong influence of the god whom she hath made
 free of all her heart, while the last remnant of shame
 hovers in the blushes of her cheek. And thus first
 she speaks: "Thinkest thou, sister, that our sire
 will grant what he has promised, since so kind a
 Providence has thus brought the Argive stranger to
 him? or how much cruel warfare yet remains?
 Alas! to what perils doth he expose himself in behalf
 of a race he knows not!" As she thus spoke, in
 mid-utterance Juno left her, now mistress of her
 purpose and of her fraud assured.

More boldly now leans the reckless girl from
 the high walls, nor follows or seeks her vanished
 sister. But so oft as the stern violence of the
 leaders and sudden charge of thronging warriors
 beset the son of Aeson, and when all the hail
 of darts converges on him alone, so oft doth she
 feel the stones and lances wound her. First was she

primaque ad infesti Lexanoris horruit arcus,
 alta sed Aesonium supra caput exit harundo,
 teque, Caice, petit; coniunx miseranda Caico
 linquitur et primo domus imperfecta cubili.
 Regius cois Myraces interpres ab oris 690
 venerat, ut Colchos procul atque Aetia Parthis
 foedera donato non inrita iungeret auro.
 tum iuvenem terris Parcae tenuere Cytacis
 ac subiti Mavortis amor; simul armiger ibat
 semivir impubemque gerens sterilemque iuventam.
 ipse pharetratis residens ad frena tapetis 696
 nunc levis infesto procurrit in agmina curru,
 nunc fuga conversas spargit mentita sagittas.
 at viridem gemmis et ecae stamine silvae
 subligat extrema patrium cervice tiaran 700
 insignis manicis, insignis acinace dextro;
 improba barbaricae procurrant tegmina plantae.
 nec latuere diu saevum spolia illa Syenen,
 perque levem et multo maculatam murice tigrin
 concita cuspis abit; subitos ex ore cruores 705
 saucia tigris agit vitamque effundit erilem;
 ipse puer fracto pronum caput implicat arcu.
 sanguine tunc atro chlamys ignea, sanguine vultus
 et gravidae maduere comae, quas flore Sabaeo
 nutrierat liquidoque parens signaverat auro. 710
 qualem signis aquis et fertilis ubere terrae
 educat ac ventis oleam felicibus implet,
 nec labor adsiduus nec spes sua fallit alentem,
 iamque videt primam tenero de vertice frondem;
 cum subito immissis praeeceps aquilonia nimbis 715

¹ *I.e.* silk.

² *I.e.* the eunuch (695).

to shudder at Lexanor's threatening bow, but the shaft sped high above Jason's head, straight for thee, Caicus: a piteous wife doth Caicus leave and a house where the new marriage-bed mourns one partner lost.

Myraces had come, a king's ambassador, from eastern shores, to make with Aetes no idle treaty, uniting Parthians and Colchians by gifts of gold. At that time fate and a passion for the sudden war had kept him in Cytaean lands; with him went his eunuch squire, emasculate and sterile in the flower of youth. He himself, seated by the reins upon quiver-burdened coverlets, now nimbly speeds to the press of battle in threatening car, now turning scatters arrows in feigned retreat. On his head he binds the tiara of his race, adorned with emeralds and the fruit of eastern trees;¹ he wears bangles on his arms, a scimitar at his right side, and the long trews run down to cover his barbarian feet. Nor did those spoils long escape the eye of fierce Syenes, but through the light tiger's hide varied with much purple speeds the driven spear; of a sudden the wounded tiger gushes at the mouth with blood and pours forth its master's life, while the youth² falls, his head entangled in the broken bow. Then drenched is the flaming cloak with the dark blood, with blood his face and the heavy locks which his mother had tended with perfume of Sabaeen flowers and decked with purest gold. Even as when one nurtures an olive with river streams and all the richness of fertile soil and stunts it not of breezes, nor doth his constant toil nor expectation play the nurturer false, and now doth he behold its summit put forth its earliest leaf, when on a sudden a hurricane swoops down from the rushing storm-clouds of

venit hiemps nigraque evulsam tendit harena :
 haud secus ante urbem Myraces atque ipsius ante
 virginis ora cadit ; sed non magis illa movetur
 unius aegra metu, quam te, Meleagre, furentem,
 quam Talaum videt aut pugnas miratur Acasti ; 720
 at satis hos ipsae gentes campique videbant
 tempestate pari versis incumbere turmis.
 ante oculos fuga foeda ¹ ducum largusque cadentum
 it cruor et currus dominis ingentibus orbi. 724

Non tulit hos Perses gemitus clademque suorum
 tergaque versa tuens his caelum questibus implet :
 " quid me iam patriis eiectum sedibus, istas
 ut struerem pugnas Scythiamque in bella moverem,
 vos superi, vos augurio iussistis inani ?
 quid fratris meritas tua, Iuppiter, omnia poenas 730
 promissere mihi ? nobis Argoa parabas
 scilicet auxilia et tantas coniungere vires.
 saeva quidem lucis miseris mora ; dent tamen, oro,
 unum illum mihi fata diem, qui fallat ² Achivos 734
 sic meritos quoque hunc videam virtute superbum
 Aesoniden tantos flentem sine honore labores."
 dixerat haec pectusque suis everberat armis
 et galeam fletu, galeam singultibus implet ;
 ibat et in mediis praeceps incendia belli,
 ni prior adversis Pallas vidisset ab armis 740
 et secum : " ruit ecce ferox in funera Perses,
 quem genitor Colchis solioque imponere fratris
 iam statuit. nostra vereor ne fraude peremptum
 increpet et culpam hanc magno terrore rependat."

the North, and roots it up and stretches it on the dark soil: not otherwise doth Myraces fall before the city and the maiden's very eyes; yet, anxious for one alone, no more doth she feel than when she beholds Talaus or thy furious prowess, Meleager, or admires the fighting of Acastus; yet had their own peoples and the battle-fields their fill of seeing these warriors in equal hurricane press hard the routed squadrons. Before their eyes stream the chieftains in base flight, fast runs the blood of the fallen, and chariots bereaved of their mighty lords go by.

Perses brooked not the cries of his routed warriors, and gazing at their fleeing backs filled heaven with these complaints: "Why, O ye gods above, why with vain auguries did ye command me, driven from my native home, to set this war afoot and stir up Scythia to battle? Why, Jupiter, did thine omens vouchsafe me my brother's merited punishment? Thou wert ready, forsooth, to bring all the might of Argos to be joined in succour to mine. Verily, for the wretched it is cruelty to tarry in the light; yet may the fates grant me but the one day, that may play the Achaeans false as they deserve, and that I may see this Jason who so flants his prowess mourn that such labours meet with no reward." He spoke, and with mailed arms beat his breast, and filled his helm with tears and groaning; and fast was he striding into the very furnace of the fight, had not Pallas spied him from the opposing ranks, and thought within herself: "Lo! Perses is rushing impetuously to death, whom my sire hath decreed already to set over the Colchians upon his brother's throne. I fear lest he chide me if through deed of mine he perish, and send dire and terrible recompense

¹ foeda Edd. : fera V : torva C : sera Sudhaus, cf. 750.

² qui fallat Wagner : quo fellet V : quo vellera Sudhaus.

haec dicens atro nebulam diffundit amictu 745
 stridentesque viri circum caput amovet hastas.
 ille super socias clementi turbine gentes
 erigitur paulumque levi raptatus in aethra
 iam tandem extremas pugnae defertur in oras,
 forte ubi serus Hiber Issedoniaeque phalanges 750
 Marte carent solisque iuvant clamoribus agmen.
 Nox simul astriferas profert optabilis umbras;
 et cadit extemplo belli fragor aegraque muris
 degreditur longum virgo perpessa timorem.
 ut fera Nyctelii paulum per sacra resistunt, 755
 mox rapuere deum iam iam in quodcumque paratae
 Thyiades, haut alio remeat Medea tumultu,
 atque inter Graiūque acies patriasque phalangas
 semper inexpletis adgnoscit Iasona curis
 armaque quique cava superest de casside vultus. 760

¹ Votaries of Bacchus; the name was an epithet of that god, signifying that he was worshipped with nocturnal rites; cf. Ovid, *Ars Am.* l. 567.

for my fault." So saying she sheds around him a dark shroud of mist, and turns away the javelins that hiss about the hero's head. A kindly blast lifts him above his fellow-warriors, and bearing him for a while through the tenuous air sets him down at length on the battle's outer marge, where it chances that Hiberians and Issedonian columns have no part in the fight, and aid the combatants with cries alone.

At the same time welcome Night brings on the star-heralding shadows: straightway the noise of war is lulled, and the maiden, her long day of terror over, goes heartsick from the walls. As the Nyctelii¹ in their wild revels awhile resist the god, but soon have the Thyiads drunk the frenzy, ready now for any deed, even in such tumult doth Medea return, and ever amid the Grecian host and the troops of her own land doth she, with passion still unsated, recognise Jason and his armour and his face that strains forward from the hollow helm.

BOOK VII

LIBER SEPTIMUS

BOOK VII

Te quoque Thessalico iam serus ab hospite vesper
 dividit et iam te tua gaudia, virgo, relinquunt,
 noxque ruit soli veniens non mitis amanti.
 ergo ubi cunctatis extremo in limine plantis
 contigit aegra toros et mens incensa tenebris, 5
 vertere tunc varios per longa insomnia questus
 nec pereat quo scire malo; tandemque fateri
 ausa sibi causam medio sic fata dolore est:
 "nunc ego quo casu vel quo sic pervigil usque
 ipsa volens errore trahor? non haec mihi certe 10
 nox erat ante tuos, iuvenis fortissime, vultus.
 quos ego cur iterum demens iterumque recorder
 tam magno discreta mari? quid in hospite solo
 mens mihi? cognati potius iam vellera Phrixii
 accipiat, quae sola petit quaeque una laborum 15
 causa viro. nam quando domos has ille reviset?
 aut meus Haemonias quando pater ibit ad urbes?
 felices, mediis qui se dare fluctibus ansii
 nec tantas timuere vias talemque secuti
 huc¹ qui deinde virum: sed sic quoque talis
 abito."
 tum iactata toro totumque² experta cubile 21
 ecce videt tenui candescere limen Eoo,
 nec minus insomnem lux orta refecit amantem,
 quam cum languentes levis erigit imber aristas
 grataque iam fessis descendunt flamina remis. 25

¹ huc *Schenkl*: hunc *V*.

² totumque *Loebach*: tumque *V*: serumque *Langen*.

Now doth late evening sunder thee, maiden,
 from the Thessalian stranger, and now do thy
 joys leave thee, while night comes on apace with
 balm for all save for the lover alone. So when,
 heart-sick, with feet that hesitated on the threshold's
 verge, she gained her chamber and in the darkness
 her imaginings took fire, long time she lay unsleeping,
 brooding on various complaints and ignorant of what
 plague was vexing her; at last at the height of her
 distress she dares avow the cause, and thus she
 speaks: "What mishap, what wilful deluding error
 holds me that so I lie ever sleepless? Not such for
 sure were my nights ere I had seen thy countenance,
 gallant youth. What madness makes me recall it
 again and yet again, though oceans lie between us?
 Why are my thoughts upon the stranger only? Nay,
 let him rather even now receive his kinsman Phrixus'
 fleece, his only quest and sole cause of all his toil.
 For when will he see this abode again? or when will
 my father visit Haemonia's cities? Happy they
 who braved the intervening seas, nor feared so long
 a voyage but straightway followed so valiant a hero
 to this land: for all that, valiant though he be, let
 him be gone." Then, as restlessly she tosses and tries
 now this, now that side of her couch, lo! she sees
 the doorway shimmering white as the daystar fades,
 nor less did the risen dawn refresh the love-sick girl
 than when a light shower lifts drooping ears of corn,
 or a welcome breeze descends upon weary oarsmen.

At sua longarum Mínyas iam cura viarum
admonet, inque ipso nequiquam tempore regem
laetitiae meritique petunt; quem passus Iason
vota prius captasque deis accendere praedas,
prominet atque oculos longe tenet, aurea si iam 30
pellis et oblatis clarescant atria villis.

Ille autem iam iam vultus vocesque parantem
ante rapit¹ rumpitque moras inque ipsa morantis
prosilat ora viri talique effunditur ira:
"orbe satos alio, sua litora regnaque habentes, 35
quis furor has mediis tot fluctibus egit in oras,
quisve mei vos tantus amor? tu prima malorum
causa mihi, tu, Phrixus gener. non te aequore mersum
quo soror! ut felix nullos nunc nomine Graios
nossem ego! quis regum Pelias, quis Thessalus aut
quae 40
Graecia? quodnam hominum cerno genus? aut ubi
cautes

Cyaneae? venit Scythicas en hospes in oras.
quingenta Asiam (pudet heu!) penetrarit Iason
exulibus? meque ante alios sic spreverit una,
una ratis, spoliū ut vivo de rege reportet? 45
ipsum offerre, meos ipsum me pandere lucos
imperet et nullo dignetur vincere bello?
cur age non templis sacrata avellere dona
omnibus atque ipsas gremiis abducere natas,
praedo, libet? vobisne domos, vobisne parentes 50
esse putem, ratis infandis quos sola rapinis
saevaeque pascit hiemps et quos, credamus ut ipsis,

¹ rapit *Postgate*: aperit V.

But already the Mínyae are bethinking them of the purpose of their long voyage; and in the very hour of triumph and of service they in vain repair to the king; and Jason, suffering him first to pay the gods his vowed burnt-offering of captured booty, leans forward and casts his gaze afar, to see if the golden fleece be already there, making the courtyard bright with its promised wool.

But while he even now is preparing his countenance for speech, the other forestalls him and cuts short his tarrying, ay, even as he carries springs forward to his face and thus outpours his wrath: "Sons of another world, with your own shores and realms, what madness has driven you to this land over seas so wide, or was I the object of your friendship? Thou, Phrixus, my son-in-law, wert the prime cause of ill for me. Alas! that thou wert not drowned in the same sea as thy sister! that so I might be happy, knowing to-day no Grecian name! Who is King Pelias, who the Thessalian, what is Greece? what race of men do I here behold? or where are the Cyanean rocks? Look! a stranger has come to Scythian shores! Shall Jason with fifty outcasts (O shame!) win through to Asia? and shall one vessel, one! so slight me beyond all other men as to bear away spoils from a living prince? Shall he command me myself to offer, myself to throw open my own groves, nor even deign to conquer? Pirate, why hast thou not a fancy to ravish the sacred gifts from all our shrines, and our own daughters from our bosoms? Shall I think you have parents, you have homes, whom your ship alone supports with impious brigandage and savage tempests feed, you whom—to

rex suus immisit pelago vetuitque reverti?
 scilicet Aeoliae pecudis poteretur ut auro?
 ante meus caesa descendet Caucasus umbra 55
 ac prior Haemonias repetet super aequora praedas.
 aut ego cum vittis statui feralibus Hellen
quam iussi, vivam ex pelago remeare videbo.
 si tamen his aliter perstas non cedere terris,
 teque pudor cassi reditus movet, ac latet uua
 nescio quid plus puppe viris, haud ipsa morabor 60
 quae petitis; modo nostra prior tu perface iussa.
 Martius ante urbem longis iacet horridus annis
 campus, et ardentis ac me quoque vomere presso,
 me quoque cunctantes interdum agnoscere tauri.
 his magis atque magis rabiem nunc nostra senec-
 tus 65
 luxuriamque dedit, solitoque superbius ignis
 ore fremit. succede meae, fortissime, laudi,
 et nostros recole, hospes, agros. nec semina derunt,
 quae prius ipse dabam, et messes, quas solus obibam:
 consiliis nox una satis, tecumque retracta 70
 cumque tuis haec iussa deis; ac siquid in isto est
 robore, praedicti venies in rura laboris.
 ipse incertus adhuc, tenebris te protinus illis
 involvi flammisque velim, durare parumper
 an magis, everso iacias dum semina campo, 75
 ac tibi Cadmei dum dentibus exeat hydri
 miles et armata florescant pube novalis."

¹ *I.e.* ere that shall impossible things happen. To complete the sense the line suggested by Kramer has been added.

trust your own tale—your king has flung upon the waves and forbidden to return, that he may possess, forsooth, the gold of the Aeolian ram! Ere that shall my own Caucasus descend, its shadowy forests felled, and over the seas track out the Haemonian robbers; ere that *shall I see return living from the deep* that Helle whose image *I have bidden* be set up adorned with funeral chaplets.¹ Yet if otherwise thou refusest to depart from this land, if shame of a fruitless homecoming moves thee and if aught more than its crew lies hidden² in that one ship, I will not withhold what ye demand: only do thou first perform what I bid thee. Before the city there lies the plain of Mars, rough with neglect through many years, and fiery bulls there are, slow sometimes to recognise even me when the ploughshare bites the ground. These more and more have my increasing years now suffered to grow wild and unruly, and a prouder flame than of wont shoots from their bellowing mouths. Succeed then, valiant stranger, to my renown, and till my fields once more. The seed which once I sowed will not be lacking, nor the harvest which I encountered alone. One night will suffice for thy decision, alone with thy gods consider my behest; and if there be aught in that wooden hulk of thine, thou wilt undertake the rustic toil I told thee of. For myself, I know not yet whether I would have thee straightway enwrapped in flame and darkness, or rather see thee endure a while till the plain be upturned and the seeds sown and warriors come forth from the teeth of Cadmus' snake and the fallows flower with armed men."

² Here and in 71 there is a hint of some mysterious power lurking in the Argo.

Filia prima trucis vocem mirata tyranni
 haesit et ad iuvenem pallentia rettulit ora
 contremnitque metu, ne nescius audeat hospes 80
 sequem miser ne posse putet. perstrinxerat horror
 ipsam etiam et maesta stabat defixus in ira.
 non ita Tyrrhenus stupet Ioniusque magister,
 qui iam te, Tiberine, tuens clarumque serena
 arce pharon praeceps subito nusquam ostia, nus-
 quam 85

Ausoniam videt, at saevas accedere Syrtes.
 tum tamen, infando quae det responsa tyranno,
 colligit et tandem obtutu consurgit ab alto.
 " non " ait " hos reditus, non hanc, Aeeta, dedisti
 spem Minyis, cum prima tuis pro moenibus arma 90
 induimus. quo versa fides? quos vestra volutant
 iussa dolos? alium hic Pelian, alia aequora cerno.
 quin agite hoc omnes odiisque urgete tyranni
 imperiisque caput; numquam mihi dextera nec spes
 defuerit; mos iussa pati nec cedere duris. 95
 unum oro, seu me illa suis seges obruet hastis,
 hauriet adverso seu crastinus ignis hiatu,
 nuntius hinc saevas Peliae mittatur ad aures,
 hic periisse viros, et me, si vestra fuisset
 ulla fides, reducem patriae potuisse referri." 100
 Talibus attonitos dictis natamque patremque
 linquit et infida praeceps prorumpit ab aula.
 at trepida et medios inter deserta parentes
 virgo silet, nec fixa solo servare parumper

His daughter first, perplexed and marvelling at the
 cruel tyrant's words, turned her pale face towards
 the youth, trembling for fear lest the stranger un-
 witting make the venture, and, hapless one, deem
 he were equal to the task. He too, stricken through
 with horror, stood motionless in anger and dismay.
 Not so thunderstruck stands the Ionian or Tyrrh-
 enian skipper, when, as he gazes towards Tiber
 and the lighthouse clearly sighted 'neath a summer
 sky, suddenly driven headlong he sees nowhere
 the river-mouth, nowhere Ausonia, but the fierce
 Syrtes drawing nigh. Yet he bethinks him then
 what answer to make to the impious tyrant, and
 at length rises from his deep pondering. " Not
 such was the returning," says he, " not such the
 hope thou didst offer to the Minyae, Aeetes, when
 first we donned our armour before thy walls. Whither
 is thy promise gone? What guile are ye¹ plotting
 in this behest? Another Pelias see I here, another
 ocean. Nay, come now all ye tyrants, vent your
 imperious hate upon this head; never shall right
 hand nor confidence fail me; I am accustomed to
 obey nor yield to hardship. One thing I beg: if
 that harvest overwhelm me with its spears, or if
 to-morrow the flames of those confronting jaws
 swallow me up, let a message be sent hence to Pelias'
 cruel ears, that my men have perished here, and that
 I, if in aught ye had been trustworthy, could have
 been brought back to my native land."

Then leaves he father and daughter, astonished at
 his words, and rushes forth headlong from the faith-
 less hall. But the maiden trembling and abandoned
 'mid her own folk is silent, nor could she even for a
 while hold her eyes fixed upon the ground, nor keep

¹ Aeetes and Pelias.

lumina nec potuit maestos non flectere vultus, 105
 respexitque fores et adhuc invenit euntem;
 visus et heu miseræ tunc pulchrior hospes amanti
 discedens; tales umeros, ea terga relinquit.
 illa domum atque ipsos paulum procedere postes
 optat, at ardentem tenet intra limina gressus. 110
 qualis ubi extremas Io vaga sentit harenas
 fertque refertque pedem, tumido quam cogit Erinys
 ire mari Phariaeque vocant trans aequora matres:
 circuit haut aliter foribusque impendet apertis,
 an melior Minyas revocet pater; oraque quaerens
 hospitâ aut solo maeret defecta cubili 116
 aut venit in carae gremium refugitque sororis
 atque loqui conata silet; rursusque recedens
 quaerit, ut Aeaëis hospes consederit oris
 Phrixus, ut aligeri Cîrcen rapuere dracones. 120
 tum comitum visu fruitur miseranda suarum
 implerique nequit; subitoque parentibus haeret
 blandior et patriae circumfert oscula dextrae.
 sic adsucta toris et mensae dulcis erili,
 aegra nova iam peste canis rabieque futura, 125
 ante fugam totos lustrat queribunda penates.
 tandem etiam molli semet sic increpat ira.
 "pergis," ait "demens, teque illius angit imago
 curaque, qui profuga forsân tenet alta carina 129
 quique meum patrias referet nec nomen ad urbes.
 quid me autem sic ille movet, superetne labores

¹ Apparently, that so she might follow Jason; but, if the grammar allowed it, one would rather translate "she would fain go forward a space from the house and the doorway."

her sad gaze from roaming, but looked towards the gates and found him still even as he went; and alas! as he departed still comelier seemed the stranger to the lovelorn girl: such shoulders, such a frame doth he leave to her remembrance. She prays that the house and very doors may move forward a space,¹ yet keeps her ardent steps within the threshold. As when wandering Io felt the sandy verge and ventured and shrank again, yet by compulsion of Erinys must she go upon the swelling sea, and the Pharian matrons call her over the deep: not otherwise moves she to and fro and hovers by the open doors, if perchance her sire in kindlier mood recall the Minyae; and, seeking in vain the stranger's face, either she mourns exhausted by her lonely couch, or flees for refuge to her dear sister's bosom, and essaying to speak is silent; and again returning asks her how Phrixus came from abroad to settle in the Aeaean land, how Cîrcé was borne away by winged serpents. Then doth she gaze, wretched girl, upon her handmaidens, nor can be sated with looking; and suddenly she clings to her parents in coaxing mood, and covers her father's hand with kisses. So doth a favourite lapdog that is wont to share its mistress' table and her cushions, when already sick with a new plague and approaching madness, roam whimpering, ere it flee, over all the house. And at length she thus chides herself in gentle anger: "On thou goest, mad girl, and it is the image and thought of him that tortures thee; and he perchance is fled and out at sea, nor will he bear back even my name to the cities of his land. Yet why feel I so for him, whether he master his

an cadat et tanto turbetur Graecia luctu?
 saltem, fata virum si iam suprema ferebant,
 iussus ad ignotos potius fuit ire tyrannos!
 o utinam et tandem non hac moreretur in urbe! 135
 namque et sidereo nostri de sanguine Phrixi
 dicitur, et caram vidi indoluisse sororem;
 seque ait has iussis actum miser ire per undas.
 at redeat quocumque modo meque ista precari
 nesciat atque meum non oderit ille parentem." 140
 dixerat haec stratoque graves proiecerat artus,
 si veniat miserata quies, cum saevior ipse
 turbat agitque sopor: supplex hinc sternitur hospes,
 hinc pater. illa nova rumpit formidine somnos
 erigiturque toro; famulas carosque penates 145
 agnoscit, modo Thessalicas raptata per urbes;
 turbidus ut Poenis caecisque pavoribus ense
 corripit et saevae ferit agmina matris Orestes;
 ipsum angues, ipsum horrisoni quatit ira flagelli;
 atque iterum incestae se fervere caede Lacaenae 150
 credit agens, falsaque reddit de strage dearum
 fessus et in miserae collabitur ora sororis.

His ubi nequiquam nutantem Colchida curis
 Iuno videt necdum extremo parere furori,
 non iam mentitae vultum vocemque resumit 155
 Chalciopes. quando ardor hebet leviorque pudori
 mensque obnixa malo, tenues sublimis in auras
 tollitur et fulvo Venerem vestigat Olympo.
 "sum memor, ut sis hunc¹ mecum partita laborem;

¹ sis hunc *Wagner*: tecum *V.*

toils, or whether he fall, and Greece be confounded with so great a grief? At least, if already his last hour be come, it were better he had gone to an unknown court! Ah! grant, ay, grant he perished not in this city! For he is of our own Phrixus' heavenly seed, they say, and my own dear sister, I saw, grieved over him; and he says, poor youth, that by command was he driven to sail these seas. Well, may he return, whate'er befall, nor know that I make this prayer, and may he not hate my father." So did she speak, and had flung her weary limbs upon her bed, if haply repose may come in pity, whereupon sleep itself still more cruelly drives her distraught: on this side the stranger kneels imploring, on that her sire. New terrors make her start from slumber, upright upon her bed; she recognises her maidens and the home she loves, who but a moment since was faring through the towns of Thessaly: even as Orestes, his mind disordered by Furies and blind fears, seizes a sword and slashes at his fierce mother's armed bands: 'tis himself the snakes are stinging, himself on whom the horrid-sounding lash is wreaking its ire, and once more in fancy he pursues the Laconian harlot, all hot to slay her; and wearily doth he return from the imagined slaughter of the goddesses, and fall upon the neck of his unhappysister.

When Juno sees the Colchian maid wavering perplexed to no purpose nor yielding yet to the full force of passion, no more doth she take the voice and countenance of a feigned Chalciopoe. Since her love is waning, and being milder brings shame, and her heart strives against the poison, she rises aloft into the tenuous air and seeks out Venus amid Olympus' ruddy glow. "Mindful am I how thou didst join

illa nimis sed dura manet conversaque in iram 160
 et furias dolet ac me non ¹ decepta reliquit.
 i, precor, atque istum quo me frustratur amorem
 vince, procax ² patriis ut tandem evadere tectis
 audeat atque meum casu defendere ab omni
 Aesoniden. quin illum atro, quo freta, veneno, 165
 illum etiam totis adstantem noctibus anguem,
 qui nemus omne sumum quique aurea (respice porro)
 vellera tot spiris circum, tot ductibus implet,
 fallat ³ et in somnos ingenti solvat ab orno.
 haec tibi: nam Furis atque ipsi cetera mando." 170

Tum contra aligerum mater sic fatur Amorum:
 "nec tibi, cum primos adgressa es flectere sensus
 virginis ignotaque animum contingere cura,
 defuimus, data continuo quin cingula soli
 nostra tibi, quis mota loco labefactaque cessit. 175
 haut satis est, sed me ipsa opus, et cunctantia poscunt
 pectora me dubisque pudor: iam foedera faxo
 Haemonii petat ipsa viri metuatque morari.
 tu face luciferae citus ad delubra Dianae
 deveniat, sacras solita est ubi fundere taedas 180
 Colchis et aequali dominam lustrare caterva.
 nec te nunc Hecates subeat metus, aut mea forte
 impediat ne coepta time. quin audeat opto:
 continuo transibit amor, cantuque trilingui

¹ non *Schenkl*: nunc *V.*

² *procax Sandstroem*: precor *V.*

³ *fallat Loebach*: solvat *V.*

¹ For "lustrare" with the meaning of "encircle in the dance" cf. Virgil, *Aen.* 10. 224, though it might also mean "illuminate" with reference to the torches; some idea of a moving band or procession seems to be implied in "fundere." Torchets were a special feature of the worship of Hecate as the goddess of night and the underworld.

me in this task; but the girl is stubborn still, and in resentment hath turned to anger and frenzy, and, not deluded, hath abandoned me. Go thou, I implore thee, carry to victory that passion whereof she cheats me, that wantonly she may dare to leave her father's house at last and defend my Jason from all mischance. Ay, and that serpent too, that whole nights long keeps guard and winds innumerable circling coils about his grove and (look thou yonder!) about the golden fleece—him let her enchant with the black venom wherein she trusts, and lure him into slumber from his mighty ash tree. That be thy task: the rest I enjoin upon the Furies and upon the maid herself."

Then thus spake in answer the mother of the winged Loves: "I failed thee not when first thou didst attempt to bend the maiden's heart and to touch her with a trouble she knew not: nay, forthwith did I give thee—and thee alone—my girdle, whereby she hath given ground and been shaken and forced to yield. But this suffices not: I myself am needed, it is I whom her wavering heart and shamefast doubt demand; soon will I make her herself seek union with the Haemonian chief and tremble at delay. See thou that he go apace to the shrine of light-bringing Diana, where the Colchian is wont to shed the light of sacred torches and with her company of maidens dance around its queen.¹ Nor let dread of Hecate now come over thee; fear not lest she hinder my efforts. Nay, let her even venture: straightway will the passion pass to her,² and I

¹ Even Hecate will yield to passion if Venus inspires it. In "trilingui" (185) there is apparently a reference to the threefold form of the goddess.

ipsam flammiferos cogam compescere tauros, 185
 amplexumque pati." ¹ volucrem Iuno ²aspicit Irin
 festinamque iubet monitis parere Diones
 et iuvenem Aesonium praedicto sistere luco.
 protinus hinc Iris Minyas, Cytherea petiuit
 Colchida; Caucasais speculatrix Iuno resedit 190
 rupibus, attonitos Aeaea in moenia vultus
 speque metuque tenens et adhuc ignara futuri.

Vix primas occulta Venus prospexerat arces,
 virginis ecce novus mentem perstringere languor
 incipit; ingeminant commotis questibus aestus. 195
 ergo iterum sensus varios super hospite volvens
 maeret et absentī nequiquam talia fatur:
 "si tibi Thessalicis nunc et tua forte venenis
 mater et heu, siqua est, posset succurrere coniunx!
 quidne tuos virgo possim nisi flere labores? ³ 200
 ei mihi, ne casus etiam spectare supremos
 atque iterum durae cogar comes ire sorori
 et nunc ille sua non quemquam sorte moveri,
 non ullum meminisse putat, cumque omnibus odit
 me quoque. siquando fuerit tamen ulla potestas, 205
 illum ego, qui diris cinis ultimus haeserit arvis,
 ossaque, quis tauri saevusque pepercerit ignis,
 componam sedemque dabo. fas tunc mihi manes
 dilexisse viri tumuloque has reddere curas."

Dixerat: ecce toro Venus improvisa resedit, 210
 sicut erat mutata deam mentitaque pictis
 vestibus et magica Circei Titanida virga.
 ista, velut lenti fallatur imagine somni,

¹ amplexumque pati *Edd.*: amplexuque petit *V.*

² Iuno *Burmān* Iuno *V.*

³ After this line *V* has hoc satis ipse etiam spectare supremos: *Kramer* would replace the last three words with putes miseræ quod linquitur unum.

will compel her herself to subdue with triple chant the fire-breathing bulls, and to suffer embraces." Juno spies winged Iris and bids her swiftly obey Dione's command and bring the Aesonian youth to the appointed grove. Iris forthwith seeks out the Minyae, and Cytherea the Colchian maid; Juno takes her seat upon the rocks of Caucasus to watch the issue, keeping her wondering gaze turned in hope and fear toward the Aeaeian walls, and ignorant yet of what will befall.

Scarce had Venus from her hiding-place cast her first glance upon the city, when lo! a new sickness fastens on the maiden's heart, and redoubled is passion and new-stirred lament. Once more then she lets her varied fancies play upon the stranger, and in sorrowful thought thus vainly addresses the absent one: "Ah, would that thy mother now perchance, or thy wife (if alas! thou hast a wife), could aid thee with Thessalian spells! What can a maiden do but grieve for thy toils? Ah me! may I not be forced to behold thy final fate, and once more to bear my heartless sister company! Even now he deems that none is moved to sorrow by his lot, nor remembers him at all, and with all the rest he hates me too. Yet if ever any power be mine, those ashes that shall lie last upon the ghastly field, those bones that bulls and devouring fire shall have spared, will I set in order and appoint their resting-place. Then may I rightly love the hero's ghost and pay my duty to his tomb."

Her words were ended: lo! of a sudden Venus was sitting on her bed, changed as she was from heavenly shape and counterfeiting Circe, Titan's daughter, with brodered robe and magic wand. But the girl,

sic oculos incerta tenet magnique sororem
 paulatim putat esse patris; tum flebile gaudens 215
 prosiliit saevaeque ultro tulit oscula divae,
 ac prior: "o tandem, vix tandem reddita Circe
 dura tuis, quae te biugis serpentibus egit
 hinc fuga? quaeve fuit patris mora gratior oris?
 ante et Thessalicae Phasin petiere carinae 220
 perque tot infelix frustra vada venit Iason,
 quam patriae te movit amor." tum cetera rumpit
 occurritque Venus: "tu nunc mihi causa viarum
 sola: tuae venio iam pridem gnara iuventae;
 cetera parce queri neu me meliora secutam 225
 argue; quippe (ut iam reputentur¹ munera divum)
 omnibus hunc potius communem animantibus orbem,
 communes et crede deos. patriam inde vocato,
 qua redit itque dies, nec nos, o nata, maligna²
 cluseris hoc uno semper sub frigore mente. 230
 fas mihi non habiles, fas et tibi linquere Colchos.
 et nunc Ausonii coniunx ego regia Pici,
 nec mihi flammiferis horrent ibi pascua tauris,
 meque vides Tusci dominam maris. at tibi quinam
 Sauromatae, miseranda, proci? cui vadis Hiberno 235
 (ei mihi!) vel saevo coniunx non una Gelono?"

¹ ut iam reputentur *Heinoius*: etiam reputentur *V.*

² maligna cluseris . . . mente *Summers*: malignus cluserit . . . mensis *V.*

as though mocked by the lingering image of a dream, gazes perplexed and only little by little deems her to be the sister of her mighty sire; then in tearful joy she sprang forward and of her own accord kissed the cruel goddess, and first addressed her: "Circe! at last, scarce at last, cruel one! restored to thine own—why did the yoked snakes bear thee hence in flight? What sojourning was more pleasing to thee than my father's land? The ship of Thessaly hath reached Phasis and hapless Jason hath come in vain through so many perils ere love of thine own land moved thee." Then Venus checks further speech and thus rejoins:¹ "Thou alone art the cause of this my journey; I come knowing long since thou art no longer a child; spare thy complaints, nor blame me who have chosen a better lot; nay (that now we may bear in mind heaven's gifts), deem rather that this world is shared by all living souls, and shared too are the gods. Call that thy country where the sun goes forth and back again; seek not, my child, with unfeeling heart to imprison me in this eternal cold. I had a right—as thou too hast—to leave the unprofitable Cochians. And now am I Ausonian Pícus' royal consort, nor are my meadows there unsightly with flame-breathing bulls, but in me thou beholdest the mistress of the Tuscan sea. But what kind of suitors are the Sauromatae for thee, poor child? To what Hiberian (Heaven help me!) or fierce Gelonian wilt thou go, one among many wives!"

¹ Venus masquerading as Circe hints at the advantages of the western lands in contrast with the unpleasant north; Medea might well do worse than follow Circe's example, who has married an Ausonian prince; there is a touch of Stoic cosmopolitanism in 226-8.

Illa deae contra iamdudum spernere voces ;
 " non ita me immemorem magnae Perseidos " inquit
 " cernis, ut infelix thalamos ego cogar in illos.
 i, precor, atque illum pro me dimitte timorem. 240
 sed magis his miseram, quando potes, eripe curis,
 unde metus aestusque mihi, quaeque aspera, mater,
 perpetior dubiae ¹ iamdudum incendia mentis.
 nulla quies animo, nullus sopor, arida lingua.²
 quaere malis nostris requiem mentemque repo-
 nens 245
 redde diem noctemque mihi, da prendere vestes
 somniferas istaque oculos componere virga.
 tu quoque nil, mater, prodes mihi ; fortior ante
 sola fui. tristes thalamos infestaque cerno
 omnia, vipereos ipsi tibi surgere crines." 250
 talia verba dabat conlapsaque flebat iniquae
 in Veneris Medea sinus pestemque latentem
 ossibus atque imi monstrabat pectoris ignem.
 Occupat amplexu Venus et furialia figit
 oscula permixtumque odiis inspirat amorem. 255
 dumque illam variis maerentem vocibus ambit
 inque alio sermone tenet, " quin hoc " ait " audi
 atque attolle genas " lacrimisque haec infit orbitis :
 " cum levis Hesperis ad te modo laberer oris,

¹ dubiae *Burmans* : durae *V.*

² lingua *suppl. Bury om. V.*

¹ Hecate is frequently called by this name (Ovid, *Met.* 7. 74, Statius, *Theb.* 4. 481, besides Apollonius) because she was the daughter of Persaeus (Homeric Hymn to Demeter, 24), a Titan. Medea means that she has not so forgotten the magic spells taught her by Hecate as to be driven helplessly into a marriage she does not desire. But "Perseis" may mean Circe here, whom she is addressing: "I have not so

Straightway she spoke in answer, scorning the goddess' words: "Not so forgetful of great Perseis' dost thou see me as to be driven, a hapless victim, into such wedlock. Prithee, lay aside that fear on my behalf. But rather save me, for thou canst, from these wretched cares, whence come to me fears and tumults and all the fiery torment of perplexity, O mother,² that I have long suffered. My mind knows no peace, I sleep not, my tongue is dry. Seek some respite for my ills and make my mind sound again ; give me back day and night, grant me to take thy sleep-bringing raiment and to close my eyelids with that wand of thine.³ Thou, too, mother, art no help to me ; I was stronger alone before. A baneful marriage do I see, and all things threatening harm, and on thine own brow serpents rising erect."⁴ So spake Medea, and fell weeping on cruel Venus' bosom, showing how the plague lurked in her bones and how the fire burnt at her heart's core.

Venus clasps the girl in her embrace, imprinting kisses that drive to frenzy and inspiring love mingled with hatred. And while she soothes her grief with various converse and occupies her with talk of other things: "Nay, listen to this," she says, "lift up thy face," and thus begins amid her sobs: "When I was gliding to thee anon from Hesperian lands, I far forgotten your example." Circe was the daughter of Perse (Apollonia, 4. 591).

² Circe was of course Medea's aunt.

³ Circe is assumed to have the power to bring sleep upon people by means of her wand ; the reference to raiment that causes sleep appears to be an invention of the poet ; the wand is in Homer, *Od.* 10, 238, etc.

⁴ Even Circe seems like a Fury to Medea in her gloomy foreboding.

forte ratem primo fugientem litore cerno, 260
 qualem nostra suo nunquam dimittere portu
 vellet, adhuc omnes quae detinet insula nautas,
 unus ibi ante alios qui tum mihi pulchrior omnes
 visus erat (longeque ducem mirabar et ipsa)
 advolat atque unam comitum ratus esse tuarum 265
 'per tibi si quis' ait 'morituri protinus horror,
 ac quem non meritis videas occurrere monstis,
 haec precor, haec dominae referas ad virginis aurem
 ac fletus ostende meos; illi has ego voces,
 qua datur, hasque manus, ut possum, a litore tendo.
 ipsae, quas mecum per mille pericula traxi, 271
 defecere deae; spes et via sola salutis,
 quam dederit, si forte dabit. ne vota repellat,
 ne mea; totque animas, quales nec viderit ultra,
 dic, precor, auxilio iuvet atque haec nomina
 servet. 275
 ei mihi, quod nullas hic possum exsolvere grates!¹
 ac tamen hoc saeva corpus de morte receptum,
 hanc animam sciat esse suam. miserebitur ergo?
 dic, ait, an potius²—strictumque ruebat in ense.
 promisi; ne falle, precor. cumque ipsa moverer 280
 adloquio casuque viri, te passa rogari
 sum potius; tu laude nova, tu supplice digno
 dignior es; sat fama meis iam parta venenis.
 si Pelopis duros prior Hippodamia labores
 expedit totque ora simul vulgata procorum 285
 respiciens tandem patrios exhorruit axes,
 si dedit ipsa neci fratrem Minoia virgo:

¹ 276-83, which follow 291 in MSS., were first transposed by Thilo.

² It may be noted that here alone Valerius has forgotten that the Argo was the first ship and that therefore there could not have been any other sailors for Circe to detain.

beheld by chance a ship on the point to flee from the shore's verge, such a ship as my island, which ever yet detains all mariners, would wish never to send forth from its haven.¹ One there who seemed to me more comely than all the rest (and indeed I had been admiring the prince from afar) hastened up, and thinking me one of thy companions, 'I implore thee,' he says, 'if thou canst feel any awe for one who soon must die, and whom thou seest exposed to unmerited horrors, take this message to the ear of her that is thy mistress and tell her of my sorrows; to her do I send these words, in what wise I may, and hold out these hands, as best I can, here from the shore. Those same goddesses² whom I brought with me through a thousand perils now have failed me; my sole hope and means of safety is that which she will give, if so be she give it. Let her not refuse this prayer, this prayer of mine; bid her, I pray thee, lend aid to all these lives, that she will not even see hereafter, and preserve these names. Alas! that here I can pay no debt of gratitude; yet let her know that this body, saved from a cruel death, this soul is hers. Will she have pity, then? Speak,' said he, 'or rather——' and he was falling upon his naked sword. I promised: fail him not, I beg thee. And though I was moved myself by the hero's lot and his appeal, I have suffered thee rather to hear his prayer; thou art more worthy of new glory, of a suppliant worthy thee; my spells have gained for me fame enough already. If Hippodamia of old made easy the stern task of Pelops, and seeing so many suitors' heads exposed at last felt horror of her father's chariot, if the Minoan maid did her own

² Juno and Minerva.

cur non hospitibus fas sit succurrere dignis
 te quoque et Aeaeos iubeas mitescere campos?
 occidat aeterna tandem Cadmeia morte 290
 iam seges et viso fumantes hospite tauri."

Torserat illa gravi iamdudum lumina vultu
 vix animos dextramque tenens, quín ipsa loquentis
 iret in ora deae; tanta pudor aestuat ira. 295
 iamque toro trepidas infelix obruit aures
 verba cavens; horror molles invaserat artus,
 nec quo ferre fugam nec quo se vertere posset
 prensa videt; rupta condi tellure premique
 iamdudum cupit ac diras evadere voces.

Ille sequi iubet et portis expectat in ipsís. 300
 saevus Echionía ceu Penthea Bacchus in aula
 deserit infectis per rosida cornua vittis,
 cum tenet ille deum, pudibundaque tegmina matris
 tympanaque et mollem subito miser accipit hastam:
 haud aliter deserta pavet perque omnia circum 305
 fert oculos tectisque negat procedere virgo.
 contra saevus amor, contra periturus Iason
 urget et auditae crescunt in pectore voces.
 heu quid agat? videt externo se prodere patrem
 dura viro, famam scelerum iamque ipsa suorum 310

¹ Kramer thinks that the speech should end at 283, *sut fama meis iam parta venenis*, and that the lines that follow are an alternative passage which the poet intended to substitute for 288-91. Hippodamia was the daughter of Oenomaus, and helped her lover Pelops to defeat him in the chariot-race in which all suitors had to compete with him. Ariadne helped Theseus to kill the Minotaur, the offspring of her mother Pasiphae by a bull.

² Apparently wine is meant, which bedews the fillets of the god; but the expression is obscure; it is difficult, though, to see how it can refer to Pentheus. Bacchus was frequently

brother to death, why shouldst not thou righteously succour worthy strangers, and bid the Aeaean fields grow more merciful? Let Cadmus' harvest sink now in eternal death at last, and the bulls that breathe flame when they espy a stranger."¹

Long had Medea been rolling her eyes with lowering look, as she scarce held back her angry hands from flying at the very face of the goddess as she spoke; so wrathful is the tumult of shame within her. And now the wretched girl pressed her terrified ears upon the couch lest the voice reach them, and shuddering seized her tender limbs. Nor sees she whither to fly, or where, thus trapped, to turn; long has she desired to be buried and crushed in a gulf of earth, and so to escape those dreadful words.

The goddess bids her follow and waits for her in the very gateway. Even as angry Bacchus leaves Pentheus in Echion's hall, his fillets stained with the moisture from his horns,² while he, full of the god, suddenly seizes, poor fool, his mother's shameful raiment and timbrels and womanly spear; not otherwise fears the girl when she is left alone and casts her gaze around and is fain not to leave the palace. Yet on the other hand cruel passion and Jason's danger urge her on, and the words she has heard gain force within her breast. Alas, what is she to do? She knows full well she is heartlessly betraying her father to a stranger, and now she foresees the fame of her own crimes, and

represented in art as horned. The reference is to the story of Pentheus, king of Thebes, who disguised himself as a Bacchanal in order to spy on the Bacchic revel led by his mother Agave.

prospicit, et questu superos questuque fatigat
Tartara; pulsat humum manibusque immurmurat
uncis

noctis eram Ditemque ciens, succurrere tandem
morte velint ipsumque simul demittere leto,
quem propter furit; absentem saevissima poscit 315
nunc Pelian, tanta iuvenem qui perderet ira.
saepe suas misero promittere destinat artes,
dein negat atque una potius decernit obire;¹
ac neque tam turpi cessuram semper amori
proclamat neque opem ignoto viresque daturam; 320
atque toro proiecta manet, cum visa vocari
rursus et impulso sonuerunt cardine postes.

Ergo ubi nescio quo penitus se numine vinci
sentit et abscisum quidquid pudor ante monebat,
tum thalami penetrare petit, quae maxima norat 325
auxilia Haemoniae quaerens pro rege carinae.
utque procul magicis spirantia tecta venenis
et saevae patuere fores oblataque contra
omnia, quae ponto, quae manibus eruit imis
et quae sanguineo lunae destrinxit ab ore,² 330
"tunc sequeris" ait "quidquam aut patiēre puden-
dum,

cum tibi tot mortes scelerisque brevissima tanti
effugia?" haec dicens, qua non velocior³ ulla
pestis erat, toto nequiquam lumine lustrat
cunctaturque super morituraque colligit iras. 335
o nimium iucunda dies, quam cara sub ipsa

¹ obire *Baehrens*: in ira *V*: in hora *Heinsius*.

² sanguineo . . . ore *Heinsius*: sanguinea . . . ira *V*.

³ velocior ulla pestis erat *d'Oroville*: velocius ulla pestiferam
MSS. (322-59 are lost in *V*): velocius herba pestifera est
Baehrens.

¹ By taking her own life she can escape the loss of honour
and fair fame.

wearies heaven above and Tartarus beneath with her complaints; she beats upon the ground, and murmuring into her clutching hands calls on the Queen of Night and Dis to bring her aid by granting death, and to send him who is the cause of all her madness down with her to destruction; and now she fiercely demands Pelias, who vented his wrath so murderously upon the youth; often again she is resolved to promise her skill to the unhappy man, then again refuses, and is determined rather to perish with him; and she cries that never will she yield to so base a passion nor proffer powerful aid to one she knows not; and on her bed she stays outstretched, when once again she seemed to be summoned, and the doors grated as their hinges moved.

When therefore she felt that she was being utterly vanquished by some strange power, and that all shame's former promptings were torn away, then sought she her secret bower to find the mightiest aid she knew for the captain of the Haemonian ship. And when from afar the chambers breathing magic spells burst open and the grim doors flew wide, and she gazed at all that she had torn from the ocean-bed or from the shades below, or drawn down from the blood-red visage of the moon, "Wilt thou pursue," she said, "or submit to aught that is shameful, when thou hast so many means of death and quick escape from a deed so wicked?"¹ So saying, she gazes with full force of her vision, but all in vain, upon the swiftest of her poisons, and lingers over it, and would fain summon up her wrath upon death's brink.² Ah! daylight all too sweet, and dearer yet in the very hour of death!

² She tries to be angry with herself for yielding to her passion, but the love of life is too strong.

morte magis! stetit et sese mirata furentem est.
 "occidis, heu, primo (potes hoc durare?) sub aevo,
 nec tu lucis" ait, "nec videris ulla iuventae
 gaudia, non dulces fratris pubescere malas? 340
 hunc quoque, quicumque est, crudelis, Iasona
 nescis
 morte perire tua? qui te nunc invocat unam,
 qui rogat et nostro quem prima in litore vidi.
 cur tibi fallaces placuit coniungere dextras
 tunc, pater, atque istis iuvenem non perdere
 monstros 345
 protinus? ipsa etiam, fateor, tunc ipsa volebam.
 testor cara tuas, Circe Titania, voces,
 te ducente sequor, tua me grandaeva fatigant
 consilia et monitis cedo minor." haec ubi fata,
 rursus ad Haemonii iuvenis curamque metumque 350
 vertitur; hunc solum propter seu vivere gaudens
 sive mori, quodcumque velit, maiora precatur
 carmina, maiores Hecaten immittere vires
 nunc sibi, nec notis stabat contenta venenis.
 cingitur inde sinus et, qua sibi fida magis vis 355
 nulla, Prometheae florem de sanguine fibrae
 Caesaeum promit nutritaque gramina ventis,¹
 quae sacer ille nives inter tristesque pruinas
 durat alitque erior, cum viscere vultur adeso
 tollitur e scopulis et rostro inrorat aperto. 360
 idem nec longi languescit finibus aevi
 immortale virens, idem stat fulmina contra
 salvus et in mediis florescunt ignibus herbae.
 prima Hecate Stygis duratam fontibus harpen
 intulit et validas scopulis effodit aristas; 365
 mox famulae monstrata seges, quae lampade Phoebes

¹ ventis Haupt: ponti MSS.

She stood, and marvelling at her frenzy, "Alas!" she cries, "thou wilt die in the first flush of life! Hast thou the heart? Wilt thou lose all the joys of youth, nor see the sweet down grow upon thy brother's cheeks? This Jason too, whoe'er he be, knowest thou not, cruel one, that thy death will kill him? Jason, who now implores and beseeches thee alone, whom I was first to see upon our strand. Why was it thy pleasure, my father, to join then in treacherous friendship and not straightway destroy the youth with thy monsters? Myself, I avow, myself I wished it then. Dear Circe, Titan's daughter, I call thy words to witness, where thou ledest I will follow, thy ancient wisdom overbears me, and in my youthfulness I yield to thy counsels." When she had spoken thus, she turns once more to anxiety and fear for the Haemonian youth; glad on his behalf alone to love or die, whatever he may wish, she prays Hecate to send her now more potent spells and mightier powers, nor abides contented with the drugs she knew. Then she girds up her robe and takes forth a Caucasian herb, of potency sure beyond all others, sprung of the gore that dropped from the liver of Prometheus, and grass wind-nurtured, fostered and strengthened by that blood divine among snows and grisly frosts, when the vulture rises from his feasting on the flesh and from his open beak bedews the cliffs. That flower knows not the languor of a long term of life, but stands, immortally fresh, against the thunderbolt, and in the midst of lightnings its leaves are green. Hecate first, plying a blade that Stygian springs had hardened, tore forth the strong stalk from the rocks; then showed she the plant to her handmaid, who beneath

sub decima iuga feta metit saevitque per omnes
 reliquias saniemque dei; gemit inritus ille
 Colchidos ora tuens; toto tunc contrahit artus
 monte dolor cunctaeque tremunt sub falce catenae.

Talibus infelix contra sua regna venenis 371
 induitur noctique tremens inferitur opacae.
 dat dextram vocemque Venus blandisque paventem
 adloquiis iunctoque trahit per moenia passu.
 qualis adhuc teneros ut primum ¹ pallida fetus 375
 mater ab excelso produxit in aethera nido
 hortaturque sequi brevibusque insurgere pinnis,
 illos caerulei primus ferit horror Olympi,
 iamque redire rogant adsuetaque quaeritur arbor:
 haud aliter caecae per moenia deficit urbis 380
 incedens horretque domos Medea silentes.
 hic iterum extremae nequiquam in limine portae
 substitit atque iterum fletus animique soluti,
 respexitque deam paulumque his vocibus haesit:
 " ipse rogat certe meque ipse implorat Iason? 385
 nullane culpa subest, labes non ulla pudoris,
 nullus amor? nec turpe viro servire precanti? "
 illa nihil contra vocesque abrumpit inanes.
 et iam iam magico per opaca silentia Colchis
 coeperat ire sono, montanaque condere vultus 390
 numina cumque suis averti collibus amnes;
 iam stabulis gregibusque pavor strepitusque sepulcris
 inciderat; stupet ipsa gravi nox tardior umbra,

¹ ut primum *Heinsius*; supremum *V.*

¹ Prometheus suffers anguish when the plant sprung from his blood is gathered; the poet may here have the Virgilian passage about Polydorus in mind (*Aen.* 3, 22 *sqq.*)

² The first time was on the threshold of her house (see 306).

the tenth shining of Phoebe's light reaps the harvest of the mountain-side and rages madly among all the gory relics of the god; fruitlessly doth he groan, beholding the face of the Colchian maid; then over all the mountain pain contracts his limbs, and all his fetters shake beneath her sickle.¹

With such poisons doth the unhappy girl arm herself against her own kingdom, and goes forth trembling into the dark night. Venus lends hand and voice, and with words that soothe her terror and with step joined close to hers leads her through the city. Even as when a fearful mother from the high nest first leads forth into the air her tender brood, and bids them follow her and rise on puny wings, the first shuddering dread of the blue air makes them quail, and soon they pray her to return, and make for their accustomed tree: so faints Medea as she passes through the walls of the unseeing city, and shudders at the silent houses. Here once more ² on the threshold of the outmost gate she halted, in vain, and once more her tears gave vent to passion, and looking on the goddess she stayed awhile, speaking thus: "Is it true that Jason himself is asking, himself imploring me? Lurks here no blame, no stain on modesty, no passion? And is it not shame to serve a man who begs?" Naught answered the other, and cut short her empty words. And now the Colchian began to move through the dark night with sound of magic spells, and the mountain fairies hid their faces and the rivers and their hills shrank away; already had panic fallen upon stall and fold, and there was tumult among the tombs; Night herself, aghast, wheels her dense shade more slowly, and now Venus

iamque tremens longe sequitur Venus; utque sub
altas

pervenere trabes divaeque triformis in umbram, 395
hic subito ante oculos nondum speratus Iason
emicuit, viditque prior conterrita virgo;
atque hinc se profugam volucris Thaumantias ala
sustulit; inde Venus dextrae delapsa tenenti.

obvius ut sera cum se sub nocte magistris 400
impingit pecorique pavor, qualesve profundum
per chaos occurrunt caecae sine vocibus umbrae;
haut secus in mediis noctis nemorisque tenebris
inciderant ambo attoniti iuxtaque subsibant,
abietibus tacitis aut immotis cyparissis 405
adsimiles, rabidus nondum quas miscuit auster.

Ergo ut erat vultu defixus uterque silenti
noxque suum peragebat iter, iam iam ora levare
Aesoniden farique cupit Medea priorem;
quam simul effusus pavantem fletibus heros 410
flagrantesque genas vidit miserumque pudorem,
has tandem voces dedit et solatus amantem est.
"fersne aliquam spem lucis?" ait. "miserata
laborem

nempe venis? an et ipsa mea laetabere morte?
ne, precor, infando similem te, virgo, parenti 415
gesseris, haut tales decet inclementia vultus.
hascine nunc grates, haec expectata laborum
dona dari decuit? sic te sub teste remitti
fas me, virgo? tuas iustis¹ da vocibus aures.
cur pater ille tuus tantis me opponere monstris 420
(quid meritum?) aut tales voluit me pendere poenas?
an iacet externa quod nunc mihi cuspidis Canthus?
quodque meus vestris cecidit pro moenibus Iphis?

¹ tuas iustis *Langen*: tuum iustas *V.*

affrighted follows far behind; and when they came
to the tall trees and the shade of the triple goddess,
suddenly before their eyes Jason, unexpected as
yet, stepped quickly forth, and the terrified maid
beheld him first; and on this side the Thaumantian¹
rose on swift wings and fled, on that Venus slipped
from the hand that grasped her. As when in the
deep of night panic fear comes with full shock on
herd and herdsman, or as when sightless, voiceless
ghosts meet in the abyss of hell: so in the midnight
shadows of the grove did they two meet and draw
nigh each other, awe-struck, like silent firs or
motionless cypresses, when the mad South wind
hath not yet intertwined their boughs.²

While then each stood motionless with silent face,
while night was pursuing her course, Medea longed
every moment that Jason would lift his eyes and be
first to speak; and the hero, when he saw her fear-
struck and weeping, her cheeks afire with piteous
shame, at length spoke, soothing the lovelorn girl:
"Bringst any hope of light?" he said, "comest
thou in pity of my labours? or wilt thou too have
pleasure in my death? I pray thee, maiden, bear
not thyself like thy abhorred sire; cruelty becomes
not a face so beautiful. Was such gratitude now
seemly, such recompense of toil? Should I be so dis-
missed, O maiden, in thy presence? Nay, lend thine
ears to righteous words. Why would thy father
have me grapple with monsters so dire (what have
I deserved?), or suffer retribution thus? Is it that
my Canthus now hath fallen by a foreign spear?
or that my Iphis hath been slain in battle for your

¹ Iris, daughter of Thaumias and Electra (cf. 188).

² This simile is taken from Apollonius (3. 966-71).

aut Scythiae tanta inde manus? iussisset abire
 perfidus atque suis extemplo cedere regnis. 425
 spem mihi promissam per quae discrimina rursus
 et reddat qua lege, vides. occumbere tandem
 possumus, idque sedet, quam non quaecumque subire
 patris iussa tui; numquam sine vellere abibo
 hinc ego, degenerem nec me tu prima videbis." 430

Haec ait; illa tremens, ut supplicis aspicit ora
 conticuisse viri iamque et sua verba reposci,
 nec quibus incipiat demens videt, ordine nec quo,
 quove tenus, prima cupiens effundere voce
 omnia, sed nec prima pudor dat verba timenti. 435
 haeret et attollens vix tandem lumina fatur:
 "quid, precor, in nostras venisti, Thessale, terras?
 unde mei spes ulla tibi? tantosque petisti
 cur non ipse tua fretus virtute labores?
 nempe, ego si patriis timuissem excedere tectis, 440
 occideras, nempe hanc animam pars saeva manebat
 funeris. en ubi Iuno, ubi nunc Tritonia virgo,
 sola tibi quoniam tantis in casibus adsum
 externae regina domus? miraris et ipse,
 credo, nec agnoscunt haec nunc Aetida silvae. 445
 sed fatis sum victa tuis; cape munera supplex
 nunc mea; teque iterum Pelias si perdere quaeret
 inque alios casus, alias si mittet ad urbes,
 heu formae ne crede tuae." Titania iamque
 gramina Perseasque sinu depromere vires 450
 coeperat; his iterum compellat Iasona dictis:

¹ *I.e.* I would have died too.

city? or so many Scythian warriors among the foe?
 He should have bidden me depart, the traitor! and
 straightway leave his realm. Through what perils
 and on what terms he makes good the hopes vouch-
 safed me, thou seest. To die is after all in my
 power, and so am I resolved rather than not undergo
 what'er thy sire commands; never will I go hence
 without the fleece, nor shalt thou first behold me
 lacking in manhood."

So doth he speak; she, trembling and seeing that
 the suppliant's lips have fallen silent and that now
 her words are called for, can find in her bewilder-
 ment no words wherewith to begin, how to order
 or where to end her speech; fain would she pour
 out all in her first utterance, but not even the first
 words doth fear-stricken shame allow her. Still she
 hesitates, and scarce at length lifts up her eyes and
 speaks: "Why earnest thou, man of Thessaly, to
 our land, I pray thee? Whence hopedst thou aught
 of me? Why daredst thou not such labours trusting
 to thine own powers? Verily, had I feared to leave
 my father's house, thou hadst perished, verily a
 share in thy cruel doom awaited this life of mine.¹
 Where now is Juno, where the Tritonian maid,
 since I alone, the princess of a foreign house, am at
 hand to help thee in misfortune? Ay, thou won-
 derest thyself, I ween, nor doth this woodland know
 me for Aetes' daughter. But I am overborne by
 thy destiny; take now my gifts, O suppliant; and
 if once more Pelias seeks to destroy thee, and sends
 thee to other risks and other cities, ah! trust not to
 thy beauty!" And already had she begun to take
 the Titanian herbs and Persean potencies from her
 bosom; once more she addresses Jason thus:

" si tamen aut superis aliquam spem ponis in istis
 aut tua praesenti virtus educere leto
 si te forte potest, etiam nunc deprecor, hospes,
 me sine et insontem misero dimitte parenti." 455
 dixerat, extemploque (etenim¹ matura ruebant
 sidera et extremo se flexerat axe Bootes)²
 cum genitu et multo iuveni medicamina fletu
 non secus ac patriam pariter famamque decusque
 obicit. ille manu subit et vim corripit omnem. 460

Inde ubi facta nocens et non revocabilis nunquam
 cessit ab ore pudor propiorque implevit Erinys,
 carmina nunc totos volvit figitque per artus
 Aesonidae et totum septeno murmure fertur
 per clipeum atque viro graviorem reddidit hastam;
 iamque sui tauris languent absentibus ignes. 466
 " nunc age et has," inquit " cristas galeamque
 resume,

quam modo funerea tenuit Discordia dextra.
 hanc iace per medias, cum verteris aquora, messes;
 protinus in sese conversa furoribus ibit 470
 cuncta phalanx, atque ipse fremens mirabitur et
 me

respiciet fortasse pater." sic deinde locuta
 iam magis atque magis mentem super alta ferebat
 aquora, pandentes Minyas iam vela videbat
 se sine. tum vero extremo percussa dolore 475
 arripit Aesoniden dextra ac summissa profatur:
 " sis memor, oro, mei, contra memor ipsa manebo,
 crede, tui, quando hinc aberis, dic quaeso, pro-
 fundi
 quod caeli spectabo latus? sed te quoque tangat

¹ etenim *Baehrens*: neque enim *V.*

² extremo se flexerat axe Bootes *Heinsius*: extremum suffecerat axe *Boonten V.*

" Yet if thou puttest any hope in those gods of thine, or if thine own powers can save thee perchance from present doom, even now, I pray thee, O stranger, let me go and send me back guiltless to my unhappy sire." So spake she, and forthwith (for the stars were hastening to their setting, and Bootes had swung to the horizon's edge) with groans and tears she proffered the poisons to the youth, as though it were her country and her glory and good fame that she was giving. He reaches forth his hand and grasps all their potency.

Then, when she was made guilty and irrevocable shame had gone for ever from her cheeks and the Fury's nearer influence mastered her, spell after spell doth she bind and pour upon all the limbs of the son of Aeson, and with sevenfold muttering goes over all his shield and makes the hero's spear more deadly; and already though far away the bulls feel their fires languishing. "Come now," she says, "take again this crested helm which Discord held but now in her death-bringing hand. When thou hast turned the sods, hurl this into the midst of the harvest: straightway shall all the troop turn upon themselves in rage, and my father himself shall cry aloud in wonder, and turn his gaze mayhap on me." As she thus spoke, more and more now she was letting her thoughts roam on the high seas, and already saw the Minyae spreading sail without her. Then indeed, pierced by grief's bitterest pang, she clutched the hand of Jason and humbly besought him thus: "Remember me, I pray, for never, believe me, shall I be forgetful of thee. When thou art gone, tell me, I beg, on what quarter of the heaven must I gaze? Ah, but do thou too have

cura mei quocumque loco, quoscumque per annos;
 atque hunc te meminisse velis et nostra fateri 481
 munera, servatum pudeat nec virginis arte.
 ei mihi, cur nullos spargunt¹ tua lumina fletus?
 an me mox merita morituram patris ab ira
 dissimulas? te regna tuae felicitia gentis, 485
 te coniunx natique manent; ego prodita obibo,
 nec quoror et pro te lucem quoque laeta relinquam."
 protinus hospes ad haec (tacitis nam cantibus illum
 flexerat et simili iamdudum adflarat amore)
 "tunc" ait "Aesoniden quicquam te velle re-
 licta 491
 credis et ulla pati² sine te loca? redde tyranno
 me potius, recipe ingratos atque exue cantus.
 quis mihi lucis amor? patriam cur amplius optem,
 si non et genitor te primam amplectitur Aeson,
 teque tuo longe fulgentem vellere gaudens 495
 spectat et ad primos procurrit³ Graecia fluctus?
 respice ad has voces et iam, precor, adnue, coniunx.
 per te, quae superis divisque potentior imis,
 perque haec, virgo, tuo redeuntia sidera nutu
 atque per has nostri iuro discriminis horas: 500
 unquam ego si meriti sim noctis et⁴ immemor
 huius,
 si te sceptrum, domum, si te liquisse parentes
 senseris et me unquam non haec promissa tuentem,⁵
 tum me non tauros iuvet evasisse ferosque
 terrigenas, tum me tectis tua turbet in ipsis 505
 flamma tuaeque artes; nullus succurrere contra

some thought of me, wheresoever thou art, how long soever the years; remember that such was thy plight to-day, confess that the gifts were mine, and be not ashamed to have been saved by a girl's skill. Ah, why do no tears stream from thine eyes? Thou knowst full well that my father in righteous wrath will slay me. For thee a prosperous throne in thine own land, a wife and children are waiting: for me desertion waits and death. Yet I complain not; gladly for thee would I leave the light itself." Quickly spoke the stranger in reply (for with silent magic had she swayed him and inspired long since an answering passion): "Thinkest thou that Jason desires aught at the price of deserting thee, or can endure any place on earth without thee? Nay, give me up rather to the tyrant, take back and strip me of thy thankless spells. What love of the light have I? why should I hope for my country any more, if my father Aeson folds thee not first to his embrace, while Grecia joyously sees thee glittering from afar with thine own fleece and runs to the sea's verge to meet thee? Have regard to these words of mine, and be gracious now, I pray thee—wife! By this power that sways alike gods above and gods below, by the stars whose course thy will, O maiden, can turn, by this hour of our peril do I swear: if ever I forget this night, this deed of thine, thy flight from sceptre, home and parents, if thou find me ever regardless of this promise, then let it not avail me to have escaped the bulls and the savage earth-born men, then in my very home let thy flames and cunning arts affright me; let none be nigh to help

¹ spargunt *Burmans*: stringunt *V*.

² pati *Gronovius*: peti *V*.

³ procurrit *Heinsius*: procumbit *V*.

⁴ meriti sim noctis et *O*: si meritis noctis *V*: meriti si noctis sim *Langen* (sum *Baehrens*).

⁵ tuentem *Heinsius*: videntem *V*.

ingrato queat, et siquid tu saevius istis,
adicias meque in medio terrore relinquas."
audiit atque simul meritis periuria poenis
despondet questus semper Furor ultus amantum. 510

Haec ubi dicta, tamen perstant defixus uterque,
et nunc ora levant audaci laeta iuventa,
ora simul totiens dulcis rapientia visus,
nunc deicit vultus aeger pudor et mora dictis
redditur. at rursus compellat Iasona virgo: 515
"accipe, perdomitis quae deinde pericula tauris
et quis in Aeolio maneat te vellere custos;
nondum cuncta tibi, fateor, promissa peregi.
saevior ingenti Mavortis in arbore restat,
crede, labor, quem—tanta utinam fiducia nostri 520
sit tibi¹ nocturnaeque Hecates nostrique vigoris."
dixerat, utque virum doceat, quae monstra supersint,
protinus immensis recubantem anfractibus anguem
turbat et Haemonii subito ducis obicit umbram.
ille, quod haud alias, stetit et trepidantia torsit 525
sibila, seque metu postquam sua vellera circum
sustulit atque omnis spiris exhorruit arbor,
incipit inde sequi et vacuo furit ore per auras.
"quis fragor hic? quaeenam tantae, dic virgo, ruinae?"
exclamat stricto Aesonides stans frigidus ense. 530
illa trahit ridens tandemque ait angue represso:
"hunc tibi postremum nostri parat ira parentis;
heu miser, heu tantis iterum carpere² periculis.

¹ tibi *Langen*: mihi *V*.

² carpere *Bury*: mihi ore *V*: carpende *C*.

¹ The snake lunges with his fangs here and there in a vain attempt to seize the intruder.

² Only one more peril remains, she says, and if she could see him safely accomplishing that task she would gladly die.

me thus ungrateful, and if thou hast aught more baleful than these, add it, and amid my terror leave me." The Fury heard it, who ever avenges the complaints of lovers, and therewith pledged due retribution to his perjury.

So spake he, yet both stand with downcast gaze; and now they lift their eyes that glow with the joy of daring youth, eyes that together snatch many a sweet glance, now in sick shame their faces fall again, and speech is stifled. Yet once more the maiden addresses Jason: "Hear what perils are yet to come when thou hast quelled the bulls, and what a warder of the Aeolian fleece awaits thee; not yet, I avow, have I performed all my promises. There remains yet a direr task, believe me, at the huge tree of Mars, a task which—ah, would that thou hadst so much faith in me and in Hecate, queen of night, and in the power we sway!" She spoke, and that she might show the hero what monsters yet remained, she forthwith roused the snake reposing on his innumerable curves and suddenly cast upon him the shadow of the Haemonian prince. The snake, as never before, lifted his head and sent forth vibrant hisses; and when in alarm he had raised himself about the fleece he guarded, while all the tree bristled with his coils, then he began to search, and raged through the air with empty jaws.¹ "What noise is this? tell me, O maid, what mean these crashing sounds?" cries Jason, as chill with alarm he stands and bares his sword. Smiling she draws him aside, and putting the snake to silence speaks at length:² "He is the last of all that my father's anger has in store for thee; alas! unhappy man, once more alas! shalt thou bear the brunt of danger. Ah,

o utinam o nullo te sim visura labore
 ipsum¹ caeruleis squalentem nexibus onnum 535
 ipsaque pervigilis calcare volumina monstri,
 contingat mihi² deinde mori!" sic fata profugit
 seque sub extremis in moenia rettulit umbris.

Et iam puniceo regem spes vana sub ortu
 extulerat, quantis nox una diremerit undis 540
 Aesoniden, liberne freto iam vultus aperto
 utque prius totum sileat mare. dumque ea longe
 explorare parat, contra venit Arcas Echion
 dicta ferens, iam Circaeis Mavortis in agris
 stare virum, daret acripedes in proelia tauros. 545
 "en vocor en ultro" dixit spesque addidit alas.
 "vos mihi nunc primum in flammis invertite, tauri,
 aequora, nunc totos aperite et volvite flatus.
 exeat Haemonio messis memoranda colono,
 tuque tuum patri in Graios³ da, nata, draconem. 550
 ipsius aspectu pereant in velleris,⁴ ipsa
 terga mihi diros servent infecta cruores."
 fatur et effusus pandi iubet aequora tauris.
 pars et Echionii subeunt immania dentis
 semina, pars diri portant grave robur aratri. 555
 at sua magnanimum contra Pagasaea iuventus
 prosequitur stipatque ducem; tum maxima quisque
 dicta dedit saevisque procul discessit ab agris.
 fixerat ille gradus totoque ex agmine solus
 stabat, ut extremis desertus ab orbibus ales,⁵ 560
 quem iam lassa dies austrique ardentis harenae,

¹ ipsum *Langen*: ipsam *V.*

² mihi *Maserius*: vix *V*: bis *Postgate*.

³ Graios *Edd.*: Graium *V.*

⁴ velleris *Koestlin*: vellera in *V.*

⁵ ales *Bussen, Summers*: ab orbibus axis *V* (ab orbibus *M*).

would I could see thee without hardship climbing unaided this ash, all rough and dark with interlacing spires, and trampling the very folds of the sleepless monster! Ah! then might I die!" So saying she fled, and betook herself to the city as darkness waned.

And now beneath the scarlet dawn vain hope had sent the king abroad, wondering how great a stretch of waters one night had set between him and Aeson's son, whether the sea was open and inviting to behold and all the ocean quiet as before. And while he is preparing to spy it out from afar, Echion the Arcadian meets him with a message, "that already the hero is standing in the Circean field of Mars: let the king send forth his bronze-footed bulls to battle." "Lo! of his own accord he challenges me," he cried, while hope took wings within him. "Now, bulls, now for the first time plough me the furrows into flame, now open forth and send rolling all your fiery blasts. Let the Haemonian husbandman find a notable harvest to his reaping, and do thou, my daughter, at thy sire's behest ply thy serpent against the Grecians. Let them perish in sight of the fleece itself, let its very hide keep the dread stains of blood for me to see." He speaks, and bids the plain be opened to the charging bulls. Some shoulder the monstrous seeds, the Echionian teeth, others bear the heavy wood of the awful plough. But the great-hearted leader is escorted by a throng of his own men from Pagasae; then with heartening words all withdrew far from the grim fields. Firmly he planted his feet, and out of all his company was standing there alone, as some bird deserted by its wheeling squadrons, cut off by the sands of the burning South where day grows weary, or, as it

aut quem Riphacas extantem rursus ad arces
 nix et caerulei Boreae ferus abstulit horror;
 cum subito attoniti longissima Phasidis unda
 Caucaseaeque trabes omnisque Aetia tellus 565
 fulsit et ardentes stabula effudere tenebras.
 ac velut ex una siquando nube corusci
 ira Iovis torsit geminos mortalibus ignes,
 aut duo cum pariter ruperunt vincula venti
 dantque fugam: sic tunc claustris evasit uterque 570
 taurus et immani proflavit turbine flammam
 arduus, atque atros volvunt incendia fluctus.
 horruit Argoae legio ratis, horruit audax
 qui modo virgineis servari cantibus Idas
 flerat et invito prospexit Colchida vultu. 575
 non tulit ipse moras seseque immisit Iason,
 diversos postquam ire videt, galeamque minantem
 quassat et errantem dextra ciet obvius ignem,
 ut tandem stetit et torvo se lumine flexit
 qui prior adversi respexit Iasonis arma¹
 cunctatus paulum subito furit. aequora non sic 581
 in scopulos irata ruunt eademque recedunt
 fracta retro. bis fulmineis se flatibus infert
 obnubique virum, sed non incendia Colchis
 adspirare sinit, clipeoque inliditur ignis 585
 frigidus et viso pallescit flamma veneno.
 inicit Aesonides dextram atque ardentia mulcet²
 cornua, dein totis propendens viribus haeret.

struggles toward Riphacian heights, by snow and the shuddering fury of the dark North wind; when suddenly the most distant wave of astonished Phasis and the trees of Caucasus and all Aetes' land flashed bright as the stalls poured forth a glowing darkness.¹ And even as on a time the lightning wrath of Jove sends forth from one cloud two fiery brands upon mankind, or as two winds together break prison and escape: so then did the two bulls issue from the barriers and snort forth a mighty whirlwind of fire, holding high their heads and rolling eddies of murky flame. Shuddered the crew of *Argo*, shuddered bold *Idas* who late was lamenting that a girl's spells had saved him, and despite himself gazed at the maid of *Colchis*. *Jason* brooked no delay, but rushed upon them when he saw them parting, and waved his threatening helm, and advancing towards them summons with right hand their wandering fire.² When at length the bull who first saw *Jason's* approaching armour stood still and with angry glance changed his course, he delays a moment, then bursts forth in sudden fury. Not so madly do the seas rush against the cliffs and fall broken back again. Twice with thunderous blasts does he charge the hero and envelop him in cloud, but the *Colchian* suffers not the burning heat to come nigh him, and the fire cools as it rushes upon his shield, and the flame pales when it feels the poisons. *Aesonides* puts forth his right hand and tempers the burning horns, then clinging presses them down with all his

¹ The mingled fire and smoke of the bulls.

² The bulls do not at first see *Jason* and go another way, so that he has to attract them by waving his helmet. This is a realistic touch, probably taken from an actual bull-fight.

¹ 579, 580 are found in *CMNT* om. V.

² mulcet *Bury*: mittit *V*: prendit *Thilo*.

ille virum atque ipsam tunc te, Medea, recusans
 concutit et tota nitentem cornibus ira 590
 portat iners; tandem gravius mugire residens
 incipit et fesso victus descendere cornu.
 respicit hinc socios, immania vincula poscens,
 Aesonides, iamque ora premit trahiturque trahitque,
 obnixusque genu superat, cogitque trementes 595
 sub iuga aena toros. alium dehinc turbida Colchis
 exarmat lentumque offert timideque minantem,
 iamque propinquant noctem implicat; ille fatiscens
 in caput inque umeros ipsa vi molis et irae
 proruit; invadit totusque incumbit Iason 600
 desuper atque suis defectum flatibus urget.
 utque dedit vinclis validoque obstrinxit aratro,
 suscitatur ipse genu saevaue agit insuper hasta,
 non secus a medio quam si telluris hiatus
 terga recentis equi primumque invasit habenis 605
 murmur et in summa Lapithes apparuit Ossa.
 Ille velut campos Libyes ac pingua Nili
 fertilis arva secet, plena sic semina dextra
 spargere gaudet agris oneratque novalia bello.
 Martius hic primum ter vomere fusus ab ipso 610
 clangor et ex omni sonuerunt cornua sulco;
 bellatrix tunc gleba quati pariterque creari

¹ A reference to the story of how Neptune rent the earth and sent forth the first horse from the chasm. Lapithes was a son of Apollo, and the ancestor of the tribe of Lapithae.

might. The bull struggles against the hero and against even thee then, Medea, and would fain shake him off, and standing motionless bears him, as he wrestles with all his rage, upon his horns; at length sinking down he begins to bellow with a deeper note, his horns are weary and he falls to the ground beaten. Then the son of Aeson glances towards his friends, calling for the huge bridle, and now he has closed his mouth, drags him and is dragged, and pressing his knee against him overpowers him, and forces the quivering shoulders beneath the brazen yoke. The other bull then does the anxious Colchian rob of his terrors, and brings him to Jason moving slowly and threatening but timidly, and now as he draws near she casts a cloud about him; exhausted he falls upon his head and shoulders by the sheer force of his weight and angry rage: Jason is upon him and from above plies all his strength and presses him down, his own blasts failing him. And when he has got him beneath the yoke and bound him fast in the strong plough, with his knee he makes him rise and goads him also with the ruthless spear: just as when from the midst of the yawning earth a horse came newly forth, and Lapithes leapt upon its back and checked its first neighing with a bridle, and appeared on Ossa's summit.¹

Then, as though it were the Libyan plain or the fertile plough-lands of rich Nile that he was cleaving, he joyfully scatters the seeds by handfuls on the ground and burdens the newly-tilled land with war. Then thrice from the very ploughshare issued the trump of Mars and from every furrow blared the horns; then was the warlike soil shaken, and the

armarique phalanx totisque insurgere campis.
 cessit et ad socios paulum se rettulit heros
 opperiens, ubi prima sibi daret agmina tellus. 615
 at vero ut summis iam rura recedere cristis
 vidit et infesta vibrantes casside terras,
 advolat atque imo tellus qua proxima collo
 necdum umeri videre diem, prior ense sequaci
 aequat humo truncos; rutilum thoraca sequentum¹
 aut primas a matre manus premit obvius ante. 621
 nec magis aut illis aut illis milibus ultra
 sufficit, ad dirae quam cum Tiryntius hydrae
 agmina Palladios defessus respicit ignes.
 ergo iterum ad socias convertere Colchidos artes, 625
 et galeae nexus ac vincula dissipat imae,
 cunctaturque tamen totique occurrere bello
 ipse cupit; spes nulla datur, sic undique densant
 terrigenae iam signa duces, clamorque tubaeque.
 iamque omnes videre virum, iamque omnia contra 630
 tela volant. tum vero amens discrimine tanto,
 quam modo Tartareo galeam Medea veneno²

in medios torsit; conversae protinus hastae.
 qualis ubi attonitos maestae Phrygas annua Matris
 ira vel exectos lacerat Bellona comatos: 636
 haud secus accensas subito Medea cohortes

¹ sequentum *Bury*: sequenti *V*.

² *C* reads here *infoclam dederat ususque armarat in illos* which cannot be accepted because of the fault in scansion, though it probably expresses the sense of the lost line.

¹ The use of fire in combating the Hydra was suggested to Hercules by Minerva.

² Cybele mourning for Attis; Bellona, goddess of war, whose priestesses and votaries, eunuchs called Bellonarii, cut

phalanx took life and arms together, and sprang up over all the plain. The hero withdrew and betook himself for a space to his companions, waiting till the earth should show him the first troop. But when he saw the furrows at last open before the summits of the crests, and the surface quivering with the helmet-peaks, he darted upon them, and where the earth lay closest to the base of their necks, nor yet had their shoulders seen the light, quick to the work with obedient sword he levels the trunks with the ground; and as they follow, gleaming corselet or hands first rising from their mother doth he attack and lays them low ere they can strike. Yet suffices he not for the thousands who on this side and on that are springing up, any more than when the Tiryntian wearied in fight against the hydra's dreadful hosts turned to the fires of Pallas.¹ Once more then he has recourse to the Colchian's friendly arts, and disjoins the chain and fastening at his helmet's base; yet he hesitates and would fain himself challenge the whole array; but no hope offers, so closely throng the banners of the earth-born on every side, so loud their shouts and trumpet calls. And now all caught sight of the man, and at once all weapons are flying at him. Then mad with fear in such peril he flung into their midst the helmet which Medea of late had drugged with hellish poison: straightway the spears were turned about. And just as the anger of the mournful Mother² rends every year the frenzied Phrygians, or as Bellona lacerates the long-haired eunuchs, so doth Medea suddenly inflame and embroil the themselves with knives at her festival (Juvenal, 4. 123; Lucan, 1. 565).

implicat et miseros agit in sua proelia fratres.
 omnis ibi Aesoniden sterni putat, omnibus ira
 talis erat. stupet Aetes utroque furentes 640
 ipse viros revocare cupit, sed cuncta iacebant
 agmina, nec quisquam primus ruit aut super ullus
 linquitur, atque hausit subito sua funera tellus.

Protinus in fluvium fumantibus evolat armis
 Aesonides, qualis Getico de pulvere Mavors 645
 intrat equis uritque gravem sudoribus Hebrum;
 aut niger ex antris rutilique a fulminis aestu
 cum fugit ¹ et Siculo respirat in aequore Cyclops.
 redditus hic tandem sociosque amplexus ovantes,
 haud iam mendacem promissa reposedere regem 650
 dignatur; nec, si ipse sibi terga ingerat ultro
 qui pepigit, velit in pacem dextramque reverti
 amplius; ambo truces, ambo abscessere minantes.

¹ fugit *Bachrens*: furit *V*.

¹ Hyperbole unusual even in Valerius, that the heat of battle is enough to leave its mark upon a river.

cohorts, and drive the doomed brethren to battle with their kin. Each one thinks that it is Jason he is laying low, all alike are fired with similar rage. Aetes stands aghast and would fain recall the madmen, but all the host was on the ground, nor was any first to fall or last to remain, but the earth of a sudden swallowed up all her dead.

Straightway the son of Aeson hastens in reeking armour to the river, like unto Mars when leaving the dust of Getic warfare he enters Hebrus in his car and brands it deep ¹ with the burning sweat of battle, or when a Cyclops all black from the hot furnaces where the glowing bolts are forged finds respite and refuge in the Sicilian sea. At length he returns and embraces his exulting comrades, and no longer deigns to claim his promise from the lying king; nor, even if he who made the compact of his own accord pressed the fleece upon him, would he any more be willing to return to peaceful amity; both men withdrew in fierce and threatening mood.

BOOK VIII

LIBER OCTAVUS

AT trepidam in thalamis et iam sua facta paventem
Colchida circa omnes pariter furiaequae minaeque
patris habent; nec caerulei timor aequoris ultra,
nec miserae terra ulla procul; quascumque per undas
ferre fugam, quamcumque cupit iam scandere pup-
pem.

ultima virgineis tunc flens dedit oscula vittis,
quosque fugit complexa toros crinemque genasque
ante ¹ per antiqui carpsit vestigia somni,
atque haec impresso genuit miseranda cubili:
"o mihi si profugae, genitor, nunc mille ² supremos 10
amplexus, Aeeta, dares fletusque videres
ecce meos! ne crede, pater, non carior ille est
quem sequimur; tumidis utinam simul obruar undis!
tu, precor, haec longa placidus mox sceptrata senecta
tuta geras meliorque tibi sit cetera proles." 15
dixit et Haemonio numquam spernenda marito
condita letiferis promit medicamina cistis,
virgineosque sinus ipsumque monile venenis
implicat ac saevum super omnibus addidit ensem.
inde, velut torto Furiarum erecta flagello 20
prosiluit: attonito qualis pede prosiluit Ino

¹ ante V: ungue *Burmman Langen*.

² mille *Heinsius*: ille V (cf. 2. 485, *Ovid, Ep.* 14. 95, 15. 78).

¹ The poet is looking forward to the time when Jason's desertion of Medea shows that he despises her magic.

² Fleeing from Athamas, her husband, she leapt with her

BOOK VIII

BUT Medea in her chamber, trembling and
terror-struck now at what she has done, is encom-
passed by all her father's threatening rage; no
fear has she any more of the dark ocean, no land
seems far off to the wretched girl; over any
waters whatever is she now fain to flee, any ship
whatever would she climb. Then in tears she kissed
for the last time her virgin fillets, and embracing
the bed she was leaving first tore her hair and her
cheeks amid the traces of her former slumbers,
and pressing her face upon the couch uttered these
piteous groans: "Alas, my father, would thou
couldst give me a thousand last kisses ere I fly!
Would, Aeetes, that thou couldst see the tears (ah,
look!) that I am shedding! Nay, think it not,
father; I love not him whom I follow more than
thee; oh, that I were drowned with him in the
rolling waves! But thou, I pray, mayst thou long
hereafter rule this land in peaceful old age, and be
happier in thy other offspring!" She spoke, and
took forth from the death-burdened caskets the
hidden drugs that her Haemonian lord should never
have spurned,¹ and fills with the poisons her virgin
bosom and even her necklace, and adds a sharp
sword to the rest. Then, as though stung by the
Furies' twisted lash, she darts forth: even as Ino²

small son Palaemon into the sea by the Isthmus of Corinth,
and the blow that Athamas dealt at her fell upon the Isthmus.
Some explain "ferit" by "stamps with his feet upon."

in freta nec parvi meminit conterrita nati,
quem tenet; extremum coniunx ferit inritus Isth-
mon.

Iam prior in lucos curis urgentibus heros
venerat et nemoris sacra se nocte tegebat, 25
tum quoque siderea clarus procul ora iuventa.
qualis adhuc sparsis comitum per lustra catervis
Latmius aestiva residet venator in umbra,
dignus amore deae, velatis cornibus et iam
Luna venit: roseo talis per nubila ductor 30
implet honore nemus talemque expectat amantem.
ecce autem pavidæ virgo de more columbae,
quæ super ingenti circumdata praepetis umbra
in quemcumque tremens hominem cadit—haut secus
illa

acta timore gravi mediam se misit; at ille 35
excepit blandoque prior sic ore locutus:
“o decus in nostros magnum ventura penates,
solaque tantarum virgo haut indigna viarum
causa reperta mihi, iam iam non ulla requiro
vellera teque meae satis est quaesisse carinae. 40
verum age et hoc etiam, quando potes, adice
tantis
muneribus meritisque tuis; namque aurea inssis
terga referre sumus; socios ea gloria tangit.”
sic ait et primis supplex dedit oscula palmis.

Contra virgo novis iterum singultibus orsa est: 45
“linquo domos patrias te propter opesque meorum;
nec iam nunc regina loquor, sceptrisque relictis
vota sequor: serva hanc profugae, prior ipse
dedisti
quam (scis nempe) fidem. di nostris vocibus adsunt,
sidera et haec te meque vident: tecum aequora,
tecum 50

horror-stricken leaps into the sea, nor in her panic remembers the tiny babe she carries; her spouse strikes the far end of Isthmus—baffled.

And now weighed down by care the hero had come first to the grove, and stood concealed within its sacred night, yet star-like shone ever his youthful countenance afar. Even as the Latmian hunter, while his comrades are yet scattered in troops about the glens, rests in the summer shade, fit lover for a goddess, and soon the Moon comes with veiled horns: so doth the prince fill the wood with his rosy beauty, such the mistress he awaits. But lo! the girl, like a frightened dove, that caught in the vast shadow of a hawk falls trembling on some man, no matter who he be, so doth she fling herself into his arms driven by strong fear; but he took her to him, and spoke first with word of soothing comfort: “O thou whose coming shall bring great glory to my home, O maiden who alone hast proved reason well worthy of such a voyage, no longer ask I for any fleece, thou art my ship’s sufficient prize. Yet come, add this too, since thou hast the power, to thy bounty and thy kindness; for command was laid on me to take back the golden pelt; its glory touches my comrades too.” So says he, and humbly lays a light kiss upon her hand.

Sobbing afresh the girl made answer: “For thy sake I am leaving my father’s house and all the wealth of my kinsfolk, nor speak I now as princess any more, but deserting thrones I follow my heart’s desire; keep with the exile that word that thou first (ay, well thou knowest it) didst give her. The gods are present to our speech, and these stars regard both thee and me; with thee will I brave

experiar quascumque vias, modo nequis abactam
huc referat me forte dies oculisque parentis
ingerar; hoc superos, hoc te quoque deprecor,
hospes."

Haec ait atque furens rapido per devia passu
tollitur; ille haeret comes et miseratur euntem, 55
cum subito ingentem media inter nubila flammam
conspicit et saeva vibrantes luce tenebras.

"quis rubor iste poli? quod tam lugubre refulsit
sidus?" ait; reddit trepido cui talia virgo:

"ipsius en oculos et lumina torva draconis 60
aspicis: ille suis haec vibrat fulgura cristis,
meque pavens contra solam videt ac vocat ultro,
ceu solet, et blanda poscit me pabula lingua.

dic age nunc, utrum vigilantis hostemque videnti
exuvias auferre velis, an lumina somno 65
mergimus et domitum potius tibi tradimus anguem?"
ille silet; tanta subiit vi virginis horror.

Iamque manus Colchis vimenque¹ intenderat
astris,

carmina barbarico fundens pede, teque ciebat,
Somne pater. "Somne omnipotens, te Colchis ab
omni 70

orbe voco inque unum iubeo nunc ire draconem,
quae freta saepe tuo domui, quae nubila cornu
fulminaque et toto quicquid micat aethere; sed
nunc,

nunc age maior ades fratrique simillime Leto.
te quoque, Phrixiae pecudis fidissime custos, 75

¹ vimen *Koestlin*: crinem *V.*

the seas and all the ways that we may travel, if but
no chance wrest me from thee and bring me back
hither and force me upon my father's gaze; so pray
I to the gods above, and to thee too, O stranger."

So saying she passes with rapid, frenzied step
through the pathless places; he clings to her side
and pities her as she goes, when suddenly amid
the clouds he sees a mighty flame and the dark-
ness quivering with angry gleams of light. "Why
glows the heaven so, what is that baleful star?" he
asks; and the maiden thus makes answer to his
fear: "It is the eyes and angry glare of the dragon
himself thou seest; from his crest shoot those
quivering flashes, and at me alone doth he gaze in
fear, and as of wont of his own accord he summons
me, and with fawning tongue asks me for food.
Come tell me now, wouldst thou rob him of the
fleece while he wakes and can see his foe, or shall
I steep his eyes in drowse and so deliver unto thee
the serpent subdued?" The other is silent, such
shuddering awe of the maiden has mastered him.

And now the Colchian had stretched upward to
the stars her hands that bare the wand, and pouring
forth spells in barbaric rhythm was calling to thee,
O father Sleep. "All-powerful Sleep, from all the
quarters of the world do I the maid of Colchis sum-
mon thee and bid thee descend upon the snake
alone; oft with thy horn¹ have I subdued waves and
clouds and lightning brands and all that gleams in
heaven; but now, now come to my aid with mightier
influence, most like thy brother Death. And thou
too, faithful warden of Phrixus' beast, it is time at

¹ Sleep is described as pouring drowsiness from his horn
by Statius, *Theb.* 2. 144, 5. 199 and Silius, *Pun.* 10. 352.

tempus ab hac oculos tandem deflectere cura.
 quem metuis me astante dolum? servabo parumper
 ipsa nemus; longum interea tu pone laborem."
 ille haut Aeolio discedere fessus ab auro
 nec dare permissae (quamvis iuvet) ora quieti 80
 sustinet; ac primi percussus nube soporis
 horruit et dulces excussit corpore ¹ somnos.
 contra Tartareis Colchis spumare venenis
 cunctaque Lethaei quassare silentia rami
 perstat et adverso luctantia lumina cantu 85
 obruit atque omnem linguaque manumque fatigat
 vim Stygiam, ardentem donec sopor occupet iras.
 iamque altae cecidere iubae, nutatque coactum ²
 iam caput atque ingens extra sua vellera cervix,
 ceu refluens Padus aut septem proiectus in amnes 90
 Nilus et Hesperium veniens Alpheos in orbem.
 ipsa caput cari postquam Medea draconis
 vidit humi, fuis circum proiecta lacertis
 seque suumque simul flevit crudelis alumnum.
 "non ego te sera talem sub nocte videbam 95
 sacra ferens epulasque tibi, nec talis hianti
 mella dabam ac nostris nutribam fida venenis.
 quam gravida nunc mole iaces! quam segnis inertem
 flatus habet! nec te saltem, miserande, peremi!
 heu saevum passure diem! iam nulla videbis 100

¹ corpore *Heinsius*: ab arbore *V*.

² 88-125 *missing in V*.

last to turn thy vision away from this duty of thine.
 What guile dost thou fear while I am beside thee?
 For a space I will guard the grove myself, meantime
 lay by thy long toil." He brooks not to leave the
 Aeolian gold through weariness nor to surrender
 his eyes, fain though he be, to permitted slumber;
 and when the first wafting of drowse assailed him,
 he shuddered and shook off from his body the be-
 gulling sleep. But on her side the Colchian ceases
 not to foam with hellish poisons and to sprinkle all
 the silences of Lethe's bough: exerting her spells
 she constrains his reluctant eyes, exhausting all her
 Stygian power of hand and tongue, until sleep gains
 the mastery over his blazing ire. And now the
 high crest sinks, now the head is nodding over-
 powered and the huge neck has slipped from around
 the fleece it guarded, like reffuent Po or Nile that
 sprawls in seven streams or Alpheus when his waters
 enter the Hesperian world.¹ Medea herself, when
 she saw the head of her dear serpent on the ground,
 darted forward and flinging her arms about him
 wept alike for her charge and her own cruelty. "Not
 so wert thou when in deep night bringing the holy
 offerings and thy food I saw thee, nor such was I
 when I placed the honey-cakes in thy open mouth
 and faithfully fed thee with my potions. In what
 gross bulk thou liest now! how sluggish a breathing
 holds thy inert frame! Yet at least, hapless one,
 I slew thee not! Alas! how cruel the daylight
 thou shalt endure! Soon shalt thou see no fleece,

¹ The point of the contrast is probably in the slackening
 of the stream of these rivers when beaten back by the sea
 or dispersed into a delta or merged in ocean as compared with
 the slackening of the serpent's ardour.

vellera, nulla tua fulgentia dona sub umbra.
 cede adeo inque aliis senium nunc digere lucis
 immemor, oro, mei: nec me tua sibila toto
 exagitent infesta mari. sed tu quoque cunctas,
 Aesonide, dimitte moras, atque effuge raptis 105
 velleribus. patrios extinxi noxia tauros;
 terrigenas in fata dedi; fusum ecce draconis
 corpus habes, iamque omne nefas, iam, spero, peregi."
 quaerenti tunc deinde viam, qua se arduus heros
 ferret ad aurigeræ caput arboris, "eia, per
 ipsum 110
 scande age et adverso gressus" ait "imprime
 dorso."

nec mora fit; dictis fidens Cretheia proles
 calcat et, aeriam quamvis, perfertur ad ornum,
 cuius adhuc rutilam servabant brachia pellem,
 nubibus accensis similem aut cum veste recincta 115
 labitur ardenti Thaumantias obvia Phoebō.
 corripit optatum decus extremumque laborem
 Aesonides, longosque sibi gestata per annos
 Phrixæe monumenta fugæ vix reddidit arbor
 cum gemitu tristesque super coiere tenebræ. 120
 egressi relegunt campos et fluminis ora
 summa petunt; micat omnis ager, villisque coman-
 tem

sidereis totos pellem nunc fundit in artus,
 nunc in colla refert, nunc implicat ille sinistrae.
 talis ab Inachiis Nemeæ Tirynthius antris 125
 ibat, adhuc aptans umeris capitique leonem.
 ut vero sociis, qui tunc prædicta tenebant
 ostia, per longas apparuit aureus umbras,
 clamor ab Haemonio surgit grege; se quoque
 gaudens
 promovet ad primas iuveni ratis obvia ripas. 130

no gleaming offerings in the shadow of thy tree. Give
 place then, spend thine old age in other groves,
 forgetting me, I pray; nor let thy deadly hissing
 chase me from sea to sea. But thou too, son of
 Aeson, put by all tarrying, seize the fleece and hie
 thee. My noxious art has quenched my father's
 bulls, has laid low the earth-born: lo! there lies
 the dragon's body at thy feet, and at last—I hope,
 at last—I have accomplished all my deadly deeds."
 Then when the hero asked by what way he should
 climb aloft to the summit of the gold-freighted
 tree: "Courage," she cries, "go climb the serpent
 himself, and set thy footsteps on his back, there in
 thy path!" With no delay the child of Cretheus
 trusts her word and scales the ash tree, high though
 it soar, where still the branches guarded the skin of
 ruddy hue, like to illumined cloud or to Iris when
 she ungirds her robe and glides to meet glowing
 Phoebus. Jason snatches the longed-for prize and
 the final fruit of toil, and scarce did the tree give
 up the memorial of the flight of Phrixus, its year-
 long burden, but it uttered a groan and gloomy
 darkness closed in upon it. Forth they go by the
 fields, seeking the highest point of the river-mouth;
 the whole landscape flashes while the hero now wraps
 about his body the fleece with its starry tufts of hair,
 now shifts it to his neck, now folds it upon his left
 arm. In such wise went the Tirynthian from
 the Inachian caves of Nemea, still fitting the lion
 to his head and to his shoulders. But when his
 comrades, who had gained the appointed river-
 mouth, saw him through the dark distance flashing
 all golden, the Haemonian crew sent forth a cheer;
 joyfully the vessel too moves to the nearest bank

praecipites agit ille gradus atque aurea misit
terga prius; mox attonita cum virgine puppem
insilit ac rapta victor consistit in hasta.

Interea patrias saevus venit horror ad aures
fata domus luctumque ferens fraudemque fugam-
que 135

virginis. hinc subitis infelix¹ frater in armis,²
urbs etiam mox tota coit, volat ipse senectae
immemor Aectes, complentur litora bello
nequiquam; fugit immissis nam puppis habenis.

Mater adhuc ambas tendebat in aequora palmas
et soror atque omnes aliae matresque nurusque 141
Colchides aequalesque tibi, Medea, puellae.

extat sola parens impletque ululatus auras.
"siste fugam, medio refer huc ex aequore puppem;
nata, potes, quo" clamat "abis? hic turba tuo-
rum 145

omnis et iratus nondum pater; haec tua tellus
sceptraque. quid terris solum te credis Achaeis?
quis locus Inachias inter tibi, barbara, natas?
istane vota domus expectatique hymenaei?
hunc petii grandaeva diem? vellein unguibus
uncis, 150

ut volucris, possem praedonis in ipsius ora
ire ratemque supra, claroque reposcere cantu
quam genui. Albano fuit haec promissa tyranno,
non tibi; nil tecum miseri pepigere parentes,
Aesonide; non hoc Pelias evadere furto 155
te inbet aut ullas Colchis abducere natas.
vellus habe et nostris siquid super accipe templis.

¹ infelix *Schenkl*: inflexit *MSS.*: effulsit *Heinsius*.

² 136-53 missing in *V*, also 366-85 which formed one leaf (38 lines) as in *V* and all *MSS.* of 16th cent.: 136-85 follow 385.

to greet the youth. Swiftly he comes, and hurls the golden fleece before him, then with the bewildered maiden leaps on board the ship, and stands triumphant spear in hand.

Meantime her sire was shuddering at the cruel news that reached his ear; the doom of his house, the mourning, his daughter's crafty flight. Thereupon of a sudden her ill-fated brother springs to arms, soon all the city gathers, Aectes himself flies here and there, forgetful of his years, the shores are filled with war's array; in vain, for the ship is away, full-sailed before the wind.

Her mother was still stretching out her hands towards the sea, her sister too and all the other matrons and young brides of Colchis, and the maidens who were thy peers, Medea. Above all rings out her mother's voice as she fills the air with her wailings; "Stop thy flight, turn back hither thy vessel from mid-sea; thou canst, my daughter. Whither goest thou?" she cries; "here are all thy folk, and thy father, not yet angry; this is thy land, thy kingdom. Why trustest thou thyself alone to Achaea? What place hast thou there, a stranger among Inachian maidens? Lies there the home of thy desire, the wedlock thou awaitest? Is this the day I prayed my old age might see? Ah, would that like a bird I could rend with hooked talons the very face of that brigand, and hover above his ship and with loud cry demand my daughter back again! To the Albanian prince was she betrothed, not to thee; no compact made her unhappy parents with thee, Aesonides; by no such ruse doth Pelias bid thee escape, or rob the Colchians of their daughters. Keep the fleece, take aught else that our temples

sed quid ego quemquam immeritis incuso querellis?
 ipsa fugit tantoque (nefas) ipsa ardet amore.
 hoc erat, infelix, (redeunt nam singula menti) 160
 ex quo Thessalici subierunt litora remi,¹
 quod nullae te, uata, dapes, non ulla iuvabant
 tempora. non ullus tibi tum color, aegraque verba
 errantesque genae atque alieno gaudia vultu
 semper erant. cur tanta mihi non prodita pestis, 165
 ut gener Aesonides nostra consideret aula
 nec talem paterere fugam? commune fuisset
 aut certe nunc omne nefas, iremus et ambae
 in quascumque vias; pariter petiisse iuvaret
 Thessaliam et saevi qualemcumque hospitis urbem.”
 sic genetrix, similique implet soror omnia questu 171
 exulans; famulae pariter clamore supremo
 in vacuos dant verba notos dominamque reclamant
 nomine; te venti procul et tua fata ferebant.

Inde diem noctemque volant: redeuntibus aura
 gratior, et notae Mínyis transcurrere terrae, 176
 cum subito Erginus puppi sic fatur ab alta.
 “vos” ait “Aesonide, contenti vellere capto,
 nec via quae superet nec quae fortuna videtis.
 crastina namque dies trucis ad confinia ponti 180
 Cyaneasque vocat, meminique, o Tiphys, tuorum
 saxa per illa, pater, memini, venerande, laborum.
 mutandum, o socii, nobis iter; altera ponti

¹ litora remi *Heinsius*: nam singula *V.*

hold. But why accuse I thus any man with undeserved complaint? She herself willed to flee, and avows (ah, horror!) the passion that consumes her. That then was the cause, unhappy girl (for each thing now do I recall), why, ever since the Thessalian oars drew nigh the shore, no feasting, no seasons gave thee pleasure. No colour hadst thou then, thy voice was faint, thy glance wandered, and thy face ever feigned the joy it showed. Why was not so dire a plague revealed to me, that Jason might have taken his place as a son-in-law in our palace, and that thou mightest not have stooped to a flight so base? Or at least we might now have shared all the crime between us, and were voyaging no matter where together; gladly should we both be seeking Thessaly and the city, whate'er its name, of the cruel stranger.” So spake her mother, and her sister filled everything with like complaints, shrieking aloud; with them the handmaidens raise cries of last farewell and scatter words upon the empty breeze, as by name they call their mistress back again; but the winds and thine own destinies were bearing thee far away.

Then by night and by day do they speed: more grateful was the breeze to the homeward-bound, and familiar were the shores that flew past the Mínyae, when suddenly Erginus spoke thus from the lofty poop: “Ye all, Aesonides, content with the rape of the fleece, reckon not what path, what hazard lies ahead. For to-morrow's light summons us to the confines of the angry sea and to the Dark-blue Rocks, and I recall, O Tiphys, reverend sire, thy sore-won passage through those cliffs. Friends, we must change our path; another egress from the main must we win,

eluctanda via et cursu, quem labor, eundum est.
 haud procul hinc ingens Scythici ruit exitus Histri,
 fundere non uno tantum quem flumina cornu 186
 accipimus; septem exit aquis, septem ostia pandit.
 illius adversi nunc ora petamus et undam
 quae latus in laevum ponti cadit; inde sequemur
 ipsius amnis iter, donec nos flumine certo 190
 perferat inque aliud reddat mare. sint age tanti,
 Aesonide, quaecumque morae, quam saeva subire
 saxa iterum, quam Cyaneos perrumpere montes;
 sat mihi: non totis Argo redit ecce corymbis."
 haec ait ignarus fixas iam numine rupes 195
 stare neque adversis ultra concurrere saxis.
 reddidit Aesonides: " et te, fidissime rector,
 haud vani tetigere metus, nec me ire recuso
 longius et cunctis redeuntem ostendere terris."
 protinus inde alios flexu regesque locosque 200
 adsuetumque petunt planstris migrantibus aequor.

Puppe procul summa vigilis post terga magistri
 haeserat anratae genibus Medea Minervae;
 atque ibi delecta residens in lumina palla
 flebat adhuc, quamquam Haemoniis cum regibus
 iret, 205
 sola tamen nec coniugii secreta futuri.
 illam Sarmatici miserantur litora ponti,
 illa Thoanteae transit defleta Dianae.
 nulla palus, nullus Scythiae non maeret euntem
 amnis; Hyperboreas movit conspecta pruinas, 210
 tot modo regna tenens; ipsi quoque murmura
 ponunt
 iam Minyae, iam ferre volunt. vix allevat ora

¹ It was slightly damaged by the Clashing Rocks, cf. 4. 691.

² King of the Tauric Chersonese where Diana had her shrine.

and we must take the way that I will tell you. Not far from hence is the mighty outlet of Scythian Hister, who pours forth his streams, as we hear, by not one horn alone; by seven channels doth he flow forth, seven doors doth he fling open wide. Right up into his mouth now let us sail, into the waves that leftward fall into the main; then we shall follow the river's course itself, till with sure stream it bear us onward and guide us to another sea. Hark to me, Jason, hold all delays worth while, so thou encounter not those rocks nor break through the Cyanean mountains a second time; that suffices me; lo! Argo returneth not with poop unharmed."¹ So said he, ignorant that the boulders now stood fast by power divine, and that cliff crashed never more on cliff. Aesonides replied: "Not vain the fears that assail thee, faithful helmsman, nor refuse I to go by the longer road, nor to show myself to all lands as I return." Forthwith they wheel and seek other kings and other places, and the sea that knows full well the nomad wains.

Away on the summit of the poop behind the vigilant steersman Medea clung to the knees of Minerva's gilded image; there sitting with her robe cast about her eyes she still was weeping, solitary, though she journeyed with the Haemonian princes, and unsure of the wedlock that was to be. For her the coasts of the Sarmatian sea feel pity, for her, as she sails by, Diana weeps where Thoas² ruled. No lake, no river of Scythia but mourns for her as she passes; the sight of her, who late was queen of so many realms, stirred the Hyperborean snows; even the Minyae now cease their murmuring, and now consent to take her. Scarce

ad seras, siquando, dapes, quas carus Iason
ipse dabat, iam nubiferam transire Carambim
significans, iam regna Lyci, totiensque gementem
fallit ad Haemonios hortatus surgere montes. 216

Insula Sarmaticae Peuce stat nomine nymphae,
torvus ubi et ripa semper metuendus utraque
in freta per saevos Hister descendit alumnos;
solvere in hoc tandem resides dux litore curas, 220

ac primum socios ausus sua pacta docere
promissamque fidem thalami foedusque iugale;
ultra omnes laeti instigant meritamque fatentur.
ipse autem invitae iam Pallados erigere aras
incipit Idaliae numen nec spernere divae, 225

praecipueque sui, siquando, in tempore pulcher
coniugii Minyas numquam magis eminet inter;
qualis sanguineo victor Gradivus ab Hebro
Idalium furto subit aut dilecta Cythera;

seu cum caelestes Alcidae invisere mensas 230
iam vacat et fessum Iunonia sustinet Hebe.
adfuit unanimes Venus, hortatorque Cupido
suscitat adfixam maestis Aetida curis;

ipsa suas illi croceo subtegmine vestes
induit, ipsa suam duplicem Cytherea coronam 235
donat et arsuras alia cum virgine gemmas.

tum novus implevit vultus honor, ac sua flavis
reddita cura comis, graditurque oblita malorum.
sic ubi Mygdonios planctus sacer abluit Almo,

¹ He pretends that they have already reached their destination.

² Presumably because Jason had become involved in a love affair with Medea, the consequences of which she foresaw.

lifts she her head at close, if ever, of some feast
that her dear Jason spreads himself, while he points
out that now they pass Carambis with its pall of
cloud, now Lycus' kingdom, and as oft beguiles her
sighs by bidding her stand to see the hills of Thessaly.¹

An island, called Peucee from the name of the
Sarmatian nymph, stands where Hister, savage
stream, whose either bank is ever terrible, flows
down through his wild nurslings to the sea; on its
shore the leader was bold at length to end what
cares remained, and first to tell his companions of
his treaty and plighted troth of marriage and the
bridal compact; they all with joy unfeigned urge
him thereto, and praise her worthiness. He begins
to raise an altar to Pallas, now displeased,² and not
to spurn the godhead of the Idalian queen, and if
ever he was comely, never more brilliantly shone his
comeliness among the Minyae than on his marriage-
day: like unto Gradivus was he, when he comes in
triumph from blood-stained Hebrus and steals into
Idalium or beloved Cythera; or when Alcides has
leisure at last to visit the heavenly banquet, and
Hebe, child of Juno, sustains his weary form. Venus
smiled upon the lovers, and Cupid with his pleadings
roused Aetes' daughter from the gloomy thoughts
that vexed her; Cytherea clothes the girl with her
own robe of saffron texture, and gives her her own
twofold³ coronal and the jewels destined to burn
upon another bride. Then did a new beauty inform
her features, her yellow tresses received the tiring that
was due to them, and she moved without a thought
of ill. So when the holy Almo washes away Mygdon-

³ Valerius perhaps has in mind the Virgilian "duplicem
gemmis auroque coronam" (*Aen.* 1. 655).

laetaque iam Cybele festaeque per oppida taedae,
 quis modo tam saevos adytis fluxisse cruores 241
 cogitet? aut ipsi qui iam meminere ministri?
 inde, ubi sacrificas cum coniuge venit ad aras
 Aesonides, unaque adeunt pariterque precari
 incipiunt, ignem Pollux undamque iugalem 245
 praetulit, et dextrum pariter vertuntur in orbem.
 sed neque se pingues tum candida flamma per auras
 explicuit, nec tura videt concordia Mopsus,
 promissam nec stare fidem, breve tempus amorum.
 odit utrumque simul, simul et miseratur utrumque,
 et tibi iam nullos optavit, barbara, natos. 251
 mox epulas et sacra parant; silvestria laetis
 praemia venatu facili quaesita supersunt;
 pars veribus, pars undanti despumat aeno.
 gramineis ast inde toris discumbitur, olim 255
 Hister anhelantem Pencen quo presserat antro.
 ipsi inter medios rosea radiante iuventa
 altius inque sui sternuntur velleris auro.
 Quis novus inceptos timor impediit hymenaeos
 turbavitque toros et sacra calentia rupit? 260
 Absyrtus subita praecepit cum classe parentis
 advehitur profugis infestam lampada Grais
 concutiens diramque premens clamore sororem:
 "heia agite, o siquis vobis dolor iraque, Colchi,
 accelerare viam; neque enim fugit aequore raptor
 Iuppiter aut falsi sequimur vestigia tauri. 266

¹ The festival of Cybele, the Great Mother, on March 27th (Ovid, *Fasts* 4. 337); the image of the goddess was washed in the Almo, a tributary of the Tiber.

² This was a Roman custom at the conclusion of a sacrifice; a sacrifice was usually performed at some stage of a Roman marriage, and the bride was received by her husband with fire and water, probably symbolising either purification or welcome (cf. "interdicere aqua et igni").

ian sorrows,¹ and Cybele now is glad and festal
 torches gleam in the city streets, who would think
 that cruel wounds have lately gushed in the temples?
 or who of the votaries themselves remember them?
 Then, when Jason came to the altar of sacrifice with
 his bride, and together they drew nigh and together
 began to pray, Pollux proffered fire and nuptial
 water, and both together turn rightward in a circle.²
 But no bright flame then won its way upward through
 the odorous air, nor does Mopsus see concord in the
 frankincense or lasting troth, but a brief term of
 love. Both of them doth he hate,³ and both at the
 same time pity, nor any more desires he children
 for thee, barbarian maid. Then they prepare the
 feast and the sacrifice; an easy chase brings the
 prizes of the woodland in abundance to the revellers;
 some cook the quarry on spits, some in bubbling
 cauldrons. Then upon grassy mounds they take
 their places for the banquet, where once within her
 bower Hister had caught the panting Pence to his
 breast. Midmost of them all in rosy radiance of
 youth the pair recline on a loftier couch and upon
 the gold of their own fleece.

What new alarm impeded the nuptials just begun,
 and disturbed the couches and interrupted the
 still glowing sacrifice? Absyrtus in hot haste
 with his father's swift-assembled fleet draws nigh,
 and shakes a threatening torch at the escaping
 Greeks and with clamour assails his terrible sister:
 "On with you, Colchians, if ye have any grief or
 anger, hasten speed! No Jove is he, this ravisher
 flying o'er the sea, no false bull's tracks do we

³ As objects of divine displeasure as shown in the sacrifice.

puppe (nefas) una praeco Phrixea reportat
 vellera; qua libuit remeat cum virgine; nobis
 (o pudor!) et muros et stantia tecta reliquit.
 quid mihi deinde satis? nec quaero vellera nec te 270
 accipio, germana, datam; nec foederis ulla
 spes erit aut irae quisquam modus. inde reverti
 patris ad ora mei tam parvo in tempore fas sit?
 quinquaginta animae me scilicet unaque mersa
 sufficiet placare ratis? te, Graecia fallax, 275
 persequor atque tuis hunc quasso moenibus ignem;
 nec tibi digna, soror, desum ad conubia frater,
 primus et ecce fero quatioque hanc lampada vestro
 coniugio, primus celebros dotalia sacra,
 qui potui; patriae veniam da, quaeso, senectae. 280
 quin omnes alii, pariter populusque patresque,
 mecum adsunt, magni virgo ne regia Solis
 Haemonii thalamos adeas despecta mariti;
 tot decuit coisse¹ rates, tot fulgere taedas."

Dixerat, atque orans iterum ventosque virosque,
 perque ratis supplex et remigis ipse recentis 286
*transtra ruit panditque novis*² vexilla magistris.
 illi autem intorquent truncis frondentibus undam,
 quaeque die fuerat raptim formata sub uno
 et tantum deiecta suis a montibus arbor
 (quid dolor et veterum potuit non ira virorum?) 290
 haud longis iam distat aquis, sequiturque volentem
 barbara Palladium puppem ratis, ostia donec
 Danubii viridemque vident ante ostia Peucen,

¹ coisse *Ed. Bon.*: coire *V.*

² ipse recentis transtra ruit panditque novis *Sudhaus adds*;
various conjectures by Edd.

¹ Absyrtus ironically asks pardon for Aetes who was too
 old to attend his daughter's nuptials.

pursue. The robber takes with him in his ship
 (ah, villainous deed!) the fleece of Phrixus; he
 returns with the girl, taking what path he pleases, and
 left us (ah, shame!) our houses and walls still stand-
 ing. What will satisfy me, then? I seek not the
 fleece, nor do I take thee, sister, as his gift; no
 thought have I of treaty, nor set I a limit to my
 wrath. Could I so soon return thereafter to my
 father's presence? Ha! would fifty lives and the
 sinking of one ship suffice to appease me? Thou,
 treacherous Greece, thou art my quarry, against
 thy walls do I shake this brand; nor thee, sister,
 do I thy brother fail at these high nuptials; nay,
 look, I am the first to bring my torch and wave it
 at thy wedding, the first to celebrate the marriage
 rites; I indeed was able: pardon, I pray, our sire's
 grey hairs.¹ Verily all the rest, senate and folk alike,
 are with me here, that thou, the royal daughter of the
 mighty Sun, mightest not in despicable state approach
 the chamber of thy Haemonian lord; so large a
 fleet did it beseech us to assemble, so many torches
 to illumine."

He spoke, and once more praying men and winds
 went himself in haste entreating them along the
 ship's *thwarts and the benches of the late-recruited*
 rowers, and *spreads* banners before the *new* helms-
 men. With leafy poles the men churn up the water,
 and the tree that in one day had hurriedly been
 shaped and but now rolled down from its mountain
 (what could not the bitter wrath of men of old
 accomplish?) is distant now by no long reach of sea,
 and the barbarian vessel follows the flying ship of
 Pallas, until they see the mouths of Danube and
 green Peuce lying before the mouth, and recognise

ultimaque adgnosunt Argoi cornua mali.
 tum vero clamorem omnes inimicaque tollunt 295
 gaudia, tum gravior remis fragor, ut procul Argo
 visa viris, unamque petant rostra omnia puppem.
 princeps navalem nodosi roboris unum
 arripit et longa Styrys prospectat ab unda,
 coniugio atque iterum sponsae flammatus amore. 300
 iamque alii clipeos et tela trabalia dextris
 expediunt, armant alii picis unguine flammis.
 impatiens tremit hasta morae, nec longius inter,
 quam quod tela vetet, superest mare. vocibus
 urgent

interea et pedibus pulsant tabulata frementes. 305

Cum subitas videre rates vibrataque flammis
 aequora, non una Minyae formidine surgunt,
 primus et in puppem deserta virgine ductor
 prosilit et summa galeam rapit altus ab hasta,
 ense simul clipeoque micat; nec cetera pubes 310
 segnius adreptis in litore constitit armis.

at tibi quae scelerum facies, Medea, tuorum?
 quisve pudor Colchos iterum fratremque videnti
 quidquid et abscisum vasto iam tuta profundo
 credideras? ergo infausto sese occulit antro, 315
 non aliud quam certa mori, seu carus Iason
 seu frater Graia victus cecidisset ab hasta.

Haud ita sed summo segnis sedet aethere Iuno
 aut sinit extrema Minyas decernere pugna,
 nec numero quoniam Colchis nec puppibus aequos.

the yard-tips of Argo's mast. Then indeed all raise the exulting war-cry, then louder is the plash of oars, when Argo has been sighted afar, and all the prows make for one ship alone. Styrys, foremost of all, seizes a ship's hook of knotted oak and looks forward from the distant wave, kindled once again by thought of marriage and desire for his betrothed. And now others are bringing forth shields and spear-shafts for their hands to wield, others with smeared pitch are arming firebrands for the fight. Impatient of delay the lances are quivering, nor remains there too long a stretch of sea to deny the javelin-throw. Meanwhile their shouts are urgent, and yelling they beat upon the deck planks with their feet.

When the Minyae saw the suddenly-appearing fleet and the seas gleaming with torches, they rise in manifold alarm, and first their leader, leaving the maiden, leaps upon the poop and towering there snatches his helmet from the spear-point; from sword at once and shield flashes light; nor are the rest of the crew more slow to seize their weapons and form upon the beach. But thou, Medea—how then did thy crimes appear to thee? What shame didst thou feel, seeing the Colchians and thy brother once more, and all that thou, safe at last, hadst deemed cut off by the broad ocean? Therefore did she hide herself in that ill-omened bower, resolved on naught else but death, whether her dear Jason fall, or her brother be slain by a Grecian spear.

But not so slothfully sits Juno in the height of heaven, nor suffers she the Minyae to decide the issue by battle, because she sees them unequal to the Colchians both in ships and men. So when the

ergo ubi diva rates hostemque accedere cernit, 321
 ipsa subit terras tempestatumque refringit
 ventorumque domos. volucrum gens turbida fra-
 trum

erumpit, classem dextra Saturnia monstrat.
 videre, inque unum pariter mare protinus omnes 325
 infesto clamore ruunt inimicaque Colchis
 aequora et adversos statuunt a litore fluctus.

Tollitur atque intra Minyas Argoaque vela
 Styrys abit; ¹ vasto rursus desidit hiatus
 abrupta revolutus aqua. iamque omnis in astra 330
 itque reditque ratis, lapsoque reciproca fluctu
 descendit; vorat hos vertex, hos agmine toto
 gurgis agit; simul in vultus micat undique terror,
 crebra ruina poli caelestia limina laxat.
 non tamen ardentis Styri violentia cedit; 335
 hortatur socios media inter proelia divum:

“ transferet ergo meas in quae volet oppida dotes
 Colchis? et Haemonius nobis succedet adulter?
 nec mihi tot magnos inter regesque procosque
 profuerit prona haud dubii sententia patris? 340
 an virtus praelata viri est et fortior ille
 quem sequitur? iungam igniferos sine carmine
 tauros,

saevaque Echionii ferro sata persequar hydri.
 hoc adeo interea spectata de litore pugnas
 amborum, victoris eris; iam digna videbis 345
 proelia, iamque illud carum caput ire cruenta
 sub freta, semiviri nec murra corpus Achivi,

¹ abit *Edd. Bon. Ald.*: habet V.

¹ What is said by the poet of Styrys must, it seems, be understood of his ship.

goddess perceives the hostile fleet advancing, she comes herself to earth, and unbars the dwelling of the winds and storms. Out bursts the turbulent tribe of swift-winged brethren, with her right hand the Saturnian points out the fleet. They saw, and straightway all together with angry cry swoop down upon one sea, all else neglected, and make the waters unfriendly to the Colchians and set billows rolling towards them from the shore.

Styrys ¹ is tossed aloft and carried away among the Minyae and the sails of Argo; again, he sinks down in the vast abyss, flung back by the precipitous wave. And now every vessel is flung back and forth to the stars and down again as the waters sink; some are swallowed by the abyss, others are driven by all the violence of the flood; on every side terror flashes full in their faces, heaven falls in torrents and loosens the barriers of the sky. Yet the red-hot fury of Styrys will not yield; in the midst of the battle of the gods he exhorts his men: “ Shall then the Colchian take my dowry to what towns she will? Shall a Haemonian adulterer supplant me? and amid so many kings and suitors shall the favouring judgment of her unhesitating sire have availed me naught? Or is his worth set above mine, and is he whom she follows the braver man? I would yoke fire-breathing bulls without enchantments, and pursue the savage offspring of the Echionian serpent with the sword. Nay, watch from this shore the combat of us twain, thou shalt be the victor’s; soon shalt thou see a fight worth watching, and that head so dear to thee soon sink beneath the bloodstained waves, and the body of the Achaean eunuch and his tresses perfumed not

sed pice, sed flammis, sed olentes sulphure crines.
 vos modo vel solum hoc fluctus expellite corpus,
 non te, Aeeta pater, generi aut, Sol magne, pudebit.
 fallor? an hos nobis magico nunc carmine ventos 351
 ipsa movet diraque levat maria ardua lingua?
 atque iterum Aesonides, iterum defenditur arte,
 qua solet? haut illi cantus et futile murmur
 proderit. ite, rates, et frangite virginis undam." 355
 dixit et intortis socio cum milite remis
 prosilit; at fluctu puppis labefacta reverso
 solvitur effunditque viros ipsumque minantem
 tunc quoque et elata quaerentem litora dextra.
 ibat et arma ferens et strictum naufragus ensem; 360
 incipit et remos et quaerere transtra solutae
 sparsa ratis, maestasque altis intendere voces
 puppibus; ast inter tantos succurrere fluctus
 nulla potest, aut ulla¹ velit; quotiensque propin-
 quat,

tunc aliud rursus dirimit mare. iam tamen extat,²
 iamque abiit, fundoque iterum violentus ab imo 366
 erigitur; sed fluctus adest, magnoque sub altis
 turbine figit aquis, et tandem virgine cessit.

Absyrtus visu maeret defixus acerbo.
 nunc³ quid agat, qua vi portus et prima capessat 370
 ostia, qua possit Minyas invadere, clausos
 quos videt agnoscitque fremens? maria obvia contra
 saevaque pugnat hiemps, totusque in vertice pontus.
 abscessit tandem vanaque recedit ab ira

with myrrh but with pitch and flames and sulphur.
 Do ye, waves, but cast me even alone upon the
 shore—then thou, father Aeetes, shalt not be
 ashamed of thy son-in-law, nor thou, O mighty Sun.
 Am I wrong? or is she now herself moving these
 winds by magic spells against us, and with her dread
 tongue raising this towering sea? Is Jason saved
 by her wonted art once more? Naught shall songs
 and futile mutterings avail him. Onward, ye ships,
 and crush the billows of a girl!" He spoke, and
 leapt forward as his warrior comrades whirled their
 oars; but the vessel, weakened by the returning
 wave, breaks up and pours forth her crew and him-
 self, hurling threats even then and making for the
 shore with arm upraised. Shipwrecked as he was,
 he made way with armour and drawn sword, and he
 begins to look for the oars and strewn benches of the
 foundered vessel, and to call in despairing tones to
 the lefty poops, but amid such rollers none can aid
 him, nor were any fain to help; and so oft as he
 draws nigh, another sea sunders him again. Yet
 now is he above the surface, and now he vanishes,
 once again violently struggling he rises from the
 depths, but a wave is upon him, and in a mighty
 whirlpool buries him beneath a mountain of water,
 and at last he gave up his claim to the maiden.

Absyrtus is downcast with grief at the bitter
 sight. Now what can he do? By what power is he
 to seize the harbour and the river-mouth? How
 attack the Minyae? for he sees them cut off, and
 avows it with cries of rage; the seas fight against
 him and the savage tempest, and the ocean, all one
 swirling whirlpool. At length he turned away, calm-
 ing his fruitless wrath, and withdrew from the vessel's

¹ ulla *Ed. Bon.*: ille *V.* ² extat *Ed. Ald.*: errat *V.*

³ nunc *Schenkl.*: nec *V.*

et tanta de clade ratis. latus inde sinistrum 375
 adversamque procul Peuces defertur in oram
 cum sociis; gemino nam cingitur insula flexu
 Danubii; hac dudum Minyae Pagasaeaque puppis
 in statione manent; illinc Aeetius heros
 obsidet adversa tentoria Thessala classe 380
 impatiens, pugnacque datur non ulla potestas;
 noctes atque dies vastis mare fluctibus inter
 perfurit, expediant donec Iunonia sese
 consilia atque aliquem bello ferat anxia finem.
 At Minyae tanti reputantes ultima belli 385
 urgent et precibus cuncti fremituque fatigant
 Aesoniden. quid se externa pro virgine clausos
 obiciat, quidve illa pati discrimina cogat?
 respiceret pluresque animas maioraque fata
 tot comitum, qui non furiis nec amore nefando 390
 per freta, sed sola sese virtute sequantur.
 an vero, ut thalamis raptisque indulgeat unus
 coniugiis? id tempus enim! sat veller Graias,
 et posse oblata componere virgine bellum.
 quemque suas sinat ire domos, nec Marte cruento 395
 Europam atque Asiam prima haec committat Erinys.
 namque datum hoc fatis, trepidus supplexque canebat
 Mopsus, ut in seros irent magis ista nepotes,
 atque alius lueret tam dira incendia raptor.

¹ There seems to be an inconsistency between this passage and 188, where Erginus says he must make for the left-hand channel ("laevum latus"); here Absyrtus also goes to the "sinistrum latus," which is opposite to that occupied by the Argonauts. The poet is perhaps confusing the left as seen from the open sea with the left bank of the river.

² Medea is so called in reminiscence of the Virgilian passage (*Aen.* 2. 573), in which Helen is called the Fury of her country ("Troiae et patriae communis Erinys").

awful fate. Then with his comrades he makes for the left coast¹ and the fronting shore of Peuce far away (for a double bend of Danube sunders the islet from the land); here in their anchorage have long been waiting the Minyae and the ship of Pagasae, there the Aeetian hero leads up his fleet to besiege the Thessalian camp, eager to fight. Yet no chance of battle is given him; night and day the waters seethe with mighty billows between them, till Juno's schemes work themselves out and her anxious care set some ending to the war.

But the Minyae, as they ponder the issue of so bitter a fight, all assail and weary the son of Aeson with protests and entreaties. Why does he expose them, entrapped thus, for a foreign woman's sake? why compel them to court such perils? Let him regard the more numerous lives, the nobler destinies of so many comrades who are following him over the sea, not through promptings of frenzy or unhallowed desire, but through gallantry alone. Or have they come that one only may indulge the joys of wedlock and stolen nuptials? A fitting time, indeed! For the Greeks the fleece were enough, and to be able to end the war by giving up the maiden. Let him suffer each to seek his home, nor let this Fury² first pit Europe against Asia in bloody war. For this was what the Fates decreed, as Mopsus sang in supplication and fear, that that quarrel should rather pass to their latest offspring and another ravisher³ expiate so dire a conflagration.

³ Paris, who by his death pays for the ruin of his country, taking "tam dira incendia" to refer to the burning of Troy; but if the poet intends it to refer to the theft of the fleece and of Medea, "lueret" may mean that he avenges it.

Ille trahens gemitum tantis ac vocibus impar, 400
 quamquam iura deum et sacri sibi conscia pacti
 religio dulcisque movent primordia taedae,
 cunctatur Martemque ¹ cupit sociamque pericli
 cogitat

. haud ultra sociis obsistere pergit.
 haec ubi fixa viris, tempus fluctusque quietos 405
 expectant: ipsam interea, quid restet, amantem
 ignorare sinunt decretaque tristia servant.

Sed miser ut vanos, veros ita saepe timores
 versat amor, fallique sinit nec virginis annos.
 ac prior ipsa dolos et quamlibet intima sensit 410

non fidi iam signa viri numquamque silentes
 iam comites. haut illa sui tamen immemor unquam
 nec subitis turbata minis prior occupat unum
 Aesoniden, longeque trahit, mox talibus infit: 414

“ me quoque, vir, tecum ² Minyae, fortissima pubes,
 nocte dieque movent? liceat cognoscere tandem,
 si modo Peliacae non sum captiva carinae,
 nec dominos despecta sequor, consultaque vestra
 fas audire mihi. vereor, fidissime coniunx,

nil equidem; miserere tamen promissaque serva 420
 usque ad Thessalicos saltem conubia portus,
 inque tua me sperne domo. scis te mihi certe,
 non socios iurasse tuos. hi reddere fors an
 fas habeant, tibi non eadem permissa potestas.

teque simul mecum ipsa traham; non sola re-
 poscor 425

virgo nocens, atque hac pariter rate fugimus omnes.

¹ Martemque *Schenkl*: mortemque *V*.

² vir tecum *T*: vittae cum *V*: quid tecum *Heinsius*.

He, groaning deeply and overborne by cries so importunate, though law divine and the binding sanctity of the holy vow and the first sweet beginnings of wedlock urge him on, yet tarries and would fain fight, and bethinks him of her who shares his peril ¹ . . . no further does he resist his companions. When the heroes were thus decided, they wait for quiet waves and a favouring moment; Medea herself meanwhile they suffer to be ignorant of what is in store, and keep unspoken their cruel counsels.

But unhappy love arouses fears, oft vain indeed, yet often real, nor suffers the maiden for all her tender years to be deceived. Nay, she herself first took hint of guile and marked the signs, how subtle soever, that her husband was no longer true, and the unwonted silence of his comrades. Yet was she never forgetful of herself nor dismayed by sudden signs of danger, but first questioned him alone, and drawing him aside she thus begins: “ Do the gallant Minyae discuss me too by day and by night with thee, my husband? Let me learn at length thereof, if I be not the captive of thy Pelian bark nor a slighted handmaid in her master’s train, if I be suffered to hear your counsels. No fears have I, my faithful spouse, yet pity me, and let our plighted marriage endure at least to the harbours of Thessaly, and spurn me only in thine own house. Thou knowest at any rate that thou hast sworn to me, and not thy comrades. They perchance might justly give me up, but thou hast no such power. Nay, I will drag thee with me; not I only, the guilty maid, am demanded back again; on this ship we all alike have fled. Or

¹ The sense required for the hiatus is: “ but, as the crew still urge him . . . ”

an fratris te bella mei patriaeque biremes
terrificant magnoque impar urgeris ab hoste?
finge rates alias et adhuc maiora coëre
agmina; nulla fides? nullis ego digna periculis? 430
non merui mortemque tuam comitumque tuorum?
vellem equidem nostri tetigissent litora patris
te sine duxque illis alius quicumque fuisset.
nunc remeant, meque ecce (nefas) te reddere
poscunt;
nec spes ulla super. quin tu mea respice saltem 435
consilia et nimio comitum ne eede timori.
credidit ardentis quis te tunc iungere tauros
posse? quis ad saevi venturum templa draconis?
o utinam ergo meus pro te non omnia posset
atque aliquid dubitaret amor! quin nunc quoque
quaero ¹ 440
quid iubeas. heu dure siles? magnumque
minatur 459
nescio quid tuus iste pudor? mene, optime quon-
dam 441
Aesonide, me ferre preces et supplicis ora
fas erat? laud hoc nunc genitor putat, aut dare
poenas
iam sceleris dominumque pati." sic fata parantem
reddere dicta virum furiata mente refugit 445
vociferans. qualem Ogygias cum tollit in arces
Bacchus et Aoniis inlidit Thyada truncis,
talis erat talemque iugis se virgo ferebat
cuneta pavens: fugit infestos vibrantibus hastis
terrigenas, fugit ardentis exterrita tauros. 450

* * *

is it my brother's threats and my country's ships of war that terrify thee? Is the foe too mighty for thy powers? Suppose yet other vessels and still mightier armaments were gathering? Hast thou no confidence? Am I worth no dangers? Have I not deserved that thou and thy men should face death for me? Would indeed that they had reached my father's shores without thee, that another, no matter who, had been their leader. But as it is they return, and look! (O shame!) they bid thee give up—me! And that is their sole hope! Nay, at least listen to my counsels, and yield not to thy companions' needless terror. Who believed then that thou couldst yoke the fiery bulls, or couldst venture to the precinct of the fierce serpent? Would then that my love were not able to do all things for thy sake, but doubted even a little! Nay, now too I ask what thou commandest. Alas! cruel one, art thou silent? Is there a dread menace in that shame of thine? Were it right for me—O son of Aeson, once so noble!—for me to offer prayers, and wear a suppliant aspect? Not this now is my father thinking, or that I am being punished for wrongdoing and enduring a master's frowns." So spoke she, and while the hero strove to answer she fled away in a mad fury, crying aloud upon him. Like a Thyiad when Bacchic frenzy drives her to the Ogygian hills and dashes her against Aonian trees, so was she then, so madly raged the maiden upon the thwarts, in fear of all that might befall: she flees the brandished spears of threatening giants, in terror she flees from fiery

¹ quaero *Ed. Bon.*: quaero *V* (the line following this occurs in *V* after 458, in other MSS. after 462).

si Pagasas vel Peliacas hinc denique nubes
 cerneret et Tempe tenui ¹ lucentia fumo:
 hoc visu contenta mori. tunc tota querellis
 egeritur questuque dies, eademque sub astris
 sola movet, maestis veluti nox illa sonaret 455
 plena lupis quaterentque truces ieiuna leones
 ora vel orbatae traherent suspiria vaccae.

* * *

procedit non gentis honos, non gloria magni ²
 Solis avi, non barbaricae decor ille iuventae,
 qualis erat, cum Chaonio radiantia trunco 460
 vellera vexit ovans, interque ingentia Graium
 nomina Palladia virgo stetit altera prora.

* * *

haeret, et hinc praesens pudor, hinc decreta suorum
 dura premunt. utcumque tamen mulcere gemen-
 tem 465
 temptat et ipse gemens et dictis temperat iras: ³
 "mene aliquid metuisse putas? me talia velle?"

* * *

¹ tenui *add. Bachrens om. V.*² gloria magni *T: om. V.*³ et dictis temperat iras *M (in marg.): et tempera dictis V;*
 et lenit pectora dictis *Bachrens.*

bulls . . . if she could but see Pagasae at last or the clouds upon Pelion or Tempe's glittering haze, at that sight content to die. Then all the day is spent in weeping and complaint, and alone beneath the stars she makes the same lament, as though that night were full of the dismal howling of wolves, and savage lions were hungrily roaring or cows lowed sadly for their lost ones. . . . No pride of race shines forth, no glory of the mighty Sun her grandsire, no brilliance of barbaric youth, as when in triumph she bore the fleece that once gleamed upon the Chaonian tree, and amid the mighty names of Greece stood a second virgin upon Pallas' prow.

He hesitates; on one side urgent shame, on the other the stern counsels of his men sway him. Yet as best he may he tries to soothe her as she sobs, sobbing himself the while, and calms her anger by his words: "Thinkest thou that I had fear of aught? that such is my wish?" . . .

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