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HERCULES FURENS,

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TRAGEDY OF SENECA.

EDITED BY

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PROFESSOR OF LATIN IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

BOSTON:

JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.

1845.

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BOSTON:
PRINTED BY THURSTON, TORRY AND CO.
31 Devonshire Street

P R E F A C E .

IT has, for several years, been a rule in arranging the studies of the Latin department in Harvard College, to introduce specimens of the Roman drama. For this purpose an edition of the *Medea* of *Seneca* was some years ago prepared by the undersigned, and used by several classes. The edition being exhausted, the question presented itself whether it would be better to issue a second edition of the *Medea*, or select some other tragedy from the collection bearing the name of *Seneca*. Several and sufficiently weighty reasons led to a decision in favor of the latter course, and to the publication of the *Hercules Furens*.

While this play participates in most of the defects with which *Seneca's* tragedies are justly reproached, it cannot, and should

not, be denied that it has many and great excellencies. It contains passages scarcely surpassed in beauty by any other Roman poet; for example, the description of the break of day, in the chorus of the first act; or the address to Sleep, in the chorus of the fourth. The language, in this as in the other dramas of Seneca, is characterized by the greatest purity and correctness, and the versification is faultless.

The *Hercules Furens* proves that its author, although he has on the whole furnished little more than a paraphrase of the *Ἡρακλῆς μαινόμενος* of Euripides, was a man of taste and discrimination, and desirous of avoiding the defects of his original. A short sketch of the play of Euripides will show that Seneca perceived and shunned the principal defect of the work which he had fixed upon for imitation.

The tragedy of Euripides opens with the scene at the altar of Jupiter. Amphytrion, Megara and her children are assembled around the altar for protection against the tyrant Lycus, who has slain

Creon and possessed himself of the government. Amphitryon, in reply to Megara's inquiry, describes his helplessness, and can offer nothing else than hopes and wishes. Lycus appears and threatens Megara and her children with death. Megara is willing to die, and only asks some delay to prepare herself. Megara having made her preparations, Hercules appears, and, being informed of the conduct of Lycus, he enters with his family his house, there to await his enemy. Lycus comes again to execute his threat against Megara, follows her into the house, and is there slain by Hercules. After this, Iris and one of the Furies appear, to excite Hercules to madness. The Fury performs her task, and Hercules, in his madness, slays his wife and children. Recovering from his insanity, he is on the point of killing himself, when Theseus arrives and persuades him to follow him to Athens.

It will be at once seen, that with the death of Lycus the plot is complete. The addition of Hercules' madness destroys the

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unity of the tragedy, by introducing a second plot, as it were. How simple and efficient is the remedy of our poet! By introducing, at the opening of the drama, Juno giving vent to her anger at her inability to overcome Hercules by any means of her own, and expressing her determination (see v. 84 and foll.) to conquer him by himself, unity of action is restored; that part of the drama which represents the madness of Hercules, not only ceases to be an awkward appendage, but becomes the most interesting point to which the reader, or spectator, prepared by the threat of Juno, looks eagerly forward from the beginning of the drama.

CHARLES BECK.

CAMBRIDGE, JULY 18, 1845.

HERCULES FURENS.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

JUNO.

HERCULES.

LYCUS.

MEGARA.

AMPHITRYON.

THESEUS.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

HERCULES FURENS.

ACTUS PRIMUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

JUNO.

Soror Tonantis (hoc enim solum mihi
Nomen relictum est) semper alienum Jovem
Ac templa summi vidua deserui ætheris,
Locumque cœlo pulsa pellicibus dedi.
Tellus colenda est : pellices cœlum tenent. 5
Hinc Arctos alta parte glacialis poli
Sublime classes sidus Argolicas agit ;
Hinc, qua tepenti vere laxatur dies,
Tyriæ per undas vector Europæ nitet ;
Illinc timendum ratibus ac ponto gregem 10
Passim vagantes exserunt Atlantides.
Ferro minaci hinc terret Orion deos :
Suasque Perseus aureus stellas habet.
Hinc clara gemini signa Tyndaridæ micant ;
Quibusque natis mobilis tellus stetit. 15
Nec ipse tantum Bacchus aut Bacchi parens

Adiere superos : ne qua pars probro vacet,
 Mundus puellæ sarta Gnoſſiacæ gerit.
 Sed vetera querimur : una me dira ac fera
 Thebana nuribus sparsa tellus impiis 20
 Quoties novercam fecit ? escendat licet
 Meumque victrix teneat Alcmenæ locum ;
 Pariterque natus astra promissa occupet,
 In cujus ortus mundus impendit diem
 Tardusque Eo Phœbus effulsit mari 25
 Retinere mersum jussus Oceano jubar.
 Non sic abibunt odia : vivaces aget
 Violentus iras animus, et sævus dolor
 Æterna bella pace sublata geret.
 Quæ bella ? quidquid horridum tellus creat 30
 Inimica ; quidquid pontus aut aer tulit
 Terribile, dirum, pestilens, atrox, ferum ;
 Fractum atque domitum est : superat et crescit
 malis,
 Iraque nostra fruitur : in laudes suas
 Mea vertit odia : dum nimis sæva impero, 35
 Patrem probavi : gloriæ feci locum :
 Qua sol reducens quaque deponens diem,
 Binos propinqua tingit Æthiopas face,
 Indomita virtus colitur ; et toto deus
 Narratur orbe. Monstra jam desunt mihi ; 40
 Minorque labor est Herculi jussa exsequi
 Quam mihi jubere. Lætus imperia excipit.
 Quæ fera tyranni jussa violento queant

Nocere juveni ? Nempe pro telis gerit,
Quæ timuit et quæ fudit : armatus venit 45
Leone et hydra. Nec satis terræ patent :
Effregit ecce limen inferni Jovis,
Et opima victi regis ad superos refert.
Parum est reverti : fœdus umbrarum perit.
Vidi ipsa, vidi nocte discussa inferum ; 50
Et Dite domito spolia jactantem patri
Fraterna. Cur non victum et oppressum trahit
Ipsum catenis paria sortitum Jovi,
Ereboque capto potitur, et retegit Styga ?
Patefacta ab imis manibus retro via est, 55
Et sacra diræ mortis in aperto jacent.
At ille rupto carcere umbrarum ferox
De me triumphat, et superbifica manu
Atrum per urbes ducit Argolicas canem.
Viso labantem Cerbero vidi diem 60
Pavidumque solem : me quoque invasit tremor,
Et terna monstri colla devicti intuens
Timui imperasse. Levia sed nimium queror :
Cælo timendum est, regna ne summa occupet,
Qui vicit ima. Sceptra præripiet patri. 65
Nec in astra lenta veniet ut Bacchus via :
Iter ruina quæret, et vacuo volet
Regnare mundo. Robore experto tumet,
Et posse cælum viribus vinci suis
Didicit ferendo : subdidit mundo caput, 70
Nec flexit humeros molis immensæ labor,

Mediusque collo sedit Herculeo polus.
 Immota cervix sidera et cœlum tulit
 Et me prementem. Quærit ad superos viam.
 Perge ira, perge, et magna meditantem opprime.
 Congredere; manibus ipsa dilacera tuis. 76
 Quid tanta mandas odia? discedant feræ:
 Ipse imperando fessus Eurystheus vacet.
 Titanas ausos rumpere imperium Jovis
 Emitte: Siculi verticis laxa specum. 80
 Tellus gigante Doris excusso tremens
 Supposita monstri colla terrifici levet.
 Sublimis alias Luna concipiat feras.
 Sed vicit ista. Quæris Alcidæ parem?
 Nemo est nisi ipse: bella jam secum gerat. 85
 Adsint ab imo Tartari fundo excitæ
 Eumenides: ignem flammææ spargant comæ:
 Viperea sævæ verbera incutiant manus.
 I nunc, superbe, cœlitum sedes pete!
 Humana temne! Jam Styga et manes, ferox, 90
 Fugisse credis? Hic tibi ostendam inferos.
 Revocabo in alta conditam caligine
 Ultra nocentum exsilia discordem deam,
 Quam munit ingens montis oppositi specus.
 Educam, et imo Ditis e regno extraham 95
 Quidquid relictum est. Veniat invisum Scelus,
 Suumque lambens sanguinem Impietas ferox,
 Errorque, et in se semper armatus Furor!
 Hoc hoc ministro noster utatur dolor.

Incipite, famulæ Ditis : ardentem incitæ 100
 Concutite pinum, et agmen horrendum anguibus
 Megæra ducat, atque luctifica manu
 Vastam rogo flagrante corripiat trabem !
 Hoc agite ! Pœnas petite violatæ Stygis !
 Concutite pectus ! acrior mentem excoquat 105
 Quam qui caminis ignis Ætnæis furit.
 Ut possit animo captus Alcides agi
 Magno furore percitus, nobis prius
 Insaniendum est. Juno, cur nondum furis ?
 Me, me, sorores, mente dejectam mea 110
 Versate primam, facere si quidquam apparo
 x Dignum noverca ! Jam odia mutentur mea.
 Natos reversus videat incolumes, precor,
 Manuque fortis redeat. Inveni diem,
 Invisa quo nos Herculis virtus juvet : 115
 Me pariter et se vincat, et cupiat mori
 Ab inferis reversus. Hic prosit mihi
 Jove esse genitum. Stabo, et, ut certo exeant
 Emissa nervo tela, librabo manum :
 Regam furentis arma : pugnanti Herculi 120
 Tandem favebo. Scelere perfecto licet
 Admittat illas genitor in cœlum manus.
 Movenda jam sunt bella ; clarescit dies,
 Ortuque Titan lucidus croceo subit.

SCENA ALTERA.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

Jam rara micant sidera prono	125
Languida mundo : nox victa vagos	
Contrahit ignes luce renata ;	
Cogit nitidum Phosphoros agmen :	
Signum celsi glaciale poli	
Septem stellis Arcades ursæ	130
Lucem verso temone vocant :	
Jam cæruleis evectus equis	
Titan summa prospicit Cæta :	
Jam Cadmeis inclita Bacchis	
Aspersa die dumeta rubent :	135
Phœbique fugit reditura soror.	
Labor exoritur durus, et omnes	
Agitat curas, aperitque domos.	
Pastor gelida cana pruina	
Grege dimisso pabula carpit.	140
Ludit prato liber aperto	
Nondum rupta fronte juvencus.	
Vacuæ reparant ubera matres.	
Errat cursu levis incerto	
Molli petulans hœdus in herba.	145
Pendet summo stridula ramo,	
Pennasque novo tradere soli	
Gestit querulos inter nidos	

Thracia pellex; turbaque circa
 Confusa sonat murmure mixto 150
 Testata diem: carbasa ventis
 Credit dubius navita vitæ
 Laxos aura complente sinus:
 Hic exesis penden^s scopulis
 Aut deceptos instruit hamos, 155
 Aut suspensus spectat pressa
 Præmia dextra. Sentit tremulum
 Linea piscem.
 Hæc, innocuæ quibus est vitæ
 Tranquilla quies et læta suo *de an. in* *160* *lib. 1. p. 160*
 Parvoque domus spes et in agris. *with* *domus*
 Turbine magno spes sollicitæ
 Urbibus errant trepidique metus.
 Ille superbos aditus regum
 Durasque fores expers somni 165
 Colit: hic nullo fine beatus
 Componit opes gazis inhians, *occurs in this*
 Et congesto pauper in auro est. *only in the* *160*
 Illum populi favor attonitum
 Fluctuque magis mobile vulgus 170
 Aura tumidum tollit inani:
 Hic clamosi rabiosa fori
 Jurgia vendens improbus iras
 Et verba locat. Novit paucos
 Secura quies, qui velocis 175
 Memores ævi tempora nunquam

comes Reditura tenent. Dum fata sinunt,

Vivite læti : properat cursu

Vita citato, volucrique die

Rota præcipitis vertitur anni. 180

Duræ peragunt pensa Sorores,

Nec sua retro fila revolvunt.

At gens hominum fertur rapidis

Obvia fatis incerta sui :

Stygias ultro quærimus undas. 185

Nimium, Alcide, pectore forti

Properas mæstos visere manes.

Certo veniunt ordine Parcæ.

Nulli jusso cessare licet,

Nulli scriptum proferre diem. 190

Recipit populos urna citatos.

Alium multis gloria terris

Tradat, et omneis fama per urbes

Garrula laudet, cœloque parem

Tollat et astris : alius curru 195

Sublimis eat : me mea tellus

Lare secreto tutoque tegat.

Venit ad pigros cana senectus :

Humilique loco sed certa sedet

Sordida parvæ fortuna domus : 200

Alte virtus animosa cadit.

Sed mæsta venit crine soluto

Megara parvum comitata gregem,

Tardusque senio graditur Alcidiæ parens. 205

ACTUS SECUNDUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

MEGARA. AMPHITRYON.

MEGARA.

O magne Olympi rector et mundi arbiter, 205
 Jam statue tandem gravibus ærumnis modum
 Finemque cladi! Nulla lux unquam mihi
 Secura fulsit: finis alterius mali
 Gradus est futuri: protenus reduci novus
 Paratur hostis: antequam lætam domum 210
 Contingat, aliud jussus ad bellum meat.
 Nec ulla requies, tempus aut ullum datur,
 Nisi dum jubetur: sequitur a primo statim
 Infesta Juno: numquid immunis fuit
 Infantis ætas? monstra superavit prius, 215
 Quam nosse posset: gemina cristati caput
 Angues ferebant ora, quos contra obvius
 Reptavit infans; igneos serpentium
 Oculos remisso lumine ac placido intuens
 Arctos serenis vultibus nodos tulit, 220
 Et tumida tenera guttura elidens manu
 Prolusit hydræ. Mænali pernix fera
 Multo decorum præferens auro caput
 Deprensa cursu est. Maximus Nemeæ timor
 Gemuit lacertis pressus Herculeis leo. 225

Quid stabula memorem dira Bistonii gregis
 Suisque regem pabulum armentis datum ?
 Solitumque densis hispidum Erymanthi jugis
 Arcadia quater nemora Mænalium suem ?
 Taurumque centum non levem populis metum? 230
 Inter remotos gentis Hesperiae greges
 Pastor triformis litoris Tartessii
 Peremptus, acta est præda ab occasu ultimo ;
 Notum Cithæron pavit Oceano pecus.
 Penetrare jussus solis æstivi plagas, 235
 Et adusta medius regna quæ torret dies,
 Utrimque montes solvit abrupto objice,
 Et jam ruenti fecit Oceano viam.
 Post hæc adortus nemoris opulenti domos
 Aurifera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit. 240
 Quid? sæva Lernæ monstra, numerosum malum,
 Non igne demum vicit et docuit mori ?
 Solitasque pennis condere obductis diem
 Petiit ab ipsis nubibus Stymphalidas ?
 Non vicit illum cælibis semper tori 245
 Regina gentis vidua Thermodontiae :
 Nec ad omne clarum facinus audaces manus
 Stabuli fugavit turpis Augiæ labor.
 Quid ista prosunt ? orbe defenso caret.
 Sensere terræ pacis auctorem suæ 250
 Abesse terris. Prosperum ac felix scelus

Virtus vocatur; sontibus parent boni.

Jus est in armis, opprimit leges timor.

Ante ora vidi nostra truculenta manu

Natos paterni cadere regni vindices, 255

Ipsamque Cadmi nobilis stirpem ultimam

Occidere; vidi regium capitis decus

Cum capite raptum. Quis satis Thebas fleat?

Ferax deorum terra, quem dominum tremis?

E cujus arvis eque fœcundo sinu 260

Stricto juvenus orta cum ferro stetit;

Cujusque muros natus Amphion Jove

Struxit canoro saxa modulatu trahens,

In cujus urbem non semel divum parens

Cœlo relicto venit; hæc quæ cœlites 265

Recepit, et quæ fecit, et (fas sit loqui)

Fortasse faciet, sordido premitur jugo.

Cadmea proles civitasque Amphionis,

Quo decidistis? tremitis ignavum exsulem,

Suis carentem finibus, nostris gravem? 270

Qui scelera terra quique persequitur mari,

Ac sæva justa sceptrâ confringit manu,

Nunc servit absens, fertque quæ ferri vetat:

Tenetque Thebas exsul Herculeas Lycus.

Sed non tenebit: aderit, et pœnas petet, 275

Subitusque ad astra emerget: inveniet viam, *in astra*

Aut faciet. Adsis sospes et remees, precor, *desi*

Tandemque venias victor ad victam domum.

Emerge, conjux, atque dispulsas manu

Abrumpe tenebras. Nulla si retro via, 280
 Iterque clausum est, orbe diducto redi,
 Et quidquid atra nocte possessum latet,
 Emitte tecum. Dirutis qualis jugis
 Præceps citato flumini quærens iter
 Quondam stetisti, scissa cum vasto impetu 285
 Patuere Tempe. Pectore impulsus tuo
 Huc mons et illuc cecidit, et rupto aggere
 Nova cucurrit Thessalus torrens via.
 Talis parentes, liberos, patriam petens
 Erumpe rerum terminos tecum efferens ; 290
 Et quidquid avida tot per annorum gradus
 Abscondit ætas, redde ; et oblitos sui
 Lucisque pavidos ante te populos age.
 Indigna te sunt spolia, si tantum refers,
 Quantum imperatum est. Magna sed nimium
 loquor 295
 Ignara nostræ sortis. Unde illum mihi,
 Quo te tuamque dexteram amplectar, diem
 Reditusque lentos nec mei memores querar ?
 Tibi, o deorum ductor, indomiti ferent
 Centena tauri colla : tibi, frugum potens, 300
 Secreta reddam sacra : tibi muta fide
 Longas Eleusin tacita jactabit faces.
 Tum restitutas fratribus rebor meis
 Animas et ipsum regna moderantem sua
 Florere patrem. Si qua te major tenet 305
 Clausum potestas ; sequimur. Aut omnes tuos

Defende reditu sospes, aut omnes trahe!
Trahes, nec ullus eriget fractos deus.

AMPHITRYON.

O socia nostri sanguinis, casta fide
Servans torum natosque magnanimi Herculis, 310
Meliora mente concipe, atque animum excita.
Aderit profecto, qualis ex omni folet
Labore, major.

MEGARA.

Quod nimis miseri volunt,
Hoc facile credunt.

AMPHITRYON.

Immo quod metuunt nimis,
Nunquam amoveri posse nec tolli putant. 315
Prona est timori semper in pejus fides.

MEGARA.

Demersus ac defossus et toto insuper
Oppressus orbe, quam viam ad superos habet?

AMPHITRYON.

Quam tunc habebat, cum per arentem plagam
Et fluctuantes more turbati maris 320
Abiit arenas bisque discedens fretum
Et bis recurrens: cumque deserta rate
Deprensus hæsit Syrtium brevibus vadis,
Et puppe fixa maria superavit pedes.

MEGARA.

Iniqua raro maximis virtutibus 325
Fortuna parcit. Nemo se tuto diu

Periculis offerre tam crebris potest.

Quem sæpe transit casus, aliquando invenit.

Sed ecce sævus ac minas vultu gerens
 Et, qualis animo est, talis incessu venit 330
 Aliena dextra sceptrâ concutiens Lycus.

SCENA ALTERA.

LYCUS. MEGARA. AMPHITRYON.

LYCUS.

Urbis regens opulenta Thebanæ loca
 Et omne quidquid uberi cingit solo
 Obliqua Phocis, quidquid Ismenos rigat,
 Quidquid Cithæron vertice excelso videt, 335
 Et bina findens Isthmos exilis freta,
 Non vetera patriæ jura possideo domus
 Ignavus heres : nobiles non sunt mihi
 Avi nec altis inclitum titulis genus,
 Sed clara virtus. Qui genus jactat suum, 340
 Aliena laudat. Rapta sed trepida manu *abl. after detinentur*
 Sceptrâ obtinentur : omnis in ferro est salus.
 Quod civibus tenere te invitâ scias,
 Strictus tuetur ensis. Alieno in loco
 Haud stabile regnum est : una sed nostras potest
 Fundare vires, juncta regali face 346
 Thalamisque Megara. Ducet e genere inclito
 Novitas colorem nostra. Non equidem reor
 Fore, ut recuset, ac meos spernat toros.

Quod si impotenti pertinax animo abnuet, 350
 Stat tollere omnem penitus Herculeam domum.
 Invidia factum ac sermo popularis premet ?
 Ars prima regni posse te invidiam pati.
 Tentemus igitur : fors dedit nobis locum :
 Namque ipsa tristi vestis obtentu caput 355
 Velata juxta præsidēs adstat deos,
 Laterique adhæret verus Alcidiæ sator.

MEGARA.

Quidnam iste, nostri generis exitium ac lues,
 Novi parat ? quid tentat ?

LYCUS.

O clarum trahens
 A stirpe nomen regia, facilis mea 360
 Parumper aure verba patienti excipe.
 Si æterna semper odia mortales agant,
 Nec cœptus unquam cedat ex animis furor,
 Sed arma felix teneat, infelix paret :
 Nihil relinquent bella ; tum vastis ager 365
 Squalebit arvis ; subdita tectis face
 Altus sepultas obruet gentes cinis.
 Pacem reduci velle victori expedit,
 Victo necesse est. Particeps regno veni :
 Sociemur animis ! Pignus hoc fidei cape : 370
 Continge dextram ! Quid truci vultu siles ?

353. *posse ad invidiam.*

370. Cod. Flor. — Al. *Sociemus animos.*

MEGARA.

Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum
 Fratrumque gemina cæde contingam? Prius
 Exstinguet ortus, referet occasus diem;
 Pax ante fida nivibus et flammis erit, 375
 Et Scylla Siculum junget Ausonio latus;
 Priusque multo vicibus alternis fugax
 Euripus unda stabit Euboica piger.
 Patrem abstulisti, regna, germanos, larem,
 Patriam; quid ultra est? Una res superest mihi 380
 Fratre ac parente carior, regno ac lare,
 Odium tui, quod esse cum populo mihi
 Commune doleo; pars quota ex illo mea est?
 Dominare tumidus! spiritus altos gere!
 Sequitur superbos ultor a tergo deus. 385
 Thebana novi regna. Quid matres loquar
 Passas et ausas scelera? quid geminum nefas
 Mixtumque nomen conjugis nati patris?
 Quid bina fratrum castra? quid totidem rogos?
 Riget superba Tantalus luctu parens, 390
 Mæstusque Phrygio manat in Sipylo lapis.
 Quin ipse torvum subrigens crista caput
 Illyria Cadmus regna permensus fuga
 Longas reliquit corporis tracti notas.
 Hæc te manent exempla. Dominare, ut lubet, 395
 Dum solita regni fata te nostri vocent.

LYCUS.

Agedum, efferatas rabida voces amove,
 Et disce regum imperia ab Alcide pati.
 Ego rapta quamvis sceptrata victrici geram
 Dextra, regamque cuncta sine legum metu, 400
 Quas arma vincunt, pauca pro causa loquar
 Nostra. Cruento cecidit in bello pater?
 Cecidere fratres? Arma non servant modum,
 Nec temperari facile nec reprimi potest
 Stricti ensis ira; bella delectat cruor. 405
 Sed ille regno pro suo, nos improba
 Cupidine acti. Quæritur belli exitus,
 Non causa. Sed nunc pereat omnis memoria.
 Cum victor arma posuit, et victum decet
 Deponere odia. Non ut inflexo genu 410
 Regnantem adores, petimus. Hoc ipsum placet,
 Animo ruinas quod capis magno tuas.
 Es rege conjux digna: sociemus toros.

MEGARA.

Gelidus per artus vadit exsanguis tremor.
 Quod facinus aures pepulit? Haud equidem hor-
 rui, 415
 Cum pace rupta bellicus muros fragor
 Circumsonaret; pertuli intrepide omnia.
 Thalamos tremisco: capta nunc videor mihi.
 Gravent catenæ corpus, et longa fame
 Mors protrahatur lenta: non vincet fidem 420
 Vis ulla nostram: moriar, Alcide, tua!

LYCUS.

Animosne mersus inferis conjux facit ?

MEGARA.

Inferna tetigit, posset ut supera assequi.

LYCUS.

Telluris illum pondus immensæ premit.

MEGARA.

Nulla premetur onere, qui cælum tulit.

425

LYCUS.

Cogere.

MEGARA.

Cogi qui potest, nescit mori.

LYCUS.

Effare, thalamis quod novis potius parem
Regale munus ?

MEGARA.

Aut tuam mortem aut meam.

LYCUS.

Moriere demens ?

MEGARA.

Conjugi occurram meo.

LYCUS.

Sceptrone nostro potior est famulus tibi ?

430

MEGARA.

Quot iste famulus tradidit reges neci !

LYCUS.

Cur ergo regi servit, et patitur jugum ?

MEGARA.

Imperia dura tolle, quid virtus erit ?

LYCUS.

Obici feris monstrisque virtutem putas?

MEGARA.

Virtutis est domare, quæ cuncti pavent. 435

LYCUS.

Tenebræ loquentem magna Tartaræ premunt.

MEGARA.

Non est ad astra mollis e terris via.

LYCUS.

Quo patre genitus cœlitum sperat domos?

AMPHITRYON.

Miseranda conjux Herculis magni sile :
 Partes meæ sunt reddere Alcidæ patrem 440
 Genusque verum. Post tot ingentis viri
 Memoranda facta, postque pacatum manu,
 Quodcunque Titan ortus et labens videt,
 Post monstra tot perdomita, post Phlegram impio
 Sparsam cruore postque defensos deos 445
 Nondum liquet de patre? mentimur Jovem?
 Junonis odio crede.

LYCUS.

Quid violas Jovem?

Mortale cœlo non potest jungi genus.

AMPHITRYON.

Communis ista pluribus causa est deis.

LYCUS.

Famuline fuerant, ante quam fierent dei? 450

AMPHITRYON.

Pastor Pheræos Delius pavit greges.

LYCUS.

Sed non per omnes exsul erravit plagas.

AMPHITRYON.

Quem profuga terra mater errante edidit.

LYCUS.

Non monstra sævas Phœbus aut timuit feras.

AMPHITRYON

Primus sagittas imbuat Phœbi draco. 455

LYCUS.

Quam gravia parvus tulerit ignoras mala?

AMPHITRYON.

E matris utero fulmine ejectus puer
 Mox fulminanti proximus patri stetit.
 Quid? qui gubernat astra, qui nubes quatit,
 Non latuit infans rupis Idææ specu? 460
 Sollicita tanti pretia natales habent,
 Semperque magno constitit nasci deum.

LYCUS.

Quemcunque miserum videris, hominem scias.

AMPHITRYON.

Quemcunque fortem videris, miserum neges.

LYCUS.

Fortem vocemus, cujus ex humeris leo 465
 Donum puellæ factus et clava excidit,
 Fulsitque pictum veste Sidonia latus?
 Fortem vocemus, cujus horrentes comæ
 Maduere nardo? laude qui notas manus
 Ad non virilem tympani movit sonum 470
 Mitra ferocem barbara frontem premens?

AMPHITRYON.

Non erubescit Bacchus effusos tener
 Sparsisse crines nec manu molli levem
 Vibrasse thyrsum, cum parum forti gradu
 Auro decorum syrma barbarico trahit. 475
 Post multa virtus opera laxari solet.

LYCUS.

Teuthrantis hoc fatetur eversi domus
 Pecorumque ritu virginum oppressi greges.
 Hoc nulla Juno, nullus Eurystheus jubet :
 Ipsius hæc sunt opera.

AMPHITRYON.

Non nosti omnia. 480

Ipsius opus est cæstibus fractus suis
 Eryx et Eryci junctus Antæus Libys,
 Et qui hospitali cæde manantes foci
 Bibere justum sanguinem Busiridis.
 Ipsius opus est vulneri et ferro obvius 485
 Mortem coactus integer Cygnus pati,
 Nec unus una Geryon victus manu.
 Eris inter istos ; qui tamen nullo stupro
 Læsere thalamus.

LYCUS.

Quod Jovi, hoc regi licet :

Jovi dedisti conjugem : regi dabis. 490
 Et te magistro non novum hoc discet nurus
 Etiam viro probante meliorem sequi.
 Sin copulari pertinax tædis negat,
 Vel ex coacta nobilem partum feram.

MEGARA.

Umbræ Creontis et penates Labdaci 495
 Et nuptiales impii Œdipodæ faces,
 Nunc solita nostro fata conjugio date !
 Nunc nunc, cruentæ regis Ægypti nurus,
 Adeste multo sanguine infectæ manus !
 Deest una numero Danais ; explebo nefas. 500

LYCUS.

Conjugia quoniam pervicax nostra abnuis,
 Regemque terres : scepra quid possint, scies.
 Complectere aras : nullus eripiet deus
 Te mihi : nec orbe si remolito queat
 Ad supera victor numina Alcides vehi. 505
 Congerite silvas, templa supplicibus suis
 Injecta flagrent, conjugem et totum gregem
 Consumat unus igne subjecto rogas.

AMPHITRYON.

Hoc munus a te genitor Alcidæ peto,
 Rogare quod me deceat, ut primus cadam. 510

LYCUS.

Qui morte cunctos luere supplicium jubet,
 Nescit tyrannus esse. Diversa irroga :
 Miserum veta perire, felicem jube.
 Ego, dum cremandis trabibus accrescit rogas,
 Sacro regentem maria votivo colam. 515

AMPHITRYON.

Pro numinum vis summa, pro cœlestium
 Rector parensque, cujus excussis tremunt

Humana telis, impiam regis feri
 Compesce dextram. Quid deos frustra precor?
 Ubicunque es, audi, nate. Cur subito labant 520
 Agitata motu templa? cur mugit solum?
 Infernus imo sonuit e fundo fragor.
 Audimur: est, est sonitus Herculei gradus.

SCENA TERTIA.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

O fortuna viris invida fortibus,
 Quam non æqua bonis præmia dividis! 525
 Eurystheus facili regnet in otio:
 Alcmena genitus bella per omnia
 Monstris exagitet cœliferam manum:
 Serpentis resecat colla feracia:
 Deceptis referat mala sororibus, 530
 Cum somno dederit pervigiles genas
 Pomis divitibus præpositus draco.
 Intravit Scythiæ multivagas domos
 Et gentes patriis sedibus hospitas:
 Calcavitque freti terga rigentia 535
 Et mutis tacitum litoribus mare.
 Illic dura carent æquora fluctibus;
 Et qua plena rates carbasa tenderant,
 Intonsis teritur semita Sarmatis.

Stat pontus vicibus mobilis annuis, 540
 Navem nunc facilis nunc equitem pati.
 Illic, quæ viduis gentibus imperat
 Aurato religans ilia balteo,
 Detraxit spoliū nobile corpori
 Et peltam et nivei vincula pectoris 545
 Victorem posito suspiciens genu.
 Qua spe præcipites actus ad inferos,
 Audax ire vias irremeabiles,
 Vidisti Siculæ regna Proserpinæ ?
 Illic nulla Noto nulla Favonio 550
 Consurgunt tumidis fluctibus æquora.
 Non illic geminum Tyndaridæ genus
 Succurrunt timidis sidera navibus.
 Stat nigro pelagus gurgite languidum ;
 Et cum mors avidis pallida dentibus 555
 Gentes innumeras manibus intulit,
 Uno tot populi remige transeunt.
 Evincas utinam jura feræ Stygis
 Parcarumque colos non revocabiles !
 Hæc qui rex populis pluribus imperat, 560
 Bello cum peteres Nestoream Pylon,
 Tecum conseruit pestiferas manus
 Telum tergemina cuspide præferens ;
 Effugit tenui vulnere saucius,
 Et mortis dominus pertimuit mori. 565
 Fatum rumpe manu : tristibus inferis
 Prospectus pateat lucis, et inivus

Limes det faciles ad superos vias.
 Immites potuit flectere cantibus
 Umbrarum dominos et prece supplici 570
 Orpheus, Eurydicen dum repetit suam.
 Quæ silvas et aves saxaque traxerat
 Ars, quæ præbuerat fluminibus moras ;
 Ad cujus sonitum constiterant feræ ;
 Mulcet non solitis vocibus inferos, 575
 Et surdis resonat clarius in locis.
 Deflent Eurydicen Threiciæ nurus,
 Deflent et lacrimis difficiles dei ;
 Et qui fronte nimis crimina tetrica
 Quærunt, ac veteres excutiunt reos, 580
 Flentes Eurydicen juridici sedent.
 Tandem mortis, ait, vincimur, arbiter :
 Evade ad superos, lege tamen data :
 Tu post terga tui perge viri comes ;
 Tu non ante tuam respice conjugem, 585
 Quam cum clara deos obtulerit dies,
 Spartanique aderit janua Tænari.
 Odit verus amor nec patitur moras.
 Munus, dum properat cernere, perdidit.
 Quæ vinci potuit regia cantibus, 590
 Hæc vinci poterit regia viribus.

ACTUS TERTIUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES.

O lucis alme rector et cœli decus,
 Qui alterna curru spatia flammifero ambiens
 Illustre lætis exseris terris caput,
 Da, Phœbe, veniam, si quid illicitum tui 595
 Videre vultus : jussus in lucem extuli
 Arcana mundi. Tuque cœlestum arbiter
 Parensque, visus fulmine opposito tege ;
 Et tu secundo maria qui sceptro regis,
 Imas pete undas ! Quisquis ex alto aspicit 600
 Terrena facie pollui metuens nova,
 Aciem reflectat, oraque in cœlum erigat
 Portenta fugiens. Hoc nefas cernant duo,
 Qui advexit, et quæ jussit. In pœnas meas
 Atque in labores non satis terræ patent ; 605
 Junonis odio vidi inaccessa omnibus,
 Ignota Phœbo, quæque deterior polus
 Obscura diro spatia concessit Jovi ;
 Et si placerent tertiæ sortis loca,
 Regnare potui. Noctis æternæ chaos 610
 Et nocte quiddam gravius et tristes deos
 Et fata vici ; morte contemta redi ;
 Quid restat aliud ? Vidi et ostendi inferos.

Da, si quid ultra est. Tam diu pateris manus
Cessare nostras, Juno? Quid vinci jubes? 615

Sed templa quare miles infestus tenet,
Limenque sacrum terror armorum obsidet?

SCENA ALTERA.

MEGARA. AMPHITRYON. HERCULES. THESEUS.

AMPHITRYON.

Utrumne visus vota decipiunt meos,
An ille domitor orbis et Grajum decus
Tristi silentem nubilo liquit domum? 620
Estne ille natus? Membra lætitia stupent.
O nate, certa et sera Thebarum salus!
Teneone in auras editum, an vana fruor
Deceptus umbra? Tune es? Agnosco toros
Humerosque et alto nobilem trunco manum. 625

HERCULES.

Unde iste, genitor, squalor et lugubribus
Amicta conjux? unde tam fœdo obsiti
Pædore nati? Quæ domum clades gravat?

AMPHITRYON.

Socer est peremptus: regna possedit Lycus;
Natos parentem conjugem leto petit. 630

622. Gruterus, *at sera*.

HERCULES.

Ingrata tellus! Nemo ad Herculeæ domus
Auxilia venit? Vidit hoc tantum nefas
Defensus orbis? Cur diem questu tero?
Mactetur hostis.

THESEUS.

Cost Hanc ferat virtus notam,
Fiatque summus hostis Alcidæ Lycus? 635
Ad hauriendum sanguinem inimicum feror.

HERCULES.

Theseu, resiste, ne qua vis subita ingruat;
Me bella poscunt. Differ amplexus parens;
Conjuxque differ: nuntiet Diti Lycus
Me jam redisse.

THESEUS.

Flebilem ex oculis fuga, 640
Regina, vultum: tuque nato sospite
Lacrimas cadentes reprime: si novi Herculem,
Lycus Creonti debitas pœnas dabit.
Lentum est dabit; dat: hoc quoque est lentum;
dedit.

AMPHITRYON.

Votum secundet, qui potest, nostrum deus 645
Rebusque lapsis adsit. O magni comes
Magnanime nati, pande virtutum ordinem,
Quam longa mœstos ducat ad manes via,
Ut vincla tulerit dura Tartareus canis.

THESEUS.

Memorare cogis acta securæ quoque 650

Horrenda menti. Vix adhuc certa est fides
 Vitalis auræ : torpet acies luminum,
 Hebetesque visus vix diem insuetum ferunt.

AMPHITRYON.

Pervince, Theseu, quidquid alto in pectore
 Remanet pavoris, neve te fructu optimo 655
 Frauda laborum. Quæ fuit durum pati,
 Meminisse dulce est : fare casus horridos.

THESEUS.

Fas omne mundi teque dominantem precor
 Regno capaci teque, quam tota irrita
 Quæsivit Ætna mater, ut jura abdita 660
 Et operta terris liceat impune eloqui.
 Spartana tellus nobile attollit jugum,
 Densis ubi æquor Tænarus silvis premit :
 Heic ora solvit Ditis invisì domus, :
 Hiatque rupes alta, et immenso specu 665
 Ingens vorago faucibus vastis patet,
 Latumque pandit omnibus populis iter.
 Non cæca tenebris incipit primo via :
 Tenuis relictæ lucis a tergo nitor
 Fulgorque dubius solis afflictì cadit, 670
 Et ludit aciem ; nocte sic mixta solet
 Præbere lumen primus aut serus dies.
 X Hinc ampla vacuis spatia laxantur locis,
 In quæ omne mersum pereat humanum genus. *et se per-*
 Nec ire labor est : ipsa deducit via. 675 *it*
 Ut sæpe puppes æstus invitas rapit,

Sic pronus aer urget atque avidum chaos,
 Gradumque retro flectere haud unquam sinunt
 Umbræ tenaces. Intus immensi sinus
 Placido quieta labitur Lethe vado, 680
 Demitque curas: neve remeandi amplius
 Pateat facultas, flexibus multis gravem
 Involvit amnem; qualis incerta vagus
 Mæander unda ludit, et cedit sibi
 Instatque, dubius, littus an fontem petat. 685
 Palus inertis fœdø Cocyti jacet.
 Hic vultur, illic luctifer bubo gemit,
 Omenque triste resonat infaustæ strigis;
 Horrent opaca fronde nigrantes comæ
 Taxo imminente, quam tenet segnis Sopor 690
 Famesque mæsta tabido rictu jacens;
 Pudorque serus conscios vultus tegit:
 Metus Pavorque Funus et frendens Dolor
 Aterque Luctus sequitur et Morbus tremens
 Et cincta ferro Bella: in extremo abdita 695
 Iners Senectus adjuvat baculo gradum.

AMPHITRYON.

Estne aliqua tellus Cereris aut Bacchi ferax?

THESEUS.

Non prata viridi læta facie germinant,
 Nec adulta leni fluctuat Zephyro seges;
 Non ulla ramos silva pomiferos habet: 700

Sterilis profundi vastitas squalet soli,
 Et fœda tellus torpet æterno situ;
 Rerumque mœstus finis et mundi ultima ;
 Immotus aer hæret, et pigro sedet
 Nox atra mundo ; cuncta mœrore horrida, 705
 Ipsaque morte pejor est mortis locus.

AMPHITRYON.

Quid, ille, opaca qui regit sceptro loca,
 Qua sede positus temperat populos leves ?

THESEUS.

Est in recessu Tartari obscuro locus,
 Quem gravibus umbris spissa caligo alligat. 710
 A fonte discors manat hinc uno latex :
 Alter quieto similis (hunc jurant dei)
 Tacente sacram devehens fluvio Styga :
 At hic tumultu rapitur ingenti ferox,
 Et saxa fluctu volvit Acheron invius 716
 Renavigari. Cingitur duplici vado
 Adversa Ditis regia, atque ingens domus
 Umbrante luco tegitur : hic vasto specu
 Pendent tyranni limina : hoc umbris iter ;
 Hæc porta regni ; campus hanc circa jacet, 720
 In quo superbo digerit vultu sedens
 Animas recentes. Dira majestas deo,
 Frons torva, fratrum quæ tamen speciem gerat
 Gentisque tantæ : vultus est illi Jovis,

Sed fulminantis ; magna pars regni trucis 725
 Est ipse dominus, cujus aspectum timet,
 Quidquid timetur.

AMPHITRYON.

Verane est fama inferis
 Tam sera reddi jura et oblitos sui
 Sceleris nocentes debitas pœnas dare ?
 Quis iste veri rector atque æqui arbiter ? 730

THESEUS.

Non unus alta sede quæsitore sedens
 Judicia trepidis sera sortitur reis :
 Aditur illo Gnossius Minos foro,
 Rhadamantus illo, Thetidis hoc audit socer.
 Quod quisque fecit, patitur : auctorem scelus 735
 Repetit, suoque premitur exemplo nocens.
 Vidi cruentos carcere includi duces
 Et impotentis terga plebeja manu
 Scindi tyranni. Quisquis est placide potens,
 Dominusque vitæ servat innocuas manus, 740
 Et incruentum mitis imperium regit,
 Animæque parcit ; longa permensus diu
 Felicis ævi spatia vel cælum petit
 Vel læta felix nemoris Elysii loca
 Judex futurus. Sanguine humano abstine, 745
 Quicumque regnas : scelera taxantur modo
 Majore vestra.

AMPHITRYON.

Certus inclusos tenet

Locus nocentes, utque fert fama, impios
Supplicia vinclis sæva perpetuis domant ?

THESEUS.

Rapitur volucris tortus Ixion rota ; 750
Cervice saxum grande Sisyphia sedet ;
In amne medio faucibus siccis senex
Sectatur undas ; alluit mentum latex ;
Fidemque cum jam sæpe decepto dedit,
Perit unda in ore ; poma destituunt famem ; 755
Præbet volucris Tityos æternas dapes ;
Urnasque frustra Danaides plenas gerunt ;
Errant furentes impiæ Cadmeides ;
Terretque mensas avida Phineas avis.

AMPHITRYON.

Nunc ede nati nobilem pugnam mei. 760
Patruis volentis munus an spoliis refert ?

THESEUS.

Ferale tardis imminet saxum vadis,
Stupent ubi undæ, segne torpescit fretum :
Hunc servat amnem cultu et aspectu horridus,
Pavidosque manes squalidus gestat senex ; 765
Impexa pendet barba, deformem sinum
Nodus coercet, concavæ lurent genæ,
Regit ipse conto portitor longo ratem.
Hic onere vacuum litori puppim applicans
Repetebat umbras ; poscit Alcides viam 770

Cedente turba. Dirus exclamat Charon :
 "Quo pergis audax? siste properantem gradum."
 Non passus ullas natus Alcmena moras
 Ipso coactum navitam conto domat,
 Scanditque puppem; cymba populorum capax 775
 Succubuit uni; sedit, et gravior ratis
 Utrimque Lethen latere titubanti bibit.
 Tunc victa trepidant monstra, Centauri truces
 Lapithæque multo in bella succensi mero.
 Stygiæ paludis ultimos quærens sinus 780
 Fœcunda mergit capita Lernæus labos.
 Post hæc avari Ditis apparet domus :
 Hic sævus umbras territat Stygius canis,
 Qui trina vasto capita concutiens sono
 Regnum tuetur: sordidum tabo caput 785
 Lambunt colubræ, viperis horrent jubæ,
 Longusque torta sibilat cauda draco;
 Par ira formæ. Sensit ut motus pedum,
 Attollit hirtas angue vibrato comas,
 Missumque captat aure subrecta sonum 790
 Sentire et umbras solitus. Ut propior stetit
 Jove natus, antro sedit incertus canis,
 Et uterque timuit. Ecce, latratu gravi
 Loca muta terret, sibilat totos minax
 Serpens per armos, vocis horrendæ fragor 795
 Per ora missus terna felices quoque
 Exterret umbras. Solvit a læva feros
 Tunc ipse rictus, et Cleonæum caput

Opponit, ac se tegmine ingenti clepit :
 Victrice magnum dextera robur gerens 800
 Huc nunc et illuc verbere assiduo rotat,
 Ingeminat ictus; domitus infregit minas,
 Et cuncta lassus capita submisit canis,
 Antroque toto cessit. Extimuit sedens
 Uterque solio dominus, et duci jubet : 805
 Me quoque petenti munus Alcidæ dedit.
 Tunc gravia monstri colla permulcens manu
 Adamante texto vincit. Oblitus sui
 Custos opaci pervigil regni canis
 Componit aures timidus, et patiens trahi 810
 Herumque fassus, ore submisso obsequens
 Utrumque cauda pulsat anguifera ~~fera~~ ^{latus}.
 Postquam est ad oras Tænari ventum, et nitor
 Percussit oculos lucis ignotæ, novos
 Resumit animos vinctus, et vastas furens 815
 Quassat catenas: pæne victorem abstulit,
 Pronumque retro vexit, et movit gradu.
 Tunc et meas respexit Alcides manus:
 Geminis uterque viribus tractum canem
 Ira furentem et bella tentantem irrita 820
 Intulimus orbi; vidit ut clarum æthera,
 Et pura nitidi spatia conspexit poli,
 Oborta nox est, lumina in terram dedit,
 Compressit oculos, et diem invisum expulit,
 Aciemque retro flexit, atque omni petiit 825
 Cervice terram: tum sub Herculea caput

Abscondit umbra. Densa sed læto venit
 Clamore turba frontibus laurum gerens,
 Magnique meritas Herculis laudes canit.

SCENA TERTIA.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

Natus Eurystheus properante partu 830

Jusserat mundi penetrare fundum :

Déerat hoc solum numero laborum

Tertiæ regem spoliare sortis.

Ausus est cæcos aditus inire, " by the way where road "

Ducit ad manes via qua remotos 835

Tristis et silva metuenda nigra, on accession of

Sed frequens magna comitante turba.

Quantus incedit populus per urbes

Ad novi ludos avidus theatri :

Quantus Eleum ruit ad Tonantem, 840

Quinta cum sacrum revocavit ætas :

Quanta, cum longæ redit hora noctis,

Crescere et somnos cupiens quietos " equal with hour, all "

Libra Phœbeos tenet æqua currus, " down to the autumn "

Turba secretam Cererem frequentat, 845

Et citi tectis properant relictis

Attici noctem celebrare mystæ :

Tanta per campos agitur silentes

Turba: pars tarda gradiens senecta

Tristis et longa satiata vita : 850

relax the them "

Pars adhuc currit melioris ævi,
Virgines nondum thalamis jugatæ
Et comis nondum p̄sitis ephebi
Matris et nomen modo doctus infans :
His datum solis, minus ut timerent, 855
Igne prælato relevare noctem.
Ceteri vadunt per opaca tristes,
Qualis est nobis animus remota
Luce, cum mœstus sibi quisque sentit
Obrutum tota caput esse terra. 860
Stat chaos densum tenebræque turpes
Et color noctis malus ac silentis
Otium mundi vacuæque nubes.
Sera nos illo referat senectus !
Nemo ad id sero venit, unde nunquam, 865
Cum semel venit, potuit reverti.
Quid juvat durum properare fatum ?
Omnis hæc magnis vaga turba terris
Ibit ad manes, facietque inertis
Vela Cocyto. Tibi crescit omne, 870
Et quod occasus videt et quod ortus :
Parce venturis ! tibi, mors, paramur :
Sis licet segnis, properamus ipsi.
Prima quæ vitam dedit hora, carpit.
Thebis læta dies adest : 875
Aras tangite supplices !
Pingues cædite victimas !
Permixtæ maribus nurus

Solemnes agitent choros !
Cessent deposito jugo
Arvi fertilis incolæ !
Pax est Herculea manu
Auroram inter et Hesperum,
Et qua sol medium tenens
Umbras corporibus negat.
Quodcunque alluitur solum
Longo Tethyos ambitu,
Alcidæ domuit labor,
Transvectus vada Tartari
Pacatis redit inferis.
Jam nullus superest timor :
Nil ultra jacet inferos.
Stantes, sacrificus, comas
Dilecta tege populo.

880

885

890

ACTUS QUARTUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES. THESEUS. AMPHITRYON. MEGARA.

HERCULES.

Ultrice dextra fusus adverso Lycus 895
 Terram cecidit ore : tum quisquis comes
 Fuerat tyranni, jacuit et pœnæ comes.
 Nunc sacra patri victor et superis feram,
 Cæsisque meritas victimis aras colam.
 Te, te, laborum socia et adjutrix, precor, 900
 Belligera Pallas, cujus in læva ciet
 Ægis feroces ore saxifico minas !
 Adsit Lycurgi domitor et rubri maris
 Tectam virenti cuspidem thyrsos gerens :
 Geminumque numen, Phœbus et Phœbi soror, 905
 Soror sagittis aptior, Phœbus lyræ ;
 Fraterque quisquis incolit cœlum meus,
 Non ex noverca frater ; huc appellite
 Greges opimos ! Quidquid Indorum seges
 Arabesque odoris quidquid arboribus legunt, 910
 Conferte in aras ; pinguis exundet vapor.
 Populea nostras arbor exornet comas :
 Te ramus oleæ fronde gentili tegat,
 Theseu. Tonantem nostra adorabit manus :
 Tu conditores urbis et silvestria 915
 Trucis antra Zethi nobilis Dircen aquæ

Laremque regis advenæ Tyrium coles.
Date tura flammis.

AMPHITRYON.

Nate, manantes prius
Manus cruenta cæde et hostili expia.

HERCULES.

Utinam cruorem capitis invisi deis 920
Libare possem! Gravior nullus liquor
Tinxisset aras: victima haud ulla amplior *uer-*
Potest magisque opima mactari Jovi
Quam rex iniquus.

AMPHITRYON.

Finiat genitor tuos
Opta labores: detur aliquando otium 925
Quiesque fessis.

HERCULES.

Ipse concipiam preces
Jove meque dignas. Stet suo cælum loco
Tellusque et æther: astra inoffensos agant
Æterna cursus: alta pax gentes alat:
Ferrum omne teneat ruris innocui labor: 930
Ensesque lateant: nulla tempestas fretum
Violenta turbet: nullus irato Jove
Exsiliat ignis: nullus hiberna nive
Nutritus agros amnis eversos trahat:
Venena cessent: nulla nocituro gravis 935
Succo tumescat herba: non sævi ac truces
× Regnent tyranni. Si quod etiamnum est scelus

Latura tellus, properet; et si quod parat
 Monstrum, meum sit. Sed quid hoc? medium
 diem

Cinxere tenebræ: Phœbus obscuro meat 940
 Sine nūbe vultu. Quis diem retro fugat,
 Agitque in ortus? unde nox atrum caput
 Ignota profert? unde tot stellæ polum
 Implent diurnæ? Primus en noster labor
 Cœli refulget parte non minima Leo, 945
 Iraque totus fervet, et morsus parat;
 Jam rapiet aliquod sidus: ingenti minax
 Stat ore, et ignes efflat, et rutila jubam
 Cervice jactat: quidquid autumnus gravis
 Hiemsque gelido frigida spatio refert, 950
 Uno impetu transiliet, et verni petet
 Frangetque Tauri colla. †

AMPHITRYON.

Quod subitum hoc malum est?

Quo, nate, vultus huc et huc acres refers,
 Acieque falsum turbida cœlum vides?

HERCULES.

Perdomita tellus, tumida cesserant freta, 955
 Inferna nostros regna sensere impetus:
 Immune cœlum est, dignus Alcidæ labor.
 In alta mundi spatia sublimis ferar!
 Petatur æther! Astra promittit pater.
 Quid si negaret? Non capit terra Herculem, 960
 Tandemque superis reddit. En ultro vocat

Omnis deorum cœtus, et laxat fores
 Una vetante. Recipis, et reseras polum,
 An contumacis januam mundi traho?
 Dubitatur etiam? Vincla Saturno exuam, 965
 Contraque patris impii regnum impotens
 Avum resolvam. Bella Titanes parent
 Me duce furentes! saxa cum silvis feram,
 Rapiamque dextra plena Centauris juga.
 Jam monte gemino limitem ad superos agam. 970
 Videat sub Ossa Pelion Chiron suum!
 In cœlum Olympus tertio positus gradu
 Perveniet, aut mittetur.

AMPHITRYON.

Infandos procul
 Averte sensus: pectoris sani parum
 Magni tamen compesce dementem impetum. 975

HERCULES.

Quid hoc? Gigantes arma pestiferi movent:
 Profugit umbras Tityos, ac lacerum gerens
 Et inane pectus quam prope a cœlo stetit?
 Labat Cithæron, alta Pallene tremit
 Macetumque Tempe; rapuit hic Pindi juga: 980
 Hic rapuit Cœten; sævit horrendum Mimas.
 Flammifera Erinnys verbere excusso sonat,
 Rogisque adustas propius ac propius sudes
 In ora tendit; sæva Tisiphone caput
 Serpentibus vallata post raptum canem 985
 Portam vacantem clausit opposita face.

Sed ecce proles regis inimici latet,
 Lyci nefandum semen! Inviso patri
 Hæc dextra jam vos reddet! Excutiat leves
 Nervus sagittas! Tela sic mitti decet 990
 Herculei.

AMPHITRYON.

Quo se cæcus imegit furor?
 Vastum coactis flexit arcum cornibus,
 Pharetramque solvit; stridet emissa impetu
 Arundo; medio spiculum collo fugit
 Vulnere relicto.

HERCULES.

Ceteram prolem eruam 995
 Omnesque latebras. Quid moror? Majus mihi
 Bellum Mycenis restat: ut Cyclopea
 Eversa manibus saxa nostris concidant,
 Huc eat et illuc valya dejecto objice,
 Rumpatque posteis; columen impulsus labet.
 Perlucet omnis regia; hic video abditum 1001
 Natum scelesti patris.

AMPHITRYON.

En blandas manus
 Ad genua tendens voce miseranda rogat.
 Scelus nefandum, triste, et aspectu horridum,

996. *Omnesque latebris*; Bothe. *Omnem e latebris*;
 Gronov.

999. *Al. aula disjecto.*

Dextra precante rapuit, et circa furens 1005
 Bis ter rotatum misit : ast illi caput
 Sonuit ; cerebro tecta disperso madent.
 At misera parvum protegens natum sinu
 Megara furenti similis e latebris fugit.

HERCULES.

Licet Tonantis profuga condaris sinu, 1010
 Petet undecunque temet hæc dextra, et feret.

AMPHITRYON.

Quo misera pergis ? quam fugam aut latebram
 petis ?
 Nullus salutis Hercule infenso est locus :
 Amplexere ipsum potius, et blanda prece
 Lenire tenta.

MEGARA.

Parce jam, conjux, precor ! 1015
 Agnosce Megaram ! Natus hic vultus tuos
 Habitusque reddit. Cernis, ut tendat manus ?

HERCULES.

Teneo novercam. Sequere, da pœnas mihi,
 Jugoque pressum libera turpi Jovem !
 Sed ante matrem parvulum hoc monstrum occi-
 dat ! 1020

MEGARA.

Quo tendis amens ? Sanguinem fundes tuum ?

AMPHITRYON.

Pavefactus infans igneo vultu patris
 Perit ante vulnus : spiritum eripuit timor.
 In conjugem nunc clava libratur gravis.
 Perfregit ossa : corpori trunco caput 1025
 Abest, nec usquam est. Cernere hoc audes nimis
 Vivax senectus ? Si piget luctus, habes
 Mortem paratam. Pectus in tela indue ;
 Vel stipitem istum cæde monstrorum illitum
 Convertite. Falsum ac nomini turpem tuo 1030
 Remove parentem, ne tuæ laudi obstrepat.

THESEUS.

Quo te ipse, senior, obvium morti ingeris ?
 Quo pergis amens ? Profuge, et obtectus late,
 Unumque manibus aufer Herculeis scelus.

HERCULES.

Bene habet : pudendi regis excisa est domus. 1035
 Tibi hunc dicatum, maximi conjux Jovis,
 Gregem cecidi. Vota persolvi libens
 Te digna : et Argos victimas alias dabit.

AMPHITRYON.

Nondum litasti, nate : consumma sacrum.
 Stat, ecce, ad aras hostia ; exspectat manum 1040
 Cervice prona ; præbeo, occurro, insequor :
 Macta ! Quid hoc est ? errat acies luminum,
 Visusque mœror hebetat. An video Herculis
 Manus trementes ? Vultus in somnum cadit,
 Et fessa cervix capite submisso labat ; 1045

Flexo genu jam totus ad terram ruit :
 Ut cæsa silvis ornus aut portus mari
 Datura moles. Vivis, an leto dedit
 Idem, tuos qui misit ad mortem, furor ?
 Sopor est : reciprocos spiritus motus agit. 1050
 Detur quieti tempus, ut somno gravi
 Vis victa morbi pectus oppressum levet.
 Removete, famuli, tela, ne repetat furens.

SCENA ALTERA.

CHORUS THEBANORUM.

Lugeat æther magnusque parens
 Ætheris alti tellusque ferax 1055
 Et vaga ponti mobilis unda ;
 Tuque ante omnes, qui per terras
 Tractusque maris fundis radios,
 Noctemque fugas ore decoro,
 Fervide Titan ! Obitus pariter 1060
 Tecum Alcides vidit et ortus,
 Novitque tuas utrasque domos.
 Solvite tantis animum monstris,
 Solvite, superi ! rectam in melius
 Flectite mentem ! tuque o domitor, 1065
 Somne, laborum, requies animi,
 Pars humanæ melior vitæ,
 Volucer, matris genus Astrææ,

Frater duræ languide mortis,
 Veris miscens falsa, futuri 1070
 Certus et idem pessimus auctor,
 Pater o rerum, portus vitæ,
 Lucis requies noctisque comes,
 Qui par regi famuloque venis,
 Placidus fessum lenisque fove ! 1075
 Pavidum leti genus humanum
 Cogis longam discere mortem :
 Preme devictum torpore gravi !
 Sopor indomitos alliget artus,
 Nec torva prius pectora linquat 1080
 Quam mens repetat pristina cursum.
 En fusus humi sæva feroci
 Corde volutat somnia (nondum est
 Tanti pestis superata mali),
 Clavæque gravi lassum solitus 1085
 Mandare caput quærit vacua
 Pondera dextra motu jactans
 Brachia vano, nec adhuc omnes
 Expulit æstus; sed ut ingenti
 Vexata Noto servat longos 1090

1075. Al. *fovens*.

Cod. Flor. et Baden :

Pavidum leti genus humanum
Cogis longam discere mortem ;
Placidus fessum lenisque fove !
Preme devictum torpore gravi !

Unda tumultus, et jam vento
 Cessante tumet. Pelle insanos
 Fluctus animi; redeat pietas
 Virtusque viro: vel sit potius
 Mens vesano concita motu; 1095
 Error cæcus, qua cœpit, eat.
 Solus te jam præstare potest
 Furor insontem. Proxima puris
 Sors est manibus nescire nefas.
 Nunc Herculeis percussa sonent 1100
 Pectora palmis: mundum solitos
 Ferre lacertos verbera pulsent
 Victrice manu: gemitus vastos
 Audiat æther, audiat atri
 Regina poli, vastisque ferox 1105
 Qui colla gerit vincta catenis,
 Imo latitans Cerberus antro:
 Resonet mæsto clamore chaos
 Lateque patens unda profundi
 Et, qui melius tua tela tamen 1110
 Senserat, aer.
 Pectora tantis obsessa malis
 Non sunt ictu ferienda levi:
 Uno planctu tria regna sonent.
 Et tu collo decus ac telum 1115
 Suspensa diu fortis arundo
 Pharetræque graves, date sæva fero
 Verbera tergo: cædant humeros

Robora fortes, stipesque potens
 Duris oneret pectora nodis : 1120
 Plangent tantos arma dolores.
 Non vos patriæ laudis comites
 Ulti sævo vulnere reges,
 Non Argiva membra palæstra
 Flectere docti, fortes cæstu 1125
 Fortesque manu, jam tamen ausi
 Telum Scythicis leve corytis
 Missum certa librare manu,
 Tutosque fuga figere cervos
 Nondumque feræ terga jubatæ, 1130
 Ite ad Stygios umbræ portus,
 Ite innocuæ, quas in primo
 Limine vitæ scelus oppressit
 Patriusque furor !
 Ite infaustum genus, o pueri, 1135
 Noti per iter triste laboris !
 Ite, iratos visite reges !

1127. Cod. Flor. — Al. *Scythici* — *coryti*.

1134. Bothe. — Al.

Patriusque furor ! ite infaustum
Genus, o pueri, noti per iter
Triste laboris ! ite, iratos
Visite reges.

ACTUS QUINTUS.

SCENA PRIMA.

HERCULES. AMPHITRYON. THESEUS.

HERCULES.

Quis hic locus, quæ regio, quæ mundi plaga?
 Ubi sum? sub ortu solis, an sub cardine
 Glacialis Ursæ? numquid Hesperii maris 1140
 Extrema tellus hunc dat Oceano modum?
 Quas trahimus auras? quod solum fesso subest?
 Certe redimus. Unde prostrata domo
 Video cruenta corpora? an nondum exiit
 Simulacra mens inferna? Post reditus quoque 1145
 Oberrat oculos turba feralis meos.
 Pudet fateri: paveo nescio quid; mihi
 Nescio quod animus grande præagit malum.
 Ubi est parens? ubi illa natorum grege
 Animosa conjux? cur latus lævum vacat 1150
 Spolio leonis? quonam abijt tegimen meum
 Idemque somno mollis Herculeo torus?
 Ubi tela? ubi arcus? arma quis vivo mihi
 Detrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit?
 Ipsumque quis non Herculis somnum horruit? 1155
 Libet meum videre victorem, libet.

 1143. Bothe, *prostrata a domo.*

Exsurge, virtus, quem novum cælo pater
 Genuit relicto, cujus in fœtu stetit
 Nox longior quam nostra. Quod cerno nefas?
 Nati cruenta cæde confecti jacent: 1160
 Peremta conjux. Quis Lycus regnum obtinet?
 Quis tanta Thebis scelera moliri ausus est
 Hercule reverso? Quisquis Ismeni loca,
 Actæa quisquis arva, qui gemino mari
 Pulsata Pelopis regna Dardanii colis, 1165
 Succurre! sævæ cladis auctorem indica!
 Ruat ira in omnes; hostis est, quisquis mihi
 Non monstrat hostem. Victor Alcidæ lates?
 Procede: seu tu vindicas currus truces
 Thracis cruenti sive Geryonæ pecus 1170
 Libyæve dominos, nulla pugnandi mora est.
 En nudus adsto; vel meis armis licet
 Petas inermem. Cur meos Theseus fugit
 Paterque vultus? ora cur condunt sua?
 Differte fletus! Quis meos dederit neci 1175
 Omnes simul, profare! Quid, genitor, siles?
 At tu ede, Theseu, sed tua, Theseu, fide.
 Uterque tacitus ora pudibunda obtegit,
 Furtimque lacrimas fundit. In tantis malis
 Quid est pudendum? numquid Argivæ impotens
 Dominator urbis, numquid infestum Lyci 1181
 Pereuntis agmen clade nos tanta obruit?

1157. Cod. Flor. — Al. *Exsurge, victor.*

Per te meorum facinorum laudem precor,
 Genitor, tuique nominis semper mihi
 Numen secundum, fare, quis fudit domum? 1185
 Cui præda jacui?

AMPHITRYON.
 Tacita sic abeant mala.

HERCULES.
 Ut inultus ego sim?

AMPHITRYON.
 Sæpe vindicta obfuit.

HERCULES.
 Quisquamne segnis tanta toleravit mala?

AMPHITRYON.
 Majora quisquis timuit.

HERCULES.
 His etiam, pater,
 Quidquam timeri majus aut gravius potest? 1190

AMPHITRYON.
 Cladis tuæ pars ista, quam nosti, quota est?

HERCULES.
 Miserere, genitor! supplices tendo manus.
 Quid hoc? manus refugit. Hic errat scelus.
 Unde hic cruor? quid illa puerili madens
 Arundo leto? Tincta Lernæa nece 1195

1195. Bothe. — Al.

Arundo leto tincta Lernæa nece?

Jam tela video nostra: non quæro manum.

Jam tela video nostra : non quæro manum.
 Quis potuit arcum flectere, aut quæ dextera
 Sinuare nervum vix recedentem mihi ?
 Ad vos revertor, genitor. Hoc nostrum est scelus?
 Tacuere ; nostrum est.

AMPHITRYON.

Luctus est istic tuus, 1200
 Crimen novercæ ; casus hic culpa caret.

HERCULES.

Nunc parte ab omni, genitor, iratus tona
 Oblite nostri : vindica sera manu
 Saltem nepotes : stelliger mundus sonet,
 Flammas et hic et ille jaculetur polus : 1205
 Rupes ligatum Caspiæ corpus trahant
 Atque ales avida ! Cur Promethei vacant
 Scopuli ? Paretur vertice immenso feras
 Volucresque pascens Caucasii abruptum latus
 Nudumque silvis ! Illa, quæ pontum Scythen 1210
 Symplegas arctat, hinc et hinc vinctas manus
 Distendat alto : cumque revocata vice
 In se coibunt saxa, quæ in cælum exprimunt
 Actis utrimque rupibus medium mare,
 Ego inquieta montium jaceam mora. 1215
 Quin structum acervans nemore congesto ag-
 gerem
 Cruore corpus impio sparsum cremo ?
 Sic, sic agendum est : inferis reddam Herculem.

AMPHITRYON.

Nondum tumultu pectus attonito caret;
Mutavit iras, quodque habet proprium furor, 1220
In se ipse sævit.

HERCULES.

Dira Furiarum loca

Et inferorum carcer et sonti plaga
Decreta turbæ, et si quod exilium latet
Ulterius Erebo Cerbero ignotum et mihi,
Huc me abde tellus! Tartari ad finem ultimum
Mansurus ibo. Pectus o nimium ferum! 1126
Quis vos per omnem, liberi, sparsos domum
Deflere digne poterit? hic durus malis
Lacrimare vultus nescit. Huc ense date,
Date huc fagittas, stipitem huc vastum date. 1230
Tibi tela frangam nostra; tibi nostros, puer,
Rumpemus arcus, ac tuis stipes gravis
Ardebit umbris: ipsa Lernæis frequens
Pharetra telis in tuos ibit rogos.
Dent arma pœnas: vos quoque infaustas meis 1235
Creampo telis, o novercales manus!

THESEUS.

Quis nomen unquam sceleris errori addidit?

HERCULES.

Sæpe error ingens sceleris obtinuit locum.

THESEUS.

Nunc Hercule opus est; perfer hanc molem mali.

HERCULES.

Non sic furore cessit extinctus pudor, 1240
 Populos ut omnes impio aspectu fugem.
 Arma, arma, Theseu, flagito propere mihi
 Subtracta reddi. Sana si mens est mihi,
 Referte manibus tela : si remanet furor,
 Pater, recede ; mortis inveniam viam. 1245

AMPHITRYON.

Per sancta generis sacra, per jus nominis
 Utrumque nostri, sive me altorem vocas
 Seu tu parentem, perque venerandos piis
 Canos, senectæ parce desertæ, precor,
 Annisque fessis ! unicum lapsæ domus 1250
 Firmamen, unum lumen afflicto malis
 Temet reserva ! Nullus ex te contigit
 Fructus laborum ; semper aut dubium mare
 Aut monstra timui ; quisquis in toto furit
 Rex sævus orbe manibus, aut aris nocens, 1255
 A me timetur ; semper absentis pater
 Fructum tui tactumque et aspectum peto.

HERCULES.

Cur animam in ista luce detineam amplius
 Morerque, nihil est : cuncta jam amisi bona :
 Mentem, arma, famam, conjugem, natos, manus ;
 Etiam furorem : nemo polluto queat 1261
 Animo mederi : morte sanandum est scelus.

AMPHITRYON.

Perimes parentem ?

HERCULES.

Facere ne possim, occidam.

AMPHITRYON.

Genitore coram ?

HERCULES.

Cernere hunc docui nefas.

AMPHITRYON.

Memoranda potius omnibus facta intuens 1265
Unius a te criminis veniam pete.

HERCULES.

Veniam dabit sibi ipse, qui nulli dedit ?
Laudanda feci jussus ; hoc unum meum est.
Succurre, genitor, sive te pietas movet
Seu triste fatum sive violatæ decus 1270
Virtutis : effer arma ; vincatur mea
Fortuna dextra.

THESEUS.

Sunt quidem patriæ preces
Satis efficaces ; sed tamen nostro quoque
Movere fletu. Surge, et adversa impetu
Perfringe solito ! nunc tuum nulli imparem 1275
Animum malo resume ! nunc magna tibi
Virtute agendum est : Herculem irasci veta.

HERCULES.

Si vivo, feci scelera : si morior, tuli.
Purgare terras propero : jamdudum mihi

Monstrum impium sævumque et immite ac ferum
 Oberrat: agedum, dextra, conare aggredi 1281
 Ingens opus labore bissenno amplius.
 Ignave, cessas fortis in pueros modo
 Pavidasque matres? Arma nisi dantur mihi,
 Aut omne Pindi Thracis exscindam nemus 1285
 Bacchique lucos, et Cithæronis juga
 Mecum cremabo: aut tota cum domibus suis
 Dominisque tecta cum deis templa omnibus
 Thebana supra corpus excipiam meum,
 Atque urbe versa condar; et si fortibus 1290
 Leve pondus humeris mœnia immissa incident,
 Septemque opertus non satis portis premar:
 Onus omne, media parte quod mundi sedet,
 Dirimitque superos, in meum vertam caput.

AMPHITRYON.

Reddo arma.

HERCULES.

Vox est digna genitore Herculis. 1295
 Hoc en peremptus spiculo cecidit puer.

AMPHITRYON.

Hoc Juno telum manibus emisit tuis.

HERCULES.

Hoc nunc ego utar.

1287. Bothe, following the editio princeps of Ferdinandus. Al. *Mecum cremabo; tota cum domibus suis.*

AMPHITRYON.

Ecce, quam miserum metu
Cor palpitat, corpusque sollicitum ferit !

HERCULES.

Aptata arundo est.

AMPHITRYON.

Ecce, jam facies scelus 1300
Volens sciensque.

HERCULES.

Pande, quid fieri jubes ?

AMPHITRYON.

Nihil rogamus : noster in tuto est dolor.
Natum potes servare tu solus mihi,
Eripere nec tu. Maximum evasi metum.
Miserum haud potes me facere, felicem potes. 1305
Sic statue, quidquid statuis, ut causam tuam
Famamque in arcto stare et ancipiti scias.
Aut vivis, aut occidis ; hanc animam levem
Fessamque senio nec minus quassam malis
In ore primo teneo. Tam tarde patri 1310
Vitam dat aliquis ? Non feram ulterius moram ;
Letale ferro pectus impresso induam !
Hic, hic jacebit Herculis sani scelus.

HERCULES.

Jam parce, genitor, parce ! jam revoca manum !
Succumbe, virtus ! perfer imperium patris ! 1315
Eat ad labores hic quoque Herculeos labor !
Vivamus ! Artus alleva afflictos solo,

Theseu, parentis: dextra contactus pios
Scelerata refugit.

AMPHITRYON.

Hanc manum amplector libens:
Hac nixus ibo; pectori hanc ægro admovens 1320
Pellam dolores.

HERCULES.

Quem locum profugus petam?
Ubi me recondam? quave tellure obruam?
Quis Tanais aut quis Nilus aut quis Persica
Violentus unda Tigris aut Rhenus ferox
Tagusve Ibera turbidus gaza fluens 1325
Abluere dextram poterit? Arctoum licet
Mæotis in me gelida transfundat mare,
Et tota Tethys per meas currat manus:
Hærebit altum facinus. In quas impius
Terras recedes? ortum an occasum petes? 1330
Ubique notus perdiidi exsilio locum.
Me refugit orbis; astra transversos agunt *i. e. g. out of*
Obliqua cursus; ipse Titan Cerberum *their senses to*
Melio^re vultu vidit. O fidum caput, *avoid him -*
Theseu, latebram quære longinquam abditam; 1335
Quoniamque semper sceleris alieni arbiter *with us*
Amas nocentes, gratiam meritis refer *i. e. for trouble*
Vicemque nostris: redde me infernis, precor, *and here*
Umbris reductum, meque subjectum tuis *for concealment*
Restitue vinclis! Ille me abscondet locus. 1340
Sed et ille novit.

THESEUS.

Nostra te tellus manet.

Illic solutam cæde Gravidus²⁷⁷ manum

Restituet armis. Illa te, Alcida, vocat,

Facere innocentes terra quæ superos solet.

a. m. m. m.

6

— *Theseus furens 6 - 1107* —

NOTES.



NOTES.

IN order to understand the relation of the persons introduced into this Drama, it will be necessary to recall some of the principal events of the life of Hercules, as described by poets and mythographers. Hercules, the son of Jupiter and Alceme, was an object of hatred to Juno, even before his birth. Jupiter having sworn that that descendant of Perseus who should be born about that time (when he expected the birth of Hercules to take place) should rule over the rest of the family, Juno, the protecting deity of mothers, accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, of another branch of the Perseides, and retarded that of Hercules, and thereby made Hercules the vassal of Eurystheus. The latter possessed himself of the government in Tirynth, the city of Amphitryon, and enjoined upon Hercules the performance of those twelve labors or adventures, so familiar in the story of Hercules. When Hercules, after the completion of his adventures, returned to Thebes, where his supposed father, Amphitryon, and Alceme, had resided since their expulsion from Tirynth, and where he himself had married Megara, the daughter of king Creon, he found the situation of his family sadly changed. Lycus, a man of low birth and an exile, taking advantage of the absence of Hercules, had returned from Eubœa, com-

menced a revolution, slain king Creon and his sons, and possessed himself of the supreme power, sparing the life of Megara and her children, not from any feeling of pity, but for the purpose of making her his wife, and thereby establishing his power more firmly. At that moment Hercules returned, and avenged the wrongs of Creon by the death of Lycus. Upon this, Juno, seeing herself foiled in every effort to destroy her hated step-son, and still unrelenting, rendered Hercules insane, and in that condition he slays his wife and children. When recovered from his temporary insanity, he is with difficulty prevented from laying violent hands on himself, and finally prevailed upon by Theseus to accompany the latter to Attica, there atone for his crimes perpetrated in a state of insanity, and obtain forgiveness and peace.

ACT I. — *Scene I.*

V. 1. *Soror* ; Juno, both the sister and wife of Jupiter ; in consequence of Jupiter's infidelity she has almost ceased to be his wife.

2. *alienum Jovem* ; " alienated from me, occupied with the love of other women."

6. *Arctos* ; the mistress of Jupiter, afterwards converted by him into the constellation of the Great Bear.

9. *vector Europæ* ; our poet adopts the version of Eratosthenes, according to which the bull which carried off Europa was converted into the constellation Taurus.

11. *Atlantides* ; the Pleiades, the daughters of Atlas and Pleione, from whom they derive their common

name. Three of them, Electra, Taygete, and Maia, were mistresses of Jupiter.

12. *Ferro minaci*; the iron club with which Orion is armed.

13. *Perseus*; the son of Jupiter and Danae, afterwards converted into a constellation.—*aureus*; alluding to the circumstance of Jupiter descending to Danae in the form of a shower of gold.

14. *Tyndaridæ*; Castor and Pollux, the sons of Tyndareus and Leda.

15. *Quibusque natis*; Apollo and Diana.—*mobilis tellus stetit*; Latona, according to one version of the myth, being in search of a place where to give birth to her son Apollo, came to Delos, an island driven about by the winds; as soon as she set her foot on shore, four pillars rose up from the bottom of the sea, supporting the island and rendering it stationary.

16. *Bacchi parens*; Semele, the daughter of Cadmus.

18. *puellæserta Gnossiacæ*; the crown of Ariadne.

20. *Thebana*—*tellus*; several of the mistresses of Jupiter being natives or residents of Thebes, as Semele, Alcmena.

22. *Alcmene*; the wife of Amphitryon and, by Jupiter, the mother of Hercules.

24. *impendit diem*; the night in which Hercules was begotten, was extended through the following day and night.

33. *superat*; sc. Hercules.

38. *Binos*—*Æthiopas*; the Æthiopians on the eastern and western side of Africa.

43. *tyranni*; Eurystheus.

46. *Leone*; the lion of Cleonæ or Nemea, slain by

Hercules, whose skin he afterwards wore as a breast-plate, and the head as an helmet. — *hydra*; the serpent of Lernæ, a monster with nine, or, according to others, an hundred heads. Hercules killed it, and dipped his arrows in its blood, causing thereby incurable wounds.

47. *inferni Jovis*; Pluto.

49. *fædus umbrarum*; the rights of the infernal regions, and the covenant between Jupiter, Pluto, and Neptune, by which these rights were secured.

53. *Ipsum*; sc. Pluto.

55. *manibus*; dative.

58. *superbifica*; means “making proud,” but it seems here to be used for *superba*.

59. *Atrum — canem*; Cerberus.

70. *Didicit ferendo*; when Hercules took the place of Atlas.

78. *Eurystheus*; the son of Sthenelus and Nicippe, and grandson of Perseus. Jupiter having declared that the firstborn of the descendants of Perseus should rule over the rest, Juno accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, and thereby secured him the power which Jupiter had hoped would belong to Hercules. Jupiter limited, afterwards, the power of Eurystheus over Hercules, determining that it should cease as soon as Hercules should have performed ten exploits prescribed by Eurystheus. Hercules performed them, but Eurystheus objecting to two of them, on the ground of having used the assistance of Iolaus in slaying the Lernæan serpent, and of having received wages for cleansing the Augean stables, Hercules had to perform two more. Thus the servitude of Hercules to Eurystheus was ended.

80. *Siculi verticis*; mount Ætna, placèd by Jupiter

upon the fire-breathing Enceladus, one of the giants who attempted to scale Olympus.

81. *Tellus — Doris* ; Sicily occupied chiefly by colonies of the Dorian stock.

85. *Nemo — gerat* ; a fine idea, and the leading one of the tragedy ; Hercules, who cannot be conquered by others, is to be overcome and destroyed by himself.

87. *Eumenides* ; the Latin *Furiæ*, the ministers of Pluto and Proserpine, employed to torment those who had not atoned for their sins ; they dwelled near the entrance into the infernal regions, in iron chambers. They had serpents instead of hair, and were armed with torches and whips consisting of serpents, with which they scourged the guilty.

93. *discordem deam* ; Discord, the Eris of the Greeks ; she, too, dwelled in the infernal regions.

100. *famulæ Ditis* ; the Furies.

102. *Megæra* ; one of the Furies.

103. *Vastam* ; not to be translated by "vast." The fundamental signification of *vastus* is "desolate," "waste," and this remains an element of all the modifications of the meaning of the word.

122. *genitor* ; Jupiter.

ACT I. — Scene II.

CHORUS.

V. 128. *Phosphoros* ; the Latin Lucifer, morning star.

130. *Arcades ursæ* ; an allusion to the fable of Callisto and Arcas. Callisto, beloved by Jupiter, bore a son Arcas. To conceal her from Juno, Jupiter changed her into a she bear. In that form she was pursued by

her son Arcas, but, before he could kill her, both were changed into constellations, Callisto into Helice or the great bear, and Arcas into Arcturus.

134. *Jam — rubent*; mount Cithæron, on which Pentheus was torn to pieces by the daughters of Cadmus (*Cadmeis bacchis*).

142. *juvencus*; for *vitulus*.

149. *Thracia pellex*; the nightingale; allusion to the myth of Procne and Philomela; the latter being violated by the husband of the former, Tereus, they agree to slay Itys, the son of Tereus and Procne, and give him to his father to eat. They were changed, Procne into a swallow, Philomela into a nightingale, Tereus into a woodpecker, and Itys into a pheasant.

159. *Hæc*; refers to the preceding description of a simple life.

169. *Illum — locat*; a description not in keeping with the time of the tragedy, being better suited to the latter times of the Roman Republic, than to the heroic age.

181. *Sorores*; *Parcæ*.

190. *scriptum*; i. e. *constitutum*.

198. *pigros*; the slothful; those who are not eager to obtain wealth, power, and honor.

ACT II. — Scene I.

V. 216. *cristati—Angues*; the first exploit of the infant Hercules, killing two serpents which, sent by Juno, approached his cradle.

222. *Mænali*; Mænalus, a mountain in Arcadia. — *pernix fera*; allusion to the third labor of Hercules,

which consisted in catching a swift hind, with golden horns and brazen hoofs, sacred to Diana.

224. *Maximus Nemeæ timor* ; the Nemæan lion, slain by Hercules ; the first labor of the hero.

225. *lacertis pressus* ; being invulnerable.

226. *Quid — datum* ; the eighth labor of Hercules ; he obtained possession of the horses of Diomedes, king of the Bistones in Thrace, who was accustomed to feed his horses with human flesh ; overcame the king, and gave him to his own horses to be eaten.

228. *Erymanthi* ; Erymanthus, a river and mountain in Arcadia. The fourth labor of Hercules consisted in catching a wild boar, sacred to Diana, which laid waste the region of mount Erymanthus. He caught him in deep snow, and carried him on his shoulders to Mycene.

230. *Taurumque — metum* ; the catching of the Cretan ox, the seventh labor of Hercules. Minos, king of Crete, desiring to sacrifice to Neptune, pretended that he possessed no animal worthy of that deity. Neptune caused an ox of uncommon beauty to emerge from the sea ; but Minos substituted a meaner one, and added the other to his herds. Neptune made the ox mad, and through him devastated Crete.

232. *Pastor triformis* ; the tenth labor of Hercules. Geryon, a monster with three bodies, possessed a beautiful herd of cattle in the island Erythia, in the Gaditanian gulf. Hercules, after slaying the herdsman Eurytion, and his dog Orthrus, and after a severe contest with Geryon himself, obtained possession of the cattle.—*litoris Tartessii* ; the western ocean, called so from Tartessus, a town at the mouth of the river Bætis (Quadalquivir).

234. *Cithæron* ; mountain in Bœotia.

237. *montes solvit* ; Hercules tore asunder the rocks Abyla and Calpe, thus giving an opening to the Mediterranean sea into the Atlantic ocean.

239. *nemoris opulenti domos* ; the eleventh labor of Hercules ; the obtaining of the golden apples of the Hesperides, watched by the dragon Ladon.

241. *Lernæ monstra* ; the second labor of Hercules ; the destruction of the hydra or serpent in the marshes of Lernæ, in Argolis.—*numerosum malum* ; alluding to the many heads of the monster.

242. *igne demum vicit* ; when Hercules perceived that two heads grew in the place of every one which he struck off, he called Iolaus to his assistance, who handed him firebrands, with which he scorched the wound after striking off a head, and thus prevented the growing of new ones.

244. *Stymphalidas* ; the sixth labor of Hercules ; huge birds of prey, with iron wings, bills and claws, infested the country near the lake Stymphalis, in Arcadia. Hercules killed them with his arrows.

246. *Regina gentis vidua Thermodontia* ; the ninth labor of Hercules, to take from Hippolyte, the queen of the Amazons, her sword-belt, which she had received as a gift from Mars. The country of the Amazons was the region in Asia Minor watered by the Thermodon and Halys.

248. *Stabuli — labor* ; the fifth labor of Hercules ; the cleansing of the stable of Augias, in which, for a considerable time, three thousand heads of cattle had stood.

255. *Natos — vindices* ; the sons of Creon, and brothers of Megara, slain by Lycus in order to possess himself of the kingdom of Thebes.

256. *Ipsamque — ultimam* ; in apposition to the preceding line.

258. *Cum capite* ; sc. *Creontis*.

261. *juventus orta* ; Cadmus, on the point of building Cadmea, afterwards the citadel of Thebes, slew a dragon watching a fountain sacred to Mars, and sowed his teeth, from which a number of armed men sprang, who killed one another, with the exception of five, from whom Thebes derived its different tribes or races.

262. *Amphion* ; the son of Jupiter and Antiope, grandson of Nycteus of Thebes, and brother of Zethus. Having avenged the wrongs of their mother upon Lycus, her uncle, they took possession of Thebes, and, connecting the citadel Cadmea with the city, they fortified the latter. It was on this occasion that Amphion, by his music, put the stones themselves in motion.

269. *exsulem* ; Lycus, exiled by Creon on account of his crimes.

283. *Dirutis — via* ; Hercules, by breaking through the mountains Ossa and Olympus, gave an opening to the river Pineus, and thus formed the vale of Tempe. This feat is, according to another tradition, ascribed to Neptune.

290. *rerum terminos* ; for *res finitas, prætoritas* ; that which has formerly existed on earth ; that which has reached the limits of its earthly existence.

296. *Unde — querar* ; “whence shall I obtain by my complaints.”

300. *Centena* ; poetically for *centum* ; and by hypallage joined to *collu*, instead of *tauri*.

301. *Secreta — sacra* ; the Eleusinian mysteries.

316. *fides* ; belief, the tendency of believing.

ACT II. — *Scene II.*

334. *Obliqua*; descriptive of the winding sinuous shores of the country.—*Ismenos*; a river of Bœotia.

335. *Cithæron*; a mountain in the southern part of Bœotia.

336. *Isthmos*; separating the Ionian from the Ægæan sea (*bina freta*), and uniting Peloponnesus with Hellas.

357. *verus*; expressive of Lycus's envious unwillingness to believe in the divine origin of Hercules.

376. *Ausonio*; i. e. *Italico*.

378. *Euripus*; the strait between Eubœa and Bœotia.

386. Swoboda, who has furnished an excellent German translation and a good commentary of the tragedies of Seneca, assigns, very ingeniously, the lines 386 – 394 to Lycus jeering at Megara's family. — *matres*; allusion 1. to Agave, the daughter of Cadmus, sister of Semele, and mother of Pentheus, who with her son resisting Bacchus' claims to divinity, and opposing the introduction of his worship, was filled with madness, and tore her son to pieces; 2. to Ino, the sister of Agave, and wife of Athamas, who is mentioned not on account of her hatred of her stepchildren, Phrixus and Helle, but because being pursued by her husband, Athamas, whom Juno had made mad, she threw herself with her son into the sea.

388. *Mixtumque nomen*; Œdipus being the husband of his mother, the father of his brothers and sisters.

389. *Fratrum*; Eteocles and Polylices, the sons of Œdipus, contending with each other for the kingdom. — *totidem rogos*; when the bodies of Eteocles and Poly-

nices, who had fallen by each other's hands, were placed upon the funeral pile, the flames divided, indicating thereby the irreconcilable hatred of the brothers.

390. *Tantalus*; Niobe, the daughter of Tantalus and wife of Amphion, king of Thebes. Boasting of her fruitfulness in a manner disparaging to Latona, the mother of Apollo and Diana, her children were slain by Apollo and Diana. Niobe stood afterwards converted into stone in the mountain Sipylus.

391. *Manat*; poetically for *larimat*.

392. *ipse — notas*; Cadmus, bowed down by the misfortunes of his daughters, left Bœotia with his wife Harmonia, and went to Illyria, where they were finally changed into serpents.

406. *Sed ille — acti*; Lycus meets the objection which might be made; *sed* being used in the sense of *at*.

416. *pace rupta*; in the rebellion in which Lycus possessed himself of the supreme power.

425. *qui cælum tulit*; while Atlas fetched the golden apples of the Hesperides, Hercules took his place and bore heaven on his shoulders.

444. *Phlegram — cruore*; Hercules invited, by the advice of Minerva, to assist the gods against the Giants, did so, and slew among others Alcyoneus and Porphyriion, two of the leaders of the Giants. This battle took place in the fields of Phlegra, in Thessaly.

451. *Pastor — greges*; Apollo, according to a later myth, was obliged, for the murder of the Cyclops, to serve a mortal. He chose Admetus, king of Pheræ, his friend, and took care of his herds.

453. *terra — errante*; Delos, which was a floating island until Latona landed upon it to give birth to Apollo.

455. *draco*; the serpent Pytho, whom Apollo, only four days old, slew.

457. *puer*; Bacchus.

460. *Non — specu*; Jupiter, when a child, was concealed in a cave of mount Ida, to protect him against his father Saturn.

465. *cujus — premens*; describing the degradation of Hercules, who, in order to atone for the murder of Iphitus, had been sold as a slave to Omphale, widow of king Tmolus, in Lydia. Out of love for her he suffered himself to be persuaded to assume the dress, manners, and occupations of a woman, while Omphale took his dress and lion-skin.

477. *Teuthrantis — domus*; according to the common version of the story, Teuthras was either the husband or adopted father of Auge, the mother of Telephus by Hercules. But Seneca seems to have followed another version, according to which Teuthras is the father of Thespius, who gave his fifty daughters as concubines to Hercules, while he was engaged in his expedition against the lion on mount Cithæron. Ovid, in Heroid. 9, 51, seems to adopt the same version.

478. *Pecorumque — greges*; referring to the fifty daughters of Thespius.

479. *Eurystheus*; he as well as Hercules was a grandson of Perseus. Before the birth of either, Jupiter, in the expectation that Hercules would be born first, made a vow that the first-born should rule over all the descendants of Perseus. Juno, however, accelerated the birth of Eurystheus, and hence originated the control which he exercised over Hercules.

482. *Eryx*; the son of Butes and Venus, founder of the town of Eryx, on mount Eryx, in Sicily, caught

an ox, which, belonging to the herd of Geryon carried off by Hercules, swam from Italy to Sicily, and would not deliver it to Hercules until he had engaged in a boxing match. Hercules overcame him after three contests. — *Antæus Libys*; the son of the Earth, a giant in Libya, compelled all travellers to wrestle with him, and among others Hercules. The latter, observing that Antæus gained new strength as often as he touched the earth, raised him up and pressed him to death in his arms.

484. *Busiridis*; Busiris, the son of Neptune and Lysianassa. Being informed by Thrasius, a soothsayer from Cyprus, that a famine then prevailing could be removed by annually sacrificing a stranger who should visit the country (Egypt), Busiris made a beginning with Thrasius himself. When he afterwards attempted to do the same to Hercules, the latter overcame and killed him.

486. *integer Cygnus*; a son of Mars and Pelopea, was in the habit of attacking and robbing those who travelled with gifts to the temple of Apollo at Delphi. Meeting Hercules, a contest arose, in which the latter conquered.

487. *Geryon*; king in Spain, a monster with three bodies (*nec unus Geryon*), the owner of a fine herd of cattle, which Hercules was ordered by Eurystheus to drive away. In the contest which ensued, Geryon was slain by Hercules (*una manu*); see note to v. 232.

495. *Labdaci*; Labdacus, the grandson of Cadmus, father of Lajus, and for a short time king of Thebes.

496. *Ædipodæ*; for *Ædipi* or *Ædipodis*, the son and husband of Jocaste.

498. *regis Ægypti*; Danaus.

500. *Deest una* ; allusion to Hypermnestra, the only one of Danaus's daughters who was disobedient to her father's command and spared the life of her husband Lynceus.

504. *remolito* ; used in a passive sense.

506. *Congerite* ; addressed to his servants.

ACT II. — Scene III.

CHORUS.

V. 526. *Eurystheus* ; see note to v. 479.

528. *califeram* ; alluding to the fact of Hercules performing the duty of Atlas.

533. *multiragas domos* ; describing the nomadic life of the Scythians.

534. *Et — hospitas* ; on account of their wandering life, strangers in their own homes.

535. *freti terga rigentia* ; the frozen northern sea.

542. *viduis gentibus* ; the Amazons.

544. *spolium* ; the sword-belt, the gift of Mars ; see note to v. 246.

552. *Tyndaridæ* ; the sons, or supposed sons, of Tyndareus, Castor and Pollux. According to Homer, Helena alone is the child of Jupiter and Leda ; according to a later version, Pollux is the son of Jupiter, Castor of Tyndareus.

556. *manibus* ; for *inferis*.

560. *qui rex* ; Pluto.

561. *Bello — Pylon* ; Pluto, coming to the assistance of the inhabitants of Pylos, was wounded and conquered by Hercules.

577. *Threiciæ nurus*; commentators find great difficulty in explaining this expression. The idea seems to be, that Thracian women, in particular, are moved by their countryman's conjugal attachment.

578. *lacrimis difficiles*; not easily moved by tears; Pluto and Proserpine.

586. *deos*; that is, the upper deities.

ACT III. — Scene I.

V. 592. *O — rector*; the sun.

593. *alterna spatia*; the two hemispheres alternately; a more correct astronomical notion than that of Homer and the earlier poets.

597. *Arcana mundi*; referring to Cerberus.—*Tuque*; Jupiter.

604. *quæ jussit*; Juno.

607. *deterior polus*; the antarctic regions of the heavens.

608. *diro Jovi*; Pluto.

609. *tertiæ sortis loca*; the third share of the universe; the infernal regions; the share of Pluto.

ACT III. — Scene II.

V. 618. *Utrumne*; for *utrum*.

625. *trunco*; the club.

629. *possedit*; from *possido*.

630. *leto*; dative.

640. *Me jam redisse*; after these words Hercules leaves the stage in pursuit of Lycus.

658. *teque dominantem*; Pluto.

659. *teque — mater* ; Proserpine whom, carried off by Pluto, Ceres sought through the woods of Ætna.

663. *Densis — premit* ; the woods of Tænarus extend to, press upon the sea.

679. *Umbra tenaces* ; Farnabius interprets this by *manes avidi*, the infernal regions, which are eager to retain what has come within their reach ; or, *tenebræ palpabiles*, thick darkness. Swoboda adopts the latter interpretation, and explains it the darkness which surrounds all things. The former, however, seems to be the correct interpretation. — *immensi sinus* ; the genitive of quality belonging to *vado*.

702. *situ* ; want of cultivation, fallowness.

711. *discors* ; two of different nature.

714. *hic* ; for *alter*.

734. *Thetidis socer* ; Æacus, the father of Peleus, and grandfather of Achilles.

750. *Ixion* ; king of Thessaly. Having murdered his father-in-law, Deion, he was punished for his crime with madness. Jupiter, however, pardoned him, and received him even into heaven. Having forfeited the good will of Jupiter by his overbearing conduct and petulance, he was punished by being fastened on a swiftly turning wheel.

751. *Cervice — Sisypbia* ; Sisyphus, the founder of Corinth, famous for his cunning ; his punishment for his many crimes was to roll a rock up a hill without being able to prevent it from rolling back.

752. *senex* ; Tantalus, guilty of many crimes, especially of perjury, and of entertaining the Gods with the body of his own son Pelops, was in the infernal regions doomed to stand in the midst of a stream without being able to reach it for the purpose of quenching

his thirst, to be surrounded by fruits eluding his grasp, and to be placed beneath a rock threatening momentarily to fall upon him.

756. *Tityos*; attempting to violate Latona; he was for this crime fastened to the ground, while two vultures consumed his entrails constantly growing again.

757. *Danaides*; the daughters of Danaus, for the murder of their husbands, were condemned to fill a perforated vessel.

758. *Cadmeides*; the daughters of Cadmus, Agave, Autonoe, and Ino, who in their madness killed Agave's son Pentheus.

759. *Terretque — avis*; the punishment of Phineus, of being deprived of sight, and having his food defiled by the Harpyes, on account of his having revealed the future to men, is well known. According to another version of this myth, Phineus, at the instance of his second wife Idæa, deprived his sons by his first marriage of their sight, for which crime he afterwards suffered the same punishment in the infernal regions, which, according to the more familiar story, was inflicted upon him during his lifetime.

761. *Patruī*; Pluto.

766. *deformem — coercet*; an adjustment of the toga or pallium which the Romans call *cinctus Gabinus*, when the two ends of the garment are tied together in a knot which prevents a tasteful arrangement of the folds, and causes *deformem sinum*.

767. *lurent*; Bothe's emendation is highly probable. He says *lurent* is the stock from which *luridus* is derived, just as *lucidus*, *pallidus*, *validus*, are derived from *luceo*, *palleo*, *valeo*. The circumstance of the word being a ἄπαξ λεγόμενον, ought not to be an objection to its reception into the text.

778. *victa*; sc. *ab Hercule*.

781. *Lernæus labos*; poetically for hydra, the Lernæan serpent which caused labor to Hercules.

794. *minax Serpens per armos*; the serpents which, instead of hair, covered the neck and shoulders of the dog.

797. *feros* — *rictus*; pars pro toto, for *pellem*.

798. *Cleonæum caput*; poetically for *caput Cleonæi leonis*; the head of the lion slain by Hercules near Cleonæ and Nemea, the skin of which Hercules wore ever after as a trophy and armor.

805. *Uterque* — *dominus*; Pluto and Proserpine.

806. *Me quoque*; Theseus, the friend of Pirithous, had accompanied the latter to Hades, to carry off Proserpine, but they were unsuccessful, and had to remain in Hades.

814. *bono*; there is great uncertainty as regards the text. The common reading is *bonos*, belonging to *oculos*. Wakefield proposes *bonus*, agreeing with *nitor*; Lipsius adopts *bono*, as a substantive followed by *lucis*; Rutger's emendation is *lucis ignotæ, novos*, belonging to *animos*.

823. Bothe questions, for plausible though not convincing reasons, the genuineness of this line, and encloses it, therefore, in brackets.

ACT III. — *Scene III.*

CHORUS.

V. 830. *properante partu*; being born before his time; see note to v. 78.

840. *Quantus* — *ætas*; a description of the Olympic

games in Elis. One of the many anachronisms which occur in these Tragedies. Hercules was born 1260 A. C., the Olympic games were instituted 884 A. C., nearly four hundred years later.

842. *Quanta — mystæ*; a description of the Eleusinian festival, which was celebrated in autumn, after harvest, when the sun entered the sign Libra.

855. *His*; i. e. *infantibus*.

874. *Prima — carpit*; the approach of death commences with the first day of life.

893. *Stantes*; indicating the awestruck mind.

894. *populo*; a wreath of poplar leaves.

ACT IV. — Scene I.

V. 903. *Lycurgi domitor*; Bacchus, who overcame and severely punished Lycurgus, king of Thrace, for his opposition to the worship of Bacchus and the cultivation of the vine.

907; *Fraterque*; Hercules calls those Gods who are the sons of Jupiter, his brothers.

913. *gentili fronde*; the olive being a native of and abundant in Attica, the country of Theseus.

915. *Tu*; addressed to Theseus. — *conditores urbis*; Cadmus and Amphion.

916. *Zethi*; the son of Jupiter and Antiope, brother of Amphion, pursuing a pastoral life. — *Dircen*; the wife of Lycus. Lycus having obtained possession of the person of his niece Antiope, gave her up to Dirce, who treated her most cruelly, but was finally punished by Antiope's sons, Amphion and Zethus, and after her death changed into a fountain.

917. *regis advenæ*; Cadmus, who came from Tyre.

939. *Sed quid hoc*; his madness begins to show itself.

944. *Primus — leo*; see note to v. 225.

949. *quidquid — colla*; referring to the relative position of the constellations of the Zodiac. The Leo, a sign of summer, is about to leap over the space occupied by the signs of autumn and winter, in order to attack Taurus, a sign of spring.

963. *Una*; Juno.

965. *Saturno*; kept by his son Jupiter in Tartarus.

969. *Centauris juga*; the mountains of Thessaly inhabited by the Centaurs.

970. *monte gemino*; Ossa being placed upon Pelion.

971. *Chiron*; the son of Saturn and Philyra, a Centaur, distinguished for his wisdom and learning; the tutor of many renowned heroes, as Achilles, Jason, Æsculapius.

979. *Pallene*; a city of Macedon.

980. *Macetumque*; *Macetum* contracted for *Macetarum*, from *Macetæ*, another form for *Macedones*.

981. *Mimas*; one of the Giants.

987. *Sed ecce*; Hercules perceives his children.

990. *Tela — Herculeæ*; Hercules aims at his children and wife, collected around the altar, and kills one of the children. Megara and the other children flee into the palace.

996. *Omnesque latebras*; Bothe, on the ground that it is incorrect to say *eruerè latebras*, changes the latter word into *latebris*. Gronovius proposed to read *omnem e latebris*.

997. *Cyclopea — saxa*; the Cyclopean walls and structures at Mycenæ, the oldest specimens of architecture. Mycenæ, the seat of Eurystheus.

999. *objice*; the original form for *obice*. — *valva dejecto*; the Florentine codex has *dejecto* instead of *disjecto*; Baden restored this reading, and by an ingenious emendation substituted *valva* for *aula*. Besides the better sense which this change gives, Baden supports his emendation by the corresponding passage of the *Hercules Furens* of Euripides: ὁ δ' ὡς ἐπ' αὐτοῖς δι' Κυκλωπείοισιν ὦν, σκάπτει, μοχλεῖται θύρετρα· κἀκβαλῶν σταθμὰ, δάμαρτα καὶ παῖδ' ἐνὶ κατέστρωσεν βέλει. Baden adduces other instances of the use of *valva* in the singular.

1005. *Dextra precante*; cf. Virg. *Æn.*, 12, 930: *dextramque precantem*. The emendation of Bothe, *dextra precantem*, is very plausible.

1030. *Converte*; sc. *in me*, addressed to Hercules.

ACT IV. — Scene II.

CHORUS.

V. 1104. *atri regina poli*; the queen of the infernal regions, Proserpine.

1110. *melius*; used for a better purpose, for a less impious object; alluding to the killing of the Stymphalian birds, as compared with the slaying of the children.

1134. The arrangement of the last four lines of this chorus, proposed by Bothe, and supported by good reasons, has been adopted. According to the old arrangement there would be a tribrachys (*que furor*) and a trochee (*boris*) in the middle of a verse, which, though admissible at the close of the line, is not allowed in the middle.

ACT V. — Scene I.

V. 1140. *Hesperii* — *tellus*; the farthest land of the Hesperian sea, that is, the most western country, Spain.

1143. *prostrata domo*; Bothe observes very correctly, that the house had not been destroyed; he connects *prostrata* with *corpora*, and in order to satisfy the metre he inserts the preposition *a* before *domo*, in the sense of “before the house.”

1157. *virtus*; the reading of the Florentine codex, adopted by Bothe and Baden; *virtus quem*, a construction according to the sense, because *virtus* stands emphatically for *vir fortis*; cf. Terent. Andr. 3, 5, 1: *Ubi illic est scelus, qui me perdidit?*

1164. *geminò mari*; the Ionian and Ægæan sea.

1165. *Pelopis regna*; Peloponnesus.

1170. *Thracis cruenti*; Diomedes, king of Thrace, who fed his horses with human flesh; cf. v. 226. — *Geryonæ pecus*; cf. v. 231.

1171. *Libyæe dominos*; Antæus and Atlas.

1181. *Dominator*; Eurystheus.

1193. *Hic errat scelus*; *hic* referring to *manus*; my hand is to be looked upon as the author of the crime, although I cannot explain how it has perpetrated it.

1211. *Symplegas*; the singular for the plural; Hercules is to be fastened to these movable rocks, the *Symplegades*, with one hand on each, and extended or compressed by the alternating motion of the rocks.

1213. *saxa, quæ*; according to the reading of Bothe, *saxaque*, *manus* is the nominative to *coibunt*.

1215. *Ego* — *mora*; *inquieta mora* is in apposition to *ego*; without ever enjoying rest, I lie there a delay, an

hindrance to the rocks, preventing them from coming in contact.

1255. *manibus aut aris*; not the dative, governed by *nocens*, but the ablative of the instrument. Gronovius mentions as an example Busiris; cf. note to v. 484.

1282. *labore bissono*; poetically for *laboribus duodecim*.

1293. *Onus omne*; the earth itself which forms the centre of the universe.

1336. *semper — arbiter*; allusion to the fidelity of Theseus, exhibited in accompanying Pirithous in his attempt to carry off Proserpine.

1341. *Nostra — tellus*; Attica.

1344. *Facere — solet*; allusion to the trial of Mars by the twelve Gods. Mars having slain Halirrhothius, the son of Neptune, the twelve Gods sat, in Athens, in judgment upon him, and acquitted him.



M E T R E S .



METRES.

THE *Hercules Furens* of Seneca is, as regards the metres, more simple than the *Medea*. Six kinds of verses only are used in the former, while the latter contains eleven; but both plays resemble each other as to the perfection and precision of their metrical execution. It will not be necessary to enter into a minute description of these six metres, since the reader who wishes for more complete information may be referred to Munk's work on *The Metres of the Greeks and Romans*.*

These six kinds of verses are :

1. The Iambicus trimeter acatalectus.
2. The Anapæsticus dimeter acatalectus.
3. The Anapæsticus monometer acatalectus.
4. The Asclepiadeus trimeter catalectus.
5. The Sapphicus minor.
6. The Glyconicus.

* The Metres of the Greeks and Romans. A Manual for Schools and Private Study. Translated from the German of Edward Munk, by Charles Beck and C. C. Felton. Boston : James Munroe & Co. 1844.

1. *Versus Iambicus trimeter acatalectus.*

See *Metres of the Greeks and Romans*, p. 167-175. The iamb ($\acute{\text{—}}$) may be exchanged, in all places except the sixth, for the tribrachys ($\cup \cup \acute{\text{—}}$), and in the first, third, and fifth places, for the spondee ($\text{—} \text{—}$), or its solutions, the dactyle ($\text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}}$) and anapæst ($\cup \cup \acute{\text{—}}$).

The cæsure is generally $\pi\epsilon\nu\theta\eta\mu\mu\epsilon\rho\acute{\iota}\varsigma$, more rarely $\xi\phi\theta\eta\mu\mu\epsilon\rho\acute{\iota}\varsigma$.

The most common of the many modifications of which the verse is susceptible, is

$$\cup \text{—} \cup \text{—} \text{—} \parallel \text{—} \cup \text{—} \text{—} \cup \cup$$

The iambic trimeter is the principal measure used in the dialogue. It occurs in this tragedy, v. 1-124; 204-535; 592-617; 678-829; 895-1053; 1138-1344.

2. *Versus Anapæsticus dimeter acatalectus.*

See *Metres of the Greeks and Romans*, p. 98-100. The anapæst ($\cup \cup \acute{\text{—}}$) may be exchanged for the spondee ($\text{—} \text{—}$) and dactyle ($\text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}}$). Some of the most frequent forms of this line are:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{—} \acute{\text{—}} & \cup \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \acute{\text{—}} \\ \cup \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \cup \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \acute{\text{—}} \\ \text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \text{—} & \text{—} \cup \acute{\text{—}} & \text{—} \acute{\text{—}} \end{array}$$

This verse is used in two choruses, that of the first and fourth acts; v. 125-157; 159-203; 1054-1110; 1112-1133; 1135-1137.

3. *Versus Anapæsticus monometer acatalectus.*

This verse occurs three times in this tragedy, interspersed among the anapæstic dimeter. The only two forms of it are :

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{—} \cup \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \\ \cup \quad \cup \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \end{array}$$

The verse occurs 158; 1111; 1134.

4. *Versus Asclepiædeus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 141, 142. The form of this verse is :

$$\text{—} \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad \cup \quad \cup \text{—} \quad || \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad \cup \quad \cup \text{—} \quad \cup \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup}$$

It is used in the chorus of the second act, v. 524 - 591.

5. *Versus Sapphicus minor.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 91. The form of this verse is :

$$\text{—} \cup \text{—} \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad || \quad \cup \quad \cup \text{—} \quad \cup \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup}$$

It is used in the first part of the chorus of the third act, v. 830 - 874.

6. *Versus Glyconicus.*

See Metres of the Greeks and Romans, p. 92. The form of this verse is :

$$\text{—} \text{—} \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup} \quad \cup \quad \cup \text{—} \quad \cup \quad \overset{\prime}{\cup}$$

It is used in the second part of the chorus of the third act, v. 875 - 894.

A list of these metres, in the order in which they occur in this tragedy, is subjoined.

ACT I.

- Scene* I. v. 1-124. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 II. v. 125-157. Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
 v. 158. Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
 v. 159-203. Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
 v. 204. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.

ACT II.

- Scene* I. v. 205-331. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 II. v. 332-523. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 III. v. 524-591. Vers. Asclep.

ACT III.

- Scene* I. v. 592-617. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 II. v. 618-829. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 III. v. 830-874. Vers. Sapphic. min.
 v. 875-894. Vers. Glycon.

ACT IV.

- Scene* I. v. 895-1053. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.
 II. v. 1054-1110. Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
 v. 1111. Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
 v. 1112-1133. Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.
 v. 1134. Vers. Anapæst. monomet. acat.
 v. 1135-1137. Vers. Anapæst. dimet. acat.

ACT V.

- Scene* I. v. 1138-1344. Vers. Iamb. trimet. acat.











