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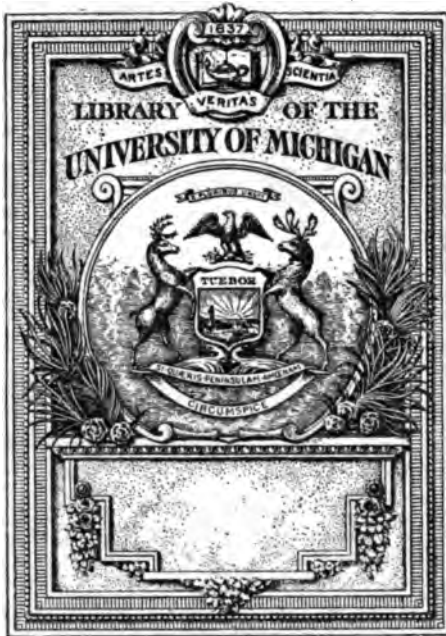
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THE GIFT OF
George Long



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VIRGIL.

L. Corniola apud Leon. Augustini Germani.

THE
WORKS
OF
VIRGIL,

In LATIN and ENGLISH.

The ÆNEID Translated
By the Rev. Mr. CHRISTOPHER PITT;
The ECLOGUES and GEORGICS, with Notes on the Whole,
By the Rev. Mr. JOSEPH WARTON.
With several NEW OBSERVATIONS,
By Mr. HOLDSWORTH, Mr. SPENCE, C. HEYNE, and Others.

ALSO,
A DISSERTATION on the Sixth Book of the ÆNEID,
By Mr. WARBURTON.
On the Shield of ÆNEAS, by Mr. W. WHITEHEAD.

On the Character of IAPIS,
By the late Dr. ATTERBURY, Bishop of ROCHESTER.

AND,
Three ESSAYS on Pastoral, Didactic, and Epic POETRY,
By Mr. JOSEPH WARTON.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

The THIRD EDITION, with considerable Improvements.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

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TO THE
H O N O U R A B L E
Sir GEORGE LYTTTELTON, Bart.

O N E O F T H E
L O R D S C O M M I S S I O N E R S O F T H E T R E A S U R Y .

S I R,

CENSURE is so seldom softened by apologies; that perhaps it may be useless for me to declare my consciousness of inability to do justice to the most perfect of poets, in the following translation. When I first entered upon this work, I sometimes imagined, that I heard the voice of Virgil addressing me with the humanity of his hero;

*Quo moriture ruis? majoraque viribus audes?
Fallit te incautum pietas tua! —*

for indeed nothing but my affection for the author could have engaged me in so arduous an undertaking.

Whoever considers the degree of delicacy and correctness to which the Eclogues of Virgil are polished; together with the ease and wonderful harmony of his numbers; will be convinced of the extreme difficulty of transfusing into another

VOL. I.

b

tongue,

tongue, beauties of so refined and subtle a nature. It requires no small command of language, to be able to carry on Pastoral Dialogues, without sinking into vulgar idioms, to unite simplicity with grace, and to preserve familiarity without flatness. A style too highly elevated would be nauseously unnatural, and one too prosaic and plebeian, would be insipid and unaffecting. And to keep a just mean, is perhaps as difficult in writing as in life.

There are few images and sentiments in the Eclogues of Virgil, but what are drawn from the Idylliums of Theocritus : in whom there is a rural, romantic wildness of thought, heightened by the Doric dialect; with such lively pictures of the passions, and of simple unadorned nature, as are infinitely pleasing to such lovers and judges of true poetry as yourself. Theocritus is indeed the great store-house of pastoral description; and every succeeding painter of rural beauty (except THOMSON in his Seasons,) hath copied his images from him, without ever looking abroad upon the face of nature themselves. And thus a set of hereditary objects has been continued from one poet to another, which have been often made use of without any propriety either as to age or climate.

But Virgil never borrowed an idea from his Sicilian master, without beautifying and heightening it with the lustre of his language. And perhaps

haps it may be observed in general, that if the Romans ever excelled their Grecian masters in the graces of diction, which however was seldom the case, it was owing to their exerting all their powers, in dressing up those thoughts and ideas that were ready found to their hands. The mind can attend but to one object at once, with any vigour and intenseness: and if it be big and dilated with the conception and creation of new images, has scarce leisure to adorn them with that pomp of studied expression, which the writer that coolly copies them,* can bestow upon them.

Indeed of all authors, either ancient or modern, Virgil seemeth to be the most perfect in his style; I mean in the poems he lived to finish. There is a profusion of the most daring metaphors and most glowing figures, there is a majesty and magnificence of diction throughout the Georgics, that notwithstanding the marvellous harmony and grandeur of the Greek versification, is scarcely excelled by Homer himself. Our author's terms and epithets are chosen with such propriety, elegance and expressiveness, that, as Mr. Addison finely observes, We receive more strong and lively ideas of things from his words, than we could have done from the objects themselves: and find our imaginations more affected by his descriptions, than they would have been by the very sight of what he describes. We may justly therefore apply to him what Aristotle thought so high a commendation of

Homer: that he found out LIVING WORDS. If the arrows which are *impatient* to destroy, and the spears that *thirst* to drink blood, are so deservedly admired in the Iliad, Virgil doubtless merits equal praise, for giving life and feeling, love and hatred, hope and fear, wonder and ambition, to plants and to trees, and to the very earth itself: and for exalting his favourite insects, by endowing them with reason, passions, arts, and civil government. To use Aristotle's expression, *Every thing in this poem hath manners*, and all the creation is animated.

But alas! since this is the case, what must become of a translator of the Georgics, writing in a language not half so lofty, so founding, or so elegant as the Latin, incapable of admitting many of its best and boldest figures, and heavily fettered with the Gothic shackles of rhyme! Is not this endeavouring to imitate a palace of porphyry with flints and bricks? A poem whose excellence peculiarly consists in the graces of diction is far more difficult to be translated, than a work where sentiment, or passion, or imagination, is chiefly displayed. So that I fear we can receive but a faint notion of the beauty of the Georgics from any English version of them. An engraving may indeed faithfully represent the subject, but can give no idea of the *colouring* of one of Titian's landscapes. Besides, the meanness of the terms of husbandry is concealed and lost in a dead language,
and

and they convey no low or despicable image to the mind; but the coarse and common words I was necessitated to use in the following translation, viz. *plough and sow, wheat, dung, ashes, horse and cow, &c.* will, I fear, unconquerably disgust many a delicate reader, if he doth not make proper allowances for a modern compared with an ancient language; and doth not frequently recollect,

—— *verbis ea vincere magnum*
Quam fit! et angustiis hunc addere rebus honorem.

So just is the observation of Boileau, that a mean or common thought expressed in pompous diction, generally pleases more than a new or noble sentiment delivered in low and vulgar language; because the number is greater of those whom custom has enabled to judge of words, than whom study has qualified to examine things. In short, the Georgics are the highest flight of Virgil, and the master-pieces of his genius, excepting always the fourth book of the *Æneid*. [Some of the transitions with which they are adorned, are the boldest and most daring imaginable, and hold very much of the enthusiasm of the ancient lyrics; and I think one may venture to affirm, that this poem contains more original unborrowed beauties, and is more perfect in its kind as a Didactic, than the *Æneid* as an Epic poem. Of this last work, give me leave to say, that I have ever observed, persons of elevated and sublime imaginations are more captivated with the *Iliad*, and men of elegant and

tender minds with the Æneid. He that peruses Homer, is like the traveller that surveys mount Atlas; the vastness and roughness of its rocks, the solemn gloominess of its pines and cedars, the everlasting snows that cover its head, the torrents that rush down its sides, and the wild beasts that roar in its caverns, all contribute to strike the imagination with inexpressible astonishment and awe. While reading the Æneid is like beholding the Capitoline hill at Rome, on which stood many edifices of exquisite architecture, and whose top was crowned with the famous temple of Jupiter, adorned with the spoils of conquered Greece.

If the design of the Æneid was to compliment Augustus, and reconcile the Romans to the government of the Julian family; if, as Mr. Pope was used frequently to say, *it was evidently as much a party-piece, as Absalom and Achitophel*; you, Sir, are too warm a lover of liberty and the virtue of ancient Rome, not to censure the poet as an abject flatterer; unless you will allow the validity of the usual excuse for his conduct; that as the commonwealth maxims were no longer practicable, and a change in the government was unavoidable, after the last struggle for liberty at Philippi had ended so unfortunately, and even the virtuous Messalla had thought it no shame to submit to the conqueror, Virgil believed it would be the best service he could then do his countrymen, to endeavour to soften their minds towards so mild and gentle a master

master as Augustus, out of whose hands it was impossible for them to extort the power he had usurped. And that some change in the constitution of Rome was absolutely necessary, seems to be the opinion of that admirable writer and penetrating politician, the president Montesquieu: It must be acknowledged, says he, that the Roman laws were too weak to govern the republic, when it was arrived at its height: experience has proved it to be an invariable fact, that good and just laws, which raise the reputation and power of a small republic, become improper and useless to it, when once its grandeur is established, because it was the natural effect of such laws to make a people great, but not to govern them when made so. He adds afterwards with his usual pregnant brevity, Take this compendium of the Roman history: they subdued all the nations by their maxims; but when they had so far succeeded, their republic could not subsist any longer: the plan of their government must be changed, and maxims contrary to the first, being then introduced, they were divested of all their grandeur.

As to the poetical faults of the *Æneid* I believe they are but few. What may seem the most liable to censure in the conduct of this poem, is the making Dido a far more interesting and striking character than Lavinia, upon whom the whole action turns. But this circumstance is surely excusable, if we reflect how great a stroke of art the

poet has exhibited, in assigning this origin of the inveterate enmity betwixt the rival powers of Rome and Carthage; who were so often engaged in those important and bloody contentions of which Lucretius speaks so sublimely;

*Omnia cum belli trepido concussa tumultu,
Horrida contremuere sub altis aetheris auris,
In dubioque fuit sub utrorum regna cadendum
Omnibus humanis esset terraque marique.*

L. iii. 845.

And farther; those who censure Lavinia as a tame and insipid character, should consider the retired nature of female education among the ancients; for if VIRGIL had painted this beautiful young princess any otherwise than full of modesty and reservedness, silent and obedient to her parents, he had falsified the manners of the age of which he wrote: in which the fair sex were not permitted to make that conspicuous figure in life they have since done, to the great ornament and improvement of human society.

There are two particulars more, which perhaps will not so easily admit of an excuse. One is, a manifest want of variety of characters in the *Æneid*, where the few that are introduced are not sufficiently diversified: Homer's Achilles, Ajax, Diomedes and Hector, are all brave; and Ulysses and Nestor are wise; but then each of these heroes is *brave* and is *wise*, in a manner eminently different from the other. "The characters of Virgil (says Mr.

Mr. Pope) “ are far from striking us in this open
“ manner ; they lie in a great degree hidden and
“ undistinguished, and where they are marked most
“ evidently, affect us not in proportion to those
“ of Homer. His characters of valour are much
“ alike ; even that of Turnus seems no way pecu-
“ liar, but as it is in a different degree : and we
“ see nothing that differences the courage of
“ Mnestheus from that of Sergestus, Cloanthus,
“ and the rest.” Perhaps it may be urged, that
the character of Æneas, which is entirely of our
poet’s own formation, and in which wisdom, piety,
and courage are so happily blended and tempered
with each other, may in some measure atone for
this deficiency.—The other seeming blemish is,
that in reading the last six books, one cannot for-
bear pitying Turnus, who undoubtedly ought to
have been drawn with some fault or other to
have excited our aversion, or raised our indigna-
tion. But to see a valiant young prince, robbed of
a mistress whom he passionately loved and who re-
turned his passion, and to whom he was even be-
trothed ; nay to behold him murdered, while he
fights to maintain his claim to her, by a perfect
stranger, who has nothing to plead for his conduct
— but the gods and oracles ; are circumstances that
while they prejudice the reader against Æneas,
deeply interest him for Turnus. It were to be
wished the poet had either given the latter some
unamiable quality, or else had represented Lavinia
as averse to the match. All that can be said in

defence of this proceeding is, that the present readers of Virgil judge of it in a manner different from the Romans to whom he wrote; who probably looked on Turnus as justly punished for having broke the solemn truce agreed to in the twelfth book, and for fighting against the will of Heaven; and moreover might view this gallant prince in an unfavourable light as he opposed the establishment of that person in Italy,

— *Genus unde Latinum*
Albanique patres, atque altae moenia Romae.

Thus am I rashly endeavouring to pick out seeming blemishes and defects in this admirable writer, while I should be making some apology for undertaking the following translation, after so many persons of eminence, and particularly Mr. Dryden, for whose name and writings I have the sincerest veneration and love. But I must at the same time beg leave to observe, with truth, and I hope with modesty, that in his version of the Eclogues and Georgics, which is certainly inferior to his *Æneid*, there are so many gross mistakes, so many careless incorrect lines, and such wild deviations from his original, as are utterly astonishing in so great and true a genius. But instead of the invidious and disagreeable task of pointing out these passages at length, I choose rather to say in those generous words of Mr. Pope on a similar occasion, “that
“ nothing could have made Mr. Dryden capable of
“ such mistakes, but extreme haste in writing;
“ which

“ which never ought to be imputed as a fault to
 “ him, but to those who suffered so noble a genius
 “ to lie under the necessity of it.”

And I have still a weightier reason for not specifying these blameable passages; which is, that I am apprehensive, an equal, or perhaps a greater number of my own lines, might be produced on the same occasion. Justice obliges me to add, that even in the midst of these lownesses and inequalities of Mr. Dryden, his native spirit and vigour, the *veteris vestigia flammae*, frequently break forth: and I have deeply felt how difficult it is to work after so great a master on the same subject.

Give me leave to intrude on your patience a moment longer, to speak of Mr. Pitt's version of the *Æneid*. I am very well informed that Mr. Pope, notwithstanding his just affection and even veneration for Mr. Dryden, regarded Mr. Pitt's as an excellent translation. It is lucky for me that some of Mr. Dryden's errors in this part of the work have been lately pointed out by a very candid writer, and one who entertains the highest opinion of his genius, to whom, says he, our English poetry is more obliged for its improvements than to any other writer, excepting only Mr. Pope. What I hint at, is one of the chapters upon allegory in Mr. Spence's *Polymetis*, where that gentleman hath endeavoured to shew, how very little our poets have understood the allegories of the ancients
 even

even in their translations of them; and has chosen to instance in Mr. Dryden's translation of Virgil's *Æneid*, as he thought him one of our most celebrated poets. The mistakes are very numerous, and some of them unaccountably gross. Upon this I was desirous to examine Mr. Pitt's translation of the same passages, and was surprized to find, that in near fifty instances, which Mr. Spence has given of Mr. Dryden's mistakes of that kind, Mr. Pitt had not fallen into above three or four. A few specimens may not be amiss, to entertain the curiosity of their several readers.

1. *Cum tacet omnis ager.*

Æn. 4. ver. 520.

And peace with downy wings was brooding on the ground.

Dryden, ver. 752.

Virgil does not mention peace at all on this occasion; and I do not remember, says Mr. Spence, to have met with any one ancient representation of Peace with wings. Pitt only says :

O'er all the fields a brooding silence reigns.

Pitt, ver. 759.

2. *Jamque rubescebat radiis mare, et aethere ab alto*

Aurora in roseis fulgebat lutea bigis.

Æn. 7. 26.

Now when the rosy morn began to rise,

And wav'd her saffron streamer thro' the skies.

Dryden, ver. 35.

Mr. Dryden here seems to have admitted some mixture of the allegory and the reality together:

Virgil

Virgil is free both from the streamer, and this faulty mixture; so also is Pitt;

Now on her car was gay Aurora borne,
And Ocean reddens with the rising morn, Pitt, 31.

3. *Tum quorum attonitae Baccho nemora avia matres
Insultant thiasis, (neque enim leve nomen Amatae)
Undique collecti coeunt, Martemque fatigant.*

Æn. 7. 582.

Then they, whose mothers frantic with their fear,
In woods and wilds the flags of Bacchus bear,
And lead his dances with dishevell'd hair,
Increase the clamour, and the war demand—

Dryden, 803.

As he had before given a streamer to Aurora, he here gives flags to the attendants of Bacchus;

Those too whose mothers by the queen were led,
When fir'd by Bacchus, to the woods she fled,
(Such was her int'rest in the realm) declare
For open arms, and breathe revenge and war.

Pitt, 735.

4. Cybele in another place is drawn by the tygers of Bacchus instead of her own lions.

*Alma parens Idaea deum, cui Dindyma cordi,
Turrigeraeque urbes, bijugique ad fraena leones.*

Æn. 10. 253.

Hear thou, great mother of the deities,
With turrets crown'd, on Ida's holy hill,
Fierce tygers rein'd and curb'd, obey thy will.

Dryden, 356.

Great

Great guardian queen, of Ida's hills and woods,
 Supreme, majestic mother of the gods !
 Whose strong defence proud towering cities share,
 While roaring lions whirl thy mighty car.

Pitt, 366.

5. *Hic, ubi disjectas moles, avulsaque saxis
 Saxa vides, mixtoque undantem pulvere fumum,
 Neptunus muros, magnoque emota tridenti
 Fundamenta quatit; totamque ab sedibus urbem
 Eruit*—

Æn. 2. 612.

This exalted passage Mr. Dryden has thus translated :

Amid that smother, Neptune holds his place,
 Below the wall's foundation drives his mace,
 And heaves the building from the solid base. 829 }

Where it is to be observed he has divested Neptune of his trident, and equipped him with a Gothic mace. That Pitt hath restored the god his proper *insignia*, is much the least part of his praise in this sublime passage :

Where yon' rude piles of shatter'd ramparts rise,
 Stone rent from stone, a dreadful ruin lies,
 And black with rolling smoke the dusty whirlwind flies: }
 There Neptune's trident breaks the bulwarks down,
 There from her basis heaves the trembling town.

Pitt, 812.

6. ———— *Paterque Sabinus
 Vitifator, curvam servans sub imagine falcem.*

Æn. 7. 179.

In

In translating this passage, Mr. Dryden hath made Sabinus lean his head upon his pruning hook, which as it would appear absurd in a statue or picture, cannot be proper in a poetical description.

There stood Sabinus, planter of the vines,
On a short pruning hook his head reclines,
And studiously surveys his generous wines.

}

Dryden, 249.

Sabinus there who prest the foaming wine,
Extends the hook that prun'd the generous vine.

Pitt, 221.

7. One great occasion of faults in Mr. Dryden in relation to the imaginary beings of the ancients, is owing to his not being sufficiently acquainted with (or not recollecting) their particular qualities, rank and dignity; and this makes him sometimes vary from his original.

*Ecce furens animis aderat Tirynthius, omnemque
Accessum lustrans, huc ora ferebat et illuc,
Dentibus infrendens. Ter totum fervidus irâ
Lustrat Aventini montem; ter saxea tentat
Limina nequicquam; ter fessus valle resedit.*

Æn. 8. 228.

The wretch had hardly made his dungeon fast,
The fierce avenger came with bounding haste;
Survey'd the mouth of the forbidden hold,
And here and there his raging eyes he roll'd;
He gnash'd his teeth, and thrice he compass'd round
With winged speed the circuit of the ground.

Thrice

Thrice at the cavern's mouth he pull'd in vain,
And panting thrice desisted from his pain.

Dryden, 304.

Scarce had the fiend let down th' enormous weight,
When fierce the god came thund'ring to the gate;
He gnash'd his teeth with rage, the passes try'd,
And roll'd his eager eyes on ev'ry side;
Now here, now there, a fiery glance he threw;
And thrice impetuous round the mountain flew;
Thrice strove to storm the massy gates in vain,
And thrice, o'er-spent, fate panting on the plain.

Pitt, 300.

8: *Non tulit Alcides animis: seque ipse per ignem
Praecipiti jecit saltu: qua plurimus undam
Fumus agit; nebulâque ingens specus aestuat atrâ.*

Æn. 8. 258.

The wrathful god then plunges from above,
And where in thickest waves the sparkles drove,
There lights; and wades thro' fumes, and gropes his
way,

Half sing'd, half stifled till he grasps his prey.

Dryden, 344.

This last particular is great in Virgil, and little in Dryden; and fitter for the herdsman hero (as he calls him in the beginning of the story, 279) than the chief of all the heroes who were deified for having acted in this world for the good of mankind. Let us see Mr. Pitt's translation.

With that the vengeful god in fury grew;
And headlong thro' the burning tempest flew;
Fierce on the fiend, thro' stifling fumes he came,
Thro' streams of smoke and deluges of flame.

ver. 331.

In

In fine, if my partiality to Mr. Pitt does not mislead me, I should think he has executed his work with great spirit, that he has a fine flow of harmonious versification, and has rendered his author's sense with faithfulness and perspicuity; but my testimony can be of little consequence in this case; and there is no reason to doubt but he will stand by his own intrinsic merit; which the public hath already sufficiently approved.

I thought it proper to premise these few reflections, on Virgil, on Mr. Pitt, and myself, before I ventured to give the following translation into your hands; I dared not say,

— *in Meti descendat judicis aures,*

till I had endeavoured to point out the peculiar difficulties attending this performance, and had obviated any charge of envy, or even of emulation, in attempting it after Mr. Dryden. I have only to add, that among other reasons why I could wish this work may reach posterity, one of the greatest is, that it may be known, I enjoyed the favour and friendship of Sir GEORGE LYTTELTON.

I am,

S I R,

Your obliged and obedient servant,

Jan. 1,
1753.

JOSEPH WARTON.

 ADVERTISEMENT.

1753.

*THE design of the following volumes is to give a poetical translation, and a correct edition of Virgil's works, illustrated with explications of the difficult, and observations on the beautiful passages. For which purpose, his best critics and commentators have been consulted and made use of, but never quoted without acknowledgment. Besides these assistances, I must inform the reader, that Mr. Spence hath promoted this undertaking with that warmth and readiness with which he always serves his friends, by communicating to me a great number of manuscript notes of the late Mr. Holdsworth, author of *Muscipula*, &c.: who by residing many years in Italy, and by making Virgil his constant companion in his travels, had an opportunity of being very exact in his observations on his favourite author. Many of them, that are local, and relate to the soil, the climate and customs of Italy, will I believe be found extremely curious and useful. Mr. Spence likewise obliged me with several excellent remarks of his own, made when he was abroad, that were never yet published, and with some few of Mr. Pope's. His *Polymetis* also hath greatly enriched the following collection,*

lection. I must not neglect to return my thanks to Mr. Warburton, for giving leave that his most learned and ingenious dissertation on the sixth book of the *Æneid* might be here inserted; which the reader will find much altered and enlarged with several valuable additions. Mr. William Whitehead hath contributed to the usefulness and beauty of this work by giving it what Virgil has long wanted, a design for the shield of *Æneas*. He hath added a dissertation on this subject, wherein are some curious remarks on the Roman history, which it is not strange that he should understand, who has made one of its greatest heroes appear so nobly on our * stage. To my learned and ingenious friend Mr. Samuel Johnson I am very much obliged; not only for his elegant essay on Pastoral Poetry, but for several most judicious remarks and observations scattered thro' the whole. It was thought proper not to omit in this edition, Bishop Atterbury's celebrated conjecture, concerning Iapis, in the twelfth book of the *Æneid*. It may be necessary likewise to take notice here that Mr. Pitt has borrowed about sixty lines from Mr. Dryden, and I myself about a dozen, and a remark or two in the life of Virgil. I am indebted also to Mr. Benson for some observations, and for six lines of his translation of the two first Georgics. For the rest I am answerable; and I hope those readers that are able to judge, who are likewise ever most inclined to pardon, will excuse the smaller faults and inadvertencies that will necessarily happen in the course of so long a work.

* In his tragedy called the Roman Father.

I begin now most sensibly to perceive the force of that saying of a French author: "When a man writes, he ought to animate himself with the thoughts of pleasing all the world; but he is to renounce that hope, the very moment the book goes out of his hands."



In this edition are now first added, several remarks and observations, taken from an edition of Virgil, published at LEIPSIC, 1771, in four volumes, octavo, by the learned and ingenious CHRISTOPHER. GOTT. HEYNE. The title of EXCURSUS, which he has given to some of the longer of these observations, is here preserved. And it was thought to be no objection to the insertion of them, that some of them contained remarks contradictory to what had been before advanced in these volumes. In criticism, there will ever be an useful variety of opinions.

THE
L I F E
O F
V I R G I L.

WE have an eager desire to be thoroughly acquainted with the minutest circumstances in the lives of those who have made themselves greatly eminent. It is probably owing to this curiosity, that the writings of old Montagne, notwithstanding his excursions and irregularities, are found so amusing and delightful. Plutarch observes, that the true genius, and characteristical turn of men's minds, are best to be gathered from the small and seemingly inconsiderable particulars of their lives and fortunes. It were to be wished antiquity furnished us with any light of this sort with regard to our celebrated Poet. But we have very few materials to gather from; only some scattered remarks of old commentators and grammarians, and a life written by Tiberius Donatus, (by some falsely supposed to be St. Jerom's master) whose authenticity Ruæus hath taken great pains to explode and destroy. What can best be depended upon seemeth to be as follows.

PUBLIUS VIRGILIUS MARO was born on the fifteenth
VOL. I. B day

day of October in the year of Rome 684, in the consulship of Pompey and Crassus, at a village called Andes, now Petula, not far from Mantua. His father's name was Virgil, according to the opinion of Servius and Probus; for if he had been called Maro, as Donatus affirms, our Poet's name must have been, according to the custom of the Romans, Publius Maro Virgilius.

His father was undoubtedly of low birth and mean circumstances, but by his industry so much recommended himself to his master, that he gave him his daughter, named Maia, in marriage, as a reward of his fidelity. Our Poet, discovering early marks of a very fine genius, was sent at twelve years old to study at Cremona, where he continued till his seventeenth year. He then removed to Milan, and from thence to Naples, being the residence of several teachers of philosophy and polite learning, and prosecuted his studies with great industry and intenseness, carefully perusing the most elegant of the Greek and Roman writers. But physic and mathematics were his favourite sciences, and to which he principally attached himself: and to this early tincture of geometrical learning were owing, that regularity of thought, propriety of expression, and exactness of conducting all subjects, for which he is so remarkable. He learnt the Epicurean philosophy under the celebrated Syro, of whom Cicero speaks twice with the greatest encomiums both of his learning and virtue.

His acquaintance with Varus, his first patron, commenced by his being fellow-student with him under this philosopher, for whom Virgil seems to have had a warm affection and esteem.

There is an epigram remaining, addressed to Syro, written with so beautiful a simplicity that one may safely pronounce it the work of Virgil: who being afraid his father and family would be turned out of their estate at Andes, endeavoured to find a retreat for his parents,
and

and cast his eye upon a little farm that Syro possessed in the country.

Ad Villam Scironis.

*Villala, quæ Scironis eras, & pauper agelle,
Verum illi domino tu quoque divitiæ ;
Me tibi, & hos unâ mecum, quos semper amavi,
Si quid de patriâ tristius audiero,
Commendo, in primisque patrem ; tu nunc eris illi
Mantua quod fuerat, quodque Cremonâ prius.*

After Virgil had completed his studies at Naples, Donatus affirms, that he made a journey to Rome ; that by his extraordinary skill in the diseases incident to cattle of all kinds, he recommended himself to Augustus's master of the horse, who procured appointments for him in the royal stables ; that Augustus having a colt presented to him by the Crotoniates which promised uncommon swiftness and spirit, Virgil immediately pronounced that he came from a sickly mare, and would be good for nothing, which proved the case ; and lastly, that the emperor hearing of his extraordinary penetration and discernment, sent for him privately to enquire concerning his own parentage, whether he was really the son of Octavius or not. But Ruæus and the most judicious critics have rejected and refuted these stories as highly fabulous, improbable, and impertinent ; and are of opinion that he did not appear at Rome, and was not known to Augustus till long afterwards. Perhaps 'tis safest to steer betwixt these two opposite opinions, and to say, that our Poet might probably pay a visit to Rome, and be introduced to Augustus, though not by the methods Donatus has assigned. At least, Ruæus seems to lay too great a stress on that passage in the first Eclogue,

*Urbem quam dicunt Romam, Melibæe, putavi
Stultus ego huic nostræ similem——*

And again,

*Et quæ tanta fuit Romam tibi causa videndi ?
Libertas—*

For tho' Virgil is said to represent himself under the person of Tityrus, yet this ignorance of the largeness of the city might be counterfeited, and thrown in, as a natural stroke of pastoral simplicity, and may perhaps be justly considered as a sentiment rather beautifully poetical than strictly true.

We cannot imagine that such an exalted genius as Virgil was blest with, could lie long unactive and unexerted. We are told accordingly, that in the warmth of early youth, he framed a noble design, and boldly intended to write a poem on the Wars of Rome; but after some attempts, he was discouraged from proceeding, by the roughness and asperity of the old Roman names, which horribly disgusted so delicate an ear. That great master of verse (says a lively writer) found it difficult to put such harsh words, as Vibius Caudex, Tanaquil, Lucumo, or Decius Mus into his poetry. Some of the names of towns could absolutely find no place in heroic measure. They were almost as frightful as Boileau's Woerden, or the hideous Wurts, of whose name he so woefully complains as quite-scaring his muse.

*Des villes que tu prens les noms durs et barbares,
N'offrent de toutes partes que syllabes bizarres :
Et qui peut sans fumir aborder Woerden,
Quel vers ne tomberoit au seul nom de Hensden ?
Wurts, l'espoir du país, et l'appui de ces murs,
Wurts—Ah quel nom, Grand Roi, quel Hector que ce
Wurts ?* Epitre 4.

Not only so, but 'tis probable he was deterred from an undertaking above his years, by the reason assigned by our English Boileau,

When

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When first young Maro sung of kings and wars,
 Ere warning Phœbus touch'd his trembling ears,
 Perhaps he seem'd above the critic's law,
 And but from nature's fountains scorn'd to draw;
 But when t' examine every part he came,
 Nature and Homer were he found the same;
 Convinc'd, amaz'd, he checks the bold design;
 And rules as strict his labour'd work confine,
 As if the Stagyrite o'erlook'd each line.

Captivated with the native beauties of the Idylliums of Theocritus, and ambitious of introducing a new species of poetry among the Romans, our poet from henceforward seems to have bent his whole thoughts to imitate and rival the sweet Sicilian: And having transplanted Pastoral into his own country, it flourished as successfully, as the cherry-trees which Lucullus conveyed from Pontus.

Of these compositions 'tis highly probable that intitled Alexis was his first performance. Dr. Martyn thinks it might have been written in the year of Rome 709, when the Poet was in his twenty-fifth year, which was a little while before Cæsar was assassinated in the year 710. Julius Cæsar might have read this beautiful imitation of the *Ἔργα* of Theocritus, and been struck with admiration of the promising genius of its author. Possibly the Palæmon was his second performance; it is a close imitation of the fourth and fifth Idyllia of Theocritus.

May I venture to mention the Silenus as the next composition in order of time? This fine piece of philosophy is said to have been publicly recited on the stage by Cytheris, a celebrated comedian, remarkable for a sweetness and propriety of speaking, insomuch that Catrou imagines that expression in the tenth Eclogue, *Quæ legat ipsa Lycoris*, does not only signify that he may write such

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verses as may touch or affect Cytheris (represented by Lycoris) but such as may be fit for a person of a marvellous sweetness of voice to pronounce. Let us hear Catrou's opinion with regard to this sixth Eclogue. It is not from this verse

Prima Syracosio dignata est ludere versu,

that I conjecture that this Eclogue ought to precede that of Tityrus. It is for another reason, that I am going to produce. It is true, that the author of the life of Virgil seems here to contradict himself. He affirms, in one place, that the Tityrus was the first Eclogue which the Poet composed. "It appears, says he, that Virgil had not composed any Eclogue before the Tityrus, from the fourth Georgic; where he distinguishes his Bucolics by the Eclogue of Tityrus,"

Tityre te patulae cecini sub tegmine fagi.

He adds besides, that the Poet spent three years in composing his Bucolics, *Bucolica triennio perfecit*. That is, if one can believe it, that Virgil began his first Eclogue about the year of Rome 713, and finished the last after the year 715. The same author also relates, that the Silenus was recited by Cytheris, before a full audience, in the presence of Cicero. This last fact cannot possibly be true, supposing the Tityrus was Virgil's first performance in this kind. Cicero was dead when our Poet composed the Tityrus. In so manifest a contradiction, I incline to the side of the story of Cytheris, which is attested by Servius. As for the conjecture formed by the writer of Virgil's life, that the Tityrus was his first Eclogue, it is grounded upon a very frivolous argument. The quotation from the fourth Georgic, which is the only support of it, proves only, that Virgil, in the edition of his Bucolics, had placed the Tityrus in the front. It is
said

said also, that Virgil made all his Eclogues in three years. Therefore Cicero could not hear any one of them. But, in the original it is *perfectit*, that is, he perfected them; he made them fit to appear. Thus this Eclogue might have been prior to the Tityrus, and Cytheris might have recited it in the presence of Cicero.

I beg to add a conjecture purely my own, and submit the decision of it entirely to the learned. Cicero having heard this Eclogue, cried out in an ecstasy of admiration, that the author of it was

——— *Magnæ spes altera Romæ,*

the second great hope of Rome, esteeming himself, say the commentators, to be the first. I understand the words in a far different sense. The subject of this piece, we should remember, was an account of the Epicurean Philosophy both *natural and moral*, which had been but lately beautifully illustrated by Lucretius; an author whom Cicero was so eminently fond of, as to revise and publish his work. Upon hearing therefore the beautiful verses of Virgil on the same subject, Cicero exclaimed to this purpose; *Behold another great genius rising up amongst us, who will prove a second Lucretius.* This interpretation at once takes away the imputation of vanity of which Cicero has been accused for using these words, making the *Spes altera* refer entirely to Lucretius. And besides, the expression of *Spes* necessarily implies something *future and increasing*; whereas Cicero was at that time arrived at a maturity of fame and abilities: neither do I perceive the propriety of the connexion, in joining an eminent poet with an eminent orator. 'Tis observable that Virgil inserted this hemistich afterwards in the twelfth book of his *Æneid*, and applied the words to Ascanius.

Dion Cassius relates, in his forty-seventh book, that in the year of Rome 712 the Triumvirs, Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus, erected and consecrated a temple to Julius

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Cæsar in the forum, carried about his statue in solemn procession with one of Venus in the Circensian games, decreed supplications to him on the news of any victory, and ordered he should be worshipped as a god. In allusion to the death and deification of Cæsar, Virgil composed the fifth Eclogue. He introduces two shepherds lamenting the death of Daphnis, a Sicilian shepherd; he represents the cattle abstaining from their food for grief, the very wild beasts lamenting, the fields withering, Apollo and Pales leaving the plains, the nymphs mourning around his body, and Venus herself bitterly lamenting,

*Cum complexa sui corpus miserabile nati,
Atque deos atque astra vocat crudelia mater.*

For Venus is undoubtedly the Mother here mentioned, and not the city of Rome, as Ruæus imagines.

This opinion may be confirmed by a parallel passage in the *Metamorphoses*. Ovid there represents Venus terrified at the approach of Cæsar's death; she discovers all the fears and tenderness of a mother; intercedes with the gods for his preservation; smites her own breast, and endeavours to hide him in the cloud in which she had preserved Paris and Æneas;

————— *Quod ut aurea vidit
Æneæ genetrix, vidit quoque triste parari
Pontifici letum; & conjurata arma moveri
Palluit: ———
Tum vero Cytherea manū percussit utrâque
Pectus, & Æneaden molitur condere nube. ———*

I cannot forbear observing the peculiar beauty of the epithet *miserabile* in Virgil.—This single word points out the mangled body of Julius Cæsar in almost as lively a manner as Antony's artful speech in Shakespear;

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Look! in this place ran Cassius' dagger thro'—
See, what a rent the envious Casca made—
Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;
And as he pluckt the curst steel away,
Mark, how the blood of Cæsar follow'd it!

Julius Cæsar, Act 3. Sc. 6.

In the latter part of the pastoral, the Poet changes the scene into joy and triumph, which makes a noble contrast to the beginning. He represents Daphnis admitted into heaven, pleasure and joy overflowing the plains, the very mountains breaking forth into songs, altars erected, and solemn sacrifices performed to him as to Ceres and Bacchus. Augustus must have been infinitely pleased with this exquisite piece of flattery.

The fatal battle at Philippi was fought at the latter end of the year 722, which at once put an end to all glorious struggles for the liberty of the commonwealth, the *patriot-murderer*, Brutus and Cassius, having resolutely slain themselves upon the defeat of their army, leaving Cæsar and Antony victorious. One cannot forbear wishing there had been some Virgil to have lamented the death of the incomparable Brutus, as well as that of the tyrant Julius Cæsar, who, notwithstanding his many amiable and exalted qualities, was no better than the enslaver of his country. After this action the veteran soldiers began to murmur for their pay, and Augustus, to reward them, distributed amongst them the lands of Mantua and Cremona. Appian relates, that when the lands were divided among the soldiers, great numbers both young and old, and women with their children, flocked to Rome, and filled the forum and temples with bitter lamentations, complaining they were driven from their lands and houses as if they had been conquered enemies. Virgil was involved in this common calamity, applied to Varus or to Pollio, or both, who warmly recommended him to Augustus, and procured his

his patrimony for him again. Full of gratitude to Augustus, he composed the *Tityrus*, introducing in it two shepherds, one of them complaining of the distraction of the times, and of the destruction the soldiers had committed among the Mantuan farmers, the other rejoicing for the recovery of his estate, and promising to honour the person who restored it to him as a god.

— *Illius aram*

Sæpe tener nostris ab ovilibus imbuet agnus.

But our Poet's joy was not of long continuance; for we are told that when he returned to take possession of his farm, he was violently assaulted by the intruder, and would certainly have been killed by him, if he had not made his escape by swimming hastily over the Mincio.

Upon this unexpected disappointment, melancholy and dejected, he returned to Rome to renew his petition; and during his journey seems to have composed the ninth *Eclogue*; which appears to have been hastily made up, out of several little fragments of poems, and imitations of *Theocritus* he had by him. One stroke in it is too artful to be omitted. He advises the shepherd to consult no more the old constellations and signs as they were wont to do, but to look up to a brighter star, the *Julium Sidus*,—alluding to the famous comet which is said to have appeared seven days after *Julius Cæsar's* death, and was fancied by the vulgar to be *Cæsar's* soul converted by *Venus* into a blazing star. *Suetonius* speaks of it in the following manner: *In deorum numerum relatus est, non ore modo decernentium, sed et persuasione vulgi. Siquidem ludis, quos primo consecratos ei hæres Augustus edebat, stella arinista per septem dies continuos fulsit exorients circa undecimam horam. Creditumque est, animam esse Cæsar's, in cælum recepti, & hæc de causâ simulacro ejus in vertice stella additur.*

In the year of Rome 714, Virgil composed the celebrated

brated Eclogue intitled usually, but perhaps falsely, Pollio, as it related to the birth of his son Salonius. But Cætrou has endeavoured to shew that this is a gross mistake, and that the subject of it is the birth of young Marcellus, who was afterwards adopted by Augustus. The substance of his opinion is as follows; which will give us some insight into this intricate affair.

Cæsar did not remain long in quiet after the compleat victory which he obtained over Lucius, and Fulvia the wife of Antony, who had rashly taken arms against him. This turbulent lady fled to her husband, and incited him to make war upon Cæsar. Antony inflamed with rage, steered his course to Italy; and began a most furious and dangerous war. But the news of the death of Fulvia, whom he had left sick at Sicyon, coming opportunely, gave a favourable opportunity of settling a peace between these mighty rivals. Cocceius, a common friend to both, went between them, and projected a reconciliation: The consul Pollio appearing on the part of Antony, and Mæcenas on the part of Cæsar, to arbitrate the differences between them. The arbitrators proposed, that as Fulvia, the wife of Antony, was just dead, and Marcellus also, the husband of Octavia, half sister to Cæsar, Octavia should be given in marriage to Antony. This being agreed to, caused an universal joy: and the whole army expressed their joy by shouting all that day, and the following night. Octavia was with child at the time of this marriage. Therefore as this great lady, who was also a person of a most unspotted character, was the cement of so blessed a peace and union between the two great Triumvirs, who were upon the point of tearing the world in sunder by their divisions, Virgil was not backward in testifying his joy for so happy an event. The Sibilline oracles had foretold, that a child was to be born about this time, who should rule the world, and establish perpetual peace. The Poet ingeniously supposes the child, with which Oc-

tavia

tavia was then pregnant, to be the glorious infant, under whose rule mankind was to be made happy; the golden age was to return again from heaven; and fraud and violence was to be no more. This is the subject of that Eclogue, of which the usual title is Pollio. In this celebrated poem, the author, with great delicacy, at the same time pays his court to both the chiefs, to his patron Pollio, to Octavia, and to the unborn infant. It is dedicated to the great Pollio by name, who was at that time consul: And therefore we are sure of the date of this Eclogue, as it is known that he enjoyed that high office in the year of Rome 714.

In the year of Rome 715, Pollio, who was now in high favour with Augustus, marched against, and subdued the Parthini. During this expedition, Virgil addressed to him one of his most beautiful Eclogues, the Pharmaceutria, an imitation of one with the same title in Theocritus. Catrou groundlessly imagines Augustus to be the person intended by the fine compliment at the beginning, because this prince attempted to write a drama called Ajax, in imitation of Sophocles. Pollio's character was one of the most illustrious that ever adorned Rome; he was master of many various accomplishments; that seldom shine together in one person; was a skilful and successful general;

Cui laurus æternos honores.

Dalmatico peperit triumpho:

was an admirable historian, orator, and poet; Horace joins with Virgil in bearing testimony to the excellence of the tragedies he wrote, *Od. i. Book 2.*

Paulum severæ musa tragediæ

Desit theatris; mox ubi publicas

Res ordinaris, grande munus

Cecropio repetes cothurno.

In which ode one cannot forbear observing that the poet, conscious of the dignity of the person he was writing to, has exerted his genius, and warmed his fancy, and has given us some of the most spirited and sublime images that are to be found in his works :

*Jam nunc minaci murmure cornuum
 Perstringis aures ; jam litui strepens !
 Jam fulgor armorum fugaces
 Terret equos equitumque vultus ;
 Audire magnos jam videor duces
 Non indecero pulvere fœdidos !*

Pollio was likewise the first who erected a public library at Rome, adorned with curious busto's of the most celebrated writers. He had a most delicate taste for the fine arts, particularly architecture and sculpture : Pliny tells us, that some of the capital pieces of the most exquisite Grecian artists were in his collection ; particularly, a Silenus, a Neptune, an Apollo, and some Bacchanalian Nymphs, all by Praxiteles ; which are particularly mentioned in the fifth chapter of the thirty-sixth book of his Natural History. It was none of the smallest honours Virgil met with, to be protected and esteemed by this all-accomplished courtier.

In the last Eclogue our Author composed, he introduces his friend Cornelius Gallus, lying disconsolately under a mountain in Arcadia, bitterly bewailing the inconstancy of his mistress, and surrounded by all the rural gods, and by Apollo himself, who come to sympathize with him in his grief, and endeavour to administer comfort to him. He had before paid Gallus a high compliment in his Silenus, representing him wandering on the banks of Permessus, and met by one of the Muses, who leads him to the Aonian mountains, where the whole assembly of gods and poets rises up to greet his approach, and Linus gives him the pipe of old Hesiod :

— Quibus

— *Quibus ille solebat*

Cantando rigidas deducere montibus ornos.

Gallus was greatly beloved by Augustus, who advanced him from a low condition into the highest posts. But being afterwards made governor of Egypt, he fell into a debauched and luxurious life, abused the emperor in his cups, and erected statues of himself throughout the province; for which, and other misdemeanors, being banished by Augustus, he fell upon his own sword, in an agony of grief and despair. Donatus relates that Virgil was so fond of this Gallus, that the fourth Georgic, from the middle to the end, was filled with his praises; and that he afterwards changed this part into the story of Aristæus, at the command of Augustus. But Ruæus justly questions the truth of this story. He observes that the story of Aristæus is so well connected with the culture of the bees, that it does not seem to have been stuck in, but to rise naturally from the subject, and to have been a first thought; that it is not probable, that Virgil would bestow so large a part of his work in the praise of Gallus, when he had given but a few lines to Mæcenas himself, to whom he dedicated the whole poem: and lastly, that Augustus himself, according to Suetonius, lamented the death of Gallus; and therefore cannot be thought so injurious to his memory, as to envy him some empty praise.

Thus we see Virgil employed the very earliest efforts of his muse, at a time, in other poets,

When pure description holds the place of sense, to useful and prudent purposes, to conciliate the countenance of the great, to relieve the distresses of himself and his family, to commemorate his benefactors, to gain the favour and friendship of those by whom it was honour and happiness to be beloved.

And

And now being in his 34th year, he retired to a delightful and convenient privacy at Naples, and laid the plan of his inimitable Georgics: which he undertook at the earnest entreaties of that wise and able minister, Mæcenas: not to rival and excel Hesiod, whom he has but little imitated, as he had lately done Theocritus, but on a noble political motive, and to promote the welfare of his country. Great was the desolation occasioned by the continuance and cruelty of the civil wars: Italy was almost depopulated; the lands were uncultivated and unstocked; a famine and insurrection ensued; Augustus himself hardly escaped being stoned by the enraged populace, who attributed this calamity to his ambition. This best and wisest minister therefore, Mæcenas, resolved if possible to revive the decayed spirit of husbandry; to introduce a taste for cultivation; to make rural improvements a fashionable amusement of the great. What method so likely to effect this, as to recommend agriculture with all the insinuating charms of poetry? Virgil fully answered the expectations of his polite patron; for the Georgics contain all those masterly beauties that might be expected from an exalted genius, whose judgment and imagination were in full vigour and maturity, and who had leisure to give the last polish and perfection to his incomparable workmanship.

As to Mæcenas's character, tho' a bad writer himself, fond of far-fetch'd metaphors and an affected stile, yet was he indisputably the kindest patron the Muses ever found, in any age or country. Paterculus has given us a portrait of him, painted with his usual elegance and expressiveness. *Urbis custodiis præpositus C. Mæcenas, equestri sed splendido genere natus: vir, ubi res vigiliam exigeret, sanè exsomnis, providens atque agendi sciens; simul verò aliquid ex negotio remitti posset, otio ac mollitiis pænè ultrà fœminam fluens: non minus Agrippa Cæsari carus, sed minùs honoratus; quippe vixit angusto clavo pænè contentus;*

tentus; nec minora consequi potuit, sed non tam concupivit.
 Even the admired Augustus was deeply indebted to this favourite, for guiding his taste and forming his manners. 'Twas he who introduced the poets to his court; inspired him with a relish for polite learning; convinced him of the importance of having his character handed down to posterity in an amiable light by the best writers of his age, and of having his statue made by none but a Lyfippus. That the emperor wanted such a master to soften and polish his temper and behaviour, is sufficiently testified by Suetonius and other authors, who tell us of his natural love of amphitheatrical spectacles, and other barbarous entertainments, little accommodated to the interest of the Muses. Horace, in his artful and concealed manner, frequently glances at this, in many passages of the celebrated epistle in his second book. And Dion Cassius in particular relates the frank treatment which this prince received from his friend Mæcenas; who was forced to draw him from his bloody tribunal and murderous delight, with the reproach of

Surge vero tandem, carnifex!

I cannot forbear adding a little reflection, which may serve, among others, to convince us of the great powerfulness of poetry; which is, that we should have entertained a far different notion of Augustus, who was in reality a cool, a cruel and subtle tyrant, and the person who gave the last wound to expiring liberty, if Virgil and Horace had not so highly celebrated him, and gained us as it were over to his party. But perhaps the reflection does not much honour to these two poets.

We are at last arrived to the period of time when Virgil began writing his *Æneid*, in the year of Rome 714, when he himself was forty-five years old. His design in writing it has been very lately so excellently explained

plained by a master of classical learning, with equal judgment and taste, that it would be unjust not to quote his own words:

“ Virgil is said to have begun this poem the very year that Augustus was freed from his great rival Antony: the government of the Roman empire was to be wholly in him: and tho’ he chose to be called their father; he was, in every thing but the name, their king. This monarchical form of government must naturally be apt to displease the people. Virgil seems to have laid the plan of his poem to reconcile them to it. He takes advantage of their religious turn; and of some old prophecies that must have been very flattering to the Roman people, as promising them the empire of the whole world. He weaves this in with the most probable account of their origin; that of their being descended from the Trojans. To be a little more particular; Virgil in his *Æneid* shews, that *Æneas* was called into their country by the express order of the gods. *N. B.* This is marked very strongly throughout all the first part of the *Æneid*. The very night Troy is burnt, *Æneas* is ordered to go and build a city in Italy, and to carry his gods to it, by the spirits of *Hector* and *Creusa*: *Cassandra* had foretold the same frequently before: *Æn.* iii. ver. 185.

*Nunc repeto hæc generi portendere debita nostro,
Et sæpe Hesperiam, sæpe Itala regna vocare.*

Apollo orders the same;

—— *Antiquam exquirite matrem:
Hic domus Æneæ cunctis dominabitur oris;
Et nati natorum & qui nascentur ab illis.*

Æn. iii. ver. 98.

And his domestick gods, more expressly; *Æn.* iii. ver. 167. The same orders are given to *Æneas* whilst at

Carthage, by the spirit of his departed father ; *Æn.* iv. ver. 351. And lastly, by the great messenger of the chief of all their gods ;

Ascanium surgentem & spes hæredis Iuli

Respice ; cui regnum Italiæ Romanaque tellus

Debentur ———

Æn. iv. ver. 275.

He shews likewise that he was made king of it by the will of Heaven, and by all the human rights that could be. *Viz.* he has an hereditary claim from Dardanus and Jafius, *Æn.* iii. ver. 168.—He has a right by conquest, *Æn.* xii. ver. 1.—He has a right by compact, *Æn.* xii. ver. 175 to 225.—And he has a right by marrying the only daughter of the then king, *Æn.* xii. ver. 937. and *Æn.* vii. ver. 50—52. He shews likewise that there was an uninterrupted succession of kings from him to Romulus ; that his heirs were to reign there for ever ; and that the Romans under them were to obtain the monarchy of the world. It appears from Virgil, and the other Roman writers, that Julius Cæsar was of this royal race ; and that Augustus was his sole heir. The natural result of all this is, that the promises made to the Roman people, in and through this race, terminating in Augustus ; the Romans, if they would obey the gods, and be masters of the world, were to yield obedience to the new establishment under that prince. As odd a scheme as this may seem now, it is scarce so odd as that of some people among us, who persuaded themselves that an absolute obedience was owing to our kings, on their supposed descent from some unknown Patriarch. And yet that had its effect with many about a century ago ; and seems not to have quite lost all its influence, even in our remembrance. However that be, I think it appears plain enough that the two great points aimed at by Virgil in his *Æneid*, were to maintain their old religious tenets ; and to support the new form of government, in the family of the Cæsars.

Cæsars. That poem therefore may very well be considered as a work merely political. If this was the case, Virgil was not so highly encouraged by Augustus and Mæcenas for nothing. To speak a little more plainly; he wrote in the service of the new usurpation on the state; and all that can be offered in vindication of him in this light is, that the usurper he wrote for was grown a tame one; and that the temper and bent of their constitution was such, that the reins of government must have fallen into the hands of some one person or another; and might probably, on a new revolution, have fallen into the hands of some one less mild and indulgent, than Augustus was at the time when Virgil wrote this poem in his service. But whatever may be said of his reasons for writing it, the poem itself has been highly applauded in all ages, from its first appearance to this day; and tho' left unfinished by its author, has been always reckoned as much superior to all other epic poems among the Romans, as Homer's is among the Greeks. It preserves more to us of the religion of the Romans, than all the other Latin poets (excepting only Ovid) put together: and gives us the forms and appearances of their deities as strongly, as if we had so many pictures of them preserved to us, done by some of the best hands in the Augustan age. It is remarkable that he is commended by some of the ancients themselves, for the strength of his imagination, as to this particular; tho' in general that is not his character, so much as exactness. He was certainly the most correct poet, even of his time; in which all false thoughts and idle ornaments in writing were discouraged: And it is as certain, that there is but little of invention in his *Æneid*; much less, I believe, than is generally imagined. Almost all the little facts in it are built on history: and even as to particular lines, no one perhaps ever borrowed more from the poets that preceded him, than he did. He goes so far back as to old Ennius;

and often inserts whole verses from him, and some other of their earliest writers. The obsolescence of their style did not hinder him much in this: for he was a particular lover of their old language; and no doubt inserted many more antiquated words in his poem than we can discover at present. Judgment is his distinguishing character, and his great excellence consisted in choosing and ranging things aright. Whatever he borrowed he had the skill of making his own; by weaving it so well into his work, that it looks all of a piece: even those parts of his poem, where this may be most practised, resembling a fine piece of Mosaic; in which all the parts, though of such different marbles, unite together; and the various shades and colours are so artfully disposed, as to melt off insensibly into one another."

Polymetis, Dial. 3. pag. 18.

An event happened about this time too remarkable to be omitted*. Augustus, either cloyed with glory, or terrified by the example of his predecessor, or to gain the credit of moderation with the people, or possibly to feel the pulse of his friends, deliberated whether he should retain the sovereign power, or restore the commonwealth. Agrippa, who was a very honest man, but whose view was of no great extent, advised him to the latter: but Mæcenas, who had thoroughly studied his master's temper, in an eloquent oration, gave contrary advice. That emperor was too politic to commit the oversight of Cromwell, in a deliberation something resembling this. Cromwell had always been desirous of the power, as he was afterwards of the title of King; but by a too vehement allegation of arguments against it, he, who had outwitted every body besides, at last outwitted himself,

* See the author of Virgil's life, prefixed to Dryden's translation. This story seems to have been feigned by the grammarians, and later rhetoricians.

by too deep dissimulation: for his council, thinking to make their court by assenting to his judgment, voted unanimously for him against his inclination, which surprized and troubled him to such a degree, that as soon as he got into his coach he fell into a swoon. But Cæsar knew his people better; and his council being thus divided, he asked Virgil's advice. Thus a poet had the honour of determining the greatest point that ever was in debate, betwixt the son-in-law, and favourite of Cæsar. Virgil delivered his opinion in words to this effect: The change of a popular into an absolute government, has generally been of very ill consequence: for betwixt the hatred of the people, and injustice of the prince, it of necessity comes to pass that they live in distrust and mutual apprehension. But if the commons knew a just person, whom they entirely confided in, it would be for the advantage of all parties that such a one should be their sovereign. Wherefore if you shall continue to administer justice impartially, as hitherto you have done, your power will prove safe to yourself, and beneficial to mankind. This excellent sentence, which seems taken out of Plato (with whose writings the grammarians were not much acquainted, and therefore cannot reasonably be suspected of forgery in this matter) contains the true state of affairs at that time: For the commonwealth maxims were now no longer practicable; the Romans had only the haughtiness of the old commonwealth left, without one of its virtues. And this sentence we find, almost in the same words, in the first book of the *Æneis*, which at this time he was writing; and one might wonder that none of the commentators have taken notice of it. He compares a tempest to a popular insurrection, as Cicero had compared a sedition to a storm a little before.

*Ac veluti magno in populo cum sæpe coorta est
Seditio, sævitque animis ignobile vulgus,*

*Jamque faces ac saxa volant, furor arma ministrat :
 Tum pietate gravem & meritis si forte virum quem
 Conspexere, silent, arrectisque auribus adsunt :
 Ille regit diædis animos, & pectora mulcet.*

Augustus was eagerly desirous to peruse the poem as far as it had been carried ; he entreated Virgil to communicate it to him by several letters in the warmest manner. Macrobius in the first book of his Saturnalia, has preserved to us one of Virgil's answers to the emperor ; *Ego verò frequentius a te litteras accipio—De Æneâ quidem meo, si mehercule jam dignum auribus haberem tuis, libenter mitterem. Sed tanta inchoata res est, ut pæne vitio mentis tantum opus ingressus mihi videor ; cum præsertim, ut scis, alia quoque studia ad id opus, multoque potiora impartiar.*

Prevailed on at last by these importunities, Virgil recited (and 'tis remarkable that he read his verses with a wonderful sweetness and propriety) the sixth book to Augustus ; and his sister Octavia, who had just lost her son Marcellus, the darling of Rome, and the adopted son of Augustus, would needs be one of the audience to alleviate and divert her sorrow. Let us indulge a thought that is naturally pleasing, for a moment ! Virgil, reading the finest part of the Æneid to the Lord of the whole earth, attended by his sister, and perhaps Mæcenas, Horace, and other favourites ! He had artfully inserted that beautiful lamentation for the death of young Marcellus, beginning with,

O nate, ingentem luctum ne quære tuorum—

but suppressed his name till he came to the line,

Tu Marcellus eris ;————

upon hearing which Octavia could bear no more, but, suddenly struck with surprize and sorrow, fainted away.

When

When she recovered, she made the poet a present of ten sesterces for every line, which amounted in the whole to above two thousand pounds sterling. A reward equal to Octavia's generosity, and not above Virgil's merit!

The *Æneid* being brought to conclusion, but not to the perfection our author intended to give it; he resolved to travel into Greece to correct and to polish it at leisure. It was on his undertaking this voyage, that Horace addressed to him that affectionate ode;

*Sic te Diva potens Cypri,
Sic Fratres Helenæ, lucida sydera,
Ventorumque regat pater,
Obstrictis aliis præter Iapyga,
Navis, quæ tibi creditum
Debes Virgilium, finibus Atticis,
Reddas incolumem precor,
Et serves animæ dimidium meæ.*

It was during his stay in Greece, that, in all probability, he added that fine introduction to his third *Georgic*, one of the sublimest passages in all his works: the numbers also are particularly majestic;

*Et viridi in campo templum de marmore ponam
Propter aquam———
In medio mihi Cæsar erit, templumque tenebit.
Illi victor ego, & Tyrio conspectus in ostro,
Centum quadrijugos agitabo ad flumina currus——
In foribus pugnam ex auro solidoque elephanto,
Gangaridum faciam, victorisque arma Quirini:——
Addam urbes Asiæ domitas, pulsumque Niphatem;
Fidentemque fugâ Parthum, versisque sagittis:——
Stabunt & Parii lapides, spirantia signa,
Assaraci proles, demissæque ab Jove gentis
Nomina, Trosq; parens, & Trojæ Cynthia auctor.*

This passage contains a magnificent allegory, in which

THE LIFE OF VIRGIL:

the poet intimates, that when he returns from Greece he would perfect and publish his *Æneid*: for this is the superb temple he intends to erect in honour of Augustus,

— *Monumentum ære perennius,
Regaliq; situ pyramidum altius.*

HOR.

The emperor was the chief divinity of the temple; his ancestors were all to have their statues erected in it, (that is) were to be the principal actors in the *Æneid*; and his victories, like *Basso Relievos*, were to adorn the glorious work. CATROU was the first who hit of this interpretation, which adds an infinite beauty to the passage.

Nature seems to have thought, that for one person to have produced two perfect poems, would have been too great a portion of fame and felicity for humanity to enjoy. Augustus, returning victorious from the East, met with Virgil at Athens, who thought himself obliged to wait upon the emperor back to Italy. But he was suddenly seized with a fatal distemper, which, being increased by the agitation of the vessel, he had scarce time to land at Brundisium, where he died on the twenty-second day of September, in the fifty-second year of his age. What can give one so high an opinion, both of his modesty and genius, as his earnestly requesting on his death-bed, that his *Æneid* might be burnt, because it had not received his last corrections and improvements! which, to speak the truth, the last six books apparently want. But Mr. Upton is of opinion, that he ordered his divine work to be destroyed, not because it wanted perfection as an epic poem, but because it flattered the subverter of the constitution.

Tully says somewhat severely, *Adbuc neminem cognovi poetam, qui sibi non optimus videretur.* Tuscul. lib. 1. *I never yet knew any poet, who did not think himself the best of his profession.* This sarcasm can be applicable to none but those trifling wits, who owe their complacency

to

to their indelicacy and insensibility. Larger souls are not so easily self-satisfied. Raphaël frequently declared, that in none of his performances he had ever expressed his notion of a perfect beauty. And Virgil's behaviour rather puts one in mind of what the same Tully says elsewhere, that in none of his works or orations, he was able to come up to that high idea of eloquence he had conceived in his mind. Augustus interposed, and would not suffer a poem that was to consecrate his name to immortality, to be destroyed; it was then bequeathed to Varius and Tucca, with a strict charge that they should make no additions; which they so exactly observed, as not to fill up even the hemistichs which were left imperfect. He died with such steadiness and tranquillity, as to be able to dictate his own epitaph in the following words,

*Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere, tenet nunc
Parthenope; cecini Pascua, Rura, Duces.*

His bones were carried to Naples, according to his earnest request, and a monument was erected at a small distance from the city.

He was of a swarthy complexion, tall of stature like his own Musæus; of a sickly and delicate constitution, afflicted with frequent head-achs, coughs, and spittings of blood; very temperate and abstemious in his diet, very regular, sober, and chaste in his morals. 'Tis a false opinion, that he was slovenly and ungraceful in his habit and person*. He was so bashful, that he frequently

* See the following passage in *Polymetis, Dial. 21. pag. 325.*

It seems to have been a vulgar opinion among the moderns, (at least, among the modern commentators) that Virgil was a rough-looking, slovenly man. To overturn this opinion, I should not allege Urfini's gem, which has so often been called a head of Virgil: both because there is a great deal of reason to think,

quently ran into the shops to prevent being gazed at in the streets of Rome; yet so honoured by the Romans,

think, that it is falsely attributed to him; and because we have pictures of Virgil drawn at full length, and much less to be disputed. What I mean are two pictures, placed before two of his *Eclogues*, in one of those old manuscripts of his works, in the Vatican library. You see him there represented with a sweet, modest countenance, and dressed particularly neat. These pictures, if you will allow of their authority, (and I know of no other that can pretend to near so good an one) may serve perhaps to give us the true sense of an expression in Statius, and to save a passage in Horace from the misrepresentations of his commentators. Statius, in speaking of Virgil, applies the epithet of *torvus* to him; whence some have been apt to imagine, that Virgil had a stern or froward look. But if one ought to trust more to this picture than to the commentators, we should perhaps understand that expression of his writings rather than of his personage, with which it will by no means agree: whereas if it be applied to his works, it may signify the dignity and majesty of them, which will agree with the context, and the occasion on which Statius uses that expression, as much as in the other sense it would be foreign to both. The passage I had in my eye from Horace, is where that poet is speaking of a man who had some little faults, mixed with more material excellencies, which might well enough conceal them, at least to every good-natured observer. The faults or defects he mentions are, that he was a little too passionate, somewhat ungentle in his conversation, and ill-dressed. Here, say the commentators, one sees an instance of the sly way that Horace had of touching on the faults of his best friends, even whilst he is commending them; and the friend here touched upon they will have to be Virgil. The lines are as follows:

*Iracundior est paulo; minus aptus acutis
Naribus horum hominum: rideri possit, èd quod
Rusticius tonsa toga defluit, & male laxus
In pede calceus hæret*——

Hor. Lib. i. Sat. iii. 32.

that

that coming once into the theatre, the whole audience rose out of respect to him. His voice was musical, and his elocution marvellously proper, and pathetic. He was of a thoughtful and melancholy temper, spoke little, and loved retirement and contemplation, and was an enemy to those talkative impertinents, from which no court (not even that of Augustus) could be free. He had a heart full of tenderness and sensibility, and formed for all the delicate feelings of love and friendship. His fortune was not only easy, but affluent: he had a delightful villa in Sicily, and a fine house and well-furnished library near Mæcenas's gardens on the Esquiline hill at Rome.

But ah! Mæcenas is yclad in clay,
 And great Augustus long ygo is dead,
 And all the worthies ligger wrapt in lead,
 That matter made for poets on to play:

says an exquisite poet, who wanted such encouragement as Virgil met with; and who adds, in a noble strain, that, if he had been encouraged,

Thou kenst not, Percie, how the rime should rage!
 O if my temples were distain'd with wine,
 And girt in girlonds of wild ivy-twine,
 How I could rear the muse on stately stage,
 And teach her tread aloft in buskin fine,
 With queint Bellona in her equipage!

Spenser's *October*.

Juvenal says finely, that we should have wanted the strongest paintings, the noblest strokes of imagination in all the *Æneid*, if Virgil had not been blest'd with the comforts and conveniencies of life.

*Magnæ mentis opus, nec de lodice parandâ
 Sollicitæ, currus & equos, faciesque deorum*

Aspicere:

*Aspicere, & qualis Rutulum confundat Erinnyis.
 Nam si Virgilio puer, & tolerabile desit
 Hospitium, caderent omnes ex crinibus hydri,
 Surda nihil gemeret grave buccina—*

Sat. vii. ver. 71.

He used to revise his verses with a judicious severity, to dictate a great number of lines in the morning, and to spend the rest of the day in correcting them, and reducing them to a less number. He compared himself to a she-bear which licks her cubs into shape. This was also the practice of our great Milton. His behaviour was so benevolent, gentle, and inoffensive, that most of his cotemporary poets (even the *genus irritabile vatum*) tho' they envied and maligned each other, agreed in loving and esteeming him. Yet that age, polite as it was, could have furnished some heroes for a Dunciad, a Bavius, a Mævius, and a Corvilius PicTOR, who joined in traducing our Poet. But as an equivalent, Horace addressed two odes to him, and frequently mentions him with particular tenderness and esteem. In his entertaining journey to Brundisium, whither he went to meet Mæcenas, Cocceius, Capito Fonteius, and other accomplished wits, he tells us,

*Plotius & Varius Sinuessæ Virgiliusque
 Occurrunt; animæ quales neque candidiores
 Terra tulit, neque quis me sit devinctior alter:
 O qui complexus & gaudia quanta fuerunt!
 Nil ego contulerim jucundo sanus amico.*

Lib. i. Sat. 5.

I have often thought what a delightful evening this cluster of poetical friends must have spent at Sinuessa!

With regard to the characteristical difference between Virgil and Homer (on which so many fruitless and furious disputes have been raised) it may with truth be affirmed, that the former

former excelled all mankind in JUDGMENT, and the latter in INVENTION. Methinks the two Poets (says Mr. Pope) resemble the heroes they celebrate; Homer, boundless and irresistible as Achilles, bears all before him, and shines more and more, as the tumult increases: Virgil, calmly daring like Æneas, appears undisturbed in the midst of the action, disposes all about him, and conquers with tranquillity. Or when we look on their machines, Homer seems like his own Jupiter in his terrors, shaking Olympus, scattering the lightnings, and firing the heavens: Virgil like the same Power in his benevolence, counselling with the gods, laying plans for empires, and regularly ordering his whole creation.

By way of conclusion to this life, I will add some beautiful verses, which I wonder to find omitted in all our late editions; as their purity and simple elegance may justly induce one to suppose they came from the hand of Virgil.

DEDICATIO ÆNEIDOS.

AD VENEREM.

*Si mihi susceptum fuerit decurrere munus,
 O Venus, O sedes quæ colis Idalias!
 Troius Æneas Romana per oppida digno
 Jam tandem ut tecum carmine veetus eat;
 Non ego thure modo aut pæctâ tua templa tabellâ
 Ornabo, & puris ferta feram manibus;
 Corniger bos aries humiles & maxima taurus
 Victimâ sacrato tinget odore focos;
 Marmoreusque tibi diversicoloribus alis
 Interior picta stabit amor pharetra;
 Adsis, O Cytherea! tuus te Cæsar olympo,
 Et Surrentini littoris ora vocat.*

**P. VIRGILII MARONIS VITA
PER ANNOS DIGESTA.**

V. C. Varr. 684. Cat. 682.

*M. Licinius Crassus. Cn. Pompeius Magnus Coss.
a. G. 70. Virgilii I.*

His Coss. et quidem Idibus Octobribus, natum esse Virgilium tradunt ad vnum omnes. Consentient et in hoc, Andes, agri Mantuani vicum, ei natale solum fuisse. De patre eiusque nomine vt et de matre multa ineptiunt Grammatici. Patrem Virgilium Maronem, matrem Maiam fuisse dubitari nequit. Nomen et Virgilius et Vergilius scribitur. Sed videamus de singulis.

Coss. laudatos non modo Pseudodonatus diserte memorat, et Phocas v. 20. 21. verum etiam Hieronymus in Chronic. Euseb. p. 151. et p. 40. (ed. 1658.) *Virgilius Maro in pago, qui Andes dicitur, haud procul a Mantua, nascitur, Pompeio et Crasso Coss. cf. Scalig. Animadu. p. 152 b. Nam Graeca respicienda non sunt, in quibus p. 259 sequenti anno adscriptum est: Βιργίλιος ἰγνιήθη. quod idem sequuntur Chronicon Paschale s. Fasti Siculi p. 184. C. Idatius Fastis Consular. a. 685. Apud eundem Hieronymum ad Olymp. 177, 3. is annus recte refertur. Phlegon Trallianus in Olympicorum et Chronicorum collectione apud Photium Biblioth. XCVII. p. 267, 25. ed. Rothomag. vbi de Olymp. 177, 3. καὶ Οὐίργιλίος Μάρων, ἰ ποιητῆς, ἰγνιήθη τότε τῷ ἔτη, ἡἰδοις Ὀκτωβρίαις.*

Andes Hieronymus l. l. et Donatus aliique memorant.

Andino

Andino vico, inquit Probus, *qui abest a Mantua millia passuum III*. Situs huius vici incertus est. Mantuanam tamen eum esse contendunt, qui nunc duo millia passuum ab vrbe distitus, vulgo dicitur Petolo. v. Cluver. Ital. ant. p. 257. Ex more tamen satis frequenti inter veteres, de quo vel Catulli exemplo constat, qui, in insula Benaci Sirmione natus, Veronensis appellatur, Virgilii origines ad Mantuam ipsam referuntur, vt ab ipso poeta factum esse videtur Ge. III, 10. alia aliorum loca v. ap. Cluver. l. 1. *Venetum* appellat apud Macrobius Euangelus, Sat. V, 2. sed cum irrisione, vt scilicet tanto magis eum a cultu Graecarum litterarum alienum fingeret; nisi secundum posterioris Venetiae fines dictum existimes, qui ad Adduum vsque flumen extendebantur. Phocas Grammaticus in Vita Virgil. 21. *Vatem Etruscum* appellat, et v. 5. *Aemula Virgilium tellus nisi Tusca dedisset*. Possit id ad origines Mantuae referri; sed vix tam docte scribere voluit Phocas.

De Idibus Octobr. non modo ex Phlegonte l. 1. verum etiam ex Martiale XII, 68. constat: *Octobres Maro consecrauit Idus*. Adde Aufon. Idyll. V, 26. A viris doctis eas inter dies festos habitas fuisse, cum ex illis locis apparet, tum Sillii Italici exemplo apud BHM. Epist. III, 7. *multum ubique — imaginum, quas non habebat modo, verum etiam venerabatur; Virgilii ante omnes, cuius natalem religiosius quam suum celebrabat*. Natum Virgilium, cum Sol ex Virgine in Chelas receptus esset, h. in locum Librae deinceps destinatum, Phocas v. 21. 22. memorat. Augusti aëuo Sol Libram adibat Kal. XII Octobr.

De scriptura nominis digladiati sunt inter se cum veteres tum recentiores Grammatici. Lapidet et codices vtrumque exhibent. Etiam Graeci modo *Οὐιργίλιος* modo *Οὐιργίλιος* scribunt: et *Vergilius*, Mediceus, Pierii Romanus, et vetustissimum Fragm. Aspri apud Benedictinos *Nouv. Tr. de Diplomate*. T. III. p. 152. Ceterum vide, si tanti est, Corrad. in Vita Virgilii pr. adde quos laudat

laudat Fabric. Biblioth. lat. Vol. II. p. 226. Burmann. V. C. Antholog. T. I. p. 399. Pierius, Cerda, Burman. ad Virgil. Ge. IV. extr. Ruacus Vita Virgilii pro Nomini in veteribus nonnullis libris *Parthenius* additur.

Parentes Virgilius honestos quidem, quales nobiles nostros villaticos, sed tamen obscuros et in agro suo colendo vitam agentes habuit. Vnde ductum illud ap. Macrobr. V, 7. *Vnde enim Veneto rusticis parentibus nato, inter filuas et frutices edueto, vel leuis Graecarum notitia litterarum*; cum ironia dictum, vt significet, immo vero longe maximam scientiam ei fuisse. Quod autem figulum patrem esse narrant, id vereor ne inepti monachi a filio carmina fingente duxerint: vti altera narratio de patre mercenario non aliunde nata, quam quod Tityrum in prima Ecloga Virgilii patrem nonnulli tradiderant.

V. C. 689.

L. Aurelius Cotta. L. Manlius Torquatus,
a. C. 65. *Virgilii* $\frac{1}{2}$.

Q. Horatius Flaccus nascitur VI. Id. Decemb. Sueton. in ei. Vita.

V. C. 696.

L. Calpurnius Piso. A. Gabinius.
a. C. 58. *Virgilii* $\frac{1}{3}$.

Hieronymus in Chron. Euseb. p. 151 ad Olymp. 180, 3. adeoque h. a. *Virgilius Cremonae studiis eruditur.* Aliter Donatus § 6. Profectum tamen hinc esse videtur, quod recentiores nonnulli scriptores de ludo litterario publico, qui Romanorum tempore Cremonae floruerit, memorant, v. c. Ludou. Cautellius Cremonens. Annal. p. 1262. A. T. III. Thef. Ant. Ital.

De magistris Virgilii vix quicquam certi tradi potest. Quae siue Grammaticorum fidei, siue doctorum virorum coniecturis debentur, ad Donatum reiecta sunt ad § 7 et 79.

Ceterum

Ceterum etsi de magistris Virgilio et disciplina non satis constet, et eum obscuro loco natum esse satis appareat, liberali tamen institutione eum usum et cum viris doctis et elegantibus versatum esse, tota ingenii eius in carminibus expressa venustas satis prodit. Ex humili enim et sordida vita et consuetudine nemo facile generosi poetæ spiritus sumit.

V. C. 699.

Cn. Pompeius Magnus II. M. Licinius Crassus II.

a. C. 55. Virgilii $\frac{1}{18}$.

Hoc anno virilem togam sumit Virgilius, si verum est, quod a Donato § 6. memoratur, iisdem; quibus natus erat, Coss. id factum esse. Et anno fere XV vel XVI ea sumebatur. v. Noris. Cenotaph. Pisan. p. 115 sq. et passim alios. vt Masson. in Vita Horatii et Ouidii.

V. C. 701.

Cn. Domitius Calvinus. M. Valerius Messala.

a. C. 53. Virgilii $\frac{1}{14}$.

Hieronimus Chron. Euseb. ad Olymp. 181; 4: *Virgilius sumta toga Mediolanum transgreditur: et post breue tempus Romam pergit. At Donatus § 7: Sed Virgilius Cremona Mediolanum, et inde paullo post Neapolin transit— se in Urbem contulit. Vter verus dixerit, quis definire ausit? Forte ne Romam quidem omnino tum adiit; aut, si adiit, in agrum suum mox se contulit, quod inter belli ciuilibus initia factum esse probabile fit.*

V. C. 709.

C. Iulius Caesar IV. sine Collega.

a. C. 45. Virgilii $\frac{26}{27}$.

Alexis hoc anno scriptum conicit, primam certe omnium Eclogarum fuisse contendit Martinus in vita Virg. p. XXXIV et ad Ecl. V, 86. Ex verbis enim huius eclogæ: *Hac te nos fragili donabimus ante cicata;*

Haec nos, Farnesum Corydon ardebat Alexin, Haec eadem docuit: Cuium pecus, an Meliboei? eclogam secundam et tertiam ante quintam fuisse scriptam apparet. Videtur autem quinto anno 712 edita esse, vt mox videbimus, vt adeo hoc certe anno anterior sit Alexin. Iam autem Martinus et hoc ponit, Virgilium Caesari notum fuisse, idque haud dubie carmine aliquo, quod ipsum carmen *Alexin* fuisse suspicatur, adeoque in hunc annum reiicit; sequenti enim anno occisus fuit Caesar. Vides, vt suspicio ex suspicione neſti soleat. Est tamen Eclogae II cum argumentum tum tota tractatio, quod facile, si sensum tuum, non opinionem; audias, eiusmodi, vt non facile, nisi in iuuenile ingenium, cadere possit.

V. C. 710.

C. Iulius Caesar V. M. Antonius.

a. C. 44. Virgilii $\frac{26}{27}$.

Iidibus Martiis Caesar occiditur. Varia post eius mortem prodigia, inprimis Sol toto anno pallidior. v. Plutarch. Caes. extr. Ea commemorat Virgilius Ge. I, 466 sqq. vbi cf. not. Octavius testamento Caesaris ex dodrante heres institutus et in familiam Caesaris nomenque adoptatus Apollonia Romam rediit, cum autem Antonium iniquiorem in se esse videret, Optimatibus sese adiunxit. Apolloniae, quae Epiri vrbs est, quo a Caesare ad Parthos profecturo praemissus fuerat, substiterat, studiisque vacauerat. Sueton. Octau. c. 8.

V. C. 711.

C. Vibius Pansa. A. Hirtius.

C. Iulius Caesar Octavianus. Q. Pedius suffecti.

a. C. 43. Virgilii $\frac{21}{22}$.

Bellum Mutinense, quo, cum totam Galliam Cisalpinam, tum agrum Mantuanum, adeoque Virgilii possessiones valde afflictas fuisse necesse est. Ex V. Kal. Decembr. M. Lepidus, M. Antonius, C. Caesar Octavianus

tauianus Triumuiros reip. constituendae in quinque annos se renuntiant, proscriptorum tabulas proponunt; inter quos a. d. VII. Id. Dec. Cicero occiditur.

In prouinciarum distributione, quum Africam, Siciliam, Sardiniam reliquasque eius maris insulas Caesar Octavianus, Hispanias cum Gallia Narbonensi Lepidus, reliquas Gallias Antonius obtinuisset, v. Appian. Ciuil. IV. p. 953. 954. ager Mantuanus M. Antonii sortii accesserat. Miserat hic in has terras Asinium Pollionem, qui vsque ad a. 714 Galliam Cisalpinam in Antonii fide continuit. cf. inf. ad 713.

Ad hunc porro annum *Palaemonem*, Eclogam III refert Martinus *Life of Virgil* p. XLIV et ad Ecl. V, 86. quoniam in ea Pollio et primus et solus poetae laudibus ornatur. Ex iis, quae modo dicta sunt, coniecturam elegantissimi viri alioqui leuissimam firmare possis, certe hoc impetrare, mature in Asinii Pollionis notitiam venisse poetam, cum is per eos annos in illis Italiae partibus degeret. Cur mihi inter prima poetae tentamina referenda videatur Ecloga III. ea est caussa, quod iuuenilem meditationem et exercitationem non obscure prodat; est enim ex Theocriteis Idylliis IV et V vnice conuersa aut adumbrata.

Julio Caesari Virgilium innotuisse et carum fuisse, ex Ecl. V, 52. *amauit nos quoque Daphnis*, contendunt; Daphnidem enim Iulium Caesarem esse volunt. cf. ibid. argument. item Martinum in Vita Virgil. p. XXXIV et ad Ecl. V, 52. Idem vir doctus versum illum ad studium Caesaris in Mantuanos referebat, quibus, cum ceteris Galliae Transpadanae urbibus, ciuitatem dedisse memorat Dio XLI, 36.

Lepida Grammaticorum fabula est de Ecloga sexta in theatro a Cytheride mimica cantata, quam cum Cicero audiret, magnam Virgiliti famam praefagisse fertur. v. Donat. § 41. Seru. ad Ecl. VI, 11.

Hoc anno ad XIII. Kal. April. (XX. Martii) Ouidius

dus natus est; nec multo ante Propertius; Tibullus autem iam ante 705 natus erat; quanquam alii eius natales ad a. 690. Propertii autem ad a. 697 referre volunt.

V. C. 712.

M. Aemilius Lepidus II. L. Munatius Plancus.

a. C. 42. *Virgilii* $\frac{23}{29}$.

Triumviri Caesari diuinos honores decernunt. Kal. Ianuariis in eius acta iurant. Sacellum ei tanquam hergi in foro faciunt, et quae id genus plura apud Dionem XLVII, 18. 19 memorantur. A quo inde tempore *Diui filius* Octavianus dici coepit, de quo nomine satis copiose agit Heinf. ad Aen. VI, 793. Anno fere exeunte pugnatur ad Philippos in ea Macedoniae parte sitos, quae olim ad Thraciam pertinebat. Brutus et Cassius se sua manu interficiunt. M. Antonius ad res Asiae constituendas discedit. Octavianus in Italiam redit, ad agros et praemia inter veteranos distribuenda.

Ad Caesaris consecrationem nobiles illi versus spectant Aen. I, 290. 294. *Nascetur pulchra Troianus origine Caesar* etc. et VI, 790. *hic Caesar, et omnis Iuli Progenies magnum caeli ventura sub axem.*

De eadem consecratione seu apotheosi cum agere vulgo existimetur *Daphnis*, Ecloga V. Martino *Life of Virgil* p. XLVI et ad Ecl. V, 86. 20. 52. IX, 10. hoc ipso anno ea scripta fuisse videtur; vt adeo Octauiano Caesari iam tum commendatus esse videri debeat; id quod hoc ipso carmine factum conicit Martinus ib. p. LI. Si mihi haec coniectura de anno, quo scripta sit Ecloga V. firmanda esset, aliud aliquanto firmiter argumentum afferre possem. In IX Ecl. v. 19. 20. *Quis caneret nymphas? quis humum florentibus herbis Spargeret? aut viridi fontes induceret umbra?* haud dubie ad Ecl. V, 20. 40 respicitur; eam itaque nona, quam a. 713 scriptam esse liquido constat, priorem esse, necesse est.

De pugna ad Philippos v. Ge. I, 489 sqq.

V. C.

V. C. 713.

*P. Seruilius Vatia Isauricus II. L. Antonius.**a. C. 41. Virgilii 38.*

Octavianus Caesar Romam reuerfus dum veteranis praemia pefoluere cosque in agros municipales Italiae a Triumviris promiffos deducere instituit, ingentes per Italiam turbas, partim eorum, qui poffeffionibus fuis eiiciebantur, indignatione, partim militum effreni cupiditate et audacia, de qua v. Appian. p. 1082 fqq. Dionem Caff. XLVII, 17. excitari videt. Qua de re v. Argumentum Ecl. I. Latiffime autem calamitas illa et ad quamplurimos pertinere debuit, maximaeque for-
 tunarum conuerfiones videntur effe infequutae, vnde et Antonius apud Appianum p. 1075 dicere potuit, Octavianum in Italiam iffe, fi res dicenda fit, tamquam omnem Italiam fedibus fuis emoturum, ἀναρτήσαν τὴν Ἰταλίαν. Vix enim eſt ex ea aetate poeta, aut ſcriptor, qui non communi clade afflicto ſe memoret. Hinc Tibulli *felix quondam, nunc pauper ager*, I, 1, 19-23. cf. IV, 1, 183-190. Propertius de ſe IV, 1, 129. *Nam tua cum multi verſarent rura iuueni, Abſtulit excultas pertica triſtis opes.* Valerius Cato in Diris v. 45. *Pertica, quae noſtris metata eſt impia agellos.* Dum Fulvia, M. Antonii vxor, coloniarum deductionem in viri aduentum differendam eſſe contendit, L. Antonius, Marci frater, Conſul, nouas et ipſe res molitur, et partim iis, qui praediis et agris fuis exciderant, opem ſuam pollicendo, partim Caefarem ad veteranos criminando, magnum exercitum comparat, bellumque in Caefarem mouet.

In illa agraria largitione (non enim ad aliam trahi poſſe, quamquam ros probatione vix eget, Ruacus probauit ad Virgilii Vitam 713) etiam Virgilius agros ſuos paternos amiſit. Eſt enim Mantuani nihil in Triumuiros commiferant, magna tamen agrorum fuorum parte multati ſunt, quoniam, vt aiunt, Cremonenſium, qui Bruti et Caſſii partes ſequuti erant, agri proſcripti vetera-

norum cohortibus, quæ eo deductæ erant, non sufficiebant. Iam Virgilium Romam profectum Octavianî liberalitate agros suos recepisse, cum autem Mantuam rediisset, novam veteranorum iniuriam expertum esse, ex Ecloga I. et IX satis apparet. Confirmat Martialis VIII, 56. *Iugera perdiderat (Virgilius) miseræ vicina Cremonæ, Flebat et abductas Tityrus aeger oves. Risit Tuscus eques etc.* Videamus nunc ea, quæ a Grammaticis, pleraque fide inerta, traduntur.

Si Seruianis laciniis ad Ecl. IX, 7. fides habenda, in his Italiae partibus *Octavius Musa, limitator ab Augusto datus* — quindecim millia passuum agri Mantuani militibus assignarat, cum Cremonensis non sufficeret; offensus a Mantuanis, quod pecora eius in agro publico aliquando clausissent. Alphenum tamen Varum metatorem edit alia in iisdem alterius, ut videtur, Grammatici lacinia ad v. 10. *Quod alii dicunt Virgilium ostendere voluisse, quod Mantuanis per iniquitatem Alpheni Vari, qui agros divisit, præter palustria nihil relictum sit; sicut ex oratione Cornelii in Alphenum ostenditur: "Cum iussus tria millia passus a muro in diuersa relinquere, ut octingentos passus aquae quæ circumdata est, admetireris, reliquisti."* Praeclarus locus, modo non esset mutilus. Asinium Pollionem in his terris cum imperio esse supra vidimus. Et sane hunc distribuendis agris praefuisse, alia Seruianæ compilationis loca affirmant: ad Ecl. II, 1: *Pollio, qui eo tempore Transpadanam Italiae partem tenebat et agris praecerat diuidendis.* Et Donatus in Vita Virgilii § 36: *Hic Pollio Transpadanam provinciam regabat, cuius favore, cum veteranis — agri distribuerentur, suos Virgilius non amisit. Facta enim distributione, supra seu Claudia seu Arrio datos recuperavit.* Non facile itaque assequaris, quemadmodum idem negotium ad Alphenum Varum referri aliis in locis possit. Sed forte ea loca rem expedient, in quibus Alphenus Varus Pollioni fugato successisse traditur. Seru. ad Ecl. IX, 29. *Sane blanditur Alfeno Vera, qui, Pollione fugato,*

fugato, legatus Transpadanis praepositus est ab Augusto; et ad Ecl. VI, 6. Alii fuso fugatoque Asinio Pollione, ab Augusto Alfentum Varum legatum substitutum, qui Transpadanae provinciae et agris dividendis praeesset, qui curavit, ne ager, qui Virgilio restitutus fuerat, a veteranis auferretur. Habere nos putabo aliquid, quod sequi possimus, modo Pollionem eo anno fugatum esse probabile fieri poterit. Erat is M. Antonii amicus; et statim a triumviratus inde pactione V. C. 711. Galliae Cisalpinæ ab Antonio praefectus fuerat. (cf. Martin. p. XLIII). hoc anno, 713 Octavianus copias ab Alpium transitu prohibuisse memoratur, v. Appian. p. 1088. et in bello Perusiano eius sit inter duces Antonianos mentio, qui Saluidienum e Galliis Octaviano copias adducentem persequabantur, et L. Antonio suppetias ferre cunctabantur, ibid. p. 1097 sqq. Quum L. Antonius anno sequenti se dedidisset, cum iis, quas habebat, copiis Pollio profectus est, ut Antonio in Italiam venienti occurreret; in itinere Domitium cum copiis sibi adiunxit. v. Appian. p. 1113. 1114. Vellei. II, 76. Nam Pollio Asinius cum septem legionibus diu retenta in potestate Antonii Venetia, magnis speciosisque rebus circa Alinum aliasque eius regionis urbes editis Antonium petens, vagum adhuc Domitium — iunxit Antonio. Potuit itaque inter has rerum vicissitudines fieri, ut Pollio ex agris Transpadanis expelleretur.

Haberet hoc aliquam veri speciem; sed tum in Alfeno Varo novae difficultates oriuntur, quem nobilem Ictum male nobis Grammatici in haec tempora intrudere videntur. v. argum. Ecl. VI. si tamen satis se vel de quocunque alio Varo ea narratio probauerit, tum alius ex Seruiano centone locus non tam falsi convincitur, quam innuere videtur, plures in iis regionibus Triumvirorum negotia curasse: ad Ecl. VI. 64. Gallus—qui et a Triumviris praepositus fuit ad exigendas pecunias ab his municipiis, quorum agri in Transpadana regione non dividebantur. Ceterum vides, hic omnem illam licentiam iam tum viguisse,

quam nos superiori bello novo aliquo militum acumine ad despoliandos homines increbuisse putabamus.

Virgilium Romam discedentem, nam ipsum Romam abiisse, ex iis, quae Tityrus de se narrat Ecl. I, 20 sqq. contendunt, ut agros recuperaret, Octaviano Caesari commendatum esse, omnes fere tradunt; sed alii ab Asinio Pollione, v. Seru. ad Ecl. IX, 11. Donat. Vit. § 36. alii ab Alfeno Varo, alii a Gallo, ut modo vidimus, cf. Donat. § 30. 96. alii cum Martiale VIII, 56. nisi is crassius loquutus esse videri potest, a Maecenate id factum esse memorant. Scilicet, ut iam Ruæo visum est, cum Pollioni primum poeta innotuisset, ab hoc Maecenati commendari, huiusque studio in Octaviani amicitiam venire potuit. Sed satis est; si teneas, poetam his viris omnibus mature gratum et carum fuisse.

Recuperato agro, Eclogam loco, non tempore primam, si supra memorata recte se habent, scriptam esse, dubitari nequit. Obtinet tamen vulgaris opinio, anno hoc 713. aetatis 29. eum Bucolica scribere aggressum esse. Quod quidem consilium poetam Pollionis maxime auctoritate et hortatu suscepisse, inter Grammaticos fama tenet. v. Donat. Vit. § 36. Iidem ex loco primo, quem Ecloga Tityrus tenet, omnium etiam tempore primam scriptam, et calamitate amissi agri adductum Virgilium primum poetice aggressum (v. Phocas v. 67 sqq. Donatus § 91 etc.) esse putabant; scilicet ut ne vnus aliquis poeta esset, quem non fames et miseria ad versus scribendos pepulisset.

Cum Virgilius Mantuam rediret agros suos a veteranis qui eos occupant, vindicaret, novam iniuriam accepit, ut adeo fuga vitae consulere necesse haberet. Patet id ex Ecl. IX, quam tum Romam, ut aiunt, regressus, ut denuo Octaviani opem imploraret, Varo obtulisse videri potest; quanquam in ipso carmine nihil ea de re praeter honorificam Vari mentionem v. 27. 35. occurrit. v. Argum. Ecl. IX. Non male hoc Ruæus ipsa carminis forma, quae subitariam operam satis prodit, confirmari putat.

Menalcan

Menalcas in eo carmine. Virgilium intelligendum esse; iam Quintilianus monuit Inst. VIII, 6, 47. Veteranus, cuius audaciae et furori Virgilius vix fuga se subducere potuit, ab aliis Arrius centurio, ab aliis Clodius, a Probo Milenus seu Milienus Toro primipilaris fuisse traditur. Sed de his disputationem ad Donatum § 31. reiecit.

Iniuriam hanc poetam non nisi Asinio Pollione fugato, expertum esse, narratur in Seru. ad Ecl. IX, 111 quo, Pollione, fugato, rursus de praediis suis fuerat Virgilius expulsus.

Si quaeras, qua ratione poeta iterum in agros suos reductus fuerit, Seruium habes Comment. in Bucol. pr. § 14 narrantem: *Postea ab Augusto missis triumuiris, et ipse integer ager est redditus, et Mantuanis pro parte.* In quam sententiam idem ibid. interpretatur versus 11 sqq. Ecl. IX. Vix tamen illud hoc ipso anno fieri potuit, quo bellum Perusinum exarsit, quo late Italia confligaret; itaque rebus demum pace Brundisina a. 714 compositis id esse factum, rectius ponit Martinus p. LI.

Mantuanis autem simul in Virgilio gratiam agrorum partem restitutam fuisse, satis probabile fit ex Ecl. IX, 7—10. cf. Seru. ad. V. 10.

V. C. 714.

Cn. Domitius Calvinus II. C. Asinius Pollio.

Suffecti sub exitum anni: *

L. Cornelius Balbus. P. Canidius.

a. C. 40. Virgilii 37.

Bellum Perusinum. Octavianus L. Antonium Perusiamque urbem deditione accipit. Cum, M. Antonii in Italiam aduentu, maxima omnium, ne bellum recrudesceret, sollicitudo esset, L. Cocceio, communi amico, cum utroque agente, et Maecenate et Pollione adhibitis,

* Apud Gruter. p. C. 8. Marmor visitur, a. d. IV. Id. Octobr. Cn. Domitio et C. Asinio Coss. inscriptum.

(Appian.

(Appian. p. 1126. Dio XLVII, 28.) pace Brundisina, amicitia inter Octavianum et Antonium iterum coecluit; ad quam tanto magis firmandam M. Antonius Octavianum, Octaviani sororem, cuius maritus nuper obierat, uxorem duxit. Mox cum Sext. Pompeius, qui classibus mare tenebat, romneam urbem intercluderet, fame urgente, de pace cum Sexto agi coeptum est. Iam quae ex his huius anni actis ad Virgilium pertineant, paullo curatius videamus.

Perusia capta, tota simul Gallia Cisalpina cum reliquis Gallis et Hispaniis in Caesaris ditionem venit. v. Appian. p. 1114 extr. Itaque tum demum Virgilio agros suos, postquam eos iterum auiserat, restitutos esse, credendum licet. Testificandae suae laetitiae grataeque voluntatis causa in Vari honorem, cuius opera secundum Ecl. IX, 27 sqq. ea res perfecta fuerat, *Eclogam sextam* tum scriptam esse, opinatur Martinus *Life of Virgil* p. LVI et p. 149. Fuisse, qui sextam omnium primo loco scriptam esse dicerent, Donatus in Vita § 102 nar- rat; sed eos mala primae versus: *Prima Syracoso dignata est ludere versu* — acceptione inductos fuisse vix dubites. Aliam rationem, quare ante Tityrum Silenus scriptus esse debuerit, Catoeus ex eo petebat, quoniam secundum Donatum et Seruium a Cytheride in scena Cicerone adhuc audiente ea recitata fuerit. Sic eam ante a. 711 quo Cicero ex proscriptione interfectus est, editam fuisse, necesse esset. At de Cicerone illam *Eclogam* recitari audiente explosa iam supra ad Donat. § 41 est fabula.

Ad firmandam pacem Brundisii inter Caesarem et M. Antonium factam Octavianam Antonio in matrimonium datam esse diximus. v. Dio XLVIII, 31. Appian. p. 1126 sqq. Erat autem Octavia e priore marito, C. Claudio Marcello, grauida, vt Dio l. l. memorat. Cuius laudatissimae feminae, (de qua v. Baylium, nec non Froelichium in Mantissa Numism. rar. in Gorii Symbolis litt. T. VII p. 123: vbi Tiberii Caesaris numus cum Octaviae

et

et Augusti ore exhibetur) consilio et prudentia cum omnes boni pacem et concordiam tandem stabilitam et firmissimo vinculo coagmentatam crederent, cumque eius cum Antonio coniugium magna populi laetitia et acclamatione exceptum esset, videtur sane *Eclogae IV* argumentum et scriptio ad h. a. referenda esse, ut infans ille nasciturus, cuius in eo carmine tam praeclara fata ominatur poeta, nullus alius sit, quam is, quem Octavia tum vtero gerebat. Quamvis autem difficile sit dicere, quomodo de Marcelli posthumo, siue is ex Catroci, Martini et Spencii opinione Polymet. p. 189. 86. idem iste M. Marcellus, qui immatura morte V. C. 731 obiit, (ad quem animum vide) siue alius minor natu fuit, tot et tanta ad summam rerum spectantia augurari tum aliquis potuerit; cum tamen infans ille ex Octavianiani fore natus et ab Antonio aliquando adoptatus, de quo forte iam tum conuenerat; ad summas opes peruenturus esse videretur, potuit poeta laetitiae publicae impetum sequi, et rem sententiis exornare et amplificare, quas poetica ratio suppeditabat, imprimis, quum Sibyllinum oraculum, quod sequeretur; haberet, et Sileno, quae dicebat, tribueret. Hoc certe anno, pace iam confecta, Eclogam hanc scriptam esse, dubitari nequit; quum Pollioni Consuli inscripta sit v. 3. 11. 12. orbe iam pacato v. 17. Cf. Argum. illius Eclogae vbi et illud notatum, male multos arbitrari, Pollioni filium natum eo carmine poetam gratulari. Secundum hos Hieronymus Chron. Euseb. MMXXX dixit. *C. Asinius Gallus, Orator, Asinii Pollionis filius, cuius etiam Virgilius meminit, diris a Tiberio suppliciiis enecatur.*

Non modo Brundisiam, verum etiam Puteolanam pacem iam tum confectam fuisse, quum ea Ecloga scriberetur; Ruaeus cum aliis memorat, ut vere totus orbis pacatus videri posset. Enimuero non nisi ineunte anno sequenti, quamr adeo Pollio iam dudum Consulatu abierat, illa pax est composita, quum Caesar et Antonius Pompeium

peium apud Misenum conuenissent, v. Dio XLVIII, 31 extr. 36. Nam Appianus temporum ordinem non satis accurate sequitur, quum etiam post ista p. 1135 extr. ea commemoret, quae anno superiore peracta fuerant.

Antequam Antonius aduersus Parthos proficiscebatur, exercitus in hiberna deducendi partem aduersus Parthinos, populum Illyricum, qui loca circa Epidamnum insidebat, et Bruti caussae eximie fauerat, mittit. v. Appian. p. 1135. Praefecerat iis copiis Pollionem, qui rem in iis terris egregie gessit, et anno sequente triumphum de Parthis egit. v. Dio XLVIII, 41. et ib. notam Fabric.

Quo in itinere aduersus Parthinos cum Pollio esset, Pharmaceutria, quae est Ecloga VIII. ei a Virgilio missa fuisse videtur. Namque v. 6. *Tu mihi seu magni superas iam saxa Timauis, Sive oram Illyrici legis aequoris.* cf. ibi notas. Ruacius in reditu Pollionis scriptum carmen esse putabat, id quod verborum et sententiarum ordini repugnat. Qui enim a Timauo ad Illyricum procedit, is profectioem in Illyricum facere debet, non in Italiam redire. Pollionis etiam iussu Eclogam perscriptam esse, v. 11. 12. apparet: *iussis carmina coepta tuis.*

V. C. 715.

L. Marcius Censorinus. G. Calpurnius Sabinus.

a. C. 39. Virgilii $\frac{3}{4}$.

A. d. VIII. Kal. Nouembr. C. Asinius Pollio ex Parthis triumphat. Fasti Capitol. Chronic. Euseb. etc. Est is *triumphus Dalmaticus.* cf. Flor. IV, 12. 11. Horat. Carm. II, 1, 15. 16. De captis a Pollione Salonis, Dalmatiae vrbe v. Porphy. ad e. l. et Seru. ad Ecl. III. 88. IV, 1, VIII, 12. cf. Pighii Annal. h. a. De filio Pollionis, Salonino, seu Salonico, qui tamen nullus fuit, sed nepos, eo nomine, v. Ruacius ad Ecl. IV. pr.

Dum Pollio in apparatu triumphis cum maxime esset, tertiam Eclogam a Virgilio factam ex v. 84 sqq. *Pollio amat nostram* etc. ingeniose colligit Ruacius, vt de victi-

mis

mis triumphalibus in iis verbis agatur. Sed vide supra ad V. C. 711.

Hoc anno Horatium Maecenati a Virgilio et Varie commendatum esse, Sanadonius de coniectura ponit, ex Horat. Sat. I, 6, 55. quod forte maturius factum, si Wesselingii sententia Obsf. II, 15. vera est, vere huius anni, cum Antonius Athenis Brundisium appulisset, vt condicta die cum Caesare colloquium haberet, ab Agrippa et Maecenate, qui eo accurrebant, Horatium, Virgilium, Plotium ac Varium adductum fuisse. Qua de re v. Horat. Sat. I. 5. *Egressum magna* etc. inprimis v. 40. Alii ad colloquii Tarenti habitum, tempus a. 717 referunt. v. Masson. vita Horatii ad 716. quod et ipsum *verno tempore* incidit. v. Appian. p. 1149. vt adeo Wesselingio *cum* adstipuler, nondum habeam.

V. C. 716.

App. Claudius Pulcher. C. Norbanus Flauus.

a. C. 38. Virgilii 17.

Bucolicis hoc anno finem impositum et Eclogam adeo X conscriptam esse, Ruaeus cum aliis existimat; ea scilicet caussa inductus, quod Grammatici intra triennium Bucolica absoluta fuisse memorant. v. Donat. Vita § 36. Phocas v. 95. Sed hominum illorum vanitas cum rerum argumentis tum iis ipsis, quae aliis locis repugnantia tradunt, facile arguitur. Nihil itaque commento illi iam Martinus tribuit in *Life of Virgil* p. LXIV. g.

At idem vir doctissimus p. LXIII ad hunc annum, *Meliboeum VII. Eclogam*, cuius alioqui incertum plane tempus est, refert, hoc vno argumento vsus, ne is annus profus aliquo Virgiliani ingenii monumento vacet.

V. C.

V. C. 717.

*M. Vipsanius Agrippa. L. Caninius Gallus.*a. C. 37. *Virgilii* 11.

Ad hunc annum Eclogam decimam referendam esse censet Martinus, hac de causa, quoniam in eo carmine Gallo inscripto v. 23 et 47 Lycoris in Gallias abiisse et Aliam amatorem, qui in aliquo exercitu ad Rhenum militabat, sequuta esse memoratur. — *Tua cura, Lycoris, Perque nives alium perque horrida castra sequuta est — Tu procul a patria, nec sit mihi credere! tantum Alpinas, ab dura! nives et frigora Rheni Me sine sola vides.* A Julio inde Caesare M. Agrippa primus fuit e Romanis, qui Rhenum traiecit; idque initio huius anni factum, quo Agrippa Cos. erat. v. Dio XLVIII, 49. Mox enim, hoc ipso anno, a Caesare in Italiam euocatus Agrippa, classique aduersus Sext. Pompeium fabricandae exercendaeque praefectus fuit. Possit quidem aliquis haec alio Dionis loco labefactari putare, vbi anno 715 ineunte Octavianus Caesar in Gallias, ut excitatos in eis motus sedaret, profectus esse dicatur, lib. XLVIII, 20. cf. c. 28. pr. Appian. p. 1135. Sed primum an exercitum secum duxerit, non memoratum invenias, tum nec Rhenum transiisse aut ad Rhenum quicquam rerum eum gessisse doceas. Quicquid sit, probabilior haec est sententia, quam illa Scaligeri, ad Hieronym. n. 1960. qui ante caedem Caesaris Eclogam decimam publice editam esse debere putat, dum illam opinionem amplectitur, quintam in Caesaris necem esse scriptam, intra triennium autem Bucolica fuisse absoluta. Iam itaque si, quantum siue ex temporum notatione definire, siue coniectura assequi possis, ordinem Eclogarum ac tempus constituere velis, ante eam, quae nunc primo loco posita est, secundam, tertiam et quintam scriptam esse probabile fit. Tum prima et nona anno 713. Collocat post hanc sextam coniectura Martini. Tum anno 714 quartam, 715 octavam, vulgatam fuisse in confesso est; intra idem forte tempus

nona, et 717 *decima* ultimo loco scripta sunt; ut adeo ad temporis rationem ordo hic constituit: forte possit:

1 Ecloga II.	6 Ecloga VI.
2 — III.	7 — IV. 714.
3 — V.	8 — VIII. 715.
4 — I. 713.	9 — VII.
5 — IX. eod.	10 — X. 717.

Laudata et commendata sunt Virgilio Bucolica iam ab iis ipsis poetis, qui eadem aetate vivebant. Propertius ad eorum argumenta alludit El. II, 34, 67 sqq. vbi: *Vique decem possint corrumpere mala puellam, Missus et impressis baedus ab uberibus. Felix, qui tales pomis mercaris amores! Huic licet ingratae Tityrus ipse canat* h. huic puellae, licet ea ingrata sit, cum tamen amores eius tam paruo emanant, ipse Tityrus canat, qui Galateam amabat, nullo ad petulium fructu, ut Ecl. I, 31 sqq. *Felix intactum Corydani quae tentat Alexin Agricolae domini carpere delicias. Quamuis ille suam lassus requiescat avenam* (igitur tum desierat scribere Bucolica) *Laudatur faciles inter Hamadryades. Ouis tibus autem Am. I, 15, 25. Tityrum laudat, et Trist. II, 337. Phyllidis hic idem tenerosque Amaryllidis ignes Bucolicis iuuenis luserat ante modis.*

Hoc etiam anno Maecenatis iussu Virgilium Georgica exorsum esse, communis est opinio, quam tamen, si molestior sis, non facile nisi Grammaticorum auctoritate probes.

De tempore absoluti operis paullo certior nobis fides fit ex Georgicorum extr. vers. v. ad 724. Eo consilio poetam de re rustica carmen condidisse, ut hominum animos ad agrorum cultum per bella civilia neglectum reuocaret, docti viri coniiciunt. v. Argum. Georgicor.

Eodem anno ab Agrippa, ut recens aedificatae classes tutum receptum haberent, lacu Auerno et Lucrino cum mari commisso, portus Iulius factus est, de quo v. in primis apud Dionem XLVIII, 50. 51. Huius operis Virgilius meminit Ge. II, 161 — 164. *An memorem portus Lucrinaeque addita claustra* etc.

Antonius cum classe ex Athenis Tarentum appulit. Tandem Octavia arbitra, Octavius ut eum conueniret, adducitur... Noua inter eos pactio fit. v. Dio XLVIII. extr. Appian. p. 1149 sqq. Eodem Maecenas properans Horatium, Virgilium, Plotium ac Varium secum adduxerat. vide supra ad a 715.

V. C. 718.

L. ~~Collis~~ *Poplicola*. M. *Cocceius Nerva*.

a. C. 36. *Virgilii* $\frac{1}{3}$.

Octavianus Caesar, Sext. Pompeio pugna nauali inter Mylas et Naulochum, ad Siciliae littus, victo et Lepido in deditionem recepto, Romam reuersus immodicis honoribus affectus est. Anno suo XXVIII. inquit Appian. p. 1178, oppidatim inter deos tutelares coli coepit. Haec prima diuini honoris in eum collati mentio. v. Noris. Cenotaph. Pisan. p. 51 sqq. Quod itaque iam ante hoc tempus a Virgilio *Deus* appellatur, Ecl. I, id sine dubio eo pertinet, quod *Diuum Iulium* patrem habebat. *Diuus* *genus* Aen. VI, 739. cf. sup. ad 712. Summi tamen illi et exquisiti honores annis demum 724 et 725 fuere decreti. v. Dio LI, 19. 20.

V. C. 720.

L. *Scribonius Libo*. M. *Antonius*.

a. C. 34. *Virgilii* $\frac{2}{3}$.

M. *Baius* poeta, quem *Virgilius Bucolicis* notat, in *Capadocia* moritur. Hieronym. Chron. Euseb. Olymp. 186, 3.

V. C. 722.

Cn. *Domitius Ahenobarbus*. C. *Sofus*.

a. C. 32. *Virgilii* $\frac{1}{3}$.

Inimicitiae inter Caesarem et M. Antonium ad bellum spectant. Magni vtrinque apparatus; de quibus versus Ge. I, 509 sqq. agere videntur: *Hinc mouet Euphrates, illinc Germania bellum; Vicinae ruptis inter se legibus vrbes Arma ferunt, saeuit toto Mars impius orbe.*

V. C. 723.

*Caesar Octavianus III. M. Valerius Messala.**a. C. 31. Virgilii 3^o.*

Pugna apud Actium, Epiri promontorium, a. d. IV. Non. Septembr. cuius magna illa est in scuto Aeneae descriptio Aen. VIII, 671 sqq. M. Antonius victus in Aegyptum fugit.

Virgilium sequi voluisse Augustum contra Antonium ad Actiacam bella properantem, ait aliquis in Seruianis ad Ecl. III, 74. scilicet, quemadmodum Horatius Maccenati comes esse volebat Epod. I.

V. C. 724.

*Caesar Octavianus V. M. Licinius Crassus.**a. C. 30. Virgilii 4^o.*

Caesar post Actiacam pugnam cum Samum insulam in hiberna se recepisset, turbatus nuntiis de seditione militum, quos confecta victoria Brundisium praemiserat, media hyeme repetit Italiam, tempestate in traiectu bis conflictatus. Nec amplius quam XXVII dies Brundisii commoratus in Asiam reuertitur. Inde spretis Antonii et Cleopatrae legationibus, Aegyptum petit, obfessaque Alexandria, quo Antonius et Cleopatra confugerant, breui potitus est.

Itaque narratio illa Donati Vita Virgilii § 42 de praelectis Caesari Atellae decumbenti Georgicis nullam fidem habet.

Aegypto in prouinciae formam redactae Cornelium Gallum, equitem R. Praefectum dedit; de quo v. ad Ecl. X et VI, 64. 72. Fontanini hist. litt. Aquilei. p. 14. 15. Fuerat huius Galli insignis opera in Aegypto recipienda. vid. Dio LI, 9. Plutarch. Anton. p. 952.

Caesar, rebus Aegypti constitutis, *per Syriam in Asiam prouinciam profectus hiberna ibi egit, simulque et subditorum omnia negotia et Parthica composuit.* Ita Dio LI, 8. Ti-

ridates regno a Phraate pulsus in Syriam confugerat, et, vt Caesar se Romanis copiis restitueret, supplicabat, cum interea legati a Phraate missi et Tiridatem sibi reddi postularent et amicitiam cum Caesare iungerent. Caesar vtrique comiter respondit, et Phraatis filium, siue a Phraate siue a Tiridate acceptum, Romam secum abduxit et pro obside habuit. v. Dio l. 1.

Iam hoc anno vltimam Georgicis manum adhibitam esse, vulgaris est opinio, inque eam sententiam versus libri IV extr. interpretantur, nec tamen sic, vt omnia satis expediant: *Caesar dum magnus ad altum Fulminat Euphratem bello, victorque volentes Per populos dat iura viamque affectat Olympo.* Verum quidem est, esse eum poetarum saeculi Augustei perpetuum morem, vt, quamquam nihil Augustus, quod admodum memorabile esset, aduersus Parthos gesserit, magnifice tamen de rebus eius Parthicis loquantur. Constat porro e Dione, LI, 20. litteras de Parthicis rebus initio anni sequentis Romam allatas tantum ad publicam gratulationem momenti habuisse, vt illustrare reliquam omnem Caesaris fortunam viderentur. Videtur tamen illud, *dum fulminat ad Euphratem*, pro re tam tenui, ac legatis auditis, nimis fastuosum esse; vt adeo, si quis cum Martino in annum 731 illos versus adeoque finem Georgicorum referat, equidem non intercedam. Nam illam narrationem, septennio Georgica absoluta a poeta fuisse, v. Donat. § 40. vndecim autem annos fuisse Aeneidi impensos, vt adeo ab hac inde hieme eum ad Aeneida animum aduertisse necesse sit, inter Grammaticorum commenta referendam esse puto. Forte etiam in reliquis illis Georgicorum locis II, 170 - 173. III, 26 - 33, nonnulla sint, quae melius illius anni, quam huius, actis illustrata videas. A Tristano *Hist. generale des Empereurs* T. I. p. 137 conclusionem Georgicorum in annum expeditionis Caii Caesaris in Parthos, quae in a. 754 incidit, male referri, iam Norisius notauit *Cenotaph. Pifan. Diff. II.* p. 249.

Virgilium Neapoli Georgicorum partem certe extremam pertexuisse, ex lib. IV extr. manifestum est, si versus illi ab eius manu sunt. Erat ea vrbs illustrium et doctorum virorum secessu illa aetate inprimis celebris, vt otio ac leuioribus studiis se ibi committerent. *In otia natam Parthenopen* Ouidius appellat Met. XV, 712. v. Horat. Epod. V, 43: ibique Gésner. Statium Silu. III, 5-85. Sillium XII, 31. inprimisque Strabonem V. p. 378. Cf. Camilli Peregrini Campaniam felic. Diff. II. § 21.

Etiam Aeneidis condendae paullo altius petatum fuisse consilium, post Spencium in Polymet. Dialog. III. p. 18. autumant viri docti, vt summum vnus imperium et gentem Iuliam satis ei imperio destinatam Romanis commendaret.

V. C. 725.

Caesar Octavianus V. Sext. Apulius.

a. G. 29. *Virgilii* $\frac{1}{2}$.

Decreto Senatus Ianus clausus est. v. Dio LI, 26 et ibi not. Quo Virgilius respexisse creditur Aen. I, 295 - 300. *Astera tum positis mitescent secula bellis — dirae Claudentur belli portae*: vti v. 296. *Cana Fides et Vesta, Remotum fratre Quirinus Iura dabunt*, ad Censuram hoc anno a Caesare, assumpto M. Agrippa collega, actam. Dio LII, 42. A. d. VIII. VII. et VI. Id. Sext. tres Caesaris ex Asia et Graecia reducis triumpho habiti, vnus ex Illyrico, alter ex Actiaca victoria, tertius de Cleopatra et Aegypto subacta. v. Dio LI, 21.

Ad hunc annum Caesaris de imperio deponendo habita cum Agrippa et Maecenate consultatio pertinet. v. Dio LII. pr. Quas Virgilio ea in re partes dederint inepti Grammatici, v. in Donato § 78.

Hoc aut superiore anno Dacas trans Istrum cum Bastarnis, Moesis et aliis populis bello adortus erat M. Crassus: de qua expeditione v. Dio LI, 22. 23 sqq. Vnde versus Virgilii ductus Ge. II, 497. *aut coniurato descendens Dacus ab Istro*. A. M. Antonio ad societatem et auxilia

ferenda pellecti fuerant isti populi, quo factum esse videtur, ut in fines Romanos infestis mox armis incurrerent.

V. C. 726.

Caesar Octavianus VI. M. Agrippa II.

a. C. 28. *Virgilii* $\frac{42}{47}$.

Apollinis in Palatio templum cum bibliotheca Caesar perfecit et dedicavit. Ludos Aetiacos quinquennales, propter victoriam Aetiacam iam ante decretos, cum Agrippa exhibuit. Tunc gymnici quoque ludi acti sunt. Dio LIII, 1.

Hos ludos adumbravit poeta sub iis, quos Aeneam suum facit instituere Aen. III, 280. *Aetiaque Iliacis celebramus littora ludis. Exercent patrias oleo labente palaestras Nudati socii.*

V. C. 727.

Caesar Octavianus VII. M. Agrippa III.

a. C. 27. *Virgilii* $\frac{43}{47}$.

Caesar ex ante diem XVI Kal. Februarii, sententia L. Munatii Planci, a senatu ceterisque civibus Augustus appellatus est, sese septimum, et M. Vipsanio Agrippa tertium Consulibus. Censorinus c. 22. v. Dio LIII, 16 ibique Fabric. Romuli nomen a nonnullis propositum, et ab ipso Augusto magnopere esse appetitum, satis constat. v. Dio ibid. Sueton. Aug. 7. Itaque versum Ge. III, 27. *victorisque arma Quirini* hinc interpretandum esse existimant viri docti; quod si recte faciunt, patet et ex hoc, Georgica serius, quam 724 absoluta, saltem edita et vulgata fuisse. Namque illud nonnullorum commentum, de versibus serius et secunda aliqua recensione insertis, quod forte ex Donato § 50 petitum est, non admodum probamus. Nec Harduini somnia nos tenebunt, cum in reliquis, tum in iis, quae ex temporum angustia contra Aeneidis a Virgilio susceptum opus disputat in *Pseudovirgilio* (inter Opera varia p. 280). Talia refellere, nostri otii non est. Post hoc itaque tempus etiam ille locus Aen.

VI,

VI, 792. scriptus esse debet: *Hic vir, hic est, tibi quem promitti saepius audis, Augustus Caesar, Diui genus.*

Hunc porro annum assignant viri docti Satyrae decimae libri I. Horatii, in qua v. 45. *molle atque facetum Virgilio adnuerunt gaudentes rure Camoenae.* Quod iudicium cum vnice ad Bucolica et Georgica spectet, cumque ibidem: *forte epos acer, Vt nemo, Varius ducit,* adiectum sit, nihil adhuc de Aeneide tum poetam cogitasse, nihil certe vulgasse, probabile fit.

V. C. 728.

Caesar Augustus VIII. T. Statilius Taurus II.

a. C. 26. Virgilii 43.

Cornelius Gallus primus Aegypti praefectus Augustalis, cum propter multa flagitiose acta infamia ab Augusto notatus, mox et senatus iudicio damnatus esset, dolorem non ferens, poenam morte voluntaria anteuertit. Dio LIII, 23. Eius laudes quarto Georgicorum libro Augusti iussu tum sublatas Aristaei fabulae locum fecisse, narrant Grammatici. v. Donat. § 39. Seruius ad Ecl. X, 1.

V. C. 729.

Caesar Augustus IX. M. Iunius Silanus.

a. C. 25. Virgilii 42.

Expeditio Augusti in Cantabros. Absentem eum a Virgilio litteris suis Aeneidem flagitasse, Donatus memorat § 46. vbi v. not.

V. C. 730.

Caesar Augustus X. C. Norbanus Flaccus.

a. C. 24. Virgilii 47.

Hieronymus Chron. Euseb. ad Olymp. 189, 1. *Quintilius Cremonensis, Virgilii et Horatii familiaris, moritur.* De eius obitu consolatur Virgilium Horatius noto carmine lib. I. Od. 24. Quis ille Quintilius fuerit, ignoratur: nam Grammaticorum commenta audienda non

sunt. v. Argum. Ecl. VI. cf. Masson Vita Horatii ad h. a.

V. G. 731.

*Caesar Augustus XI. A. Terentius Varro Muræna
suff. Cn. Calpurnius Piso.
a. C. 23. Virgilii 47.*

Augustus e graui morbo Antonii Musæ opera conuale-
scens semestri spatio interiecto M. Marcellum fororis fi-
lium, cum aedilitatem anno superiore suscepisset, et Au-
gusto vulgo imperii heres destinaretur, e morbo decedere
videt. Gravis tunc totius populi luctus. Dio LIII, 30.
Virgilius eius mortem pulcherrimis versibus ornat Aen.
VI, 861-887. De quibus versibus lectis et lauta remu-
neratione honestatis, v. Donat. § 47. De M. Marcello
et eius numo, v. Fortunati Mandelli Commentarium in
Noua Raccolta d' Opusc. scient. T. XII.

*Tiridates ipse, a Phraasæ vero legati, controuersarum sua-
rum causa Romam uenere. Quibus in senatum introductis,
cum Augusto causæ cognitio decreta esset, Tiridatem Phraatis
nequaquam tradidit, filium tamen Phraatis, quem in potestate
sua habebat, patri remisit hac lege, ut pro eo captiuos signa-
que militaria, Crassi et Antonii cladibus amissa, reciperet.
Dio LIII, 33. Res tamen non perfecta ante annum 734.
Ad hoc Augusti postulatam, quo negato bellum in Parthos
susceptum iri suspicio esset, respexisse creditur Virgilius
Aen. VII, 605, 606. Siue Getis inferre manu lacrimabile
bellum Hyrcanisue Arabisue parant, seu tendere ad Indos
Auroramque sequi, Parthosque reposcere signa. Addebat
Ruæus sub h. a. " Igitur annis minus quatuor sex fere
ultimos operis libros poeta perfecit; nec uero tanta in iis
elucet, quanta in superioribus, cura." Atqui poterant
et hæc secundis curis operi inserta esse, si semel hoc ad-
miseris.*

V. G.

V. C. 732.

*M. Claudius Marcellus Aeserninus. L. Aruntius,**a. C. 22. Virgilii 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.*

Augustus in Siciliam profectus est, ut eam ac omnes alias ad Syriam usque prouincias constitueret. Dio LIV, 6. Factum id sub finem anni videtur. Videri potest de hoc itinere Noris. Cenotaph. Pisan. p. 292 - 294.

Aethiopes, duce regina, Candace, impressionem in Aegyptum faciunt, et Elephantinen urbem diripiunt. Reuertentes eos ad terras suas C. Petronius, Aegypti praefectus, caedit, regiam euertit, et terram eorum praefidiis occupat. v. Dio LIV, 5. Strabo lib. XVII. vbi de Aethiopibus agit. Haec Virgilius respicere videtur Aen. VI, 795—*super et Garamantas et Indos Proferet imperium.*

V. C. 733.

*M. Lollius. Q. Aemilius Lepidus.**a. C. 21. Virgilii 4 $\frac{2}{3}$.*

Augustus rebus in Sicilia ordinatis in Graeciam transmisit. Rebus in Graecia confectis in Samum nauigauit, ibique hiemauit. Dio LIV, 7.

V. C. 734.

*M. Apuleius. P. Silius Nerua.**a. C. 20. Virgilii 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.*

Vere Augustus in Asiam perrexit, ibique et in Bithynia omnia constituit, Dio LIV, 7. *etiam Syriam adiit.* ibid. Justin. XLII, 5. Hanc Augusti in prouinciis adeundis, dignam principe tanto, industriam praedicat Virgilius, Aen. VI, 802 - 806. *Nec vero Alcides tantum telluris obiuit,* etc. cf. Sueton. c. 47.

Cum in Syriam aduenisset, Phraates, veritus ne bello peteretur, signa Augusto cum captiuis et exercituum Rom. spoliis remisit. Qua re nihil ad Augusti gloriam illustrius ynquam factum visum est. v. Dio LIV, 8. et ibi Fabric. Itaque magnopere inprimis a poetis ea res extollitur et

magnificis verbis ornatur, vt de profligatis Parthis, euerſo eorum imperio, victo Oriente, India debellata, eos loqui videas. Ad hunc itaque annum verſus poetae noſtri Ge. IV, extr. II, 170 - 173. III, 26 - 33 non male referri, ſupra ad a. 724 ſignificauimus.

Occiſo Artaxia, qui aliis Artabazes ſiue Artavaſdes, *per dolum propinquorum, datus a Caefare Armeniis* (maiori Armeniae) *Tigranes, deductusque in regnum a Tiberio Nerone.* Tacit. Annal, II, 3. v. Dio LIV. 9. et ibi Fabric. Hinc Virgilii illud Ge. III. 30. *pulſumque Niphaten*; qui Armeniae mons eſt, male a poetis nonnullis pro flumine habitus, quorum loca v. apud Maſſon. Vita Horatii p. 306 ſqq.

E Syria Auguſtus in Samum reuerſus ibidem iterum hiemauit. Frequentes hic ad eum legationes conuenerunt, et Indi pacem, quam antea per oratores petierant, tunc interpoſito foedere ſanxerunt et dona miſerunt. Dio LIV, 9. Hoc paullo faſtuoſus forte extuliſſe videri poteſt poeta Ge. III, 26. *In ſoribus pugnam ex auro ſolidoque elephanto Gangaridum faciam*; niſi, quod malim, de Auguſto ea omnino vaticinatur, quae ab eo iamdudum exſpectabantur, vt Parthos et Indos imperio Romano adderet.

V. C. 735.

C. Sentiſ Saturninus. Q. Lucretius Veſpilla.

a. C. 19. Virgilii $\frac{1}{2}$.

Donatus in Vita § 51. *Anno quinquageſimo ſecundo, vt ultimam manum Aeneidi imponeret, ſtatuit in Graeciam et Aſiam decedere, triennioque continuo omnem operam limationi dare, vt reliqua vita tantum philoſophiae vacaret. Sed cum ingreſſus iter Athenis occuriſſet Auguſto, ab Oriente Romam reuertenti, (quod verum eſt v. Dio LIV, 10) vna cum Caefare redire ſtatuit. Ac cum Megara, vicinum Athenis oppidum, viſendi gratia peteret, languorem naſtus eſt: quem non intermiſſa nauigatio auxit, ita, vt grauior indies, tandem Brundisium (alios Tarentum memorare, in notis monitum) aduentaris,*

aduentarit, ubi diebus paucis obiit, X Kal. Octobr. C. Sentio, 2. Lucretio Coff.

Annum obitus confirmat Hieronymus Chron. Euseb. ad Olymp. 190, 2. *Virgilius Brundisii moritur, Sentio Saturnino et Lucretio Cinna* (hoc nullum Lucretiorum cognomen) *Coff.* Plin. XIV, 1. *Haec* (vitis per se in vino picem respiens) *Virgilii vatis aetate incognita, a cuius obitu XC aguntur anni:* numero rotundo; cum XCV essent. v. Baylium Dictionn. Virgile litt. H. Harduin. ad Plin. ibid. et XIV. sect. 5.

Cum in Graeciam proficisceretur Virgilius, scriptum fuisse creditur ab Horatio Carmen III libri I. *Sic te Diva potens Cypri.*

Dum in Graecia fuit, tertio Georgicorum libro splendendum illud exordium: *Primus Idumeas referam tibi, Mantua, palmas,* additum fuisse cum Catroeo Wartonus putabat (*Life of Virgil*) ex interpretatione scilicet parum subtili.

Fuisse, qui eum in itinere Tarenti vita excessisse traderent, ad Donatum § 51 dictum, quae vrbs cum ad Calabriam referatur, hinc intelligendus versus Epitaphii: *Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere,* h. in Calabria vitae ereptum se significat. cf. Phocas v. 105. *ut Calabros tetigit — vehemens luxavit corpora morbus.*

Ossa Virgilii Neapolin translata et ibi in via Putcolana sepulta. v. Donat. § 55. 56 et ibi not. Apud Hieronymum l. 1. *Ossa eius Neapolin translata in secundo ab vrbe miliario sepeliuntur, titulo istiusmodi supra scripto, quem moriens ipse dictauerat: MANTVA ME GENVIT;* quod apud Donatum § 55 legas, et in Eusebianum Chronicon haud dubie ab interpolatore venit; repetitum inde a Vincent. Bellouac. Specul. hist. VII, 60.

De testamento Virgilii v. Donatum § 56.

Eum paullo ante mortem scrinia adeoque omnia sua scripta, (vt etiam Grammaticus in Antholog. lat. II, 184,

10-14 accepit) comburere voluisse, mox, vt Aeneis saltem combureretur, tanquam imperfectum opus, testamento iubere voluisse, tandem, amicorum precibus victum, Vario ac Tuccae, de quibus v. ad Donat. § 53. scripta sua legasse, ea sub conditione ne emendarent, narrat Donatus § 52. 53. ab iis tamen, iussu Caesaris, Aeneidem emendatam fuisse, in eadem farragine memoratur § 56. quod tamen ita intelligas, vt emendarint quidem tollendo, non autem addendo. Ita fere Hieronymus Chron. Euseb. ad Olymp. 190, 4. *Varius et Tucca, Virgilii et Horatii contubernales, poetae habentur illustres, qui Aeneidum postea libros emendarunt sub ea lege, vt nihil adderent.*

Reliqui Grammatici modo hoc modo illud sequuntur. At veteres scriptores, Plin. VII, 30. s. 31. *D. Augustus sarmina Virgilii cremari contra testamenti eius verecundiam vetuit; maiusque ita vati testimonium contigit, quam si ipse sua probasset.* Gell. XVII, 10 — *sed quae procrastinata sunt ab eo, vt post recenserentur, et absolui, quoniam mors praecerterat, nequieverunt, nequaquam poetarum elegantissimi nomine atque iudicio digna sunt: itaque, quum, morbo oppressus, aduentare mortem videret, petiuit orauitque a suis amicissimis impense, vt Aeneida, quam nondum satis eliminasset, abolerent.* Macrob. Sat. I, 24. *qui enim moriens poema suum legauit igni, quid nisi famae suae vulnera posteritati subtrahenda curauit? nec immerito.* Multa in eam rem variorum Epigrammata v. in Catalectis Scaligeri et Burmanni Anthologia. Adde Donat. § 57. 58.

Ceterum Virgilio mox comitem ad Elysios campos misit Tibullum iuuenem. v. Domitii Marfi Epigramma ad calcem Tibulli. Ouidius tum annum XXV agebat, itaque Virgilium tantum se vidisse testatur Trist. IV, 10, 51. Horatius annum ingressus erat XLVII.

Aeneidem cum viuo Virgilio multis hominum desiderii expectatam, tum eo mortuo magno fauore et praedicatione acceptam

receptam fuisse, ex poetis eius temporis colligas. Quidam Rem. 395. 396. *Tantum se nobis Elegi debere fatentur Quantum Virgilio nobile debet epos* *. Sed idem Aeneidis iam meminit Am, I, 15, 25. quod carmen ad annum 736, proximum a Virgilii morte, Massonus retulit: *Tityrus ad segetes Aeneidaeque arma legentur, Roma triumphati dum caput orbis erit.* Et in Arte 751 edita lib. III, 337. *Et profugum Aenean, altae primordia Romae, Quo nullum Latio clarius extat opus.* Nondum absoluta et edita erat Aeneis, cum Propertius nobiles illos versus scriberet lib. II. Eleg. extr. 61 sqq. *Qui nunc Aeneae Troiani suscitatur arma* etc.

Virgilium paullo post, et adhuc aeuo Augusteo, in scholis praelectum et enarratum fuisse, e Suetonio scimus de ill. Grammat. c. 16. Q. Caecilius Epirota Cornelii Galli familiaris — *primus dicitur latine ex tempore disputasse, primusque Virgilium et alios poetas novos praelegere coepisse.*

Caligula Virgilii memoriae admodum infestus fuit. *Sed et Virgilii et T. Livii scripta et imagines, paulum afuit, quin ex omnibus bibliothecis amoueret, quorum alterum, ut nullius ingenii minimaeque doctrinae — carpebat* Sueton. Calig. 34. Itaque Virgilii Codices ad paruum tum numerum redactos fuisse necesse est. An forte inde in tanto nunc apographorum numero mirus ille librorum etiam vetustiorum in corruptelas consensus repetendus est? vt, cum post haec Virgiliana carmina ex paucis, nec forte emendatissimis exemplaribus describerentur, vera iam tum lectio periisset; quo factum, vt frustra nunc a libris auxilium, vbi haereas, expectetur. Exstabat tamen Virgilii manus adhuc Plinii maioris aetate H. N. XIII, 12 extr. et Quintilianii, Inst. I, 7, 20. Virgilii idiographum librum inspectum,

* ita leg. nam *opus nobile* esset quidem carmen epicum, non poësis epica.

De P. VIRG. VITA PER ANN. DIGEST.

sed ab aliis, Gellius memorat N. A. XI, 14. cf. eundem II, 3. XIII, 19. I, 21.

Magnam copiam versuum et lusuum in Virgilium eiusque carmina cum bona tum mala, vetustiorum et seriorum poetarum, v. post Pithocum et Ios. Scaligerum in Catalogis ap. Burmann. V. Cl. in Antholog. Lat. lib. II. ep. 173 sqq.

A
D I S S E R T A T I O N
U P O N
P A S T O R A L P O E T R Y.

MAN is not so depraved, but that representations of innocence and tranquillity, are still delightful and pleasing to the mind. The first employment of our forefathers was undoubtedly the tending of cattle: an employment which princes and patriarchs did not disdain to undertake, however opposite it may appear to the refinements of modern life. This plainness and simplicity of manners is highly amusing and captivating to persons uncorrupted, and, as Shakespear says, unhackney'd in the ways of men; who love to be carried back into that age of quiet, of innocence and virtue,

What time Dan Abraham left the Chaldee land,
And pastur'd on from verdant stage to stage,
Where fields and fountains him could best engage :
Toil was not then. Of nothing took they heed,
But with wild beasts the silvan war to wage,
And o'er vast plains their herds and flocks to feed ;
Blest sons of Nature they, true golden age indeed !

THOMSON'S Cattle of Indolence.

The love of the country is so strong a passion, that it

can hardly be ever obliterated or overcome: tho' buffiness or amusements, or criminal pursuits, or conveniences, or courts, carry men into cities, yet they still continue fond of fields and forests, of meadows and rivulets. A very accomplish'd courtier assures us, that the stateliest edifices, and the finest pieces of architecture would lose their beauty, if rural objects were not interspersed among them.

*Nempe inter varias nutritur sylvæ columnas,
Laudaturque domus, longas quæ prospicit agros;
Naturam expellas furcâ tamen usque recurret.*

HOR.

This is owing to the superior power which the works of nature hold above those of art, to affect and entertain the imagination. For altho' the latter may sometimes appear very beautiful, or even wonderful, yet they can have nothing in them of that vastness and immensity, which afford so great an entertainment to the mind of the beholder. The one may be as polite and delicate as the other; but can never appear so august and magnificent in the design. There is something more bold and masterly, in the rough careless strokes of nature, than in the nicest touches and embellishments of art. For this reason is Pastoral Poetry so amusing to the mind: In her fairy region are found,

*Et secunda quies, & nescia fallere vita,
Dives opum variarum: hic latis otia fundis,
Spelunca, vivique lacus, hic frigida Tempa,
Mugitusque boum, mollesque sub arbore somni.*

VIRG.

A true Pastoral, says Mr. Pope, is an imitation of the action of a shepherd; the form of this imitation is dramatic, or narrative, or mixed of both; the fable simple, the manners not too polite, nor too rustic: the thoughts

are plain, but admit a little quickness and passion, yet that short and flowing. The expression humble, yet as pure as the language will allow; neat, but not florid; easy, and yet lively. In short, the manners, thoughts, and expressions, are full of the greatest simplicity in nature. The complete character of this poem consists in simplicity, brevity, and delicacy: the two first of which render an Eclogue natural, and the last delightful.

Many laboured and tedious treatises both of French and Italian critics, have been written on the nature of this kind of poetry; but I have not been able to find any thing on the subject so rational, so judicious, and yet so new, as a little piece very lately published, by an excellent writer of our own country, in a paper called the RAMBLER, which is therefore inserted in this place.

IN writing or judging of Pastoral Poetry, neither the authors or critics of later times seem to have paid sufficient regard to the originals left us by antiquity; but have entangled themselves with unnecessary difficulties, and advanced principles, which, having no foundation in the nature of things, are wholly to be rejected from a species of composition in which, above all others, mere nature is to be regarded.

It is, therefore, necessary, to enquire after some more distinct and exact idea of this kind of writing. This may, I think, be easily found in the Pastorals of Virgil; from whose opinion it will not appear very safe to depart, if we consider that every advantage of nature, and of fortune, concurred to complete his productions: that he was born with great accuracy, and severity of judgment, enriched with all the learning of one of the brightest ages, and embellished with the elegance of the Roman court; that he employed his powers rather in improving, than inventing; that, taking Theocritus for his origi-

nal, he found Pastoral much advanced towards perfection, if not already perfect; and that having therefore so great a rival, he must have proceeded with uncommon caution.

If we search the writings of Virgil, for the true definition of a Pastoral, it will be found a *Poem in which any action or passion is represented by its effects upon a country life*. Whatsoever, therefore, may, according to the common course of things, happen in the country, may afford a subject for a Pastoral Poet.

In this definition, it will immediately occur, to those who are versed in the writings of the modern critics, that there is no mention of the golden age. I cannot indeed easily discover why it is thought necessary to refer descriptions of a rural state to remote times, nor can I perceive that any writer has consistently preserved the Arcadian manners and sentiments. The only reason that I have read, on which this rule has been founded, is, that according to the customs of modern life, it is improbable that shepherds should be capable of harmonious numbers, or delicate sentiments; and therefore the reader must exalt his ideas of the Pastoral character, by carrying his thoughts back to the age in which the care of herds and flocks was the employment of the wisest and greatest men.

These reasoners seem to have been led into their hypothesis, by considering Pastoral, not in general, as a representation of rural nature, and consequently as exhibiting the ideas and sentiments of those, whoever they are, to whom the country affords pleasure or employment; but simply as a dialogue, or narrative of men actually tending sheep, and busied in the lowest and most laborious offices: from whence they very readily concluded, since characters must necessarily be preserved, that either the sentiments must sink to the level of the
speakers,

speakers, or the speakers must be raised to the height of the sentiments.

In consequence of these original errors, a thousand precepts have been given; which have only contributed to perplex and to confound. Some have thought it necessary that the imaginary manners of the Golden Age should be universally preserved, and have therefore believed, that nothing more could be admitted in Pastoral; than lilies and roses, and rocks and streams, among which are heard the gentle whispers of chaste fondness, or the soft complaints of amorous impatience. In Pastoral, as in other writings, chastity of sentiment ought doubtless to be observed, and purity of manners to be represented; not because the Poet is confined to the images of the Golden Age, but because, having the subject in his own choice, he ought always to consult the interest of virtue.

Yet these advocates for the Golden Age lay down other principles, not very consistent with their general plan; for they tell us, that, to support the character of the shepherd, it is proper that all refinement should be avoided, and that some slight instances of ignorance should be interspersed. Thus the shepherd in Virgil is supposed to have forgot the name of Anaximander, and in Pope the term Zodiac is too hard for a rustic apprehension. But, surely, if we place our shepherds in their primitive condition, we may give them learning among their other qualifications; and if we suffer them to allude at all to things of later existence, which, perhaps, cannot with any great propriety be allowed, there can be no danger of making them speak with too much accuracy, since they conversed with divinities, and transmitted to succeeding ages the arts of life.

Other writers, having the mean and despicable condition of a shepherd always before them, conceive it necessary to degrade the language of Pastoral, by obso-

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of the death of some illustrious person, whom when once the poet has called a shepherd, he has no longer any labour upon his hands, but can make the clouds weep, and lilies wither, and the sheep hang their heads, without art or learning, genius or study.

It is part of Claudian's character of his rustic, that he computes his time not by the succession of consuls, but of harvests. Those who pass their days in retreats distant from the theatres of business, are always least likely to hurry their imaginations with public affairs.

The facility of treating actions or events in the pastoral stile has incited many writers, from whom more judgment might have been expected, to put the sorrow or the joy which the occasion required into the mouth of Daphne or of Thyrsis; and as one absurdity must naturally be expected to make way for another, they have written with an utter disregard both of life and nature, and filled their productions with mythological allusions, with incredible fictions, and with sentiments which neither passion nor reason could have dictated, since the change which religion has made in the whole system of the world.

Thus far the learned and judicious Mr. JOHNSON.

If I might now venture to speak of the merits of the several pastoral writers, I would say, that in Theocritus we are charmed with a certain sweetness, a romantic rusticity and wildness, heightened by the Doric dialect, that are almost inimitable. 'Tis worth remarking, that he hath borrowed many beautiful images from the most exquisite pastoral now extant, I mean the *Song of Solomon*; which he probably had read with pleasure in the Greek translation of the Seventy Interpreters, who were his cotemporaries in the polite court of Ptolomy. Several of his pieces indicate a genius of a higher class, far superior to Pastoral, and equal to the sublimest species of poetry: such are particularly, his Panegyric on Ptolomy, the

Fight between Amycus and Pollux, the Epithalamium of Helen, the Europa, the young Hercules, the Grief of Hercules for Hylas, the Death of Pentheus, and the killing the Nemean Lion. Which of these compositions is most spirited and exalted, 'tis impossible to determine : and I must here apply a noble simile of his own, which he uses on a like difficulty,

Ἴδαν εἰς πολύδενδρον ἀπὴρ ἰλητόμος ἰλθών,
Παπταίνε παρίοντος ἄδην πόθεν ἀρξείας ἔργα
Τί πρῶτον καταλιξῶ ; ἔπειτ' ἀπὸ μύρια ἰσθῆνι.

The sweet and pathetic lamentation of Moschus on the death of Bion, and of Bion on the death of Adonis, are pieces of pastoral grief,

— *quæ Venus*

Quintâ parte sui nectaris imbuit ; HOR.

and oblige us to lament the loss of their works with sincere concern. We know of no other Greek pastoral writer.

Virgil, who comes next to be considered, has excelled his master Theocritus in these three particulars ; in decency, in delicacy, and in the variety of his subjects.

We have seen Eclogues remaining of Titus Calpurnius, a native of Sicily, who flourished under the Emperor Carus and his son. Some of them are prettily fancied, and conducted with judgment ; but the stile favours of the barbarism and corrupted taste, that long before his age infected the Roman poetry.

Mantuan is full of the most absurd allegories, and of allusions to Christianity ridiculously mixed and blended with the Gods and customs of the Heathens. In one of his Eclogues you have a catalogue of all the Virgin Mary's holidays ; in another an apparition of the Virgin, who promises a shepherd, that when he shall have passed

his life in Mount Carmel, she will convey him to a far more delicious place, and will make him dwell in heaven with the Dryades and Hamadryades, a sort of new saints, whom we had not been accustomed to hear of as inhabitants of heaven.

The Piscatory Eclogues of Sannazarius deserve to be mentioned with applause. I know not why the critics have condemned him for choosing subjects fruitful of new imagery and sentiments.

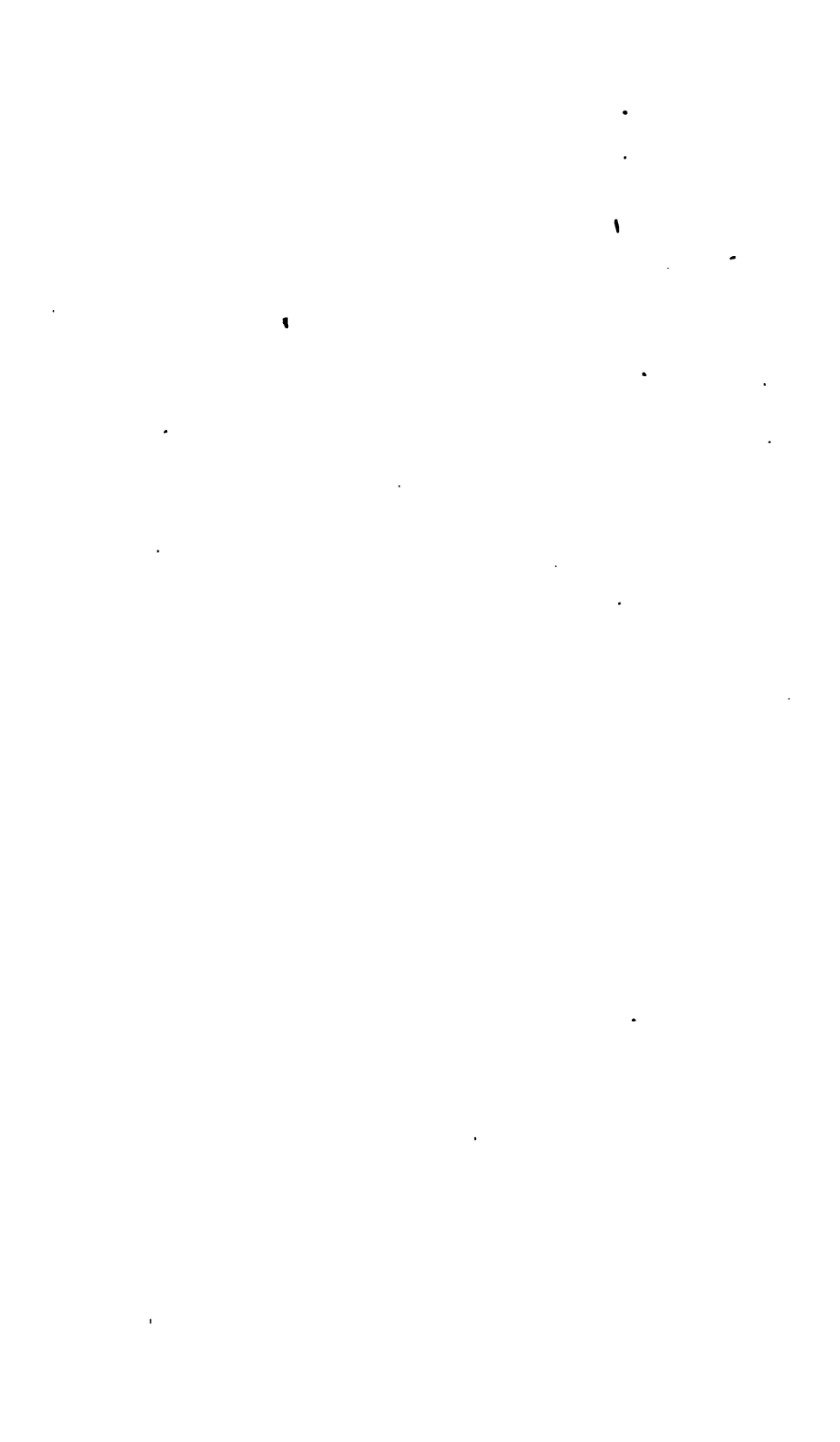
The *Aminta* of Tasso, the celebrated Pastoral Comedy of which the Italians boast so much, is not free from the common vice of all their compositions, *false thoughts and glittering conceits*, quite contrary to nature and truth. Sylvia, seeing the reflexion of her face in a fountain, and adorning herself with flowers, tells them she does not wear them to mend her beauty, but to lessen theirs, and disgrace them by being placed near her brighter charms. All critics of a truly classical taste, will be disgusted at such *far-fetch'd prettinesses*. But the pastoral pieces of Guarini, of Bonarelli, and Marino, are infinitely more unnatural and forced, crowded, to the last degree, with little points of wit, with epigrammatic turns, with affected conceits, and with every instance of false glitter and ornament, that usually dazzle and delight superficial readers.

The Pastorals of the ingenious Fontenelle, are too polite and refined in their sentiments. His shepherds are all courtiers; and are better suited to the toilets of Paris, than the forests of Arcadia. Instead of ridiculing Theocritus and Virgil, he had better have followed the precepts of his judicious countryman, the best defender, judge, and imitator, of the ancients; who gives the following advice to pastoral writers:

*Telle qu'une bergere, au plus beau jour de feste,
De superbe rubis ne charge point sa teste,*

*Et sans mêler à l'or l'éclat de diamans,
Cuëille en un champ voisin ses plus beaux ornemens,
Telle, amiable en son air, mais humble dans son stile,
Doit éclater sans pompe une élégante Idylle ;
Son tour simple & naïf n'a rien de fastueux,
Et n'aime point l'orgueil d'un vers presomptueux :
Il fait que ce douceur flate, chatouïlle, eveille,
Et jamais de grands mots n'épouvante l'oreille.*

BOILEAU, l'Art Poétique, c. 2.



P. Virgilii Maronis

B U C O L I C A .

T H E

E C L O G U E S

O F

V I R G I L .



P. Virgilii Maronis

B U C O L I C A .

T H E

E C L O G U E S

O F

V I R G I L .

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
B U C C O L I C A.

E C C L O G A I.

T I T Y R U S,

MELIBŒUS, TITYRUS.

MELIBŒUS.

TITYRE, tu patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi

Silvestrem tenui musam meditaris avena :

Nos patriae finis, et dulcia linqumimus arva ;

Nos patriam fugimus : tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra

Formosam resonare doces Amaryllida silvas. 5

TITYRUS.

O Meliboee, deus nobis hæc otia fecit.

Namque erit ille mihi semper deus : illius aram

Sæpe tener nostris ab ovilibus inbuet agnus.

Ille meas errare boves, ut cernis, et ipsum

Ludere, quae vellem, calamo permisit agresti. 10

Ver. 2. *Reed.*] *Avenâ*, says the original.—The musical instruments used by shepherds were at first made of oat and wheat straw ; then of reeds and hollow pipes of box ; afterwards of leg bones of cranes, horns of animals, metals, &c.—Hence they are called *avena*, *stipula*, *calamus*, *arundo*, *stipula*, *buxus*, *tibia*, *cornu*, *aes*, &c.

Et Zephyri cava per calamorum fistula primum

Agrestes docuere cavae inflare cicutas :

says Lucretius, b. 5. v. 1381, in a passage which must have been of use to Virgil in polishing the Latin versification.

THE
E C L O G U E S
O F
V I R G I L.

ECLOGUE THE FIRST.

T I T Y R U S.

MELIBOEUS, TITYRUS.

MELIBOEUS.

IN beechen shades, you Tit'rus, stretch along,
Tune to the slender reed your sylvan song;
We leave our country's bounds, our much-lov'd plains,
We from our country fly, unhappy swains!
You, Tit'rus, in the groves at leisure laid, 5
Teach Amaryllis' name to every shade.

TITYRUS.

O 'twas a god these blessings, swain, bestow'd,
For still by me he shall be deem'd a god!
For him the tend'rest of my fleecy breed
Shall oft in solemn sacrifices bleed. 10
He gave my oxen, as thou see'st, to stray,
And me at ease my fav'rite strains to play.

7. *'Twas a god.*] This is pretty high flattery. Octavius had not yet received divine honours, which were afterwards bestowed on him: but Virgil speaks as if he were already deified. This was the language of the courtiers of that time.

Presenti tibi maturos largimur honores,

says Horace. One cannot but recollect, on reading such sort of passages, the words of the spirited historian: *Igitur verso civitatis statu, nihil usquam prisca & integri moris: omnis exusta aequalitate jussa principis aspectare.* Tacitus, Annal. lib. i. c. 4.

MELIBŒUS.

Non equidem invideo : miror magis. undique totis
 Usque adeo turbatur agris. en ipse capellas
 Protenus aeger ago : hanc etiam vix, Tityre, duco.
 Hic inter densas corulos modo namque gemellos,
 Spem gregis, ah ! filice in puda connixa reliquit. 15
 Saepe malum hoc nobis, si mens non laeva fuisset,
 De coelo tactas memini praedicere quercus :
 Saepe sinistra cavâ praedixit ab ilice cornix.
 Sed tamen, iste deus qui sit, da, Tityre, nobis.

TITYRUS.

Urbem, quam dicunt Romam, Meliboee, putavi 20
 Stultus ego huic nostrae similem, quo saepe solemus
 Pastores ovium teneros depellere foetus.
 Sic canibus catulos fumilis, sic matribus haedos
 Noram : sic parvis componere magna solebam.
 Verum haec tantum alias inter caput extulit urbis; 25
 Quantum lenta solent inter viburnâ cupressi.

MELIBŒUS.

Et quae tanta fuit Romam tibi causâ videndi ?

TITYRUS.

Libertas : quae fera tamen respexit inertem ;
 Candidior postquam tondenti barba cadebat ;
 Respexit tamen, et longo post tempore venit, 30
 Postquam nos Amaryllis habet, Galatea reliquit.
 Namque (fatebor enim) dum me Galatea tenebat,

27. *The city.*] This manner of speaking of Rome, has the true pastoral simplicity in it.

34. *As lofty.*] Not only different in magnitude, but in kind, say the commentators.

41. *There Amaryllis reigns.*] Some fanciful critics imagine that the poet meant Rome by Amaryllis, and Mantua by Galatea. But Ruæus justly looks on these allegorical interpretations as trifles, and rejects them for the following reasons. 1. As the poet has twice mentioned Rome expressly, and by its proper name, in this Eclogue, what could induce him to call it sometimes Rome, and sometimes Amaryllis? 2. He distinguishes Galatea from Mantua also; when he says, that whilst he was a slave to Galatea, he had no profit from the cheeses which he made, from that unhappy city. 3. If we admit the

MELIBŒUS.

Nay, mine's not envy, swain, but glad surprize;
 O'er all our fields such scenes of rapine rise!
 And lo! sad part'ner of the general care, 15
 Weary and faint I drive my goats afar,
 While scarcely this my leading hand sustains,
 Tir'd with the way, and recent from her pains;
 For mid' yon tangled hazles as we pass,
 On the bare flints her hapless twins she cast, 20
 The hopes and promise of my ruin'd fold!
 These ills prophetic signs have oft foretold;
 Oft from yon hollow tree th' hoarse raven's croak,
 And heaven's quick lightning on my blasted oak:
 O I was blind these warnings not to see!— 25
 But tell me, Tit'rus, who this god may be?

TITYRUS.

The city men call Rome, unskilful clown,
 I thought resembled this our humble town;
 Where, Melibœus, with our fleecy care,
 We shepherds to the markets oft repair. 30
 So like their dams I kidlings wont to call,
 So dogs with whelps compar'd, so great with small:
 But she o'er other cities lifts her head,
 As lofty cypresses low shrubs exceed.

MELIBŒUS.

And what to Rome could Tit'rus' steps persuade? 35

TITYRUS.

'Twas Freedom call'd; and I, tho' slow, obey'd.
 She came at last, tho' late she blest my fight,
 When age had silver'd o'er my beard with white;
 But ne'er approach'd till my revolting breast
 Had for a new exchange'd its wonted guest: 40
 There Amaryllis reigns; yet sure 'tis true,
 While Galatea did my soul subdue,

allegory, that verse *Mirabar quid moesta deos*, is inextricable.
 4. Servius has laid it down as a rule, that we are not to understand any thing in the Bucolics figuratively, that is, allegorically.

RUAELUS and MARTYN.

Nec spes libertatis erat, nec cura peculi,
 Quamvis multa meis exiret victima sepiis,
 Pinguis et ingratae premeretur caseus urbi, 35
 Non unquam gravis aere domum mihi dextra redibat.

MELIBŒUS.

Mirabar, quid moesta deos, Amarylli, vocares :
 Cui pendere sua patereris in arbore poma.
 Tityrus hinc aberat. ipsae te, Tityre, pinus,
 Ipsi te fontes, ipsa haec arbusa vocabant. 40

TITYRUS.

Quid facerem ? neque servitio me exire licebat,
 Nec tam praesentis alibi cognoscere divos.
 Hic illum vidi juvenem, Meliboee, quot annis
 Bis senos cui nostra dies altaria fumant.
 Hic mihi responsum primus dedit ille petenti : 45
 Pascite, ut ante, boves, pueri : submittite tauros.

MELIBŒUS.

Fortunate senex, ergo tua rura manebunt ?
 Et tibi magna satis : quamvis lapis omnia nudus,
 Limosque palus obducatur pascua junco ;
 Non infueta gravis tentabunt pabula foetas : 50
 Nec mala vicini pecoris contagia laedent.
 Fortunate senex, hic inter flumina nota,
 Et fontis sacros, frigus captabis opacum.
 Hinc tibi, quae semper vicino ab limite sepes,
 Hyblaëis apibus florem depasta salicti, 55

52. *The shrubs.*] The *arbusa* were large pieces of ground planted with elms or other trees, at the distance commonly of forty feet, to leave room for corn to grow between them. These trees were pruned in such a manner, as to serve for stages to the vines, which were planted near them. The vines fastened after this manner, were called *arbusivae vites*. See the 12th chapter of Columella *de arboribus*.

58. *Swains feed.*] The word *submittite* in the original may mean the breeding the cattle, as well as yoking oxen.

61. *What tho' rough stones.*] The reader of taste cannot but be pleased with this little landscape, especially as some critics

Careless I liv'd of freedom and of gain,
 And frequent victims thinn'd my folds in vain;
 Tho' to th' ungrateful town my cheefe I sold, 45
 Yet still I bore not back th' expected gold.

MELIBŒUS.

Oft, Amaryllis, I with wonder heard
 Thy vows to heav'n in soft distress preferr'd.
 With wonder oft thy lingering fruits survey'd;
 Nor knew for whom the bending branches stay'd: 50
 'Twas Tit'rus was away—for thee detain'd
 The pines, the shrubs, the bubbling springs complain'd.

TITYRUS.

What could I do? where else expect to find
 One glimpse of freedom, or a god so kind?
 There I that youth beheld, for whom shall rise 55
 Each year my votive incense to the skies.
 'Twas there this gracious answer blest'd mine ears,
 Swains feed again your herds, and yoke your steers.

MELIBŒUS.

Happy old man! then still thy farms restor'd,
 Enough for thee, shall blest thy frugal board. 60
 What tho' rough stones the naked soil o'erspread,
 Or marthy bulrush rear its watry head,
 No foreign food thy teeming ewes shall fear,
 No touch contagious spread its influence here.
 Happy old man! here mid' the custom'd streams 65
 And sacred springs, you'll shun the scorching beams,
 While from yon willow-fence, thy pastures' bound,
 The bees that suck their flow'ry stores around,
 Shall sweetly mingle, with the whispering boughs,
 Their lulling murmurs, and invite repose: 70

think Virgil is here describing his own estate. 'Tis a mistake to imagine the spot of ground was barren, for we find it contained a vineyard and apiary, and good pasture land; and the shepherd says he supplied Mantua with victims and cheefes.

Saepe levi fomnum suadebit inire fufurro.
 Hinc alta sub rupe canet frondator ad auras.
 Nec tamen interea raucae, tua cura, palumbes,
 Nec gemere aëria cessabit turtur ab ulmo.

TITYRUS.

Ante leves ergo pascentur in aethere cervi, 60
 Et freta destituent nudos in litore piscis :
 Ante, pererratis amborum finibus exsul,
 Aut Ararim Parthus bibet, aut Germania Tigrin,
 Quam nostro illius labatur pectore voltus.

MELIBOEUS.

At nos hinc alii sitientis ibimus Afros : 65
 Pars Scythiam, et rapidum Cretae veniemus Oaxen,
 Et penitus toto divisos orbe Britannos.
 En umquam patrios longo post tempore finis,
 Pauperis ac tugurî congestum cespite culmen,
 Post aliquot, mea regna videns, mirabor aristas ? 70
 Inpius haec tam culta novalia miles habebit ?
 Barbarus has fegetes ? en quo discordia civis
 Produxit miseros ! en quîs consevimus agros !
 Infere nunc, Meliboe, piros ; pone ordine vitis.
 Ite meae, felix quondam pecus, ite capellae. 75

77. *The Partbian.*] These images are not so much in character as those in the two preceding lines. They are too remote for our simple shepherd.

85. *Ab! shall I never.*] By *en* in the original, say the commentators, is meant *unquamne*, *aliquandone*, or *an unquam*. Ruæus observes that these expressions are in general only a bare and cold interrogation, but surely in this passage the poet means an interrogation joined with an eager desire; a sort of languishing in Meliboeus after the farms and fields he was obliged to leave. We find the same expression in the same sense in the eighth Eclogue.

————— *En erit unquam*
Ille dies, mihi cum liceat tua dicere facta !

86. *Many a year.*] By *post aliquot aristas* in the original, is certainly meant *after some years*. It is natural for shepherds to measure

While from steep rocks the pruner's song is heard ;
 Nor the soft-cooing dove, thy fav'rite bird,
 Mean while shall cease to breathe her melting strain,
 Nor turtles from th' aërial elm to plain.

TITYRUS.

Sooner the stag in fields of air shall feed, 75
 Seas leave on naked shores the scaly breed,
 The Parthian and the German climates changed,
 This Arar drink, and that near Tigris range,
 Than e'er, by stealing time effac'd, shall part
 His much-lov'd image from my grateful heart. 80

MELIBŒUS.

But we far hence to distant climes shall go,
 O'er Afric's burning sands, or Scythia's snow,
 Where roars Oæxis, or where seas embrace,
 Dividing from the world, the British race.
 Ah ! shall I never once again behold, 85
 When many a year in tedious round has roll'd,
 My native seats ?—Ah ! ne'er with ravisht thought
 Gaze on my little realm, and turf-built cot ?
 What ! must these rising crops barbarians share ?
 These well-till'd fields become the spoils of war ? 90
 See to what mis'ry discord drives the swain !
 See, for what lords we spread the teeming grain !
 Now Melibœus, now, renew your cares,
 Go, rank again your vines, and graft your pears :
 Away, my goats, once happy flocks ! away ! 95
 No more shall I resume the rural lay :

measure the years by the harvests. *Arifa* is the beard of the wheat ; the Roman husbandmen sowed only the bearded wheat.

87. *Ab ! ne'er.*] These short and abrupt exclamations are very natural, and have quite a dramatic air. The image of his little farm and cottage being plunder'd, breaks in upon the shepherd, and quite disorders his mind. The irony in the following lines,

Infero nunc, Melibœe, piro, &c.

strongly expresses both grief and indignation.

Non ego vos posthac, viridi projectus in antro,
 Dumosa pendere procul de rupe videbo.
 Carmina nulla canam. non, me pascente, capellae,
 Florentem cytisum, et salices carpetis amaras.

TITYRUS.

Hic tamen hanc mecum poteras requiescere noctem 80
 Fronde super viridi. sunt nobis mitia poma,
 Castaneae molles, et preffi copia lactis.
 Et jam summa procul villarum culmina fumant,
 Majoresque cadunt altis de montibus umbrae.

97. *No more, as in.*] I have seen in Italy (and on the Vatican hill near Rome, in particular) a little arch'd cave made by the shepherds of ever-greens, not high enough to stand in; there they lie at their ease to observe their flocks browsing. Is it not such a sort of cave which is meant here? *Viridi* is not a proper epithet for the inside of a natural cave, especially for such rocky ones as one finds in Italy. SPENCE.

104. *Cheese.*] The Roman peasants used to carry the curd as soon as it was pressed into the towns, or else salt it for cheese against the winter.

Ecl. I. THE ECLOGUES OF VIRGIL. 85.

No more, as in my verdant cave I lie,
Shall I behold ye hang from rocks on high :
No more shall tend ye, while ye round me browse
The trefoil flow'rs, or willow's harsher boughs. 100

TITYRUS.

Yet here, this night, at least, with me reclin'd
On the green leaves, an humble welcome find ;
Ripe apples, chesnuts soft, my fields afford,
And cheefe in plenty loads my rural board.
And see ! from village-tops the smoke ascend, 105
And falling shades from western hills extend.

END OF THE FIRST ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE SECOND.

A R G U M E N T.

A shepherd despairing to gain the affections of a youth, named Alexis, is here introduced, uttering those natural and bitter complaints, that disappointed affection is so apt to suggest. Dr. Trapp observes, "That there is no loose idea, nor one immodest expression in the whole piece; which means no more, than either the platonic love of the beauties, both of body and mind, or excess of friendship, or rather both. Experience gives us many instances of persons of the same sex, one of whom is beloved by the other, to an extremity of fondness, and almost dotage. I dare say no person, unless monstrously debauched beforehand, and so being a tempter to himself (which he may be in reading not only innocent but sacred things) had ever an ill thought suggested to him, by the reading of this Eclogue."

*So much the worse because the
poem is so beautiful*

E C L O G A II.

A L E X I S.

FORMOSUM pastor Corydon ardebat Alexin,
 Delicias domini: nec, quid speraret, habebat.
 Tantum inter densas, umbrosa cacumina, fagos
 Adfide veniebat. ibi haec incondita solus
 Montibus et silvis studio jactabat inani. 5
 O crudelis Alexi, nihil mea carmina curas?
 Nil nostri miserere? mori me denique coges.
 Nunc etiam pecudes umbras ac frigora captant:
 Nunc viridis etiam occultant spineta lacertos:
 Thestylis et rapido fessis messoribus aestu 10
 Allia serpullumque herbas contundit olentis.
 At me cum raucis, tua dum vestigia lustro,
 Sole sub ardenti resonant arbuta cicadis.
 Nonne fuit fatius, tristis Amaryllidis iras
 Atque superba pati fastidia? nonne Menalcan? 15
 Quamvis ille niger, quamvis tu candidus esses.
 O formosae puer, nimium ne crede colori.

Ver. 13. *Garlic pounds.*] We are told by Pliny that garlic was very much used in the country as an excellent medicine; *Allium ad multa, ruris praecipue, medicamenta prodesse creditur.* It must in Italy be a very nutritious food for husbandmen.

16. *Sbrill Cicada.*] I don't know how every body almost in England came to imagine, that the *Cicada* in the Roman writers was the same with our grasshopper; for their characters are different enough to have prevented any such mistake. The *Cicada* is what the Italians now call *Cicala*, and the French *Cigale*. They make one constant uniform noise all day long in summer-time, which is extremely disagreeable and tiresome, particularly in the great heats. Their note is sharp and shrill in the beginning of the summer, but hoarse and harsh towards the latter part of it. They are supposed to feed on the morning dew, and then fix on some sunny branch of a tree,

ECLOGUE THE SECOND.

ALEXIS.

YOUNG Corydon with hopeless love ador'd
 The fair Alexis, fav'rite of his lord.
 Mid' shades of thickest beech he pin'd alone,
 To the wild woods and mountains made his mean,
 Still day by day, in incoherent strains, 3
 'Twas all he could, despairing told his pains.
 Wilt thou ne'er pity me, thou cruel youth,
 Unmindful of my verse, my vows, and truth ?
 Still, dear Alexis, from my passion fly ?
 Unheard and unregarded must I die ? 10
 Now flocks in cooling shades avoid the heats,
 And the green lizard to his brake retreats,
 Now Thestylis the thyme and garlic pounds,
 And weary reapers leave the sultry grounds,
 Thee still I follow o'er the burning plains 15
 And join the shrill Cicada's plaintive strains.
 Were it not better calmly to have borne
 Proud Amaryllis' or Menalcas' scorn ?
 Tho' he was black, and thou art heav'nly fair ?
 How much you trust that beauteous hue beware ! 20

tree, and sing all day long. It is hence that this insect is opposed to the ant in the old Æsopian fables, which is as industrious and inoffensive as the other is idle and troublesome. Virgil calls the Cicada *querulae* and *raucæ*; Martial, *argutæ* and *inbumanæ*. Their note is the more troublesome, because in the great heats they sing alone. Any one who has passed a summer in Italy, or in the south of France, will not think the epithet *inbumanæ* too severe for them. SPENCE.

18. *Amaryllis*.] Servius informs us, that the true name of Amaryllis was Leria, a beautiful girl whom Mæcenas gave to Virgil, as he also did Cebes, whom the poet mentions under the person of Menalcas. Catrou thinks this story of Servius is a fiction; but adds another fiction of his own, that Rome is meant by Amaryllis.

Alba ligustra cadunt, vaccinia nigra leguntur.
 Despectus tibi sum, nec qui sim quaeris, Alexi :
 Quam dives pecoris nivei, quam lactis abundans. 20
 Mille meae Siculis errant in montibus agnae.
 Lac mihi non aestate, novum non frigore deficit.
 Canto, quae solitus, si quando armenta vocabat,
 Amphion Dircaeus in Aëtaeo Aracyntho.
 Nec sum adeo informis : nuper me in litore vidi, 25
 Cum placidum ventis staret mare. non ego Daphnin
 Judice te metuam, si numquam fallit imago.
 O tantum libeat mecum tibi fordida rura,
 Atque humilis habitare casae, et figere cervos,
 Haedorumque gregem viridi compellere hibisco ! 30
 Mecum una in silvis imitabere Pana canendo.
 Pan primus calamos cera conjungere plures
 Instituit : Pan curat ovis, oviumque magistros.
 Nec te poeniteat calamo trivisse labellum.
 Haec eadem ut sciret, quid non faciebat Amyntas ? 35
 Est mihi disparibus septem compacta cicutis
 Fistula, Damoetas dono mihi quam dedit olim,
 Et dixit moriens : Te nunc habet ista secundum,
 Dixit Damoetas : invidit stultus Amyntas.

27. *Sung.*] The ancient shepherds walked before, and called their sheep after them.

29. *View'd.*] La Cerda has very fully vindicated Virgil, against those who deny the possibility of an image being reflected by the sea. When it is perfectly calm it is quite a mirror.

I don't know whether you have taken notice of a miscarriage in the most judicious of all poets. Theocritus makes Polypheme say,

Και γαρ θνητὸν εἶδος ἔχω κακόν, ὡς με λυγόντι,
 Ἡ γὰρ πρὸς εἰς Ποσειδῶνος ἰσθαλιῶνος· ἢ δὲ γαλαῖα.

Nothing could be better fancied than to make this enormous son of Neptune use the sea for his looking-glass : but is Virgil so happy when his little landman says,

Nec

The privet's silver flow'rs we still neglect,
 But dusky hyacinths with care collect.
 Thou know'st not whom thou scorn'st—what snowy kine,
 What luscious milk, what rural stores are mine !
 Mine are a thousand lambs in yonder vales, 25
 My milk in summer's drought, nor winter fails ;
 Nor sweeter to his herds Amphion sung,
 While with his voice Boeotia's mountains rung ;
 Nor am I so deform'd ! myself I view'd
 On the smooth surface of the glassy flood, 30
 By winds unmov'd, and be that image true,
 I dread not Daphnis' charms, tho' judg'd by you.
 O that you lov'd the fields and shady grots,
 To dwell with me in bowers, and lowly cots,
 To drive the kids to fold, the stags to pierce ; 35
 Then should'st thou emulate Pan's skilful verse,
 Warbling with me in woods ; 'twas mighty Pan
 To join with wax the various reeds began ;
 Pan, the great god of all our subject plains,
 Protects and loves the cattle and the swains ; 40
 Nor thou disdain, thy tender rosy lip
 Deep to indent with such a master's pipe.
 To gain that art how much Amyntas try'd !
 This pipe Damoetas gave me as he dy'd ;
 Seven joints it boasts—Be thine this gift, he said : 45
 Amyntas envious sigh'd, and hung the head.

*Nec sum adeo informis : nuper me in littore vidi,
 Cum placidum ventis flaret mare ? —*

His wonderful judgment for once deserted him, or he might have retained the sentiment with a slight change in the application.

HURD'S letter on the marks of imitation.

41. *Rosy lip.*] There is a fondness in mentioning this circumstance of his wearing his lip.—This fistula is used to this day in the Grecian islands. The constant effect of playing on it, is making the lip thick and callous. Mr. Dawkins assured me he saw several shepherds with such lips.

45. *Joints.*] Servius tells us, that Cicuta means the space between the two joints of a reed.

Praeterea duo, nec tuta mihi valle reperti, 40
 Capreoli sparsis etiam nunc pellibus albo,
 (Bina die ficcant ovis ubera) quos tibi servo.
 Jam pridem à me illos abducere Thestylis orat :
 Et faciet : quoniam sordent tibi munera nostra.
 Huc ades, ô formose puer. tibi lilia plenis 45
 Ecce ferunt nymphae calathis : tibi candida Nais,
 Pallentis violas et summa papavera carpens,
 Narcissum et florem jungit bene olentis anethi.
 Tum, casia atque aliis intexens suavis herbis,
 Mollia luteola pingit vaccinia caltha. 50
 Ipse ego cana legam tenera lanugine mala,
 Castaneasque nuces, mea quas Amaryllis amabat.
 Addam cerea pruna : honos erit huic quoque pomo.
 Et vos, ô lauri, carpam, et te, proxima myrte.
 Sic positae quoniam suavis miscetis odores. 55
 Rusticus es, Corydon. nec munera curat Alexis :
 Nec si muneribus certes, concedat Iolas.
 Eheu, quid volui misero mihi? floribus austrum
 Perditus, et liquidis inmisi fontibus apros.

47. *Kids.*] These were undoubtedly wild kids, taken from their proper dam, and not kids which Corydon had lost, and now recovered again. Servius says, kids at first have white spots, which alter and lose their beauty afterwards.

53. *The nymphs in baskets bring.*] These lines are of an exquisite beauty, and contain the sweetest garland that ever was offered by a lover. He concludes this description of his presents by saying that, Alas! Alexis would not regard any of his gifts, as he was only a poor rustic, and that his rival Iolas was able to make far richer presents. At the mention of his rival's name he stops short, and cries, Fool that I am, to put Alexis in mind of him,—who will certainly prefer him to me! This seems to be the true meaning of *quid volui misero mihi?* tho' several commentators give a different interpretation. The agitation and doubts of a lover's mind are finely painted in this passage and the succeeding lines. At last the shepherd seems to come to himself a little, and reflects on the bad condition of his affairs, which his passion has occasioned, *sempiterna tibi, &c.*—and finally resolves to leave the obdurate Alexis, and go in search of another object.

Besides, two dappled kids, which late I found
 Deep in a dale with dangerous rocks around,
 For thee I nurse; with these, O come and play!
 They drain two swelling udders every day. 50
 These Thestylis hath begg'd, but begg'd in vain;
 Now be they her's, since you my gifts disdain.
 Come, beauteous boy! the nymphs in baskets bring
 For thee the loveliest lillies of the spring;
 Behold for thee the neighb'ring Naiad crops 55
 The violet pale, and poppy's fragrant tops,
 Narcissus' buds she joins with sweet jonquils,
 And mingles cinnamon with daffodils;
 With tender hyacinths of darker dyes,
 The yellow marigold diversifies. 60
 Thee, with the downy quince, and chestnuts sweet,
 Which once my Amaryllis lov'd, I'll greet;
 To gather plums of glossy hue, will toil;
 These shall be honour'd if they gain thy smile.
 Ye myrtles too I'll crop and verdant bays, 65
 For each, so plac'd, a richer scent conveys.
 O Corydon, a rustic hind thou art!
 Thy presents ne'er will touch Alexis' heart!
 Give all thou canst, exhaust thy rural store,
 Iolas, thy rich rival, offers more. 70
 What have I spoke? betray'd by heedless thought,
 The boar into my crystal springs have brought!

60. *Marigold.*] Dr. Martyn has taken great pains to explain the true names of the flowers here mentioned by Virgil, and from his skill in botany one may imagine he has justly ascertained them. I follow him.

61. *Chestnuts sweet.*] There are still in Italy, garlands intermixt with fruits as well as flowers, like that described by Virgil in his Eclogues. I have seen some of these carried about the streets of Florence, the Sunday before Christmas-day: They were built up in a pyramid of ever-greens, chiefly of bays, and faced with apples, grapes, and other fruits.

SPENCER.

71. *What.*] This reading is after the Vatican manuscript.

Quem fugis, ah, demens! habitarunt dī quoque silvas, 60
 Dardaniusque Paris. Pallas, quas condidit, arces
 Ipsa colat. nobis placeant ante omnia silvae.
 Torva leaena lupum sequitur, lupus ipse capellam;
 Florentem cytifum sequitur lasciva capella:
 Te Corydon, ô Alexi. trahit sua quemque voluptas. 65
 Aspice, aratra jugo referunt suspensa juvenci,
 Et sol crescentis decedens duplicat umbras:
 Me tamen urit amor. quis enim modus adsit amori?
 Ah Corydon, Corydon, quae te dementia cepit!
 Semiputata tibi frondosa vitis in ulmo est. 70
 Quin tu aliquid saltem, potius quorum indiget usus,
 Viminibus mollique paras detexere junco?
 Invenies alium, si te hic fastidit, Alexin.

77. Pallas is said to be the inventor of architecture.

88. *Elms.*] The epithet *frondosa* has great propriety: for Servius says, here is a double instance of neglect! the vines are half pruned, and the elms are suffered to make long shoots.

91. *If this Alexis.*] Even when he resolves to forget the beloved person, he fondly repeats the beloved name. TRAPP.

92. From Theocritus.

Εὐρησις Γαλαττιανῶσιν κ' ἄλλιοι ἄλλαι.

La Cerda has collected, with much exactness, all the passages which Virgil has taken from Theocritus; their number is indeed very great.

Wretch that I am! to the tempestuous blast
O I have given my blooming flowers to waste!
Whom dost thou fly? the gods of heav'n above, 75
And Trojan Paris deign'd in woods to rove;
Let Pallas build, and dwell in lofty towers,
Be our delight the fields and shady bowers:
Lions the wolves, and wolves the kids pursue,
The kids sweet thyme—and I still follow you. 80
Lo! labouring oxen spent with toil and heat,
In loos'n'd traces from the plough retreat,
The sun is scarce above the mountains seen,
Lengthening the shadows o'er the dusky green;
But still my bosom feels not evening cool, 85
Love reigns uncheck'd by time, or bounds, or rule.
What frenzy, Corydon, invades thy breast?
Thy elms grow wild, thy vineyard lies undrest;
No more thy necessary labours leave,
Renew thy works, and osier-baskets weave: 90
If this Alexis treat thee with disdain,
Thou'lt find another, and a kinder swain.

END OF THE SECOND ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE THIRD.

A R G U M E N T.

This Eclogue contains a dispute between two shepherds, of that sort which the critics call Amoebaea, from Αμοιβαιος, mutual or alternate. In this way of writing the persons are represented to speak alternately, the latter always endeavouring to exceed, or at least equal, what has been said by the former, in the very same number of verses; in which if he fails, he loses the victory. Here Menalcas and Damoetas reproach each other, and then sing for a wager, making Palaemon judge between them. Menalcas begins the contention, by casting some reflections on his rival Aegon, and his servant Damoetas. Vives, as usual, endeavours to allegorize this Eclogue, and says that Virgil means himself under the fictitious name of Damoetas. I heard, says Mr. Holdsworth, a poetical contest of this kind at Val-Ombrosa, which being very satirical, put me in mind of the old Bucolics.

E C L O G A III.

P A L A E M O N .

M E N A L C A S , D A M O E T A S , P A L A E M O N .

M E N A L C A S .

DIC mihi, Damoeta, cujum pecus ? an Melibœi ?
D A M O E T A S .

Non : verum Aegonis. nuper mihi tradidit Aegon.

M E N A L C A S .

Infelix ô semper oves pecus ! ipse Neaeram
Dum fovet, ac, ne me sibi praeferat illa, veretur ;
Hic alienus ovis custos bis mulget in hora : 5
Et succus pecori, et lac subducitur agnis.

D A M O E T A S .

Parcius ista viris tamen objicienda memento.
Novimus et qui te, transversa tumentibus hircis,
Et quo, sed faciles Nymphæ rifere, facello.

M E N A L C A S .

Tum, credo, cum me arbutum videre Myconis, 19
Atque mala vitis incidere falce novellas.

D A M O E T A S .

Aut hic ad veteres fagos, cum Daphnidos arcum
Fregisti et calams : quae tu, perverse Menalca,
Et cum vidisti puero donata, dolebas,
Et, si non aliqua nocuisses, mortuus esses, 15

12. *We know that you.*] Virgil here imitates Theocritus (*Novimus, &c.*) but is not so gross and indelicate as the Greek poet.

ECLOGUE THE THIRD.

PALAEMON.

MENALCAS, DAMOETAS, PALAEMON.

MENALCAS.

ARE these, Damoetas, Meliboeus' sheep?

DAMOETAS.

No; these their master Aegon bade me keep.

MENALCAS.

Unhappy sheep! yet more unhappy swain!
 Whilst he Neaera wooes, but wooes in vain;
 And fears lest I by fairer fortune blest
 Should win precedence in the virgin's breast;
 Lo! here an hireling wastes his master's gains,
 And twice an hour of milk the cattle drains.
 How lean, too deeply drain'd, appear the dams!
 And cheated of their milk how pine the lambs!

DAMOETAS.

At least to men this scoffing language spare;
 We know that you—with whom—and when—and where:
 We know the cave—'tis well the nymphs were kind,
 Nor to the deed the leering goats were blind.

MENALCAS.

Ay, the kind nymphs, forsooth, no notice took,
 When Mycon's vine I tore with wicked hook.

DAMOETAS.

Or rather when, yon ancient beech below,
 In spite you broke young Daphnis' darts and bow.
 O swain perverse! nay, when the boy receiv'd
 The gift, oh! how your jealous soul was griev'd!
 'Twas well you found that way, or you, I ween,
 Had died in very impotence of spleen,

MENALCAS.

Quid domini faciant, audent cum talia fures?
 Non ego te vidi Damonis, pessime, caprum
 Excipere insidiis, multum latrante Lycisca?
 Et cum clamarem: Quo nunc se proripit ille?
 Tityre, coge pecus: tu post carecta latebas.

20

DAMOETAS.

An mihi cantando victus non redderet ille,
 Quem mea carminibus meruisset fistula, caprum?
 Si nescis, meus ille caper fuit; et mihi Damon
 Ipse fatebatur: sed reddere posse negabat.

MENALCAS.

Cantando tu illum? aut umquam tibi fistula cera
 Juncta fuit? non tu in triviis, indocte, solebas
 Stridenti miserum stipula disperdere carmen?

25

DAMOETAS.

Vis ergo inter nos, quid possit uterque, vicissim
 Experiamur? ego hanc vitulam, ne forte recuses,
 Bis venit ad mulctram, binos alit ubere foetus,
 Depono: tu dic, mecum quo pignore certes,

30

MENALCAS.

De grege non ausim quidquam deponere tecum.
 Est mihi namque domi pater, est injusta noverca:
 Bisque die numerant ambo pecus, alter et haedos.
 Verum id, quod multo tute ipse fatebere majus,
 Infanire libet quoniam tibi, pocula ponam
 Fagina, caelatum divini opus Alcimedontis:

35

36. *To stare.*] Nothing can be so satirical as this line. All these R's (with a repetition of *st* in *stridenti* & *stipula*) could not concur without some design. Milton imitates this passage in his beautiful poem entitled *Lycidas*.

Grate on their scranrel pipes of wretched straw.

48. *Alcimedon.*] As there is no account left us of any famous artist called Alcimedon, Dr. Martyn imagines that he was a friend of our poet, who was therefore willing to transmit his name to posterity. By his name, he appears to have been a Greek. How highly the arts of painting and carving were esteemed in Greece, appears from this very remarkable passage

in

MENALCAS.

What daring scandal must thy master prate,
 Since thou, his slave, canst talk at such a rate !
 Did not I see thee, thief, steal Damon's goat, 25
 While loud Lycisca gave the warning note ?
 And when I cry'd,—“ See, where the rascal speeds ;
 “ Tit'rus take care”—you skulk'd behind the reeds.

DAMOETAS.

The goat was mine, and won beyond dispute ;
 The lawful prize of my victorious flute. 30
 Not Damon's self the just demand denies,
 But owns he could not pay the forfeit prize.

MENALCAS.

You win a goat by music ? did thy hand
 E'er join th' unequal reeds with waxen band ?
 Vile dunce ! whose sole ambition was to draw 35
 The mob in streets to stare at thy harsh-grating straw.

DAMOETAS.

Howe'er that be, suppose we trial make ?
 I, to provoke you more, yon heifer stake.
 Two calves she rears, twice fills the pails a-day,
 Now for the strife 'tis your's some pledge to lay. 40

MENALCAS.

You cannot from my flock a pledge require,
 You know I have at home a peevish fire,
 A cruel step-dame too—strict watch they keep,
 And twice each day they count my goats and sheep.
 But since your proffer'd prize so much you boast, 45
 I'll stake a pledge of far superior cost.
 Two beauteous bowls of beechen wood are mine,
 The sculpture of Alcimedon divine ;

in Pliny ; speaking of Eupompus, he says, “ It was enjoined by
 “ his authority, first in Sicyon, and next throughout all Greece,
 “ that *ingenuous youths* should above all things learn the art
 “ of *carving*, that is, of making designs in box ; and that this
 “ art should be ranked among the first of the liberal ones. He
 H 3 “ thoughts

Lenta quibus torno facili superaddita vitis
 Diffusos edera vestit pallente corymbos.
 In medio duo signa, Conon : et quis fuit alter, 40
 Dēscripsit radio totum qui gentibus orbem,
 Tempora quae messor, quae curvus arator haberet ?
 Necdum illis labra admovi, sed condita seruo.

DAMOETAS.

Et nobis idem Alcimedon duo pocula fecit,
 Et molli circum est ansas amplexus acantho, 45
 Orpheaque in medio posuit, silvasque sequentis.
 Necdum illis labra admovi, sed condita seruo.
 Si ad vitulam spectas, nihil est quod pocula laudes.

MENALCAS.

Nunquam hodie effugies. veniam quocunque vocaris.
 Audiat haec tantum vel qui venit : ecce, Palaemon : 50
 Efficiam posthac quemquam ne voce laceffas.

DAMOETAS.

Quin age, si quid habes ; in me mora non erit ulla,
 Nec quemquam fugio. tantum, vicine Palaemon,
 Sensibus haec imis (res est non parva) reponas.

PALAEMON.

Dicite : quandoquidem in molli confedimus herba. 55
 Et nunc omnis ager, nunc omnis parturit arbos,
 Nunc frondent silvae, nunc formosissimus annus.
 Incipe, Damoeta ; tu deinde sequere, Menalca.
 Alternis dicetis : amant alterna Camenae.

“ thought the laws of honour were violated, if any but gentle-
 “ men, or at least those that were reputably born, practised this
 “ art ; and made a perpetual prohibition that slaves never
 “ should be admitted to learn it. Hence it is that we see no
 “ celebrated pieces of *carving*, neither of *engraving*, or *relievo*,
 “ [*Foreutice*] done by any person in the degree of a slave.”

Nat. Hist. b. 35. c. 10.

Whose easy chissel o'er the work has twin'd,
 A vine with berries of pale ivy join'd. 50
 Full in the midst two comely forms appear,
 Conon, with him who fram'd that wond'rous sphere,
 Which points the change of seasons to the swain,
 And when to plough the soil, or reap the grain:
 These are my pledge; which yet with care I keep 55
 Untouch'd; and unpolluted by the lip.

DAMOETAS.

I have a pair by the same artist made;
 Their handles with acanthus' leaves o'erlaid,
 Where Orpheus in the midst attracts the grove—
 But my first-proffer'd prize is still above 60
 All we can stake; tho' yet my cups I keep
 Untouch'd, and unpolluted by the lip.

MENALCAS.

Name your own terms, nor think the field to fly,
 We'll choose, for judge, the first who passes by—
 Palaemon comes—let him the cause decide; 65
 For once I'll tame an empty boaster's pride.

DAMOETAS.

I fear the threats of no vain-glorious swain,
 No proud Menalcas, nor his vaunted strain.
 The song, Palaemon, with attention hear,
 No mean debate demands thy listening ear. 70

PALAEMON.

Begin, since on the tender turf we rest,
 And fields and trees in fruitful stores are dress'd.
 The lofty groves their verdant livery wear,
 And in full beauty blooms the laughing year.
 Begin Damoetas; next, Menalcas, prove 75
 Thy skill; the Nine alternate measures love.

DAMOETAS.

Ab Jove principium, Musae: Jovis omnia plena: 60
 Ille colit terras, illi mea carmina curae.

MENALCAS.

Et me Phoebus amat: Phoebus sua semper apud me
 Munera sunt, lauri, et suave rubens hyacinthus.

DAMOETAS.

Malo me Galatea petit, lasciva puella;
 Et fugit ad salices, et se cupit ante videri. 65

MENALCAS.

At mihi sese offert ultro meus ignis Amyntas:
 Notior ut jam sit canibus non Delia nostris.

DAMOETAS.

Parta meae Veneri sunt munera: namque notavi
 Ipse locum, aëriae quo congestere palumbes.

MENALCAS.

Quod potui, puero silvestri ex arbore lecta 70
 Aurea mala decem mihi: cras altera mittam.

DAMOETAS.

O quoties, et quae nobis Galatea locuta est!
 Partem aliquam, venti, divom referatis ad auris.

77. *Muses from mighty.*] Virgil seems to have laid it down as an indispensable rule to himself, in these Amœbaean verses, to make the respondent shepherd answer his opponent, in exactly the same number of lines. Either this rule was never taken notice of by any former translator; or the extreme difficulty of observing it, hath deterred them from attempting to follow it. How I have succeeded (both in this and the seventh Eclogue) must be left to the determination of the judicious reader, who, it is hoped, will make proper allowances for such a constraint.

82. *Laurel.*] The ancient poets seem to use *laurus* indifferently for laurels, or bays: strictly speaking, *lauro*, or *lauro regio*, signifies the former in Italian, and *alloro* the latter; but their best poets use *lauro* indifferently for both. SPENCE.

103. *Breezes, bear.*] This sentiment of Damoetas is beautiful and poetical to the last degree, especially, *partem aliquam*.

DAMOETAS.

Muses from mighty Jove begin the theme ;
 With mighty Jove all nature's regions teem :
 With liberal hand he sows the plenteous plains,
 Nor unpropitious hears my rural strains.

80

MENALCAS.

E'en me, mean shepherd, Phoebus deigns to love,
 Sacred to him I rear a laurel-grove :
 And still along my lavish borders rise,
 His hyacinths of sweetly-blooming dies.

DAMOETAS.

At me an apple Galatea threw,
 Then to the willows, wily girl, withdrew ;
 Yet as with hasty steps she skimm'd the green,
 With'd, ere she gain'd the willows, to be seen.

85

MENALCAS.

But unsolicited Amyntas burns
 For me, spontaneously my love returns ;
 Unask'd the boy prevents each soft request,
 Nor by my dogs is Delia more carefs'd.

90

DAMOETAS.

To the dear Venus of my love-sick mind,
 Her swain a welcome present has design'd.
 I mark'd the bough where two fond turtles coo'd,
 And her's shall be the nest, and feathery brood.

95

MENALCAS.

Amid the woodland wilds a tree I found,
 Its plenteous boughs with golden apples crown'd ;
 Then, all I could, to my dear youth I sent,
 And mean ten more to-morrow to present.

100

DAMOETAS.

How oft with words so musically mild,
 Has Galatea every sense beguil'd !
 Some part, at least, to heav'n, ye breezes, bear,
 Nor let such words be lost in common air.

MENALCAS.

Quid prodest, *quod me ipse animo non spernis, Amynta;*
Si, dum tu *sectaris apros, ego setia seruo?* 75

DAMORTAS.

Phyllida mitte mihi: *meus est natalis, Iola;*
Cum faciam vitula pro frugibus, ipse venito.

MENALCAS.

Phyllida amo ante alias; *nam me discedere flevit:*
Et, longum formose *vale, vale, inquit, Iola.*

DAMORTAS.

Triste lupus stabulis, *maturis frugibus imbres,* 80
Arboribus venti; nobis Amaryllidis irac.

MENALCAS.

Dulce fatis *humos, depulsis arbutus haedis,*
Lenta falix. *facto pecori; mihi solus Amyntas.*

DAMORTAS.

Pollio amat nostram, *quamvis est rustica, Musam:*
Pierides, vitulam *lectoris pascite vestro.* 85

MENALCAS.

Pollio et ipse facit *nova carmina. pascite taurum,*
Jam cornu petat, ac pedibus qui spargat arenam.

DAMORTAS.

Qui te, Pollio, amat, *veniat, quo te quoque gaudet.*

107. *The bear at bay.*] Orig. *Si, dum tu sectaris apros, ego setia seruo?* "What signifies your love to me, if you will not let me shew mine to you by sharing your dangers?"—For all the danger was in hunting the wild beasts; none in watching the nets. RUAELUS and TRAPP.

133. *Phyllis o'er every other nymph.*] The original is, *et longum formose, vale*—*Iola!* The vocative case *Iola* does not agree with *formose*, but is to be construed at the beginning of the couplet: *O Iolas, I love Phyllis above other women, for she wept when I parted from her, and cried, O fair shepherd [Menalcas] farewell, &c.*

121. *Vernal showers.*] La Cerda thinks the shepherds are equal in these couplets: but Catrou, according to custom, affirms that Menalcas has the advantage. "The images," says he, "which Menalcas here presents to the mind, are more agreeable than those of his adversary. A wolf, unseasonable rains,

MENALCAS.

In vain, Amyntas, you prétend in vain 105
 To love; you treat me with unkind disdain,
 If while you hold the bristly boar at bay,
 I keep the nets, nor share the dangerous day.

DAMOETAS.

Bid Phillis haste t'improve the genial mirth
 Of this the day that gave her shepherd birth; 110
 And when my heifer bleeds at Ceres' feast,
 Iolas, come thyself, and be a welcome guest!

MENALCAS.

Phyllis o'er every other nymph I prize,
 Oh! how she took her leave with weeping eyes!
 And as I went, "Dear shepherd," oft she cry'd, 115
 And many a long adieu thro' the deep vales she sigh'd.

DAMOETAS.

The wolf is fatal to the folded sheep;
 With fatal force o'er trees loud tempests sweep;
 Fatal the rushing show'rs to ripening corn:
 To me more fatal Amaryllis' scorn! 120

MENALCAS.

Sweet are the vernal show'rs to swelling feed;
 The show'ry arbuté to the weanling kid;
 The tender willows to the teeming herd:
 By me o'er all Amyntas is preferr'd.

DAMOETAS.

Pollio approves, though rough, my rural reed; 125
 Muses, an heifer for your patron feed!

MENALCAS.

Since Pollio deigns to build the lofty strain;
 Feed him a bull that butting spurns the plain.

DAMOETAS.

Let him who loves a Pollio's sacred name
 Gain what he loves, and share a Pollio's fame: 130

"and tempestuous winds, are the ornament of Damoetas's dis-
 course. In that of Menalcas, we have favourable rains, and
 an agreeable nourishment to the flocks."

Mella fluant illi, ferat et rubus asper amomum.

MENALCAS.

Qui Bavium non odit, amet tua carmina, Maevi : 98
Atque idem jungat volpes, et mulgeat hircos.

DAMOETAS.

Qui legitis flores, et humi nascentia fraga,
Frigidus, ô pueri, fugite hinc, latet anguis in herba.

MENALCAS.

Parcite oves nimium procedere : non bene ripae
Creditur. ipse aries etiam nunc vellera ficeat. 99

DAMOETAS.

Tityre, pascentis à flumine reice capellas :
Ipse, ubi tempus erit, omnis in fonte lavabo.

MENALCAS.

Cogite ovis, pueri : si lac praeceperit aestus,
Ut nuper, frustra prestabimus ubera palmis.

DAMOETAS.

Eheu, quam pingui macer est mihi taurus in ervo ! 100
Idem amor exitium pecori est, pecorisque magistro.

MENALCAS.

His certe neque amor caussa est : vix offibus haerent.
Nescio quis teneros oculus mihi fascinat agnos.

DAMOETAS.

Dic, quibus in terris, et eris mihi magnus Apollo,
Tris pateat coeli spatium non amplius ulnas. 101

MENALCAS.

Dic, quibus in terris inscripti nomina regum
Nascantur flores : et Phyllida solus habeto.

139. *Græce not.*] Catrou understands this couplet as an allegory, implying a caution to avoid being surprized by dangerous inclinations. This seems a strained and forced interpretation.

148. *What magic eye.*] The notion of an evil eye, still prevails among the ignorant vulgar. Lord Bacon speaks of the power of the glances of an envious eye. See an *account of fascination* in CHAMBERS'S *Dictionary*.

151. *Tell this.*] Catrou and Dr. Trapp are for the *well and the oven*, as the most simple and suitable to a shepherd's understanding. But Dr. Martyn proposes a new interpretation, and thinks the shepherd may mean a celestial globe or sphere.

For him let golden streams of honey flow,
And fragrant spices breathe from every bough.

MENALCAS.

Is there a swain that hates not Bavius' lays?
Be it his curse vile Maevius' verse to praise:
The same degree of madness might provoke
To milk male goats, or stubborn foxes yoke. 135

DAMOETAS.

Ye boys that gather flow'rs and strawberries,
Lo! hid within the grass a serpent lies!

MENALCAS.

Graze not, my sheep, too near the faithless bank,
Scarce yet the ram has dry'd his fleeces dank. 140

DAMOETAS.

Tityrus, thy kids too near the river stray,
Myself will wash them all some fitter day.

MENALCAS.

Boys, fold your sheep, 'tis vain to press the teat,
When all the milk, as erst, is dry'd with heat.

DAMOETAS.

How lean my bull on yonder clover'd plain!
Love wastes alike the cattle and the swain. 145

MENALCAS.

Some heavier plague has made these lambs so lean,
What magic eye my tender brood has seen!

DAMOETAS.

Tell me the place, where heaven's contracted bound
Appears to view but three short ells around? 150
Tell this, and thou my god of verse shalt shine.

MENALCAS.

Tell this, and lovely Phillis shall be thine:
O tell in what delightful region springs
The flow'r that bears inscrib'd the names of kings,

154. *Of kings.*] The flower here meant is the hyacinth, which as it is said to spring from the blood of Ajax, was mark'd AI.

PALAEMON.

Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere litis :
 Et vitula tu dignus, et hic : et quisquis amores
 Aut metuet dulcis, aut experietur amarus. 110
 Claudite jam rivos, pueri. sat prata biberunt.

159. *The Streams.*] *Claudite jam rivos*, is an allegorical expression, taken from a river's refreshing the meadows, and applied to music and poetry delighting the ears, the fancy, and the judgment.

Ecl. 3. THE ECLOGUES OF VIRGIL, III

PALAEEMON.

Which to prefer perplexing doubts arise: 155

Neither have won, but both deserv'd the prize;

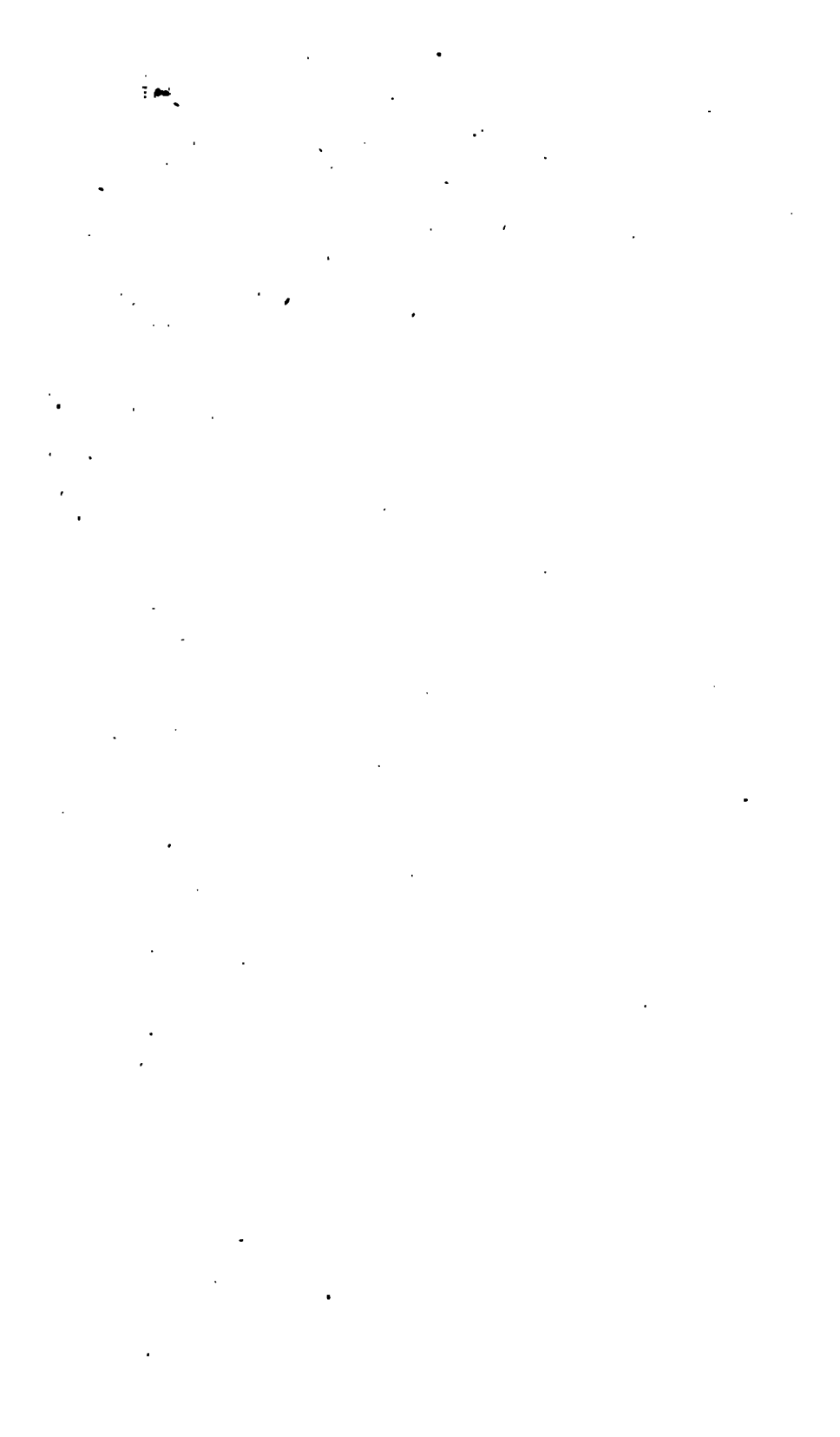
And all deserve alike, whose song can prove,

Like yours, how much they fear'd or hop'd in love.

'Tis time to cease, my boys: the streams restrain,

Enough the floods have drench'd the thirsty plain. 160

END OF THE THIRD ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE FOURTH.

A R G U M E N T.

Catrou seems to be the first commentator that has given any thing like a rational interpretation of the subject of this famous Eclogue. His words are as follows, viz. In the year of Rome 714, says he, when Asinius Pollio and Domitius Calvinus were consuls, the people of Rome compelled the triumvirs Octavian and Anthony to make a durable peace between them. It was hoped, that thereby an end would be put to the war with Sextus Pompey, who had made himself master of Sicily, and by the interruption of commerce, had caused a famine in Rome. To make this peace the more firm, they would have Anthony, whose wife Fulvia was then dead, to marry Octavian Caesar's sister Octavia, who had lately lost her husband Marcellus, and was then big with a child, of which she was delivered after her marriage with Anthony. This child retained the name of his own father Marcellus, and as long as he lived was the delight of his uncle Octavian, and the hope of the Roman people. It is he that is the subject of this Eclogue. Virgil addresses it to Pollio, who was at that time consul, and thereby makes a compliment to Caesar, Anthony, Octavia, and Pollio, all at once. The Marcellus, whose birth is here celebrated, is the same whose death is lamented by Virgil in the sixth Aeneid. The poet borrows what was predicted by the Cumaean Sybil concerning Jesus Christ, and applies it to this child.

E C L O G A IV.

P O L L I O.

Sicelides Musæ, paullo majora canamus.
 Non omnes arbuta juvant, humilesque myricæ.
 Si canimus silvas, silvæ sint Consule dignæ.
 Ultima Cumaci venit jam carminis ætas :
 Magnus ab integro sæclorum nascitur ordo. 5
 Jam redit et Virgo, redeunt Saturnia regna :
 Jam nova progenies coelo demittitur alto.
 Tu modo nascenti puero, quo ferrea primum
 Definet, ac toto surget gens aurea mundo,
 Casta fave Lucina : tuus jam regnat Apollo. 10
 Teque adeo decus hoc ævi, te Consule, inibit,
 Pollio : et incipient magni procedere menses.
 Te duce, si qua manent sceleris vestigia nostri,
 Inrita perpetua solvent formidine terras.
 Ille deûm vitam accipiet, divisque videbit 15
 Permixtos heroas, et ipse videbitur illis :
 Pacatumque reget patriis virtutibus orbem.
 Ac tibi prima, puer, nullo munuscula cultu,
 Errantis ederas passim cum baccare tellus,

Ver. 21. *For thee, O child.*] 'Tis impossible to forbear observing the great similitude of this passage, and that famous one of Isaiah :

“ The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for
 “ them : and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose,
 “ chap. xxxv. ver. 1. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto
 “ thee, the fir-tree, the pine-tree, and the box together,
 “ chap. xi. ver. 13. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
 “ and the leopard lie down with the kid : and the calf, and
 “ the young lion, and the fatling together, and a little child
 “ shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed,
 “ their young ones shall lie down together : and the lion shall
 “ eat

ECLOGUE THE FOURTH.

On the Birth of MARCELLUS.

To POLLIO.

GIVE me, Sicilian maids, sublimer strains,
 All love not lowly shrubs and rural plains :
 Or if ye choose to sing the shady grove,
 Make your theme worthy a great consul's love.
 The years approach, by Sybils sage foretold, 5
 Again by circling time in order roll'd !
 Astrea comes, old Saturn's holy reign,
 Peace, virtue, justice, now return again !
 See a new progeny from heav'n descend !
 Lucina hear ! th' important birth befriend ! 10
 The golden age this infant shall restore,
 Thy Phoebus reigns—and vice shall be no more.
 The months begin, the babe's auspicious face,
 Pollio, thy glorious consulship shall grace ;
 What footsteps of our ancient crimes remain 15
 For ever shall be banish'd in thy reign.
 He shall enjoy the life divine, and see
 The gods and heroes of eternity ;
 The jarring world in lasting peace shall bind,
 And with his father's virtues rule mankind. 20
 For thee, O child, spontaneous earth shall pour
 Green ivy, mix'd with ev'ry choicest flow'r :

“ eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play
 “ upon the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put
 “ his hand on the adder's den, chap. xi. ver. 6, 7, 8.”

How much inferior is Virgil's poetry to Isaiah's ! The former has nothing comparable to these beautiful strokes ; “ that
 “ a little child shall lead the lion ;—that the very trees of
 “ the forest shall come to pay adoration.”—Virgil says only

Mixtaque ridenti colocasia fundet acantho. 20
 Ipsæ lacte domum referent distenta capellæ
 Ubra : nec magnos metuent armenta leonēs.
 Ipsa tibi blandos fundent cunabula flores.
 Occidet et serpens, et fallax herba veneni
 Occidet : Assyrium vulgo nascetur amomum. 25
 Ac simul heroum laudes et facta parentis
 Jam legere, et quæ sit poteris cognoscere virtus :
 Molli paullatim flavescet campus arista,
 Incultisque rubens pendebit sentibus uva :
 Et duræ quercus sudabunt roscida mella. 30
 Pauca tamen suberunt priscae vestigia fraudis,
 Quae tentare Thetin ratibus, quae cingere muris
 Oppida, quae jubeant telluri infindere sulcos.
 Alter erit tum Tiphys, et altera quae vehat Argo
 Delectos heroes : erunt etiam altera bella ; 35
 Atque iterum ad Troiam magnus mittetur Achilles.
 Hinc, ubi jam firmata virum te fecerit ætas,
 Cedet et ipse mari vector ; nec nautica pinus
 Mutabit merces : omnis feret omnia tellus.
 Non rastros patietur humus, non vinea falcem : 40
 Robustus quoque jam tauris juga solvet arator.
 Nec varios discet mentiri lana colores.
 Ipse sed in pratis aries jam suave rubenti
 Murice, jam croceo mutabit vellera luto.

only *occidet et serpens* ; Isaiah adds a circumstance inimitably picturesque, that the sucking child shall play upon the hole of the asp ; and that the weaned child, a little older and beginning to make use of its hands, shall put his fingers on the adder's den. There are certain critics who would never cease to admire these circumstances and strokes of nature, if they had not the ill fortune to be placed in the Bible.

33. *Harvests.*] The ancients used to sow bearded or prickly wheat, which deterred the birds from picking the ears. The epithet *molli* may therefore imply, that the corn shall no longer stand in need of this fortification, this pallisade, this *vallum aristarum* as Cicero calls it, to defend it from injuries, but shall

Each field shall breathe Assyria's rich perfume,
 And sweets ambrosial round thy cradle bloom :
 With milk o'ercharg'd the goats shall homeward speed, 25
 And herds secure from mighty lions feed.
 The baleful asp and speckled snake shall die,
 Nor pois'nous herb 'mid flow'rs conceal'd shall lie.
 But when his matchless father's deeds divine,
 And how in virtue's arduous paths to shine, 30
 Warm'd with old heroes' fame, the youth shall know,
 Then clustering grapes on forest-thorns shall glow ;
 Swains without culture golden harvests reap,
 And knotted oaks shall showers of honey weep.
 Yet of old crimes some footsteps shall remain, 35
 The glebe be plough'd, ships tempt the dang'rous main ;
 'Round cities bulwarks rise, and massy tow'rs,
 And other Argo's bear the chosen pow'rs ;
 New wars the bleeding nations shall destroy,
 And great Achilles find a second Troy. 40
 Last, when he reaches manhood's prime complete,
 The sailor shall forsake the useless fleet ;
 No freighted ship shall wander ocean 'round,
 With ev'ry fruit shall ev'ry clime be crown'd :
 No lands shall feel the rake, nor vine the hook, 45
 The swain from toil his bullocks shall unyoke :
 No wool shall glow with alien colours gay,
 The ram himself rich fleeces shall display

shall spring up spontaneously, and grow ripe with soft and tender beards.

38. *Argo's.*] By navigation and commerce Virgil means that avarice, and by wars, that ambition shall still subsist.

CATROU.

39. *Wars.*] A bloody war at last reduced Sextus Pompey to quit Sicily, and meet his death in Asia by Anthony. The conjuncture of affairs, the preparations made by Octavian, and above all, the dispositions of men's minds, gave room for the prediction of the poet.

CATROU.

Sponte sua sandyx pascentis, vestiet agnos. 43
 Talia saecula, suis dixerunt, currite, fulis
 Concordes stabili fatorum numine Parcae.
 Adgredere ô magnos (aderit jam tempus) honores,
 Cara deûm suboles, magnum Jovis incrementum.
 Aspice convexo nutantem pondere mundum, 50
 Terrasque, tractusque maris, coelumque profundum :
 Aspice, venturo laetantur ut omnia saeculo.
 O mihi tum longae maneat pars ultima vitae,
 Spiritus et quantum sat erit tua dicere facta !
 Non me carminibus vincet nec Thracius Orpheus, 55
 Nec Linus : huic mater quamvis, atque huic pater adsit,
 Orphi Calliopea, Lino formosus Apollo.
 Pan etiam Arcadia mecum si iudice certet,
 Pan etiam Arcadia dicat se iudice victum.
 Incipe, parve puer, risu cognoscere matrem : 60

49. *Purple.*] Murex was a shell-fish set about with spikes, from whence the Tyrian colour was obtained. *Lutum* is that herb, says Dr. Martyn, which our English writers of botany describe under the name of Luteola, wild woad, and dyer's weed. It is used in dying yellow both wool and silk.

50. *Sandyx.*] Servius and La Cerda affirm the sandyx to be an herb, which is a great mistake. Sandyx is spoken of by Pliny, as a cheap material for painting. The true sandaracha, says Dr. Martyn, which seems to be our native red arsenic, was said to come from an island in the Red Sea.

54. *O progeny of Jove.*] Would it have been proper to bestow these illustrious appellations on a son of Pollio? Surely Virgil does not here pour them forth without reason. But what young prince could at that time deserve to be called the child of the gods, and the illustrious offspring of Jupiter? Without doubt it must have been one of the family of the Caesars! And did there at that time come into the world any child of the family of the Caesars, except young Marcellus? Tiberius was not yet entered into the house of Octavian by his mother, and Drusus was not yet born. CATROU.

55. *Tottering nature.*] What is the meaning of *nutantem*? says the learned Dr. Trapp. With, or under what does it nod or stagger? With its guilt and misery, say some, and so wants

Of native purple and unborrow'd gold,
 And sandyx clothe with red the crowded fold. 50
 The Sisters to their spindles said—"Succeed,
 Ye happy years; for thus hath fate decreed!
 Assume thy state! thy destin'd honours prove,
 Dear to the gods! O progeny of Jove!
 Behold how tottering nature nods around, 55
 Earth, air, the wat'ry waste, and heav'n profound!
 At once they change—they wear a smiling face,
 And all with joy th' approaching age embrace!
 O that my life, my vigour may remain'
 To tell thy actions in heroic strain; 60
 Not Orpheus' self, not Linus should exceed
 My lofty lays, or gain the poet's need,
 Tho' Phoebus, tho' Calliope inspire,
 And one the mother aid, and one the fire.
 Should Pan contend, Arcadia's self should own 65
 That I from Pan himself had gain'd the crown.
 Begin, begin, O loveliest babe below!
 Thy mother by her tender smile to know!

to be succoured by this new-born hero. But that to others seems not to agree with the happiness which is ascribed even to the first division, and to the beginning of this happy age. And therefore they say, it either nods, i. e. moves and shakes itself with joy and exultation; which is pretty harsh to my apprehension; or, which is not much better, inclines and tends to another, i. e. a yet more happy state; *vergentem*, say they, *nutantemque in meliorem statum*. After all I like the first interpretation best. 'Twas good sense to say, the world at present labours with its guilt and misery: but yet rejoices at the very near prospect of the happy change, which is in a manner begun already.

68. *Thy mother by her tender smile.*] The commentators are divided in opinion, whether he means the smile of the child, or that of the mother. I choose the latter meaning, as it may be supported by the best reasons. See RUAÆUS, and ERYTHRAEUS.

Matri longa decem tulerunt fastidia menses.

Incipe, parve puer : cui non risere parentes,

Nec deus hunc mensa, dea nec dignata cubili est.

71. *Smile not.*] Those who understand this passage of the child, strain the verb *cognoscere*, to signify that the child should own, or acknowledge his mother, by smiling on her : but I do not find any instance of its having been used in that sense.

In the next line, the making of the last syllable but one short *tulerunt*, is a poetical licence not very unusual ; thus we read *steterunt et miscuerunt*, for *steterunt et miscuerunt* ; so that there is no occasion to read *tulerint*, as some have done without any good authority.

(Ten tedious months that mother bore for thee
 The sickness and the pains of pregnancy) 70
 For if thy parents smile not, 'tis decreed,
 No god shall grace thy board, no goddess bless thy bed.

72. *No god.*] The life of the gods or apotheosis (here promised by the poet) consisted of two particulars; the sitting at the table of Jupiter, and the marriage of some goddess; therefore the threats of Virgil amount to this—You shall not enjoy the life of the gods, because neither Jupiter will admit you to his table, nor any goddess to her bed. RUAERUS.

END OF THE FOURTH ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE FIFTH.

A R G U M E N T.

The subject of the following Eclogue is great, and the poet laboured his composition accordingly; it is no less than the death of Julius Caesar, and his deification. Many reasons may be given, why by Daphnis is not meant Saloninus, the pretended son of Pollio, nor Flaccus, Virgil's brother. This Eclogue must have greatly recommended our author to the favour of Augustus. Ruæus thinks it was written when some plays or sacrifices were celebrated in honour of Julius Caesar. The scene of it is not only beautiful in itself, but adapted to the solemnity of the subject; the shepherds sit and sing in the awful gloom of a grotto, which is overhung by wild vines.

E C L O G A V.

D A P H N I S.

MENALCAS, MOPSUS.

MENALCAS.

CUR non, Mopse, boni quoniam convenimus ambo,
 Tu calamos inflare levis, ego dicere versus,
 Hic corulis mixtas inter confidimus ulmos?

MOPSUS.

Tu major. tibi me est aequum parere, Menalca :
 Sive sub incertas Zephyris motantibus umbras,
 Sive antrò potius succedimus. aspice, ut antrum
 Silvestris raris sparfit labrusca racemis.

MENALCAS.

Montibus in nostris solus tibi certet Amyntas.

MOPSUS.

Quid si idem certet Phoebum superare canendo?

MENALCAS.

Incipe, Mopse, prior ; si quos aut Phyllidis ignes, 10
 Aut Alconis habes laudes, aut jurgia Codri.
 Incipe : pascentis fervabit Tityrus haedos.

MOPSUS.

Immo haec, in viridi nuper quae cortice fagi
 Carmina descripsi, et modulans alterna notavi,
 Experiar : tu deinde jubeto certet Amyntas. 15

Ver. 2. *SkilPd.*] *Boni discere & inflare*, in the orig. is a Grecism of which there are many in our author.

5. *Elder.*] Servius says, it may either mean, *major natu vel merito*. But the context seems to favour the first.

15. *Alcon—Codrus.*] Surely these subjects are not pastoral enough to be here mentioned by Menalcas.

18. *A beech's.*] *Cortice fagi*. It was the ancient custom of Italy

ECLOGUE THE FIFTH.

DAPHNIS.

MENALCAS and MOPSUS.

MENALCAS.

SINCE thus we meet, whom different fancies lead,
 I skill'd to sing, and you to touch the reed,
 Why sit we not beneath this woven shade,
 Which the broad elm with hazles mixt hath made?

MOPSUS.

Mine elder thou; 'tis just that I obey
 What you propose; whether you choose to stay
 Beneath the covert of the branching trees,
 Which shift their shadows to th' uncertain breeze,
 Or rather in yon' cooling grot recline,
 O'erhung with clusters of the flaunting vine.

MENALCAS.

Amyntas only can with you compare:

MOPSUS.

What if to sing with Phoebus' self he dare?

MENALCAS.

Begin thou first; whether fair Phillis' flame,
 Or Codrus' patriot quarrel be the theme;
 Or skilful Alcon's praises swell thy notes:
 Tityrus mean while shall tend thy feeding goats.

MOPSUS.

Rather I'll try those verses to repeat,
 Which on a beech's verdant bark I writ:
 I writ, and sung between: when these you hear,
 Judge if Amyntas' strains with mine compare.

Italy to write on the barks of trees, as it was in Egypt to write on the *Papyrus*, a sort of rush, from which the word Paper is derived.

MENALCAS.

Lenta salix quantum pallenti cedit olivæ,
 Puniceis humilis quantum saliunca rosetis :
 Judicio nostro tantum tibi cedit Amyntas.

MORSUS.

Sed tu desine plura, puer : successimus antro.
 Exstinctum nymphæ crudeli funere Daphnin 20
 Flebant : vos coruli testes, et flumina, nymphis :
 Cum, complexa sui corpus miserabile gnati,
 Atque deos atque astra vocat crudelia mater.
 Non ulli pastos illis egere diebus
 Frigida, Daphni, boves ad flumina : nulla neque amnem 25
 Libavit quadrupes, nec graminis attingit herbam.
 Daphni, tuum Poenos etiam ingemuisse leones
 Interitum, montesque feri silvæque loquuntur.
 Daphnis et Armenias currû subjungere tigris
 Instituit, Daphnis thiasos inducere Bacchi, 30
 Et foliis lentas intexere mollibus hastas.
 Vitis ut arboribus deceri est, ut vitibus uvæ,
 Ut gregibus tauri, segetes ut pinguibus arvis ;
 Tu decus omne tuis. postquam te fata tulerunt,
 Ipsa Pales agros, atque ipse reliquit Apollo. 35
 Grandia sæpe quibus mandavimus hordea fulcis,
 Infelix lolium, et steriles nascuntur avenæ.

22.] There is no English name for *saliunca* : it is either the *hardus Celtica*, or else entirely unknown. MARTYN.

27. *His sad mother.*] Dr. Martyn with great probability observes, that by the mother is meant Venus, and confirms his opinion by an almost parallel passage in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Book 15. Ovid there represents Venus to be terrified at the approach of Cæsar's death ; she discovers all the fears and tenderness of a mother, and considers the injury as offered to herself.

29. *No cattle,—no horse.*] This circumstance is remarkable, and may allude to a strange fact that happened, according to Suetonius's account, at Julius Cæsar's death ; He tells us, that the horses which this emperor consecrated when he passed the Rubicon, and had been turned wild ever since, were observed

MENALCAS.

When the weak willow with the olive vies,
 Or nard with the sweet-rose's crimson dies ;
 Then may Amyntas with thy matchless strain :

MOPUS.

Enough——for see ! the solemn grott we gain.
 Round Daphnis dead the nymphs in anguish mourn'd, 25
 Witnesses, ye woods and streams, for ye their plaints re-
 turn'd !

While his sad mother his cold limbs embrac'd,
 Heav'n and the gods accusing in her haste.
 No swain then drove his cattle to the flood ;
 No horse would taste the stream, or grassy food : 30
 Thee, desert rocks, thee vocal woods bemoan'd,
 For thee with dreadful grief, ev'n Lybian lions groan'd,
 Armenian tygers Daphnis taught to yoke,
 And whirl the car obedient to the stroke,
 To dance in frantic mood at Bacchus' feast, 35
 And shake the spear with tender foliage dress'd :
 As vines the trees, as grapes the vines adorn,
 Bulls grace the herds, and fields the golden corn,
 So Daphnis while he dwelt upon the plains,
 Shone with superior grace among the swains. 40
 Thee when the fates in vengeance snatch'd away,
 Pales nor Phoebus deign'd a longer stay ;
 In vain we sow ; the promis'd harvests fail ;
 While wretched lolium and wild oats prevail ;

served to abstain from their food, *peritiosissimè pabula abstinerè
 ubertimque fere.*

33. *Armenian tygers.*] Ruæus says, the solemnities of Bac-
 chus were in a manner restored and celebrated by Cæsar with
 greater magnificence than they had ever been before.

44. *Wretched lolium.*] Virgil here gives *lolium* the epithet of
infelix. It is of a malignant nature, and is so much the more
 dangerous from its not being easily to be distinguished from the
 corn among which it usually springs up. The ancients thought
 it bad for the eyes : *Mirum est lolio vititare te tam vili trunca.*
P. Quid

Pro molli viola, pro purpureo narcisso,
 Carduus, et spinis furgit paliurus acutis.
 Spargite humum foliis, inducite fontibus umbras, 40
 Pastores : mandat fieri sibi talia Daphnis.
 Et tumulum facite, et tumulo superaddite carmen :
 Daphnis ego in silvis, hinc usque ad sidera notus,
 Formosi pecoris custos, formosior ipse.

MENALCAS.

Tale tuum carmen nobis, divine poëta, 45
 Quale sopor fessis in gramine : quale per aestum
 Dulcis aquae saliente sitim restinguere rivo.
 Nec calamis solum equiparas, sed voce magistrum.
 Fortunata puer, tu nunc eris alter ab illo.
 Nos tamen haec quocunque modo tibi nostra vicissim 50
 Dicemus ; Daphninque tuum tollemus ad astra :
 Daphnin ad astra feremus. amavit nos quoque Daphnis.

MOPSUS.

An quidquam nobis tali sit munere majus ?
 Et puer ipse fuit cantari dignus : et ista
 Jam pridem Stimicon laudavit carmina nobis. 55

MENALCAS.

Candidus insuetum miratur limen Olympi,
 Sub pedibusque videt nubes et sidera Daphnis.
 Ergo alacris silvas, et cetera rura voluptas,
 Panaque, pastoresque tenet, Dryadasque puellas.
 Nec lupus insidias pecori, nec retia cervis 60

P. Quid jam ? S. Quia lasciviosus. P. Aedepol tu quidem caecus, non lasciviosus. Plaut. Mil. Glorios. Act. 2. Sc. 3.

Et careant lolii oculos vitiantibus agri.

OID. Fast. I. 690.

And the modern Italians have yet a worse notion of it : for they look upon it as the cause of the melancholy kind of madness ; and 'tis common with them to say of any such person, *A mangiato pane con loglio*, ' He has eat bread with lolium in it.'

HOLDSWORTH and SPENCE.

For violet soft, for purple daffodill, 45
 Brambles and prickly burrs the meadows fill.

With boughs the brooks o'er shade, ye rural train,
 With leaves and flowers bespread the verdant plain;
 Daphnis these rites did for himself ordain. }
 With grateful hands his monument erect, 50
 And be the stone with this inscription deck'd ;
 " I Daphnis here repose ; fam'd to the sky,
 " Fair was my flock, but fairer far was I !"

MENALCAS.

O bard divine ! as sweet thy tuneful lay,
 As slumber to tir'd swains on new-mown hay, 55
 Or as in summer's sultry drought to taste
 Cool streams that bubbling o'er the meadows haste.
 Thou ev'n with Pan deserv'st an equal meed,
 For skill to tune the voice or touch the reed.
 Blest youth ! who now shalt share that master's fame ; 60
 Yet will I strive th' alternate lays to frame :
 Bid Daphnis' praises to the stars ascend,
 For Daphnis lov'd ev'n me, his humble friend.

MOPSUS.

How can'st thou please me more ?—The youth thy praise
 Deserv'd, and Stimichon approves the lays. 65

MENALCAS.

Daphnis with wonder mounts to heav'n on high,
 Above the clouds, above the starry sky :
 Hence joy enchants the woods, and smiling plains,
 Pales and Pan, the Dryads, and the swains ;
 No more the prowling wolf the cattle fear, 70
 Nor secret toils deceive th' incautious deer ;

54. *O bard divine.*] The elegance and sweetness of these lines are not to be equalled by any thing, but the answer Mopsus makes to them afterwards in line 82 of the original.

Nam neque me tantum, &c.

Ulla dolum meditantur. amat bonus otia Daphnis.
 Ipsi laetitia voces ad sidera jactant
 Intonsi montes : ipsae jam carmina rupes,
 Ipsa sonant arbuta : Deus, deus ille, Menalca.
 Sis bonus, ô felixque tuis ! en quatuor aras : 65
 Ecce duas tibi, Daphni, duoque altaria Phocho.
 Pocula bina novo spumantia lacte quotannis,
 Craterasque duos statuat tibi pinguis olivi :
 Et multo in primis hilarans convivia baccho,
 Ante focum, si frigus erit, si messis, in umbra ; 70
 Vina novum fundam calathis Aruifia nectar.
 Cantabunt mihi Damoetas, et Lyctius Aegon :
 Saltantis Satyros imitabitur Alphefiboeus.
 Haec tibi semper erunt, et cum solennia vota
 Reddemus Nymphis, et cum lustrabimus agros. 75
 Dum jûga montis aper, fluvios dum piscis amabit,
 Dumque thymo pascentur apes, dum rore cicadae,
 Semper honos, nomenque tuum, laudesque manebunt.
 Ut Baccho Cererique, tibi sic vota quotannis
 Agricolae facient : damnabis tu quoque votis. 80

73. *Peace.*] This expression of *otia* seems more particularly to allude to the mercy and clemency of Caesar: virtues for which he was so much celebrated by Tully and other writers.

77. *A god, a god.*] This passage is very sublime, and bears a great resemblance to that of Isaiah (which probably Virgil might have read) "Break forth into singing, ye mountains, "O forest, and every tree therein." And this lofty language must confirm the opinion that Julius Caesar is meant, by Daphnis.

83. *Chios.*] Arvisium was a promontory of the island Chios, now Scios, from whence the finest of the Greek wines came.

91. *When the victims.*] This ceremony was called *Ambarvalia*. The sacred dances mentioned in the lines immediately preceding, were used by the ancients both Jews and heathens in religious ceremonies. An account of them may be seen in Dr. Delany's life of David, and in Lucian *αἱρεσι οὐρανίου*.

95. *So long.*] Aeneas addresses Dido in almost the same words: but observe that all the shepherd's ideas are taken from rural objects, whereas those of Aeneas are taken from philosophy. Such propriety doth Virgil ever observe in his sentiments.

The sylvan wars of cruel hunters cease,
 Daphnis the mild loves universal peace.
 The desert mountains into singing break,
 The forests and the fields in transport speak; 75
 The rocks proclaim the new divinity!
 A god, a god! the vocal hills reply.
 O hear thy worshippers! four altars see,
 For Phoebus two, and Daphnis, two for thee!
 Two jars of fattest oil, each rolling year, 80
 Two bowls of frothing milk to thee I'll bear;
 The ritual feast shall overflow with wine,
 And Chios' richest nectar shall be thine;
 On the warm hearth in winter's chilling hour
 We'll sacrifice; a summer in a bow'r; 85
 Alphefiboëus tripping shall advance,
 And mimic satyrs in the festal dance;
 Damoetas there and skilful Aegon sing;
 And constantly our off'rings will we bring,
 Both to the nymphs when sacred rites are paid, 90
 And when the victims round the fields are led:
 While the cicada sips the dew, while thyme
 The bees shall suck, while boars the mountains climb,
 While fishes wanton in the wat'ry waste,
 So long thy honour, name and praise shall last. 95
 Those holy vows which on a solemn day,
 At Bacchus' and at Ceres' shrine we pay,
 Daphnis to thee shall rise each circling year:
 Thou too shalt be invok'd and hear our pray'r!

99. *Thou—hear our prayer.*] RUAËUS has well explained this passage: He who makes a vow desires something from God, and promises something to him at the same time. If God grants his request, then he, who makes the vow, is in a manner judged, and obliged to perform his promise. Thus God is said *damnare votis* or *voti*, when he grants the request, and so obliges the person to perform what he had promised.

MOPSUS.

Quae tibi, quae tali reddam pro carmine dona ?
 Nam neque me tantum venientis sibilus austru,
 Nec percussa juvant fluctu tam litora, nec quae
 Saxofas inter decurrunt flumina valles.

MENALCAS.

Hac te nos fragili donabimus ante cicuta, 85
 Haec nos, Formosum Corydon ardebat Alexin :
 Haec eadem docuit, Cujum pecus ? An Meliboei ?

MOPSUS.

Ac tu fume pedum, quod, me cum saepe rogaret,
 Non tulit Antigenes, (et erat tum dignus amari)
 Formosum paribus nodis atque aere, Menalca. 90

109. *The same, &c.*] 'Tis inferred from this passage that Virgil certainly means himself under the name of Menalcas ; and likewise, that by his mentioning only the subjects of the Palaemon and the Alexis, and not a syllable of the Tityrus, that all these three Eclogues were written before the Tityrus ; notwithstanding that Eclogue, usually, but erroneously, is placed first in all editions. It is not improbable, that the Alexis was published before the death of Julius Caesar, who might read and admire it.

MOPSUS.

What thanks, what recompence, can my weak lay 100

For such exalted strains as thine repay?

Not from fresh whispers of the southern breeze,

Nor gentle dashings of the calmest seas,

Nor from the murmuring rills, such joys I feel,

That gliding down the pebbly vallies steal! 105

MENALCAS.

But first receive this slender pipe, the same

That told poor Corydon's unpitied flame,

Who vainly sought Alexis' heart to move :

The same with which Damoetas fondly strove.

MOPSUS.

And thou, Menalcas, take this well-form'd crook, 110

With polish'd joints adorn'd and brazen hook ;

Which ev'n Antigenes could ne'er obtain

Tho' worthy to be lov'd, a beauteous swain.

END OF THE FIFTH ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE SIXTH.

A R G U M E N T.

This piece is perhaps one of the most beautiful of all the ten Eclogues. Virgil addresses it to Varus his friend and fellow student under the celebrated Syro an Epicurean philosopher. Two shepherds are introduced, who seize Silenus sleeping in a grotto, and compel him, with the assistance of a water nymph, to entertain them with a song he had often promised them. The god immediately begins to give them an account of the formation of things, and lays before them the system of Epicurus's philosophy both natural and moral; which last circumstance was never thought of or understood by any one translator or commentator before Castrou. After Silenus has told them how the world was made according to the doctrine of Epicurus, his adjungit Hylam; that is, say the critics, he recounted the most famous ancient fables, and some surprizing transformations that had happened in the world. How absurd and unlike the regularity and exactness of Virgil! The meaning seems to be,—that after Silenus had done with the natural, he entered upon the moral philosophy of Epicurus: which consisted in teaching men to avoid all outrageous passions and violent perturbations of mind. This was the reason that he sung to them the immoderate grief of Hercules for the boy Hylas, the brutal lust of Pasiphaë, the vanity of the Praetides, the avarice of Atalanta, and the immoderate grief of the sisters of Phaëton. All which the Epicureans condemned as enemies to that quiet and soft repose which the esteemed the perfection of virtue and happiness.

E C C L O G A VI.

S I L E N U S.

Faunorum, Satyrorum et Silvanorum, Delectatio.

P R I M A Syracosio dignata est ludere versu,
 Nostra, neque erubuit silvas habitare, Thalia.
 Cum canerem reges et praelia, Cynthus aurem
 Vellit, et admonuit: Pastorem, Tityre, pinguis
 Pascere oportet ovis, deductum dicere carmen. 9
 Nunc ego (namque super tibi erunt, qui dicere laudes,
 Vare, tuas cupiant, ac tristia condere bella)
 Agrestem tenui meditabor arundine musam.
 Non injussa cano. si quis tamen haec quoque, si quis
 Captus amore leget; te nostrae, Vare, myricae, 10
 Te nemus omne canet. nec Phoebus gratior ulla est,
 Quam sibi quae Vari praescripsit pagina nomen.
 Pergite, Pierides. Chromis et Mnasylos in antro
 Silenum pueri somno videre jacentem,
 Inflatum hesternis venas, ut semper, iaccho. 15
 Serta procul tantum capiti delapsa jacebant;
 Et gravis adtrita pendebat cantharus ansa.
 Adgressi (nam saepe senex spe carminis ambo
 Luserat) injiciunt ipsis ex vincula fertis.
 Addit se sociam, timidisque supervenit Aegle: 20
 Aegle Naiadum pulcherrima. jamque videnti

Ver. 3. *Chiefs.*] This alludes to Virgil's attempt to write an historical poem on the actions of the Alban kings.

6. *Humbler.*] The word *deductum* in the original is a metaphor taken from wool, which by spinning is made smaller and smaller. *Tenui deducta poemata filo.* Hor. RUAEUS.

21. *Gablet.*] Cantharus was a cup sacred to the use of Bacchus, and not used by mortals.

22.] The commentators are equally divided about the true meaning of *procul tantum*, which undoubtedly signify *near* or *just by*; *tantum procul*, is barely *at a distance*.

ECLOGUE THE SIXTH.

S I L E N U S.

On the Epicurean Philosophy natural and moral.

MY Muse first sported in Sicilian strains,
 Nor blush'd to dwell amid' the woods and plains;
 When chiefs and fields of fight to sing I try'd,
 Apollo whisp'ring check'd my youthful pride;
 Go, Tit'rus, go, thy flocks and fatlings feed, 5
 To humbler subjects suit thy rustic reed;
 Thus warn'd, O Varus, in heroic lays,
 While bards sublime resound thy martial praise,
 I meditate the rural minstrelsy;
 Apollo bids, and I will sing of thee. 10
 Pleas'd with the subject, with indulgent eyes
 If any read, and this, ev'n this should prize,
 Thy name shall echo thro' each hill and grove,
 And Phoebus' self the votive strains approve;
 No page so much delights the god of verse, 15
 As where the lines great Varus' praise rehearse.
 Stretch'd in a cavern on the mossy ground,
 Two sportive youths Silenus sleeping found,
 With copious wine o'ercome; his flowery wreath
 Just from his temples fall'n, lay strewn beneath; 20
 His massy goblet drain'd of potent juice
 Was hanging by, worn thin with age and use;
 They bind him fast (tho' cautious and afraid)
 With manacles of his own garlands made;
 For oft the senior had deceiv'd the swains 25
 With hopes (for well he sung) of pleasing strains:
 Young Aegle too to join the frolic came,
 The loveliest Naid of the neighb'ring stream;

Sanguineis frontem moris ac tempora pingit.
 Ille dolum ridens, Quo vincula nectitis? inquit.
 Solvite me, pueri. Iatis est potuisse videri.
 Carmina quae voltis, cognoscite: carmina vobis; 25
 Huic aliud mercedis erit. simul intipit ipse.
 Tum vero in numerum Faunosque ferasque videres
 Ludere, tutti rigidas motare cacumina quercus.
 Nec tantum Phoëbo gaudet Parnasia rupes:
 Nec tantum Rhodope mirantur et Ilmarus Orphea. 30
 Namque canebat, uti magnum per inane coacta
 Semina terrarumque, animaeque, marisque fuissent,
 Et liquidi simul ignis: ut his exordia primis
 Omnia, et ipse tener mundi concreverit orbis.
 Tum durare solum, et discludere Nerea ponto 35
 Coeperit, et rerum paullatim fumere formas.
 Jamque stovunt ut terrae stupeant lucefcere solem,
 Altius utque cadant submotis nubibus imbres:
 Incipiant silvae cum primum furgere, cumque
 Rara per ignotos errent animalia montis. 40
 Hinc lapides Pyrrhae jactos, Saturnia regna,
 Caucasiasque refert volucres, furtumque Promethi.

29.] That is, just as Silenus began to open his eyes: *videtur Sileno.*

32. *Enough.*] Servius tells us the demi-gods were visible only when they thought proper.

44. *How seeds of water.*] This is the system of the atomical philosophers; though it is certain Epicurus was not the inventor of this doctrine, but received it from Democritus. These philosophers held, that there were two principles of all things, body, and void; or, as the moderns speak, matter, and space; and that by a fortuitous concurrence of these atoms, or particles of matter, the universe was formed without the assistance of a directing Mind.

47. *Moss.*] The earth, by growing compact and solid, forced the waters to retire from it, and to form the seas. Thus the sea was separated or distinguished, which is the proper meaning of *discludere*.
 MARTYN.

50. *Struck with the new-born sun's.*] This circumstance of the earth's being amazed at the first appearance of the sun, is strongly imagined; yet has been omitted by several translators.

Who, as the god uplifts his drowzy eyes,
 With berries' purple juice his temples dies. 30
 Pleas'd with the fraud—"Unloose me, boys," he cry'd,
 "Enough, that by surprize I've been espy'd.
 "Attend, ye youths, and hear the promis'd lay,
 "But Aegle shall be paid a better way."
 Soon as he rais'd his voice, the list'ning fauns, 35
 And wondering beasts came dancing down the lawns;
 The hills exulted, and each rigid oak,
 High-seated on their tops, in transport shook;
 Parnassus' cliffs did ne'er so much rejoice,
 At the sweet echoes of Apollo's voice; 40
 Nor Rhodope nor Ismarus that heard
 The magic warblings of the Thracian bard.
 He sung, at universal nature's birth,
 How seeds of water, fire, and air, and earth,
 Fell thro' the void; whence order rose, and all 45
 The beauties of this congregated ball:
 How the moist soil grew stiffen'd by degrees,
 And drove to destin'd bounds the narrow'd seas;
 How Earth was seiz'd with wonder and affright,
 Struck with the new-born sun's refulgent light. 50
 How clouds condens'd, in liquid showers distill'd,
 Dropt fatness and refreshment on the field;
 How first up-springs sublime each branching grove,
 While scatter'd beasts o'er pathless mountains rove.
 Next to the world's renewal turns the strain, 55
 To Pyrrha's fruitful stones, and Saturn's reign;
 And bold Prometheus' theft and punishment,
 His mangled heart by angry vultures rent.

58. *His mangled heart by hungry vultures rent.*] This tale has been prettily allegorized. It is an ingenious but cruel story which the poets have contrived to express the train of cares brought into life by Prometheus or Forefight: The chains which fastened him to the rock, and the insatiable vulture that rends his vitals every morning.

His adjungit, Hylan nautae quo fonte relictum
 Clamassent: ut litus, Hyla, Hyla, omne sonaret.
 Et fortunatam, si nunquam armenta fuissent, 45
 Pasiphaën nivei solatur amore juveni.
 Ah, virgo infelix, quae te dementia cepit?
 Proetides inplerunt falsis mugitibus agros:
 At non tam turpis pecudum tamen ulla secuta est
 Concubitus, quamvis collo timuisset aratrum, 50
 Et saepe in levi quaesisset cornua fronte.
 Ah! virgo infelix, tu nunc in montibus erras!
 Ille, latus niveum molli fultus hyacintho,
 Hic sub nigra pallentis ruminat herbas,
 Aut aliquam in magno sequitur grege. claudite nymphae,
 Dictaeae, nymphae, nemorum jam claudite saltus: 56
 Si qua forte ferant oculis sese obvia nostris
 Errabunda bovis vestigia. forsitan illum
 Aut herba captum viridi, aut armenta secutum,
 Perducant aliquae stabula ad Gortynia vaccae. 60
 Tum canit Hesperidum miratam mala puellam;
 Tum Phaëthontidas musco circumdat amarae
 Corticis, atque solo proceras erigit alnos.

62. *And Hylas.*] Hylas, the favourite of Hercules, falling into a well, was said to be snatched away by the nymphs. Pasiphaë, the wife of Minos king of Crete, was said to have had an unnatural passion for a bull. The daughters of Proetes, king of the Argives, being struck with madness by Juno, imagined themselves to be cows.

63. *Cretan queen.*] The medals of the people of this town are marked with a cow or bull. Lord Pembroke's medals, 2, 34, 8. Quære, whether they had any sacred cattle of that kind kept there? or, whether the woman riding on it be not Pasiphaë? Gortyna was a city of Crete. SPENCE.

67. At this verse, *Proetides inplerunt*, &c. begins the famous manuscript of Virgil in the Lorenzo library; authorized by one of the consuls, and dated by him in the 5th century. SPENCE.

73. *Side reclines.*] In the original *fultus hyacintho*. Among the ancients every one was said to be *fultus* by whatsoever he rested upon. Thus we read *Palvino fultus in Lucilius*. Servius. The Rumen or Paunch is the first of the four stomachs of those animals which are said to ruminate or chew the cud.

75. *Nymphs.*] In the original *claudite nymphae*.—Here Pasiphaë is introduced speaking to the nymphs.

To these he adds, how blooming Hylas fell,
 Snatch'd by the Nāids of the neighb'ring well, 60
 Whom pierc'd with love, Alcides loudly mourn'd,
 And Hylas, Hylas lost, each echoing shore return'd.
 Then, he bewail'd the love-sick Cretan queen;
 Happy for her if herds had never been;
 Enamour'd of a bull's unspotted pride, 65
 Forsaking shame, for him she pin'd and sigh'd.
 The Proetian maids whose lowings fill'd the plain,
 Ne'er knew the guilt of thy unnat'ral pain;
 Tho' fearful oft their necks should bear the plough,
 They felt in vain for horns their polish'd brow. 70
 Ah! wretched queen! while you o'er mountains rove,
 Near some dark oak regardless of your love,
 He, on soft hyacinths his side reclines,
 Or for some happier heifer fondly pines.
 " Dictean nymphs! with toils your woods surround, 75
 " Search where my favourite's footsteps may be found,
 " Haply the herds my wanderer may lead,
 " To fresher grafs on rich Gortyna's mead,
 " Or far away, while I such pains endure,
 " The wanton heifers may my love allure!" 80
 Next told, the nimble-footed, cruel maid,
 By the false apple's glittering shew betray'd;
 The nymphs who their ambitious brother mourn'd,
 He next inclos'd in bark, and to tall poplars turn'd.

81.] Hippomanes being engaged in a race with Atalanta, in order to obtain her in marriage, threw down a golden apple whenever she gained ground upon him; which the stooping to gather up, Hippomanes had an opportunity of getting before her, and of consequence of obtaining the lovely prize. The sisters of Phaeton consumed themselves with weeping for his death, and were transformed into trees. Phaeton rashly attempting to drive the chariot of the sun, would have set fire to the earth if Jupiter had not struck him down with a thunder-bolt.

84. *Inclos'd.*] I have ventured to translate literally *circumdat*, because it is very lively. He did not now sing *how* they were inclosed with moss, but *he* inclosed them.

Tum canit, errantem Permeffi ad flumina Gallum
 Aonas in montis ut duxerit una. fororum ; 65
 Utque viro Phoebi chorus adfurrexerit omnis ;
 Ut Linus haec illi divino carmine pastor,
 Floribus atque apio crisiis ornatus amaro,
 Dixerit, Hos tibi dant calamos (en accipe) Musae,
 Ascraeo quos ante seni : quibus ille solebat 70
 Cantando rigidas deducere montibus ornos,
 His tibi Grynæi nemoris dicatur origo :
 Ne qui fit lucus, quo se plus jactet Apollo.
 Quid loquar ut Scyllam Nisi, aut quam fama secuta est,
 Candida succinctam latrantibus inguina monstria 75
 Dulichias vexasse rates, et gurgite in alto
 Ah timidos nautas canibus lacerasse marinis :
 Aut ut mutatos Teri narraverit artus ?
 Quas ille Philomela dapes, quae dona paravit ?
 Quo cursu deserta petiverit, et quibus ante 80
 Infelix sua tecta supervolitaverit alis ?
 Omnia quae, Phoebæ quondam meditante, beatus
 Audiit Eurotas, jussitque ediscere lauros,
 Ille canit. pulsæ referunt ad sidera valles.
 Cogere donec ovis stabulis, numerumque referre 85
 Jussit, et invito processit Vesper Olympo.

88.] When Virgil himself once entered the theatre, all the spectators rose up to honour his entrance.

89. *Linus.*] Virgil has been blamed very ridiculouſly for not ſaying any thing of Homer in his ſixth Aeneid (637. 677.) where if he had ſaid any thing of him, he muſt have put him in Elyſium before he was born. It ſeems more juſt to complain that he has not mentioned him in all his works. He ſeems to have had a fair opportunity here, and another in the fourth Eclogue (v. 55.) But have not the poets he mentions in both theſe places ſome relation to paſtoral poetry? And might not the mentioning of an epic poet be improper in both? Here he names Linus only; and before, the ſame Linus, Orpheus, and Pan.

SPENCE.

How tuneful Gallus wandering, next he sings, 85

Indulging raptures, near poetic springs,

A muse conducted to th' Aonian seat,

Whose whole assembly rose the guest to greet ;

While hoary Linus, crown'd with parsley, spake :

“ The pipe, the Muses' gift, O Gallus, take, 90

“ Which erst the sweet Ascrean sage they gave,

“ Who bade the wandering oaks their mountains leave ;

“ Go, sing on this thy fam'd Grynæan grove,

“ So shall Apollo chief that forest love.”

Why should I tell, the maid with monsters arm'd, 95

Whose barkings fierce the wand'ring Greeks alarm'd,

Whose hungry dogs the shrieking sailors tore,

And round her dungeon ting'd the sea with gore.

Or why the Thracian tyrant's alter'd shape,

And dire revenge of Philomela's rape, 100

Who murder'd Itys' mangled body dress'd,

And to his father serv'd the direful feast.

What Phoebus sung, Eurota's banks along,

And bade the listening laurels learn the song,

All these Silenus chaunts ; the vales reply, 105

And bear their echoes to the distant sky ;

Till Hesper glimmering o'er the twilight plains,

To fold their counted sheep had warn'd the swains ;

The heav'ns delighted with the matchless lay,

To Hesper's beams unwillingly gave way. 110

91. *Ascrean sage.*] The *senex Ascreus*, is Hesiod, who was of Aicra, a city in Boeotia. According to some he was coaeval with Homer. He writes with great simplicity, though in his description of the battle between the giants and the gods, he rises to the true sublime.

110. *Unwillingly.*] There is a peculiar beauty in that epithet *invites Olympo*. The sky was so delighted with the song of Silenus, that it was sorry and uneasy to see the evening approach.



ECLOGUE THE SEVENTH.

A R G U M E N T.

The following poetical contest betwixt Thyrsis and Corydon, related by Meliboeus, is an imitation of the fifth and eighth Idylliums of Theocritus. Some fanciful commentators imagine that under these shepherds are represented Gallus or Pollio, or Cebes and Alexander, and that Meliboeus is Virgil himself. But there are not sufficient grounds for this conjecture. This pastoral is introduced with a pretty rural adventure.

This seventh Eclogue, as the third before, seems to be an imitation of a custom among the shepherds of old, of vying together in extempore verse. At least 'tis very like the Improvisatori at present in Italy; who flourish now perhaps more than any other poets among them, particularly in Tuscany. They are surprisngly ready in their answers (respondere parati) and go on octave for octave, or speech for speech alternately (alternis dicetis, amant alterna Camenae.) In both these Eclogues the second speaker seems obliged to follow the turn of thought used by the first; as at present the second Improvisatore is obliged to follow the rhyme of the first. At Florence I have heard of their having even Improviso comedies. There were Improvisatori of this kind of old; for before Livius Andronicus endeavoured to make any thing of a regular play, compositum temerè ac rudem alternis jaciebant, says Livy, 7. 2. U. C. 391. They were Tuscans too who brought this method to Rome.

SPENCE.

E C L O G A VII.

M E L I B O E U S.

MELIBŒUS, CORYDON, THYRSIS.

MELIBŒUS.

FORTE sub arguta confederat ilice Daphnis,
 Conpulerantque greges Corydon et Thyrsis in unum;
 Thyrsis ovis, Corydon distentas lacte capellas.

Ambo florentes aetatibus, Arcades ambo,
 Et cantare pares, et respondere parati. 5

Hic mihi, dum teneras defendo a frigore myrtos,
 Vir gregis ipse caper deerraverat. atque ego Daphnin

Aspicio: ille ubi me contra videt; Ocius, inquit,
 Huc ades, ô Melibœe: caper tibi salvus, et hædi.
 Et, si quid cessare potes, requiesce sub umbra. 10

Huc ipsi potum venient per prata juvenci:
 Hic viridis tenera prætexit arundine ripas
 Mincius, eque sacra resonant examina quercu.

Quid facerem? neque ego Alcippen, nec Phyllida habebam,
 Depulsos a lacte domi quæ clauderet agnos: 15

Et certamen erat, Corydon cum Thyrside, magnum.
 Posthabui tamen illorum mea seria ludo.

Alternis igitur contendere versibus ambo
 Coepere: alternos Musæ meminisse volebant.
 Hos Corydon, illos referebat in ordine Thyrsis. 20

CORYDON.

Nymphæ, noster amor, Libethrides, aut mihi carmen,
 Quale meo Codro, concedite: proxima Phœbi

Ver. 16. *Bees.*] That is, *apum examina.*

20. *Gains.*] 'Tis difficult to make the pastoral simplicity of this introduction to the contest, agreeable to modern readers. The images are all taken from plain unadorned nature, and will not bear to be dress'd up with florid epithets and pompous language, as is the custom of our modern pastoral writers in painting their scenes of action.

23. *Nymphs of the spring.*] The critics are greatly divided about the situation of *Libethrum* (*Nymphas Libethrides*) but the learned

ECLOGUE THE SEVENTH.

M E L I B O E U S.

MELIBOEUS, CORYDON, THYRSIS:

MELIBOEUS.

BY chance beneath an ilex' darksome shade
 That whisper'd with the breeze was Daphnis laid;
 Their flocks while Corydon and Thyrsis join'd,
 These milky goats, and those the fleecy kind;
 Both blooming youths, and both of Arcady, §
 Both skill'd alike to sing and to reply.
 Thither my goat, the father of the fold,
 While close I fenc'd my myrtles from the cold,
 Rambling had stray'd; I Daphnis sitting spy'd,
 He saw me too, and Hither haste, he cry'd, 10
 Safe is thy goat and kids: one idle hour,
 Come, waste with me beneath this cooling bow'r:
 Here Mincius gently winding through the meads,
 Fringes his banks with grass and bending reeds:
 Hither thy herds at eve to drink will come, 15
 While from yon' sacred oak bees swarming hum.
 What could I do? Alcippe was not near,
 Nor Phillis to the stalls my lambs to bear;
 Great was the strife betwixt the tuneful swains,
 And bent on pleasure I forgot my gains; 20
 In sweet alternate numbers they began,
 (So bade the Nine) and thus the contest ran.

CORYDON.

Give me the lays, nymphs of th' inspiring springs!
 Which Codrus, rival of Apollo, sings!

learned and accurate Strabo, whose testimony is worth that of a thousand commentators, tells us, that Libethrum is the name of a cave in or near Mount Helicon, consecrated to the Muses by the Thracians.

24. *Codrus.*] Codrus, says Servius, was a cotemporary poet with Virgil, and is mentioned in the Elegies of Valgius.

Verfibus ille facit. aut, fi non poffumus omnes,
Hic arguta facra pendebit fiftila pinu.

THYRSIS.

Paftores, edera crefcentem ornate pœtam, 25
Arcades, invidia rumpantur ut ilia Codro.
Aut fi ultra placitum laudarit, baccare frontem
Cingite, ne vati noceat mala lingua futuro.

CORYDON.

Setofi caput hoc apri, tibi Delia, parvus
Et ramosa Mycon vivacis cornua cervi. 30
Si proprium hoc fuerit, levi de marmore tota
Puniceo ftabis furas evincta cothurno.

THYRSIS.

Sinum lactis, et hæc te liba, Priape, quotannis
Expectare fat eft: cuftos es pauperis horti.
Nunc te marmoreum pro tempore fecimus: at tu, 35
Si foetura gregem fuppleverit, aureus efto.

CORYDON.

Nerine Galatea, thymo mihi dulcior Hyblæ,
Candidior cynnis, edera formofior alba:
Cum primum pafli repetent præfepia tauri,
Si qua tui Corydonis habet te cura, venito. 40

THYRSIS.

Immo ego Sardois videar tibi amarior herbis,
Horridior rufco, projecta vilior alga;

30. *With baccar.*] It was imagined by the ancients that this plant carried an amulet or charm againft the fascination of what they called an evil tongue.

33. *If ftill the bacc.*] In the original, *fi proprium hoc fuerit*; *i. e.* fays Ruæus, if you fhall make it as it were my own, and perpetual. *Da propriam Thymbrae domum*, Æn. 3. What is the meaning of *hoc*? That I fhould make fuch verfes as Codrus, fays Servius.—But falſely,—The meaning is, As I have fucceeded in hunting this boar and ftag, fo may this fucces be perpetual.

40. *Ivy white.*] More beautiful than ivy, to us may feem but an odd fimile. It might found otherwife to an Italian, whofe cöuntry abounds with ever-greens; moft of them of a rufty and difagreeable colour; whereas ivy is of a clean lively green.

They

Ecl. 7. THE ECLOGUES OF VIRGIL. 149

But if too weak to reach his flights divine, 25
My uselefs pipe I'll hang on yonder pine.

THYRSIS.

Ye swains, your rifing bard with ivy deck,
Till Codrus' heart malign with envy break ;
Or if pernicious praise his tongue bestow,
To guard from harms with baccar bind my brow. 30

CORYDON.

This bristly head, these branching horns I fend,
Delia ! and Mycon at thy shrine shall bend ;
If still the chace with such success be crown'd,
In marble shalt thou stand, with purple buskins bound.

THYRSIS.

Priapus ! cakes and milk alone expect, 35
Small is the garden which you now protect !
But if the teeming ewes increase my fold,
Thy marble statue chang'd shall shine in polish'd gold.

CORYDON.

O Galatea ! nymph than swans more bright,
More sweet than thyme, more fair than ivy white, 40
When pastur'd herds at evening seek the stall,
Haste to my arms ! nor scorn thy lover's call !

THYRSIS.

May I appear than wither'd weeds more vile,
Or bitter herbage of Sardinia's isle,

They used it of old in the most beautiful parts of their gardens ;
Pliny speaking of his garden, and of the Hippodrome, which
seems to have been one of the prettiest things in it, says, *Platanis circuitur, illae bedera vestiuntur ; utque summae suis, ita imae alienis frondibus virent.* L. 5. Ep. 6. Horace compares young beauties to ivy, and old women to dead withered leaves. L. 1. Od. 25. St. ult. SPENCE.

44. *Sardinia's.*] Dioscorides says expressly, that the poisonous herb of Sardinia is a species of *Balaχιον*, *ranunculus* or *crow-foot*.

Si mihi non haec lux toto jam longior anno est.
Ite domum pasci, si quis pudor, ite juvenci,

CORYDON.

Muscosi fontes, et somno mollior herba, 45
Et quae vos rara viridis tegit arbutus umbra,
Solstitium pecori defendite, jam venit aestas
Torrída : jam laeto turgent in palmitè gemmas,

THYRSIS.

Hic focus, ac taedae pingues, hic plurimus ignis
Semper, et adfida postes fuligine nigri. 50
Hic tantum Boreae curamus frigora, quantum
Aut numerum lupus, aut torrentia flumina ripas.

CORYDON.

Stant et juniperi, et castaneae hirsutae :
Strata jacent passim sua quaeque sub arbore poma :
Omnia nunc rident. at si formosus Alexis 55
Montibus his abeat, videas et flumina sicca.

THYRSIS.

Aret ager : vitio moriens sitit aëris herba :
Liber pampineas invidit collibus umbras.
Phyllidis adventu nostrae nemus omne virebit :
Juppiter et laeto descendet plurimus imbri. 60

CORYDON.

Populus Alcidae gratissima, vitis Iaccho,
Formosae myrtus Veneri, sua laurea Phoebó.
Phyllis amat corulos. illas dum Phyllis amabit,
Nec myrtus vincet corulos, nec laurea Phoebi.

47. *Ye smoky founts.*] This Amœbaean is doubtless more beautiful than the succeeding, and contains more delightful images of nature. Mr. Dryden has omitted the natural stroke of the smoky posts in the cottage.

54. *Wolves.*] Catrou gives quite a new but fanciful interpretation to the word *numerus*; he says it means musical numbers.

58. *Streams would cease to flow.*] The end of this Amœbaean appears to some critics to be flat—*videas et flumina sicca*. But I am of opinion the poet design'd the line should be faint and languishing, as it were, more fully to express that mournful state

If a year's length exceeds this tedious day ; 45
 Homeward ye well-fed goats (for shame) away!

CORYDON.

Ye mossy founts, and grafs more soft than sleep,
 Who still, with boughs o'er-hung, your coolness keep,
 Defend my fainting flocks ! the heats are near,
 And bursting gems on the glad vine appear. 50

THYRSIS.

Here ever glowing hearths embrown the posts,
 Here blazing pines expel the pinching frosts,
 Here cold and Boreas' blasts we dread no more,
 Than wolves the sheep, or torrent streams the shore.

CORYDON.

Here junipers and prickly chesnuts see, 55
 Lo ! scatter'd fruits lie under every tree ;
 All nature smiles ; but should Alexis go
 From these blest hills, ev'n streams would cease to flow.

THYRSIS.

Parch'd are the plains, the wither'd herbage dies,
 Bacchus to hills their viny shade denies ; 60
 Let Phillis come, fresh greens will deck the grove,
 In joyful showers descend prolific Jove.

CORYDON.

Alcides, poplar ; Venus, myrtle groves ;
 Bacchus, the vine ; the laurel, Phoebus loves ;
 Phillis the hazels ; while they gain her praise, 65
 Myrtle to them shall yield, and Phoebus' bays.

state of nature in his painting. Mr. Pope has imitated this and the following passage in his first pastoral.

59. *Parch'd.*] A fine contrast is observable in these two Amœbaeans. The flourishing scenes of nature are strongly set off by the fading and languishing prospect that succeeds.

63. *Alcides.*] When Hercules returned from hell, he was fabled to have crown'd his head with a chaplet of poplar leaves.

T H Y R S I S .

Fraxinus in filvis pulcherrima, pinus in hortis, 65
 Populus in fluviis, abies in montibus altis.
 Saepius at si me, Lycida formose, revifas,
 Fraxinus in filvis cedit tibi, pinus in hortis.

MELIBŒUS.

Haec memini, et victum frustra contendere Thyrsin,
 Ex illo Corydon, Corydon est tempore nobis. 70

71. *But vanquish'd were his strains.*] The victory is adjudged to Corydon, because Corydon in the first Amœbaean begins with piety to the gods; Thyrsis with rage against his adversary: in the second, Corydon invokes Diana, a chaste goddess; Thyrsis, an obscene deity, Priapus: in the third, Corydon addresses himself to Galatea with mildness; Thyrsis with dire imprecations: in the rest, Corydon's subjects are generally pleasing and delightful to the imagination; those of Thyrsis are directly contrary.

R U A E U S .

72. *And Corydon.*] The original says, *ex illo Corydon, &c.* which is an ellipsis, says Servius, and may be supplied *victor nobilis supra omnes.* Simplicius says, *ex illo tempore Corydon habetur à nobis verè Corydon:* that is, really worthy the reputation he has obtained.

THYRSIS.

Loveliest in walks the pine, the ash in woods,
Firs on the mountains, poplars in the floods;
Fair Lycidas, revisit oft' my field,
Pine, poplar, fir, and ash to thee shall yield!

70

MELIBŒUS.

Thus Thyrsis strove, but vanquish'd were his strains;
And Corydon without a rival reigns.

END OF THE SEVENTH ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE EIGHTH.

A R G U M E N T.

This is evidently an imitation of the Θαυμαστόν of Theocritus, and is very valuable not only for its poetical beauties, but likewise for the account it preserves to us of several superstitious rites and heathen notions of incantment. The poet seems to have had an high idea of his composition by his introducing it in so lofty a strain, quorum stupefactae carmine lynces. The critics have been very much divided whether it is inscribed to Pollio or Augustus. Catrou pleads very strongly for Augustus; but Dr. Martyn largely examines this plea, and confutes it solidly. There is doubtless a great stress to be laid on

Sola Sophocleo tua carmina digna cothurno.

For though Augustus began a tragedy on the death of Ajax, (after Sophocles) yet this piece was never published, as many fine ones of Pollio were, who is highly celebrated by Horace for his dramatic excellence. Lib. II. Od. 1. Motum ex Metello, &c. The enchantments described in this Eclogue, are finely imitated in the ARCADIA del SANNAZORO; a book to which our Sir Philip Sidney in his Arcadia is much indebted. Sannazaro has there given a loose to his fancy, and has shewn that he had a very exuberant one.—Prosa. 10.

E C L O G A VIII.

P H A R M A C E Û T R I A.

DAMON, ALPHESIBOEUS.

Pastorum musam Dámonis et Alphefíboei,
 Immemor herbarum quos est mirata juvenca
 Certantis, quorum stupefactæ carmine lynces ;
 Et mutata suos requierunt flumina cursus :
 Damonis musam dicemus et Alphefíboei. 5
 Tu mihi seu magni superas jam saxa Timavi,
 Sive oram Illyrici legis acquoris ; en erit umquam
 Ille dies, liceat mihi cum tua dicere facta ?
 En erit, ut liceat totum mihi ferre per orbem
 Sola Sophocleo tua carmina digna cothurno ! 10
 A te principium : tibi desinet. accipe jussis
 Carminá coepta tuis : atque hanc sine tempora circum
 Inter víctrices ederam tibi serpere laurus.
 Frigida vix coelo noctis decesserat umbra,
 Cum ros in tenera pecori gratíffimus herba, 15
 Incumbens tereti Damon sic coepit olivæ.

DAMON.

Nascere, praeque diem veniens age, Lucifer, alnum ;
 Conjugis indigno Nisæ deceptus amore
 Dum queror, et divos, (quamquam nil testibus illis
 Profeci) extrema moriens tamen adloquor hora. 20
 Incipe Maenalios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 Maenalus argutumque nemus pinosque loquentis
 Semper habet ; semper pastorum ille audit amores,
 Panaque, qui primus calamos non passus inertis.
 Incipe Maenalios mecum, mea tibia, versus. 25

Ver. 17. *Reclin'd.*] Denoting the melancholy posture of the shepherd, leaning against the tree, not *incumbens bacula ex olivâ.*

25. 'Tis very poetical to personify the mountain Maenalus, and ascribe to it a voice and the power of hearing.

ECLOGUE THE EIGHTH,

PHARMACEUTRIA.

DAMON and ALPHESIBOEUS.

CHarm'd with the songs of two contending swains,
 The herds for wonder ceas'd to graze the plains,
 In deep surprisè the lynxes listning stood,
 The rolling rivers stopt their headlong flood !
 O Pollio ! leading thy victorious bands, 5
 O'er deep Timavus' or Illyria's sands ;
 O when thy glorious deeds shall I rehearse,
 When tell the world how matchless is thy verse,
 Worthy the lofty stage of laurell'd Greece,
 Great rival of majestic Sophocles ! 10
 With thee began my songs, with thee shall end ;
 The strains thyself commanded, O attend !
 And 'mid the laurels which thy brows entwine,
 Admit this humble ivy-wreath of mine.
 Night, her unwholesome shadows scarce withdrew, 15
 What time the cattle love the cooling dew,
 Damon, against an olive's trunk reclin'd,
 Thus pour'd the transports of his jealous mind.

DAMON.

Bright Lucifer arise ! bring on the day,
 While I deceiv'd by Nisa pine away, 20
 To heav'n addressing my last pray'rs and tears,
 Yet which of all the gods my sorrow hears ?
 Begin with me, my pipe, Maenalian strains.
 Delightful Maenalus, 'mid echoing groves,
 And vocal pines, still hears the shepherds' loves ; 25
 The rural warblings hears of skilful Pan,
 Who first to tune neglected reeds began.
 Begin, &c.

Mopso Nisa datur. quid non speremus amantes ?
 Jungentur jam gryphes equis : aevoque sequenti
 Cum canibus timidi venient ad pocula damæ.
 Mopse, novas incide faces : tibi ducitur uxor.
 Sparge, marite, nuces : tibi deferet Hesperus Octam. 30
 Incipe Maenaios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 O digno conjuncta viro, dum despicias omnis,
 Dumque tibi est odio mea fistula, dumque capellæ,
 Hirsutumque supercilium, prolixaque barba :
 Nec curare deum credis mortalia quemquam. 35
 Incipe Maenaios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 Sepibus in nostris parvam te roscida mala
 (Dux ego vester eram) vidi cum matre legentem.
 Alter ab undecimo tum me jam acceperat annus :
 Jam fragilis poteram a terra contingere ramos. 40
 Ut vidi, ut perii, ut me malus abstulit error !
 Incipe Maenaios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 Nunc scio, quid sit amor. duris in cotibus illum
 Aut Tmaros, aut Rhodope, aut extremi Garamantes,
 Nec generis nostri puerum nec sanguinis edunt. 45
 Incipe Maenaios mecum, mea tibia, versus.

32. *Timid deer.*] Benson observed that Virgil in this passage chose rather to infringe grammar than to make a rhyme ; TIMIDI venient ad pocula Damæ.

34. *Nuptial lights.*] The bride used to be led home by night with lighted torches before her. Their torches were pieces of pine or unctuous wood, which were cut to a point that they might be the more easily inflamed. Plutarch says, there were *five* usually carried. MARTYN.

That *nuces* signify *walnuts*, and have a mystical signification in the nuptial ceremonies, see MARTYN'S Georgics, v. 187.

36. *Hesper.*] That is, night approaches.

“ ————— Hesperus that led

“ The starry host shone brightest, till the moon, &c.

MILTON.

40. *Length of beard.*] La Cerda is of opinion, that the meaning is, my violent love has made me neglect my person.

45. *The choicest fruit.*] The circumstances of his officiousness of pointing out the fruit, and of his being but just able to

Fair Nisa Mopfus weds ! O wond'rous mate,
Ye lovers ! what may we not hope from fate ? 30
Now gryphons join with mares ! another year,
With hostile dogs shall drink the timid deer :
Thy bride comes forth ! begin the festal rites !
The walnuts strew ! prepare the nuptial lights !
O envied husband, now thy bliss is nigh, 35
Behold for thee bright Hesper mounts the sky.

Begin, &c.

O Nisa I congratulate thy choice !
Me you despise, my pipe, and artless voice,
My goats, my shaggy brows, my length of beard, 40
Nor think the gods your broken vows have heard.

Begin, &c.

Once with your mother to our fields you came,
For dewy apples—thence I date my flame ;
The choicest fruit I pointed to your view, 45
Tho' young my raptur'd soul was fix'd on you !
The boughs I scarce could reach with little arms,
But then, ev'n then could feel thy pow'ful charms.
O how I gaz'd in pleasing transport tost !
How glow'd my heart in sweet delusion lost ! 50

Begin, &c.

I know thee, Love ! on horrid Tmarus born,
Or from cold Rhodope's hard entrails torn,
Nurs'd in hot sands the Garamants among,
From human stock the savage never sprung. 55

Begin, &c.

to reach the branches from the ground, are natural and poetical.

Ut vidi ! ut perii ! ut me malus abstulit error !

is not equal to

Ὡς ἴδον, ὡς ἐμαρην, ὃς εἰς βάθυν ἄλλοτ' ἔσπερα.

Abstulit error is not so strong as the Greek.

52. On horrid Tmarus.] Does not the shepherd Lamon seem to be too well acquainted with the geography of distant countries ?

Sævus amor docuit gnatorum sanguine matrem
 Conmaculare manus. crudelis tu quoque, mater;
 Crudelis mater magis, an puer inprobus ille?
 Inprobus ille puer : crudelis tu quoque, mater. 50
 Incipe Maenalios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 Nunc et ovis ultro fugiat lupus : aurea duræ
 Mala ferant quercus : narcisso floreat alnus :
 Pingua corticibus sudent electra myricæ.
 Certent et cynis ululæ : sit Tityrus Orpheus : 55
 Orpheus in filvis, inter Delphinas Arion.
 Incipe Maenalios mecum, mea tibia, versus.
 Omnia vel medium fiant mare : vivite silvæ.
 Præceps ærii specula de montis in undas
 Deferar. extremum hoc munus morientis habeto. 60
 Define, Maenalios jam define, tibia, versus.
 Hæc Damon : vos, quæ responderit Alpheſiboeus,
 Dicite, Pierides. non omnia possumus omnes.

ALPHESIBOEUS.

Effer aquam, et molli cinge hæc altaria vitta :
 Verbenasque adole pinguis et mascula tura : 65
 Conjugis ut magicis fanos avertere sacris
 Experiar sensus. nihil hic nisi carmina desunt.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.

57. *Relentless love.*] After Medea had fled with Jason, one of the Argonauts, from her father and country, he basely forsook her and married another : this so highly enraged her, that she murdered before his face the children she had by him. The most pathetic tragedy of Euripides is on this fine subject : wherein the tenderness of the mother, and the fury of the forsaken mistress, produce noble struggles of passion. I cannot forbear adding, that the celebrated lines *crudelis mater magis*, &c. contain a trifling play and jingling of words very unworthy the simplicity of Virgil's style. Dr. Trapp and Dr. Martyn are of a quite contrary opinion, and think the passage beautiful.

78. *Ye tuneful virgins.*] The poet hints that he is unable to proceed by his own strength, and begs therefore the assistance of the muses.

80. *Bring water.*] The water was heated in the house, and the

Relentless Love the mother taught of yore,
 To bathe her hands in her own infants' gore;
 O barbarous mother thirsting to destroy!
 More cruel was the mother or the boy?
 Both, both, alike delighted to destroy,
 Th' unnat'ral mother and the ruthless boy.

Begin, &c.

Now hungry wolves let tim'rous lambkins chace,
 Narcissus' flowers the barren alder grace,
 Let blushing apples knotted oaks adorn,
 Let liquid amber drop from every thorn!
 Let owls contend with swans; our rural bard
 To Orpheus or Arion be preferr'd!
 Like Orpheus draw the listening trees along,
 Or like Arion charm the finny throng.

Begin, &c.

Let the sea rush o'er all, in shoreless floods!
 Take this last dying gift!—farewel, ye woods!
 Nisa adieu!—from yon impending steep,
 Headlong I'll plunge into the foamy deep!

Cease now, my pipe, now cease Maenalian strains.
 Thus Damon mourn'd. Ye tuneful virgins tell
 The swain's reply—Not all in all excel.

ALPHESIBOÆUS.

Bring water for the solemn rites design'd,
 The altar's sides with holy fillets bind—
 The strongest frankincense, rich vervain burn,
 That mighty magic may to madness turn
 My perjur'd love—'Tis done—and nought remains
 To crown the rites but all-inchanting strains.
 Bring Daphnis, bring him from the town, my strains.

the forcerefs calls to her assistant Amaryllis to bring it out to her; so there is no need to read *affer*, as some have done.

82. *The strongest.*] The ancients called the strongest sort of frankincense, *malis*.

Carmina vel cœlo possunt deducere lunam :
 Carminibus Circe socios mutavit Ulixi : 70
 Frigidus in pratis cantando rumpitur anguis.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.
 Terna tibi hæc primum triplici diversa colore
 Licia circumdo, terque hæc altaria circum
 Effigiem duco. numero deus inpare gaudet. 75
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.
 Necte tribus nodis ternos, Amarylli, colores :
 Necte, Amarylli, modo : et, Veneris, dic, vincula necto.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.
 Limus ut hic durefcit, et hæc ut cera liquefcit 80
 Uno eodemque igni ; sic nostro Daphnis amore.
 Sparge molam, et fragilis incende bitumine lauros.
 Daphnis me malus urit : ego hanc in Daphnide laurum.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.
 Talis amor Daphnin, qualis, cum fessa juvencum 85
 Per nemora atque altos quaerendo bucula lucos,
 Propter aquae rivom viridi procumbit in ulva
 Perdita, nec ferae meminit decedere nocti :

94. *For three.*] The ancients had a prodigious veneration for the number *three*, and held many ridiculous superstitions in relation to it. This number was thought the most perfect of all numbers, having regard to the beginning, middle, and end.

103. *As this same fire.*] There were plainly *two* figures made, one of wax, and the other of clay; the former would naturally melt, and the other harden by the fire. The notion was, that as the image consumed, so did the person it represented. Dr. Martyn observes, that in the beginning of the last century, many persons were convicted of this and other such like practices, and were executed accordingly, as it was deemed to be attempting the lives of others. King James the First was a great believer of the power of magic, and wrote a very idle book on the subject, entitled, *Daemonologie*. Shakespear seems to have chosen the subject of his *Macbeth* to please the taste of that prince.

The *bays* were burnt also to consume the flesh of the person on whose account these magical rites were performed. The cake is crumbled upon the image of Daphnis as upon the victim of this sacrifice.

'By strains pale Cynthia from her sphere descends;
 Strains chang'd to brutes Ulysses' wondering friends;
 Strains in the meadow, or the secret brake,
 Can the deaf adder split, and venom'd snake.

90

Bring, &c.

Lo! first I round thy waxen image twist,
 And closely bind this triple-colour'd list,
 And three times round the altar walk; for three
 Is a dear number to dread Hecaté.

95

Bring, &c.

Haste, Amaryllis, ply thy busy hand;
 Haste, quickly, knit the consecrated band,
 And say 'tis knit at Venus' dread command;
 In three close knots the mixing colours knit,
 For ardent lovers such close bands besit.

100

Bring, &c.

As this same fire melts wax and hardens clay,
 To others deaf, let him my love repay.
 Crumble the sacred cake, let wither'd bays,
 Inflam'd with liquid sulphur crackling blaze;
 As Daphnis warms my bosom with desire,
 May Daphnis burn in this consuming fire!

105

Bring, &c.

May Daphnis feel such strong, unanswer'd love,
 As the fond heifer feels, thro' copse and grove,
 Who seeks her beauteous bull, then tir'd and faint
 On the green rushy bank lies down to pant,
 Lost to herself and rolling on the ground,
 Heedless of darksome night now clos'd around!

115

105. The *mola* was made of meal salted and kneaded, *molita*, whence it was called *mola*: and victims were said to be immolated, because the foreheads of the victims, and the hearths and the knives had this cake crumbled on them.

• RUAEBUS.

115. *Night.*] *Perdita, nec serae meminit decedere nocti*; which sweet line, says Macrobius, is taken entirely from Varius.

Talis amor teneat, nec sit mihi cura mederi.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin. 90
 Has olim exuvias mihi perfidus ille reliquit,
 Pignora cara fui : quae nunc ego limine in ipso,
 Terra, tibi mando. debent haec pignora Daphnin.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin.
 Has herbas, atque haec Ponto mihi lecta venena, 95
 Ipse dedit Moeris. nascuntur plurima Ponto.
 His ego saepe lupum fieri, et se condere silvis
 Moerin, saepe animas imis excire sepulcris,
 Atque fatas alio vidi traducere messis.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin. 100
 Fer cineres, Amarylli, foras : rivoque fluenti,
 Tranque caput jace : ne respexeris. his ego Daphnin
 Adgrediar : nihil ille deos, nil carmina curat.
 Ducite ab urbe domum, mea carmina, ducite Daphnin
 Aspice : corripuit tremulis altaria flammis 105
 Sponte sua, dum ferre moror, cinis ipse. bonum sit !
 Nescio quid certe est : et Hylax in limine latrat.
 Credimus ? an, qui amant, ipsi sibi somnia fingunt ?
 Parcite, ab urbe venit, jam parcite, carmina, Daphnis.

126. *Sage Moeris.*] The description of the powerfulness of Moeris his magic, is sublime. Pontus was the land of poisons : Mithridates, who used to eat poison, reigned there ; and Medea was born in Colchis.

133. *These ashes.*] The most powerful of all incantations was to throw the ashes of the sacrifice backward into the water.

141. *The dying embers.*] The ancients thought the sudden blazing of the fire a very happy omen. For Plutarch relates, that the vestal virgins congratulated Cicero, and begged him to proceed in his prosecution of Catiline, and assured him of great success, because the fire of their sacrifice lighted of its own accord.

Ecl. 8. THE ECLOGUES OF VIRGIL. 165

Ev'n thus, may disregarded Daphnis burn,
Pine to despair, nor I his flame return !

Bring, &c.

This vest the faithless traitor left behind,
Pledge of his love I give, to thee consign'd, 120
O sacred earth ! thus plac'd beneath the door,
O may the precious pledge its lord restore !

Bring, &c.

These powerful, poisonous plants in Pontus dug,
(Pontus abounds in many a magic drug) 125

Sage Moeris gave ; in dire enchantments brew'd,
Moeris his limbs with these has oft bedew'd.
Hence the fell forcerer have I seen become
A wolf, and thro' wild forests howling roam,
With these from graves the starting spectres warn, 130
And whirl to distant fields the standing corn.

Bring, &c.

Take now these ashes from th' expiring wood,
And strew them, Amaryllis, o'er the flood ;
But backward cast them, dare not look behind, 135
With these I'll strive to touch his harden'd mind ;
But weak all art my Daphnis' breast to move,
For he nor charms regards, nor pow'rs above.

Bring, &c.

Lo ! round the altar's sides what flames aspire ! 140
The dying embers burst into a fire !
Lift ! Hylax barks ! O may it lucky prove !
But ah ! how oft are we deceiv'd that love ?
Can it be truth ? my heart will Daphnis ease ?
He comes, my Daphnis comes—Enchantments cease !

END OF THE EIGHTH ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE NINTH.

A R G U M E N T.

We are told by Servius that Moeris is the person who had the care of Virgil's farm, was his procurator, or bailiff, as we speak at present; and that when Virgil had from Augustus received a grant of his lands, one Arrius a centurion refused to admit him into possession, and would certainly have killed him if Virgil had not saved his life by swimming over the Mincius. This accident is mentioned in this Eclogue. Lycidas overtakes Moeris on his way to Rome, and asks him to repeat to him as they passed along some favourite verses, that he formerly had heard from him. Moeris grants his request, but suddenly breaks off in a natural and dramatic manner.

E C L O G A IX.

M O E R I S.

LYCIDAS, MOERIS.

LYCIDAS,

QUO te, Moeri, pedes? an, quo via ducit, in urbem?
MOERIS.

O Lycida, vivi pervenimus; advena nostri,
Quod numquam veriti sumus, ut possessor agelli
Diceret: Haec mea sunt; veteres migrate coloni.
Nunc victi, tristes, quoniam Fors omnia versat, 5
Hos illi (quod nec bene vertat) mittimus haedos.

LYCIDAS.

Certe equidem audieram, qua se subducere colles
Incipiunt, mollique jugum demittere clivo,
Usque ad aquam et veteres, jam fracta cacumina, fagos,
Omnia carminibus vestrum servasse Menalcan. 10

MOERIS,

Audieras; et fama fuit. sed carmina tantum
Nostra valent, Lycida, tela inter Martia, quantum
Chaonias dicunt, aquila veniente, columbas,
Quod nisi me quacumque novas incidere litis
Ante sinistra cava monuisset ab ilice cornix, 15
Nec tuus hic Moeris, nec viveret ipse Menalcas.

LYCIDAS.

Heu, cadit in quemquam tantum scelus! heu, tua nobis

5. *By fear.*] The two epithets *victi* and *tristes*, Burman declares he cannot digest; but the rule *de epithetis non multiplicandis*, is a mere dream of the grammarians; nor did the best poets regard it.
SPENCE.

ECLOGUE THE NINTH.

M O E R I S.

LYCIDAS, MOERIS.

LYCIDAS.

SAY, Moeris, to the city dost thou haste ?

MOERIS.

O Lycidas, the day's arriv'd at last,
 When the fierce stranger, breathing rage, shall say,
 These fields are mine, ye veteran hinds away !
 To whom, by Fortune crush'd, o'ercome by fear, 5
 These kids (a curse attend them !) must I bear.

LYCIDAS.

Sure I had heard, that where yon' hills descend,
 And to the vale their sloping summits bend,
 Down to the stream and ancient broken beech,
 Far as the confines of his pastures reach, 10
 Menalcas say'd his all by skilful strains,

MOERIS.

Such was the tale among the Mantuan swains ;
 But verse 'mid dreadful war's mad tumults, proves
 As weak and powerless, as Dodona's doves,
 When the fierce, hungry eagle first they spy, 15
 Full on their heads impetuous dart from high.
 The boding rayen from an hollow tree,
 Warn'd us to cease the strife, and quick agree ;
 Else of our liberty, nay life, depriv'd,
 Nor Moeris nor Menalcas had surviv'd. 20

LYCIDAS.

What rage the ruthless soldier could induce
 To hurt the sweetest favourite of the muse ?

Paene simul tecum solatia rapta, Menalca !
 Quis caneret Nymphas ? quis humum florentibus herbis
 Spargeret ? aut viridi fontis induceret umbra ? 20
 Vel quae sublegi tacitus tibi carmina nuper,
 Cum te ad delicias ferres Amaryllida nostras ?
 Tityre, dum redeo, brevis est via, pasce capellas :
 Et potum pastas age, Tityre ; et inter agendum
 Occurrere capro, cornu ferit ille, caveto. 25

MOERIS.

Immo haec, quae Varo nec dum perfecta canebat.
 Vare, tuum nomen (superet modo Mantua nobis,
 Mantua vae miserae nimium vicina Cremonae !)
 Cantantes sublime ferent ad sidera cycni.

LYCIDAS.

Sic tua Cyrneas fugiant examina taxos : 30
 Sic cythiso pastae distendent ubera vaccae.
 Incipe, si quid habes. et me fecere poetam
 Pierides : sunt et mihi carmina. me quoque dicunt
 Vatem pastores : sed non ego credulus illis.
 Nam neque adhuc Varo videor, nec dicere Cinna 35
 Digna, sed argutos inter strepere anser olores.

MOERIS.

Id quidem ago ; ac tacitus, Lycida, mecum ipse voluto,
 Si valeam meminisse : neque est ignobile carmen.
 Huc ades, ô Galatea, quis est nam ludus in undis ?
 Hic ver purpureum : varios hic flumina circum 40

25. *Who then could strew.*] Virgil certainly alludes to his Eclogue, entitled *Daphnis*, composed on the death of Julius Caesar.

35. *Cremona's.*] Augustus divided the lands of Cremona amongst his soldiers, because they sided with Antony. But that country not affording sufficient quantities of land for all the soldiers, part of the territory of Mantua was added and given away in that manner.

40. *Cyrnaean.*] Corsica was called Cyrnus by the Greeks. The honey of this island was most remarkably bad.

43. *Cinna's, &c.*] This undoubtedly was not Helvius Cinna the poet who was murdered, by mistaking him for Cornelius Cinna, and an enemy of Julius Caesar, at that emperor's funeral:

O direful thought ! hadst thou, Menalcas, bled,
 With thee had all our choicest pleasures fled !
 Who then could strew sweet flow'rs, the nymphs could sing
 Who shade with verdant boughs the crystal spring? 26
 Or chant those lays which privately I read,
 When late we visited my fav'rite maid :
 " Watch, Tityrus, watch, and see my goats receive
 " At morn fresh pasture, and cool streams at eve ; 30
 " Soon I'll return ; but as the flock you lead,
 " Beware the wanton ridg'ling's butting head."

MOERIS.

Or those to Varus, tho' unfinish'd strains——
 " Varus, should we preserve our Mantuan plains,
 " (Obnoxious by Cremona's neighbouring crime) 35
 " The swans thy name shall bear to heav'n sublime."

LYCIDAS.

Begin, if verse thou hast, my tuneful friend ;
 On trefoil fed so may thy cows distend
 Their copious udders ; so thy bees refuse
 The baneful juices of Cynnaean yews. 40
 Me too the muses love, and give me lays,
 Swains call me bard, but I deny their praise ;
 I reach not Varus' voice, nor Cinna's song,
 But scream like gabbling geese sweet swans among.

MOERIS.

Those strains am I revolving in my mind, 45
 Nor are they verses of a vulgar kind.
 " O lovely Galatea ! hither haste !
 " For what delight affords the wat'ry waste ?
 " Here purple spring her gifts profusely pours,
 " And paints the river-banks with balmy flow'rs ; 50

neral. But it seems to have been Lucius Cinna, the grandson of Pompey, and a great favourite of Augustus. Others think the words relate to two writers.

47. *O lovely Galatea.*] These verses in the original, assemble together some of the loveliest objects of wild unadorned nature. They are a copy of a beautiful passage in Theocritus:

Fundit humus flores : hic candida populus antro
 Inminet, et lentae texunt umbracula vites.
 Huc ades ; infani feriant sine litora fluctus.

LYCIDAS.

Quid, quae te pura solum sub nocte canentem
 Audieram ? numeros memini, si verba tenerem. 45

MOERIS.

Daphni, quid antiquos signorum suspicis ortus ?
 Ecce Dionaei processit Caesaris astrum :
 Astrum, quo segetes gauderent frugibus ; et quo
 Duceret apricis in collibus uva colorem.
 Infere, Daphni, piros : carpent tua poma nepotes. 50
 Omnia fert aetas, animum quoque. saepe ego longos
 Cantando puerum memini me condere soles.
 Nunc oblita mihi tot carmina. vox quoque Moerin
 Jam fugit ipsa : lupi Moerin videre priores.
 Sed tamen ista fatis referet tibi saepe Menalcas. 55

LYCIDAS.

Causfando nostros in longum ducis amores.

52. *Leaves.*] Observe how judiciously Virgil mentions only the shades of the vines ; it being yet only spring, there could be no grapes.

58. *Daphnis ! behold.*] Virgil, says La Cerda, seems to have contended with himself in this place for victory. He opposes these five verses to those which went before, *Huc ades, ô Galatea*, in which having excelled Theocritus, he now endeavours to excel himself. In the former he aimed only at the sweetness of expression, as became one who addressed himself to Caesar, who was then admitted among the gods. There he describes the delights of the spring, flowers, rivers, shades, such objects as tend to pleasure ; here, he produces the fruits of summer, corn, grapes, and pears, all which are useful to man. Who can say that Virgil speaks idly, or to no purpose ?

58. *Behold the Julian.*] The Julian star, according to Doctor Halley, was a comet ; and the same that appeared (for the third time after) in 1680. He says that the tail of that comet in its nearest approach to the sun, was sixty degrees long. So that it must have made a very considerable figure in the heavens, as Horace says the Julian star did. After Caesar's death a comet happened to appear, which the superstitious vulgar thought was the soul of Julius Caesar, placed among the gods. Augustus's courtiers propagated this notion.

“ Here, o’er the grotto the pale poplar weaves
 “ With blushing vines a canopy of leaves ;
 “ Then quit the seas ! against the sounding shore
 “ Let the vext ocean’s billows idly roar !”

LYCIDAS.

What’s that you sung alone, one cloudless night ? 55
 Its air I know, could I the words recite.

MOERIS.

“ Why still consult, for ancient signs, the skies ?
 “ Daphnis ! behold the Julian star arise !
 “ Whose power the fields with copious corn shall fill,
 “ And clothe with richer grapes each sunny hill ; 60
 “ Now, Daphnis, for thy grandsons plant thy pears,
 “ Who luscious fruits shall crop in distant years.”—
 Alas ! by stealing time how things decay !
 Once could I sing whole summer-suns away ;
 But ah ! my mem’ry fails—some wolf accurs’d 65
 Hath stopt my voice and look’d on Moeris first :
 But oft Menalcas will repeat these lays.

LYCIDAS.

My strong desires such slight excuses raise ;

59. *Fields.*] *Segetes* generally signifies the *fields* in Virgil’s writings.

62. *Fruits.*] *Poma* is commonly used by the ancients for any esculent fruit.

63. *Alas ! by stealing.*] Here the shepherd breaks off abruptly, as if he had forgot the rest of the poem.

65. *My memory fails.*] Observe two things, says Ruæus, 1. That *oblita* is used in a passive signification. 2. That *mibi* is put for *me*. So in the *Aeneid*, *Nulla tuarum audita mibi neque visa sororum*.

65. *Some wolf accurs’d.*] The ancients imagined, that if a wolf happened to look on any man first, the person was instantly deprived of his voice. *Λυκον ειδεις, επαλιζε τις, ως σοφος ειπεις*, says Theocritus.

68. *Causando* in the original, signifies by pretending to make excuses.

Stultus uterque locum immeritum causatur iniqui.

HOR.

Et nunc omne tibi fratrum fillet aequor : et omnes,
 (Aspice) ventosi ceciderunt murmuris aerae.
 Hinc adeo media est nobis via. namque sepulchrum
 Incipit apparere Bianoris. hic, ubi densas 60
 Agricolae stringunt frondes, hic, Moeri, canamus :
 Hic haedos depone. tamen veniemus in urbem.
 Aut si, nox pluviam ne conligat ante, veremur,
 Cantantes licet usque (minus via laedat) eamus.
 Cantantes ut eamus, ego hoc te fasce levabo. 65

MOERIS.

Define plura, puer : et, quod nunc instat, agamus.
 Carmina tum melius, cum venerit ipse, canemus.

70. *The neighb'ring lake.*] The original says, *fratrum fillet aequor*. By *aequor* cannot possibly be understood the sea, as some translators have imagined. Catrou's observation is very ingenious. Our shepherds were already arrived at the edge of the lake of Mantua, which is formed round the city by the Mincio. Is not a lake a *sea* in the eyes of shepherds?

72. *Bianor's tomb.*] Bianor, son of the river Tiber, by the daughter of Tiresias, named Manto, is fabled to have first of all fortified the city of Mantua, and to have given it the name of his mother. His tomb, as ancient ones usually were, was placed by the way-side. Hence the expression, *abi viator, fiste viator*—absurdly introduced into modern epitaphs, not placed in such situations.

Behold no whisp'ring winds the branches shake;
 Smooth is the surface of the neighb'ring lake; 70
 Besides, to our mid-journey are we come,
 I see the top of old Bianor's tomb;
 Here, Moeris, where the swains thick branches prune,
 And strew their leaves, our voices let us tune;
 Here rest a while, and lay your kidlings down, 75
 Remains full time to reach the destin'd town;
 But if you tempests fear and gathering rain,
 Still let us sooth our travel with a strain;
 The ways seem shorter by a warbled song,
 I'll ease your burden as we pass along. 80

MOERIS.

Cease your request; proceed we o'er the plain;
 When HE returns we'll sing a sweeter strain.

74. *And strew their leaves.*] La Cerda says, they gathered the leaves to strew them on Bianor's tomb: but the epithet *densas* seems to point to *amputation*, which they wanted by growing too thick. Holdsworth says, a grove I suppose in which the peasants strip off the leaves; Catrou has mistaken the meaning.

END OF THE NINTH ECLOGUE.



ECLOGUE THE TENTH.

A R G U M E N T.

The poet introduces his friend and patron Gallus, lying under a solitary rock in Arcadia, bewailing the inconstancy of his mistress Lycoris, by whom is meant the beautiful Cithæris, a most celebrated actress, that left him to follow some officer into Germany. He describes the rural deities coming to visit Gallus in his distress, as they do Daphnis in Theocritus, and last of all Apollo himself, who all endeavour in vain to comfort him.

E C L O G A X.

G A L L U S.

EXtremum hunc, Arethusa, mihi concede laborem.
 Pauca meo Galló, sed quae legat ipsa Lycoris,
 Carmina sunt dicenda. neget quis carmina Gallo?
 Sic tibi, cum fluctus subter labère Sicanos,
 Doris amara suam non intermisceat undam. 5
 Incipe. sollicitos Galli dicamus amores,
 Dum tenera adtondent simae virgulta capellae.
 Non canimus surdis: respondent omnia silvae.
 Quae nemora, aut qui vos saltus habuere, puellae
 Nàides, indigno cum Gallus amore periret? 10
 Nam neque Parnasi vobis juga, nam neque Pindi
 Ulla moram fecere, neque Aoniae Aganippes.
 Illum etiam lauri, illum etiam flevete myricae:
 Pinifer illum etiam sola sub rupe jacentem
 Maenalus, et gelidi flevērunt saxa Lycaei. 15
 Stant et oves circum: nostri nec poenitet illas:
 Nec te poeniteat pecoris, divine poëta:
 Et formosus ovis ad flumina pavit Adonis.
 Venit et upilio: tarqi venere bubulci:
 Uvidus hiberna venit de glande Menalcas. 20
 Omnes, unde amor iste, rogant, tibi? venit Apollo:
 Galle, quid insanis? inquit. tua cura Lycoris

Ver. 10. *While brows'd the goats.*] The original calls them *simae capellae*, snub-nos'd goats, which will not bear to be rendered into English. This is one instance among a thousand that may be given, of the utter impossibility of giving any gracefulness to many images in the classics, which in a dead language do not appear gross or common.

13. *Where were ye, Naiads.*] This is finely imitated in that excellent piece of Milton, intitled, *Lycidas*, but is originally in Theocritus.

ECLOGUE THE TENTH.

G A L L U S.

A ID the last labour of my rural muse,
 'Tis Gallus asks, auspicious Arethuse!
 But then such pity-moving strains impart,
 Such numbers as may touch Lycoris' heart;
 Yet once more, tuneful nymph, thy succour bring; 5
 What bard for Gallus can refuse to sing?
 So while beneath Sicilian seas you glide,
 May Doris ne'er pollute your purer tide!
 With Gallus' hapless love begin the lay,
 While browse the goats the tender-budding spray; 10
 -Nor to the deaf our mournful notes we sing,
 Each wood shall with responsive echoes ring.
 Where were ye, Naiads! in what lawn or grove,
 When Gallus pin'd with unregarded love?
 For not by Aganippe's spring we play'd, 15
 Nor Pindus' verdant hill your steps delay'd;
 For him lamented every laurel grove;
 The very tamarisks wept his hapless love;
 His woes ev'n pine-topt Maenalus bemoan'd,
 Thro' all his caverns the dark mountain groan'd; 20
 And cold Lycaetum's rocks bewail'd his fate,
 As sad beneath a lonely cliff he fate.
 Around him stood his flock in dumb surprize,
 A shepherd's lowly name I ne'er despise:
 Nor thou, sweet bard, disdain fair flocks to guide, 25
 Adonis fed them by the river's side;
 The heavy hind to him, and goat-herd haste,
 And old Menalcas wet from gathering wint'ry mast;
 All of his love enquire; Apollo came;
 "Why glows my Gallus' breast with fruitless flame?" 30

Perque nives alium, perque horrida castra secuta est.
 Venit et agreſti capitis Silvanus honore,
 Florentis ferulas et grandia lilia quaffans. 25
 Pan deus Arcadiae venit : quem vidimus ipſi
 Sanguineis ebuli baccis minioque rubentem.
 Ecquis erit modus? inquit. amor non talia curat.
 Nec lacrimis crudelis amor, nec gramina rivis,
 Nec cytiſo ſaturantur apes, nec fronde capellae. 30
 Triftis at ille, Tamen cantabitis, Arcades, inquit,
 Montibus haec veſtris : ſoli cantare periti
 Arcades. ô mihi tum quam mœlliter oſſa quieſcant,
 Veſtra meos olim ſi fiſtula dicat amores !
 Atque utinam ex vobis unus, veſtrique fuiſſem 35
 Aut cuſtos gregis, aut maturae ventor uvae !
 Certe ſive mihi Phyllis, ſive eſſet Amyntas,
 Seu quicumque furor, (quid tum, ſi fuſcus Amyntas ?
 Et nigrae violae ſunt, et vaccinia nigra)
 Mecum inter ſalices lenta ſub vite jaceret. 40
 Serta mihi Phyllis legeret, cantaret Amyntas.
 Hic gelidi fontes : hic mollia prata, Lycori.
 Hic nemus : hic ipſo tecum conſumerer aevo.
 Nunc infanus amor duri me Martis in armis,
 Tela inter media, atque adverſos detinct hoſtis. 45
 Tu procul a patria (nec ſit mihi credere) tantum
 Alpinas, ah dura, nives et frigora Rheni

41. *Sad Gallus then.*] This addreſs of Gallus to the Arcadians is tender and moving ; eſpecially that part of it where he wiſhes he had been only an humble ſhepherd like them. But when he juſt afterwards addreſſes his miſtreſs, the lines are inexpressibly pathetic.

*Hic gelidi fontes ; hic mollia prata, Lycori ;
 Hic nemus : hic ipſo tecum conſumerer aevo.*

And then he turns off at once to the evils his paſſion has expoſed him to,

Nunc infanus amor, &c.

" To seek another youth thy false one flies,
 " Thro' martial terrors and inclement skies."
 Shaking the rustic honours of his brow,
 The lilly tall, and fennel's branching bough,
 Sylvanus came; and Pan, Arcadia's pride, 35
 With vermil-hues, and blushing elder dy'd :
 " Ah ! why indulge, he cries, thy boundless grief,
 " Think'ft thou that love will heed, or bring relief ?
 " Nor tears can love suffice, nor showers the grafs,
 " Nor leaves the goat, nor flowers the honied race." 40
 Sad Gallus then.—Yet O Arcadian swains,
 Ye best artificers of soothing strains !
 Tune your soft reeds, and teach your rocks my woes,
 So shall my shade in sweeter rest repose ;
 O that your birth and bus'ness had been mine, 45
 To feed the flock, and prune the spreading vine !
 There some soft solace to my amorous mind,
 Some Phillis or Amyntas I should find :
 (What if the boy's smooth skin be brown to view,
 Dark is the hyacinth and violet's hue) 50
 There as we lay the vine's thick shades beneath,
 The boy should sing, and Phillis twine the wreath.
 Here cooling fountains roll thro' flow'ry meads,
 Here woods, Lycoris ! lift their verdant heads,
 Here could I wear my careless life away, 55
 And in thy arms insensibly decay,
 Instead of that, me frantic love detains,
 'Mid foes, and deathful darts, and bloody plains :
 While you, and can my soul the tale believe,
 Far from your country, lonely wand'ring leave, 60 }
 Me, me your lover, barbarous fugitive !
 Seek the rough Alps, where snows eternal shine,
 And joyless borders of the frozen Rhine.

53. These four lines are taken from Sir George Lyttelton's elegant Eclogues, entitled, *The progress of love*.

Me sine sola vides. ah te ne frigora laedant !
 Ah tibi ne teneras glacies secet aspera plantas !
 Ibo, et Chalcidico quae sunt mihi condita versu 50
 Carmina, pastoris Siculi modulabor avena.
 Certum est in silvis, inter spelaea ferarum,
 Malle pati, tenerisque meos incidere amores
 Arboribus : crescent illae : crescetis amores.
 Interea mixtis lustrabo Maenala nymphis : 55
 Aut acris venabor apros : non me ulla vetabunt
 Frigora Parthenios canibus circumdare saltus.
 Jam mihi per rupes videor lucosque sonantis
 Ire : libet Partho torquere Cydonia cornu
 Spicula ; tanquam haec sint nostri medicina furoris, 60
 Aut deus ille malis hominum mitescere discat.
 Jam neque Hamadryades rursus, neque carmina nobis
 Ipsa placent : ipsae rursus concedite silvae.
 Non illum nostri possunt mutare labores :
 Nec si frigoribus mediis Hebrumque bibamus, 65
 Sithoniasque nivis hiemis subeamus aquosae,
 Nec si, cum moriens alta liber aret in ulmo,
 Aethiopum versemus ovis sub sidere Cancri.
 Omnia vincit Amor. et nos cedamus Amori.
 Haec sat erit, divae, vestrum cecinisse poetam, 70
 Dum sedet, et gracili fisce llam textit hibisco,

66. *I go, I go.*] How justly are the various resolutions and shifting passions of a lover here described ! First, he resolves to renew his poetical studies, (for Gallus was a writer of elegies) then suddenly he talks of leaving the world, and finding out some melancholy solitude, and hiding himself among the dens of wild beasts, and amusing himself by carving her name on the trees. Then all at once he breaks out into a resolution that he will spend all his time in hunting ; but suddenly recollects with a sigh, that none of these amusements will cure his passion ; and then bids adieu to all the diversions of which he had been speaking.

88. *Feed.*] *Versemus*, in this place, in the original signifies to feed sheep, or drive them about, to feed.

89. *Elm.*] *Liber* in the original signifies the inmost bark of a tree.

90. Virgil uses the constellation of Cancer to express the tropic,

Ah! may no cold e'er blast my dearest maid,
 Nor pointed ice thy tender feet invade! 65
 I go, I go, Chaldeian strains to suit
 To the soft sounds of the Sicilian flute!
 'Tis fix'd!—to mazes of the tangled wood,
 Where cavern'd monsters roam in quest of blood,
 Abandon'd will I fly, to feed my flame 70
 Alone, and on the trees inscribe her name;
 Fast as the groves in stately growth improve,
 By pow'r congenial will increase my love.
 Mean while on summits of Lycaeum hoar,
 With the light nymphs I'll chase the furious boar, 75
 Nor me shall frosts forbid with horn and hound
 Parthenia's echoing forests to surround.
 Now, now, thro' sounding woods I seem to go,
 Twanging my arrows from the Parthian bow:
 As if these sports my wounded breast could heal, 80
 Or that fell god for mortal pangs would feel!
 But now, again no more the woodland maids,
 Nor pastoral songs delight—Farewel, ye shades!
 No toils of ours the cruel god can change,
 Tho' lost in frozen desarts we should range, 85
 Tho' we should drink where chilling Hebrus flows,
 Endure bleak winter's blasts, and Thracian snows;
 Or on hot India's plains our flocks should feed,
 Where the parch'd elm declines his sickening head;
 Beneath fierce glowing Cancer's fiery beams, 90
 Far from cool breezes and refreshing streams.
 Love over all maintains resistless sway,
 And let us love's all-conquering power obey.
 Thus, as a basket's rushy frame he wove,
 Your bard, ye muses, sung the pains of love: 95

tropic. The sun enters Cancer on the 10th or 11th of our June, which is the longest day of the year, and naturally the hottest.

Pierides. vos haec facietis maxima Gallo :

Gallo, quojus amor tantum mihi crescit in horas,

Quantum vere novo viridis se subjicit alnus.

Surgamus : solet esse gravis cunctantibus umbra. 75

Juniperi gravis umbra. nocent et frugibus umbrae.

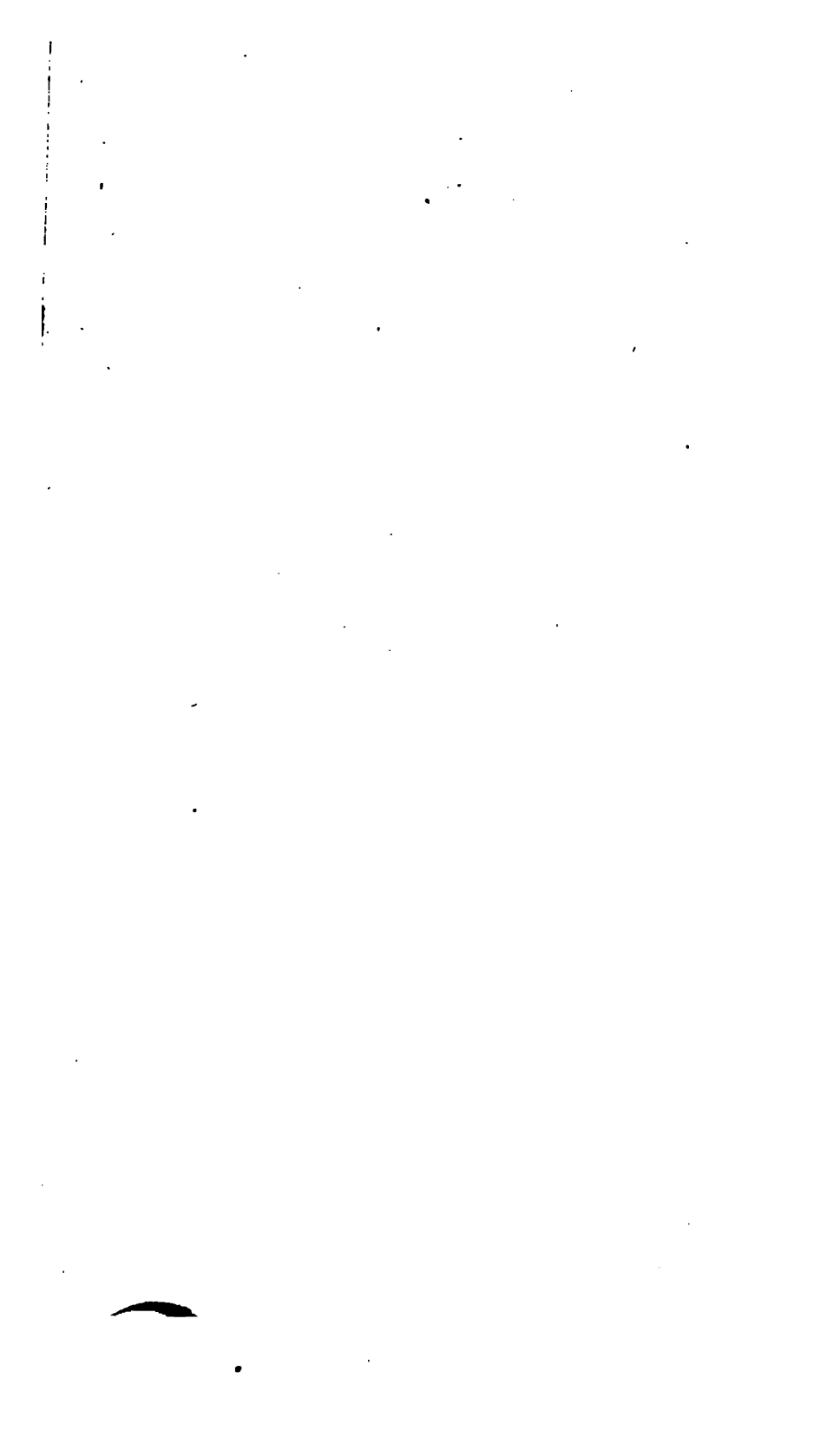
Ite domum saturae, venit Hesperus, ite capellae.

100. *Loitering.*] La Cerda reads, *cunctantibus*, not *cantantibus*, in the original, which seems to be the true sense.

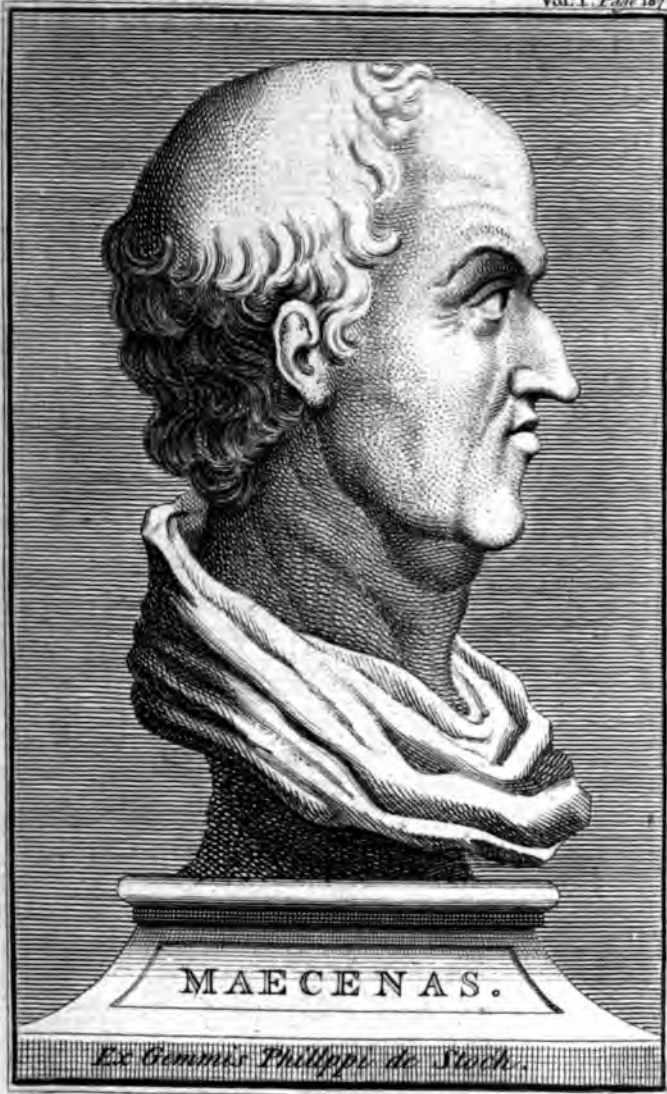
102. Even the shades of juniper, tho' it is a tree whose leaves are so fragrant, are still very unwholesome.

May Gallus view the song with partial eyes,
For whom each hour my flames of friendship rise ;
Fast as when vernal gales their influence spread,
The verdant alder lifts his blooming head.
But haste, unwholsome to the loitering swain 100
The shades are found, and hurtful to the grain ;
Ev'n juniper's sweet shade, whose leaves around
Fragrance diffuse, at eve are noxious found.
Homeward, ye well-fed goats, now sink the day ;
Lo, glittering Hesper comes ! my goats away. 105

END OF THE TENTH ECLOGUE.







MAECENAS.

Ex Gemmis Philippo de Stock.

P. Virgilii Maronis

G E O R G I C A .

T H E

G E O R G I C S

O F

V I R G I L .

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
G E O R G I C A .

AD C. CILNIUM MAECENATEM.

LIBER PRIMUS.

QUID faciat laetas segetes, quo fidere terram
 Vertere, Maecenas, ulmisque adungere vites
 Conveniat: quae cura bouum, qui cultus habendq
 Sit pecori, atque apibus quanta experientia parcis,
 Hinc canere incipiam. Vos, ô clarissima mundi 5
 Lumina, labentem coelo quae ducitis annum:
 Liber et alma Ceres, vestro si munere tellus
 Chaoniam pingui glandem mutavit arista,
 Poculaque inventis Acheloïa miscuit uvis:
 Et vos agrestum praesentia numina, Fauni, 10
 Ferte simul Faunique pedem Dryadesque puellae:
 Munera vestra cano. tuque ô, cui prima frementem
 Fudit equum magno tellus percussa tridenti,

Ver. 1. *Fields.*] The subjects of the four following books of
 Georgics are particularly specified in these four first lines;
Corn and *Ploughing* are the subject of the *first*, *Vines* of the *se-*
cond, *Cattle* of the *third*, and *Bees* of the *last*. By *seges* Vir-
 gil generally means the fields. *Quo fidere* is very poetical for
quo tempore. Mr. Dryden says only *when* to turn, &c. I ap-
 ply *experientia* to the bees after Grimoaldus and Dr. Trapp,
 as more poetical than the other meaning, and as suitable to
 Virgil's manner of ascribing human qualities to these insects.
 I wonder, says Mr. Holdsworth, whence Seneca came to speak
 so lightly of Virgil's exactness in his Georgics: but this I am
 sure of, that the more I have looked into the manner of agri-
 culture used at present in Italy, the more occasion I have had to
 admire

T H E
G E O R G I C S.
O F
V I R G I L.

TO C. CILNIUS MAECENAS.

BOOK THE FIRST.

WHAT culture crowns the laughing fields with corn,
 Beneath what heavenly signs the glebe to turn,
 Round the tall elm how circling vines to lead,
 The care of oxen, cattle how to breed,
 What wond'rous arts to frugal bees belong, 5
 Maecenas, are the subjects of my song.

Lights of the world! ye brightest orbs on high,
 Who lead the sliding year around the sky!
 Bacchus and Ceres, by whose gifts divine,
 Man chang'd the crystal stream for purple wine; 10
 For rich and foodful corn, Chaonian mast;
 Ye Fauns and virgin Dryads, hither haste;
 Ye Deities, who aid industrious swains,
 Your gifts I sing! facilitate the strains!
 And thou, whose trident struck the teeming earth, 15
 Whence sprang a neighing courser sprung to birth.

admire the justice and force of his expressions, and his exactness even in the minutest particulars. HOLDSWORTH.

7. *Lights of the world.*] *Clarissima mundi lumina* cannot be put in apposition or joined with *Bacchus et alma Ceres*; Virgil first invokes the *sun and moon*, and then *Bacchus*.—Varro's invocation proceeds in the same manner.

11. *Chaonian mast.*] The famous grove of Dodona was in Epirus or Chaonia.

Neptune; et cultor nemorum, cui pinguia Caeae
 Ter centum nivei tondent dumeta juvenci: 15
 Ipse nemus linquens patrium saltusque Lycaei
 Pan ovium custos, tua si tibi Maenala curae,
 Adsis ô Tegeae favens, oleaeque Minerva
 Inventrix, uncique puer monstrator aratri,
 Et teneram ab radice ferens, Sylvane, cupressum: 20
 Dique deaeque omnes, studium quibus arva tueri,
 Quique novas alitis non ullo femine fruges:
 Quique fatis largum coclo demittitis imbrem.
 Tuque adeo, quem mox quae sint habitura deorum
 Concilia incertum est; urbisne invisere, Caesar, 25
 Terrarumque velis curam, et te maximus orbis
 Auctorem frugum, tempestatumque potentem
 Accipiat, cingens materna tempora myrto;
 An deus immensi venias maris, ac tuae nautae
 Numina sola colant: tibi serviat ultima Thule, 30
 Teque sibi generum Tethys emat omnibus undis:
 Anne novum tardis fidus te mensibus addas,

18. *Snow-white heifers, feds.*] Aristaeus is here invoked, who taught the arts of curdling milk and cultivating olive trees. Triptolemus the son of Celeus was the inventor of the plough. In a contention between Neptune and Minerva about naming Athens, Neptune struck the earth with his trident, and produced a horse, and Pallas an olive tree.

19. *Lycaeus' grove.*] Lycaeus and Maenalus were two mountains in Arcadia, sacred to Pan.

25. *Sylvanus.*] Medals represent Sylvanus bearing a young cypress tree torn up by the roots. Neither Mr. Dryden nor Mr. Bénson seem apprehensive of this allusion, which is very picturesque.

31. *And thou.*] The poet here begins a fine address to Augustus, asking him whether he would chuse to be the god of earth, sea, or heaven. Catrou ingeniously imagines this address was added by Virgil the year before his death, when several other passages were likewise inserted; for he says Augustus was not thus highly honoured till after his return from the conquest of Egypt.

46. *Scorpius.*] Libra, or the Balance, was originally represented as held up by Scorpius, who extended his claws for that

Come thou, whose herd, in Caea's fertile meads,
 Of twice an hundred snow-white heifers, feeds :
 Guardian of flocks, O leave Lycaeus' grove,
 If Maenalus may still retain thy love, 20
 Tegaeon Pan ; and bring with thee the maid
 Who first at Athens rais'd the olive's shade,
 Propitious Pallas ; nor be absent thou,
 Fair youth, inventor of the crooked plough ;
 Nor thou, Sylvanus, in whose hands is borne 25
 A tender cypress by the roots up-torn :
 Come, all ye gods and goddesses, who hear
 The suppliant swains, and blest with fruits the year ;
 Ye, who the wild spontaneous seeds sustain,
 Or swell with showers the cultivated grain. 30
 And thou, thou chief, whose seat among the gods
 Is yet unchosen in the blest abodes,
 Wilt thou, great Caesar, o'er the earth preside,
 Protect her cities, and her empires guide,
 While the vast globe shall feel thy genial pow'r, 35
 Thee as the god of foodful fruits adore,
 Sovereign of seasons, of the storms and wind,
 And with thy mother's boughs thy temples bind ?
 Or over boundless ocean wilt thou reign,
 Smooth the wild billows of the roaring main, 40
 While utmost Thule shall thy nod obey,
 To thee in shipwrecks shivering sailors pray,
 While Tethys, if some wat'ry nymph could please,
 Would give in dow'ry all her thousand seas ?
 Or wilt thou mount a splendid sign on high, 45
 Betwixt the Maid and Scorpius deck the sky ;

that purpose out of his own proper dominions ; and that, under Augustus, or a little after his death, they made Scorpius contract his claws, and introduced a new personage (most probably Augustus himself) to hold the Balance. On the farnese globe it is held by Scorpius ; (which, by the way, may perhaps shew that work to have been previous to the Augustan age :) in several of the gems and medals on which we

Qua locus Erigonen inter Chelâsque sequentis
 Panditur. ipse tibi jam brachia contrahit ardens
 Scorpîos, et coeli iusta plus parte reliquit. 35
 Quicquid eris ; (nam te nec sperent Tartara regem,
 Nec tibi regnandi veniat tam dira cupido :
 Quamvis Elyfios miretur Graecia campos,
 Nec repetita sequi curet Proserpina matrem)
 Da facilem cursum, atque audacibus adnue coeptis, 40
 Ignarosque viae mecum miseratus agrestis
 Ingredere, et votis jam nunc adsuefce vocari.
 Vere novo, gelidus canis cum montibus humor
 Liquitur, et zephyro putris se gleba resolvit ;
 Depresso incipiat jam tum mihi taurus aratro 45
 Ingemere, et sulco adtritrus splendescere vomer.
 Illa seges demum votis respondet avari
 Agricolae, bis quae solem, bis frigora sensit :
 Illius immensae ruperunt horrea messes.
 Ac prius ignotum ferro quam scindimus aequor, 50
 Ventos, et varium coeli praediscere morem
 Cura fit, ac patrios cultusque habitusque locorum,
 Et quid quaeque ferat regio, et quid quaeque recuset.

have the signs of the zodiac, it is held by a man. This is said to be Augustus. It was a very common thing among the Roman poets to compliment their emperors with a place among the constellations; and perhaps the Roman astronomers took the hint of placing Augustus there, and that in this very situation, from Virgil's compliment of this kind to the emperor. To say the truth, there could scarce have been a place or employment, better chosen for Augustus. The astronomers originally were at a loss how to have the Balance supported: they were obliged, for this purpose, to make Scorpius take up the space of two signs in the zodiac; which was quite irregular; and to be sure they would be ready to lay hold of any fair occasion of reducing to his due bounds again. On the other hand, it was quite as proper for Augustus, as it was improper for Scorpius, to hold it: for, beside its being a compliment to him for his justice, or for his holding the balance of the affairs of the world, (if they talked of princes then, in the style we have been so much used to of late) Libra was the very sign that was said to preside over Italy; and so Augustus

Scorpius e'en now his burning claws confines,
 And more than a just share of heav'n resigns?
 Whate'er thou choose; (for sure thou wilt not deign,
 With dire ambition fir'd, in hell to reign, 50
 Tho' Greece her fair Elysian fields admire,
 Whence Proserpine refuses to retire)—
 Look kindly down, my invocations hear!
 Assist my course, and urge my bold career;
 Pity with me, the simple ploughman's cares, 55
 Now, now assume the god, and learn to hear our pray'rs.

In earliest spring, when melting snow distils
 Adown the mountains' sides, in trickling rills,
 When Zephyr's breeze unbinds the crumbling soil,
 Then let my groaning steers begin the toil; 60
 Deep in the furrows press the shining share;
 Those lands at last repay the peasants' care,
 Which twice the sun, and twice the frosts sustain,
 And burst his barns furcharg'd with pond'rous grain.
 But ere we launch the plough in plains unknown, 65
 Be first the clime, the winds and weather shewn;
 The temper and the genius of the fields,
 What each refuses, what in plenty yields;

tus in holding that, would be supposed to be the guardian angel of his country after his decease, as he had been so formally declared to be the father and protector of it in his lifetime. Upon the whole, I do not see how any thought of this kind could have been carried on with more propriety, than this seems to have been, by the admirers or flatterers of that emperor. POLYMETIS, Dialogue II. p. 170.

57. *In earliest spring.*] The writers of agriculture, says Dr. Martyn, did not confine themselves to the computation of astrologers; but dated their spring from the end of the frosty weather. *Possunt igitur ac idibus Januariis, ut principem mensem Romani anni observet, auspicari culturarum officia.*

COLUMELLA.

63. *Which twice the sun, and twice.*] The meaning is, that, a field which has lain still two years together, instead of *one* (which last is the common method) will bear a much greater crop.

BENSON.

Hic fegetes, illic veniunt felicius uvae :
 Arborei foetus alibi atque injussa virescunt 55
 Gramina. nonne vides, croceos ut Tmolus odores,
 India mittit ebur, molles sua tura Sabaei ?
 At Chalybes nudi ferrum, virofaque Pontus
 Castorea, Eliadum palmas Epiros equarum ?
 Continuo has leges, aeternaque foedera certis 60
 Inposuit Natura locis : quo tempore primum
 Deucalion vacuum lapides jactavit in orbem :
 Unde homines nati durum genus. ergo age, terrae
 Pingue solum primis extemplo a mensibus anni
 Fortes invortant tauri, glebasque jacentis 65
 Pulverulenta coquat maturis solibus aestas.
 At si non fuerit tellus secunda ; sub ipsum
 Arceturum tenui fat crit suspendere sulco :
 Illic, officiant laetis ne frugibus herbae ;
 Hic, sterilem exiguus ne deferat humor arenam. 70
 Alternis idem tonfas cessare novalis,
 Et segnem patiere situ durefcere campum.
 Aut ibi flava seres mutato sidere farra,
 Unde prius lactum siliqua quassante legumen,
 Aut tenuis foetus viciae, tristisque lupini 75
 Sustuleris fragilis calamos silvamque sonantem.
 Urit enim lini campum seges, urit avenae :
 Urunt Lethaco perfusa papavera somno.

74. *Castor.*] 'Tis a vulgar mistake that the testicles of the beaver contain the *castor*; for 'tis taken from some odoriferous glands about the groin of this animal. *Virofa* in this place does not mean *poisonous*, but *efficacious* or *powerful*.

87. *There, lest the weeds.*] Virgil speaks of the seasons of ploughing strong and light ground. The first, says he, must be ploughed early in the spring, and lie all summer; and the other lightly in autumn: or else the strong ground will run all to weeds, and the light ground will have all its juices exhausted.

BENSON.

92. *The lupin sbook.*] The *tristis lupinus* is not our lupin, but that seed which they now in Italy lay a-soak so long in water, to get rid of its bitterness, and even sell it so in their streets.

Here golden corn, there luscious grapes abound,
 There grafs spontaneous, or rich fruits are found; 70
 See'st thou not Tmolus, saffron sweet difpenfe ?
 Her ivory, Ind ? Arabia, frankincenfe ?
 The naked Chalybes their iron ore ?
 To Caftor Pontus give it's fetid pow'r ?
 While for Olympic games, Epirus breeds, 75
 To whirl the kindling car, the fwifteft steeds ?
 Nature, thefe laws, and thefe eternal bands,
 Firft fix'd on certain climes, and various lands,
 What time the ftones, upon th' unpeopled world,
 Whence fprung laborious man, Deucalion hurl'd. 80
 Come on then : yoke, and fweat thy fturdy steer,
 In deep, rich foils, when dawns the vernal year ;
 The turf difclos'd, the clinging clods unbound,
 Summer fhall bake and meliorate thy ground :
 But for light, ftiril land, it may fuffice, 85
 Gently to turn it in autumnal fkies ;
 There, left the weeds o'er joyful ears prevail,
 Here, left all moisture from the fands exhale.
 The glebe fhall reft, whence laft you gather'd grain,
 Till the fpent earth recover ftrength again : 90
 For where the trembling pods of pulfe you took,
 Or from its rattling ftalk the lupin fhook,
 Or vetches' feed minute, will golden corn
 With alter'd grain that happy tilth adorn.
 Parcht are the lands, that oats or flax produce, 95 }
 Or poppies, pregnant with Lethean juice ; }
 Nor want uncultur'd fallows grace or ufe. }

'Tis but a very infipid thing at beft. The *fafelus* of the Romans is our lupin. HOLDSWORTH.

95. *Parcht are the lands.*] That flax, oats, and poppies, dry and impoverish the foil, we have the concurrent testimony of Columella, Paladius, and Pliny. The Romans cultivated poppies, not our common fcarlet ones, but our garden poppy.

MARTYN.

Sed tamen alternis facilis labor : arida tantum
 Ne saturare fimo pingui pudeat sola ; neve 80
 Effoetos cinerem inmundum jactare per agros.
 Sic quoque mutatis requiescunt foetibus arva.
 Nec nulla interea est inaratae gratia terrae.
 Saepe etiam sterilis incendere profuit agros,
 Atque levem stipulam crepitantibus urere flammis : 85
 Sive inde occultas vires, et pabula terrae
 Pingua concipiunt : sive illis omne per ignem
 Excoquitur vitium, atque exsudat inutilis humor :
 Seu piuris calor ille vias et caeca relaxat
 Spiramenta, novas veniat qua succus in herbas : 90
 Seu durat magis, et venas adstringit hiantis :
 Ne tenues pluviae, rapidive potentia solis
 Acrior, aut Boreae penetrabile frigus adurat.
 Multum adeo, rastris glebas qui frangit inertis,
 Vimineasque trahit crates, juvat arva : neque illum 95
 Flava Ceres auto nequicquam spectat Olympo :
 Et qui, proficisso quae suscitatur aequore terga,
 Rursus in obliquum verso perumpit aratro,
 Exercetque frequens tellurem, atque imperat arvis.

102. *To burn the barren glebe.*] Virgil, says Mr. Benson (but he seems to be mistaken) speaks of two different things, of burning the soil itself before the ground is ploughed, and of burning the stubble after the corn is taken off from arable land. The rapidity of *saepe levem stipulam crepitantibus urere flammis*, expresses the crackling and swiftness of the flame.

103. *While the light stubble.*] They still use the method so much recommended by Virgil (Geo. I. 84 to 93) of burning the stubble, especially in the more barren fields, in most parts of Italy; and about Rome in particular, where there is so much bad ground. The smoke is very troublesome when they do it; and there had been so many complaints made of it to Clement XI. that he had resolved to forbid that practice. When the order was laid before that pope, to be signed by him; a cardinal (who happened to be with his holiness) spoke much of the use of it; shewed him this passage in Virgil; and the pope on reading it, changed his mind, and rejected the order.

HOLDSWORTH.

113. *Cold should scorch.*] Burning applied to cold is not merely a poetical expression; but we find it made use of by the philosophers.

But blush not fattening dung to cast around,
 Or fordid ashes o'er th' exhausted ground.
 Thus rest, or change of grain, improves the field, 100
 Thus riches may arise from lands untill'd.

Gainful to burn the barren glebe 'tis found,
 While the light stubble, crackling, flames around :
 Whence, or to earth new stores of strength are lent,
 And large supplies of richer nutriment ; 105
 Or oozing off, and purify'd by fire,
 The latent, noxious particles transpire ;
 Or thro' the pores relax'd, the tender blade
 Fresh fructifying juices feels convey'd ;
 Or genial heat the hollow glebe constrains, 110
 Braces each nerve, and binds the gaping veins ;
 Left slender showers, or the fierce beams of day,
 Or Boreas' baleful cold should scorch the crops away.

Much too he helps his labour'd lands, who breaks
 The crumbling clods, with harrows, drags, and rakes ; 115
 Who ploughs across, and back, with ceaseless toil,
 Subdues to dust, and triumphs o'er the soil :
 Plenty to him, industrious swain ! is giv'n,
 And Ceres smiles upon his works from heav'n.

phers. Aristotle says, that cold is accidentally an active body, and is sometimes said to burn and warm, not in the same manner as heat, but because it condenses or constrains the heat by surrounding it.

MARTYN.

116. *Who ploughs across.*] What the poet speaks of here retains the Roman name to this day, in many parts of England ; and is called, sowing upon the back ; that is, sowing stiff ground after once ploughing. Now, says Virgil, he that draws a harrow or hurdle over his ground before he sows it, *multum juvat arva*, for this fills up the chinks, which otherwise would bury the corn ; but then, says he, " Ceres always looks kindly on him, who ploughs his ground across again."

BENSON.

119. *And Ceres.*] Virgil, says Spence, in his *Georgics* gives us an idea of Ceres as regarding the laborious husbandman from heaven, and blessing the work of his hand with success. There is a picture like this in the famous old manuscript of Virgil in the Vatican ; and Lucretius has a strong description

Humida solstitia atque hiemes orate serenas, 100
 Agricolae : hiberno laetissima pulvere farra,
 Laetus ager. nullo tantum se Mysia cultu
 Jactat, et ipsa suas mirantur Gargara messis.
 Quid dicam, jacto qui semine comminus arva
 Insequitur cumulosque ruit male pinguis arenae? 105
 Deinde satis fluvium inducit, rivosque sequentis?
 Et, cum exustus ager morientibus aestuat herbis,
 Ecce supercilio clivosi tramitis undam
 Elicit. illa cadens raucum per levia murmur
 Saxa ciet, scatebrisque arentia temperat arva. 110
 Quid, qui, ne gravidis procumbat culmus aristis,
 Luxuriam segetum tenera depascit in herba ;
 Cum primum sulcos aequant fata? quique paludis
 Consectum humorem bibula deducit arena?
 Praefertim incertis si mensibus amnis abundans 115
 Exit, et obducto late tenet omnia limo ;
 Unde cavae tepido sudant humore lacunae.
 Nec tamen (haec cum sint hominumque boumque labores
 Versando terram experti) nihil improbus anser,
 Strymoniacque grucs, et amaris intuba fibris, 120
 Officiunt, aut umbra nocet. pater ipse colendi

of another deity, exactly in the same attitude, though with a very different regard. POLYMETIS, page 103.

This image of Ceres puts one in mind of that beautiful one in the psalms—*Righteousness* (a person) *looked down from heaven.* Ps. lxxiii. ver. 2.

121. *Solstice.*] Solstice, when used alone, is always used for the summer solstice by the ancients. HOLDSWORTH.

125. *And Gargarus.*] This is one of those figures that raise the style of the *Georgics*, and make it so majestic.

133. *Rills.*] When the Persians were masters of Asia, they permitted those who conveyed a spring to any place, which had not been watered before, to enjoy the benefit for five generations; and as a number of rivulets flowed from mount Taurus, they spared no expence in directing the course of their streams. At this day, without knowing how they came thither, they are oad in the fields and gardens.

MONTESQUIEU'S Spirit of Laws, Vol. 1. p. 325.

139. *Feeds down.*] It is a common practice among the farmers

Ye husbandmen ! of righteous Heav'n intreat 120
 A winter calm and dry ; a solstice wet ;
 For winter-duft delights the pregnant plain,
 The happiest covering for the bury'd grain ;
 Hence matchless harvests Mysia boasting reaps,
 And Gargarus admires his unexpected heaps. 125

Why should I tell of him, who, on his land
 Fresh-fown, destroys each ridge of barren sand ;
 Then instant, o'er the levell'd furrows brings
 Refreshful waters from the cooling springs ;
 Behold, when burning suns, or Sirius' beams 130

Strike fiercely on the fields, and withering stems ;
 Down from the summit of the neighb'ring hills,
 O'er the smooth stones he calls the bubbling rills ;
 Soon as he clears, whate'er their passage stay'd,
 And marks their future current with his spade, 135

Before him scattering they prevent his pains,
 Burst all abroad, and drench the thirsty plains.
 Or who, lest the weak stalks be over-weigh'd,
 Feeds down, betimes, the rank luxuriant blade,
 When first it rises to the furrows' head. 140

Or why of him, who drains the marshy sands,
 Collects the moisture from th' absorbing sands,
 When bursting from his banks, th' indignant flood
 The country covers wide, with slimy mud,
 In doubtful months, when swelling dykes resound 145
 With torrents loud, and sweat and boil around.

Yet after all these toils of swains and steers,
 Still rising ills impend, and countless cares ;
 The glutton goose, the Thracian cranes annoy,
 Succory and noxious shade thy crops destroy. 150

mers at present, when the corn is too rank and luxuriant, to turn in their sheep and feed it down.

149. *Goose.*] Virgil speaks of the geese as a very troublesome bird, and very pernicious to the corn. They are still so in flocks, in the *Campania Felice*, the country which Virgil had chiefly in his eye when he wrote his Georgics.

Haud facilem esse viam voluit, primusque per artem
 Movit agros, curis acuens mortalia corda,
 Nec torpere gravi passus sua regna veterno.
 Ante Jovem nulli subigebant arva coloni : 125
 Nec signare quidem aut partiri limite campum
 Fas erat. in medium quaerebant : ipsaque tellus
 Omnia liberius nullo poscente ferebat.
 Ille malum virus serpentibus addidit atris,
 Praedarique lupos jussit, pontumque moveri : 130
 Mellaque decussit foliis, ignemque removit,
 Et passim rivis currentia vina repressit :
 Ut varias usus meditando extunderet artis
 Paullatim, et sulcis frumenti quaereret herbam ;
 Ut silicis venis abstrusum excuderet ignem. 135
 Tunc alnos primum fluvii sensere cavatas :
 Navita tum stellis numeros et nomina fecit,
 Pleiadas, Hyadas, claramque Lycaonis Arcton.
 Tum laqueis captare feras, et fallere visco,
 Inventum ; et magnos canibus circumdare saltus. 140
 Atque alius latum funda jam verberat amnem,
 Alta petens : pelagoque alius trahit humida lina.
 Tum ferri rigor, atque argutae lamina ferrae :
 (Nam primi cuneis scindebant fissile lignum)
 Tum variae venere artes. labor omnia vicit 145
 Inprobus, ac duris urguens in rebus egestas.
 Prima Ceres ferro mortalis vertere terram
 Instituit : cum jam glandes atque arbuta sacrae
 Deficerent silvae, et victum Dodona negaret.
 Mox et frumentis labor additus : ut mala culmos 150
 Efflet robigo, segnisque horreret in arvis

153. *With cares he rous'd.*] This account of the providential usefulness of some seeming evils, is not only beautifully poetical, but strictly philosophical. Want is the origin of arts: Infirmities and weaknesses are the cause and cement of human society. If man were perfect and self-sufficient, all the efforts of industry would be useless. A dead calm would reign over all the species.

• Wants,

Th' eternal fire, immutably decreed,
 That tillage should with toil alone succeed ;
 With cares he rous'd, and sharpen'd human hearts,
 Bright'ning the rust of indolence by arts.
 Ere Jove had reign'd, no swains subdu'd the ground, 155
 Unknown was property, unjust the mound ;
 At will they rov'd ; and earth spontaneous bore,
 Unask'd, and uncompell'd, a bounteous store :
 He, to fierce serpents deathful venom gave,
 Bade wolves destroy, bade stormy ocean rave ; 160
 Conceal'd the fire, from leaves their honey shook ;
 And stopp'd of purple wine each flowing brook :
 That studious want might useful arts contrive ;
 From planted furrows foodful corn derive ;
 And strike from veins of flints the secret spark : 165
 Then first the rivers felt the hollow'd bark ;
 Sailors first nam'd and counted every star,
 The Pleiads, Hyads, and the northern car.
 Now snares for beasts and birds fell hunters place,
 And wide surround with dogs the echoing chace : 170
 One, for the finny prey broad rivers beats,
 One, from the sea drags slow his loaded nets.
 Erst did the woods the force of wedges feel,
 Now saws were tooth'd, and temper'd was the steel ;
 Then all those arts that polish life succeed ; 175
 What cannot ceaseless toil, and pressing need !
 Great Ceres first the plough to mortals brought,
 To yoke the steer, to turn the furrow taught ;
 What time, nor mast, nor fruits the groves supply'd,
 And fam'd Dodona sustenance deny'd : 180 }
 Tillage grew toilsome, the choak'd harvests dy'd ;

‘ Wants, frailties, passions, closer still ally
 ‘ The common int'rest, and endear the tie ;’

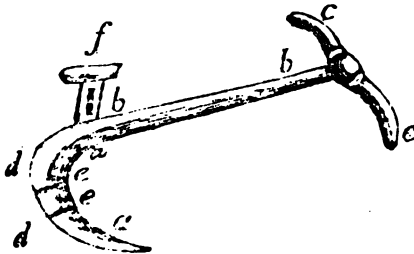
says the great moral poet in his *Essay on Man*. And this doctrine is strongly illustrated throughout the whole system.

Carduus. intercunt segetes : subit aspera silva
 Lappaeque tribulique ; interque nitentia culta
 Infelix lolium et steriles dominantur avenae.
 Quod nisi et adfiduis herbam infectabere rastris, 155
 Et sonitu terrebis aves, et ruris opaci
 Falce premes umbras, votisque vocaveris imbrem :
 Heu, magnum alterius frustra spectabis acervom ;
 Concussaque famem in silvis solabere quercu.
 Dicendum, et quae sint duris agrestibus arma : 160
 Quis sine nec potuere feri, nec surgere messes.
 Vomis, et inflexi primum grave robur aratri,
 Tardaue Eleufinae matris volventia plaustra,
 Tribulaque, traehaeque, et iniquo pondere rastris :
 Virgea praeterea Celei vilisque supellex, 165
 Arbuteae crates, et mystica vannus Iacchi.
 Omnia quae multa ante memor provisã repones ;
 Si te digna manet divini gloria ruris.

189. *From forest-oaks.*] This is another instance of Virgil's poetical manner of telling plain things ; instead of saying, You will have no crop ; You will be forc'd, says he, to go into the wild forests, as man used to do, before he was civilized, for food.

192. *Plough.*] I have a drawing of an antique plough, from a brass figure in the Jesuits college at Rome. I don't know the exact time or place in which it was made, but every part of it seems to me to have something to answer it in Virgil's description. The figure of it is below : and I take all the bending part of the wood, or the plough tail (mark'd *a*) to be what Virgil calls *buris* ; *b* the pole or *temo* ; *c* the two pieces that go over the necks of the oxen ; which he calls *aures* ; *d* the plough-share, *dentale* ; *e* the two clouts of iron to fasten the plough-share, *dorsa* ; and *f* the handle of the plough, or *stiva*.

SPENCE,



Caltrops, wild oats, darnel, and burrs assail
The beauteous tilth, and blights o'er the rich crops pre-
vail ;

Unless with harrows' unremitted toil,
Thou break, subdue, and pulverize the soil, 185
Fright pecking birds, lop overshadowing bowers,
And beg of smiling Heav'n refreshful showers,
Alas ! thy neighbour's stores with envy view'd,
Thou'lt shake from forest-oaks thy tasteless food.

Next must we tell, what arms stout peasants wield, 190
Without whose aid, no crops could crown the field :
The sharpen'd share, and heavy-timber'd plough,
And Ceres' pond'rous waggon, rolling slow ;
And Ceus' harrows, hurdles, sleds to trail
O'er the press'd grain, and Bacchus' flying sail. 195
These long before provide, you, who incline
To merit praise by husbandry divine !

I have borrow'd a few lines from Mr. Benson's translation of this passage.

195. *Bacchus' flying sail.*] The persons who were initiated into any of the ancient mysteries, were to be particularly good ; they looked upon themselves as separated from the vulgar of mankind, and dedicated to a life of singular virtue and piety. This may be the reason that the fan or van, the *myslica vannus Iacobi*, was used in initiations : The instrument that separates the wheat from the chaff being as proper an emblem as can well be, of setting apart the good and virtuous from the wicked or useless part of mankind.

In the drawings of the ancient paintings by Bellori, there are two that seem to relate to initiations ; and each of them has the *vannus* in it. In one of them, the person that is initiating, stands in a devout posture, and with a veil on, the old mark of devotion ; while two that were formerly initiated hold the van over his head. In the other there is a person holding a van, with a young infant in it. The latter may signify much the same with the scripture expression, entering into a state of virtue " as a little child." Mark x. 15. The van itself puts one in mind of another text relating to a particular purity of life, and the separation of the good from the bad, " Whose fan is in his hand, and he shall thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner ; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Luke iii. 17.

HOLDSWORTH and SPENCE.

Continuo in silvis magna vi flexa domatur
 In burim, et curvi formam accipit ulmus aratri. 170
 Huic ab stirpe pedes temo protentus in octo,
 Binae aures, duplici aptantur dentalia dorso.
 Caeditur et tilia ante jugo levis, altaque fagus,
 Stivaque, quae currus a tergo torqueat imos,
 Et suspensa focus explorat robora fumus. 175
 Possum multa tibi veterum praecepta referre;
 Ni refugis, tenuisque piget cognoscere curas.
 Area cum primis ingenti aequanda cylindro,
 Et vertenda manu, et creta solidanda tenaci:
 Ne subeant herbae, neu pulvere victa fatiscat; 180
 Tum variae inludant pestes. saepe exiguus mus
 Sub terris posuitque domos atque horrea fecit:
 Aut oculis capti fodere cubilia talpae.
 Inventusque cavis bufo, et quae plurima terrae
 Monstra ferunt: populatque ingentem farris acervom 185
 Curculio, atque inopi metuens formica senectae.
 Contemplator item, cum se nux plurima silvis
 Induet in florem, et ramos curvabit olentis:
 Si superant foetus, pariter frumenta sequentur,
 Magnaque cum magno veniet tritura calore. 190
 At si luxurie foliorum exuberat umbra,
 Nequidquam pinguis palea teret area culmos.
 Semina vidi equidem multos medicare ferentes,
 Et nitro prius et nigra perfundere amurca,
 Grandior ut foetus siliquis fallacibus esset. 195
 Et, quamvis igni exiguo properata maderent,
 Vidi lecta diu, et multo spectata labore
 Degenerare tamen: ni vis humana quotannis

202. *Light to.] Magna vi domatur ulmus—alta fagus caeditur—currus torqueat—*all expressions used to ennoble the description. HOLDSWORTH.

208. *Floor.] Aream esse oportet—solidam terram pavitam, maxime si est argilla, ne aestu pasminosa, in rimis ejus grana delitecant, et recipiant aquam, et ostia aperiant muribus & formicis. Itaque amurcam solent perfundere, ea enim herbarum est inimica & formicarum,*

When bent betimes, and tam'd the stubborn bough,
 Tough elm receives the figure of the plough ;
 Eight foot the beam, a cumbrous length appears ; 200
 The earth-boards double ; double are the ears ;
 Light to the yoke the linden feels the wound,
 And the tall beech lies stretcht along the ground ;
 They fall for staves that guide the plough-share's course,
 And heat and hardening smoke confirm their force. 205
 More ancient precepts could I sing, but fear
 Such homely rules may grate thy nicer ear.
 To press the chalky floor more closely down,
 Roll o'er its surface a cylindric stone ;
 Else thro' the loosen'd dust, and chinky ground, 210
 The grass springs forth, and vermin will abound.
 Oft working low in earth the tiny mouse
 Her garners makes, and builds her secret house ;
 Their nests and chambers scoop, the eyeless moles,
 And swelling toads that haunt the darksome holes ; 215
 The weasel heaps consumes, or prudent ant
 Provides her copious stores, 'gainst age or want.
 Mark likewise when in groves the almond blows,
 And bends with luxury of flow'rs his boughs ;
 If fruit abound, the corn alike will thrive, 220
 And toil immense the copious threshing give ;
 But if with full exuberance of shade,
 The clustering leaves a barren foliage spread,
 Then will the chaffy stalks, so lean and poor,
 In vain be trampled on the hungry floor. 225
 Some prudent sowers have I seen indeed
 Steep with preventive care the manag'd seed,
 In nitre, and black lees of oil ; to make
 The swelling pods a larger body take :
 But the well-disciplin'd, and chosen grains, 230 }
 Tho' quicken'd o'er slow fires with skilful pains,
 Starve and degenerate in the fattest plains, }

carum, & talparum venenum. Thus says Varro, from whom 'tis plain Virgii borrow'd this precept, as he has done many others.

Maxuma quaeque manu legeret: sic omnia fatis
 In pejus ruere, ac retro sublapſa referri. 200
 Non aliter, quam qui adverſo vix flumine lembum
 Remigiis ſubigit; ſi brachia forte remiſit,
 Atque illum in praeceps prono rapit alveus amni.
 Praeterea tam ſunt Arcturi ſidera nobis,
 Haedorumque dies ſervandi, et lucidus Anguis; 205
 Quam quibus in patriam ventofa per aequora veſtis
 Pontus et oſtriferi fauces tentantur Abydi.
 Libra die ſomnique pares ubi fecerit horas,
 Et medium luci atque umbris jam dividit orbem:
 Exercete, viri, tauros; ſerite hordea campis, 210
 Uſque ſub extremum brumae intractabilis imbrem.
 Nec non et lini ſegetem et Cereale papaver
 Tempus humo tegere, et jamdudum incumbere raſtris,
 Dum ſicca tellure licet, dum nubila pendent.

240. *The torrent.*] It is remarkable in Virgil, that he frequently joins in the ſame ſentence the complete and perfect preſent with the extended and paſſing preſent; which proves that he conſidered the two, as belonging to the ſame ſpecies of time; and therefore naturally formed to co-incide with each other.

——— *Si brachia forte remiſit,*
Atque illum in praeceps prono rapit alveus amni. Geor. I.
Terra tremis, fugere ferae. G. I.
Praeſertim ſi tempeſtas a vertice ſylvis
Incubuit, glomeratque ſerens incendia ventus. G. II.
 ——— *Tardis ingens ubi flexibus errat*
Mincius, et tenera praetexit arundine ripas. G. III.
 ——— *Illa noto citius, volucrique ſagittâ,*
Ad terram fugit, et portu ſe condidit alto. Aen. 5.

In the ſame manner he joins the ſame two modifications of time in the paſt; that is to ſay, the complete and perfect with the extended and paſſing.

——— *Irruerant Danai & teſtum omne tenebant.* Aen. II.

Tris imbris torti radios, tris nubis aquoſae
Addiderant, rutuli tris ignis, et alitis auſtri.

Unless with annual industry and art,
 They cull'd each largest out, and plac'd apart :
 For such the changeful lot of things below, 235
 Still to decay they rush, and ever backwards flow.

As one, who 'gainst a stream's impetuous course,
 Scarce pulls his slow boat, urg'd with all his force,
 If once his vigour cease, or arms grow slack,
 Instant, with headlong haste, the torrent whirls him back.

We too as much must mark Arcturus' signs, 241
 When rise the Kids, when the bright Dragon shines,
 As home-bound mariners, in tempests tost,
 Near Pontus, or Abydos' oyster'd coast.

When Libra measures out to day and night, 245
 Equal proportions both of shade and light ;
 Work, work your bullocks, barley sow, ye swains,
 'Till winter's first impracticable rains.
 Now in their beds, your poppies hide and flax ;
 With frequent harrowings smooth the furrows' backs,
 Now while ye may, while the dark welkin low'rs, 251
 O'er the dry glebe while clouds suspend their show'rs.

*Fulgores nunc terrificos sonitumque metumque
 Miscebant operi, flammisque sequacibus iras.* Aen. VIII.
 HARRIS'S Hermes, p. 133.

248. *Winter's.*] *Bruma* was not used by the ancients for the whole winter ; but for one day only of it, the shortest day, or the winter solstice. HOLDSWORTH.

248. *Firſt.*] The word *extremus* in Latin has two very different significations ; it may relate to the beginning, as well as the end of any thing ; or to the nearest part of it, as well as the farthest off. Thus if one was to say, *in extremo ponte*, it may mean the *bitber* extremity or end of the bridge ; and when Virgil says his countrymen should work

Uſque ſub extremum brumae intratibilis imbrem :

it muſt be underſtood of the beginning of that rainy ſeaſon, which was itſelf unfit for work ; this took up the latter half of December, which was therefore turned all into holy-days, or the *Saturnalia*, in which the ſlaves that were at other times kept hard to work, were indulged in particular liberties, and ſpent all the time in mirth and joviality. HOLDSWORTH.

Vere fabis fatio. tum te quoque, Medica, putres 215
 Accipiunt sulci; et milio venit annua cura :
 Candidus auratis aperit cum cornibus annum
 Taurus, et averso cedens Canis occidit astro.
 At si triticeam in messëm robustaque farra
 Exercebis humum, solisque instabis aristis : 220
 Ante tibi Eoae Atlantides abscondantur,
 Cœssiaque ardentis decedat stella Coronae,
 Debita quam sulcis committas semina, quamque
 Invitae properes anni spem credere terræ.
 Multi ante occasum Maiæ coepere : sed illos 225
 Expectata seges vanis elusit avenis.
 Si verò viciamque seres vilemque fascelum,
 Nec Pelusiacæ curam asperaabere lentis ;
 Haud obscura cadens mittet tibi signa Boötes.
 Incipe, et ad medias sementem extende pruinas. 230
 Idcirco certis dimensum partibus orbem
 Per duodena regit mundi Sol aureus astra.
 Quinque tenent coelum zonæ : quarum una corusco
 Semper sole rubens, ac torrida semper ab igni :
 Quam circum extremæ dextra laevaque trahuntur, 235
 Cærulea glaciæ concretæ atque imbribus atris.

257. *His backward-rising star.*] By *averso astro*, in the original, 'tis most probable Virgil means the *Bull*; for that constellation rises with his hinder parts upwards. Throughout *Mamilius* the Bull is called *astrum aversum*. Some read *adversum*; but that is scarce reconcileable to the sense of this passage.

260. *Pleiades.*] The heliacal setting of these stars *Eoae Atlantides* is pointed out by the word *abscondantur*. Wherever Virgil speaks of the setting of any stars in general, and without any such restriction, it is always to be understood of their natural setting. HOLDSWORTH.

272. *Five zones.*] Under the torrid or burning zone lies that part of the earth which is contained between the two tropics. This was thought by the ancients to be uninhabitable, because of the excessive heat: but later discoveries have shewn it to be inhabited by many great nations. It contains a great part of Asia, Africa, and South America. Under the two frigid or cold zones lie those parts of the earth, which





Sow beans in spring : in spring, the crumbling soil
 Receives thee; lucern ! Media's flowery spoil ;
 But still to millet give we annual care, 255 }
 When the Bull opes with golden horns the year,
 And the Dog sets, to shun his backward-rising star. }
 But if for wheat alone, for stronger grain,
 And bearded corn, thou exercise the plain,
 First let the morning Pleiades go down, 260
 From the sun's rays emerge the Gnosian crown,
 Ere to th' unwilling earth thou trust the seed,
 And marr thy future hopes with ill-judg'd speed.
 Some have begun, ere Maia sunk ; but them
 Their full-ear'd hope mock'd with a flattering stem. 265
 If the mean vetch, or tare, thou deign to sow,
 Nor scorn to bid Aegyptian lentils grow,
 Signs, not obscure, Boötes, setting yields,
 Begin, and sow, thro' half the frosts, thy fields.
 For this the golden sun, in his career, 270
 Rules thro' the world's twelve signs the quarter'd year ;
 Five zones infold heav'n's radiant concave : one,
 Plac'd full beneath the burnings of the sun,
 For ever feels his culminating rays,
 And gasps for ever in the scorching blaze ; 275
 On each side which, two more their circles mark,
 Clog'd with thick ice, with gloomy tempests dark ;

are included within the two polar circles, which are so cold, being at a great distance from the sun, as to be scarce habitable. Within the arctic circle, near the north pole, are contained Nova Zembla, Lapland, Greenland, &c. within the antarctic circle, near the south pole, no land as yet has been discovered ; tho' the great quantities of ice found there make it probable, that there is more land near the south than the north pole. Under the two temperate zones are contained those parts of the globe which lie between the tropics and polar circles. The temperate zone, between the arctic circle and the tropic of Cancer, contains the greatest part of Europe and Asia, part of Africa, and almost all North America. That between the antarctic circle and the tropic of Capricorn, contains part of South America, or the Antipodes.

Has inter mediamque duae mortalibus aegris
 Munere concessae divom. via facta per ambas,
 Obliquus qua se signorum verteret ordo.
 Mundus ut ad Scythiam Riphacaeque arduus arcis 240
 Consurgit; premitur Libyae devexus in austros.
 Hic vertex nobis semper sublimis: at illam
 Sub pedibus Styx atra videt, Manesque profundi:
 Maximus hic flexu sinuoso elabitur anguis
 Circum, perque duas in morem fluminis Arctos, 245
 Arctos Oceani metuentis aequare tingui.
 Illic, ut perhibent, aut intempesta filet nox
 Semper, et obtenta densentur nocte tenebrae:
 Aut redit a nobis Aurora, diemque reducit:
 Nosque ubi primus equis Oriens adflavit anhelis, 250
 Illic fera rubens accendit lumina Vesper.
 Hinc tempestates dubio praediscere caelo
 Possumus, hinc messisque diem, tempusque ferendi;
 Et quando infidum remis impellere marmor
 Conveniat: quando armatas deducere classis, 255
 Aut tempestivam silvis evertere pinum.
 Nec frustra signorum obitus speculamur et ortus,
 Temporibusque parem diversis quatuor annum.
 Frigidus agricolam si quando continet imber,
 Multa, forent quae mox caelo properanda sereno, 260

281. *Roll the signs.*] Here the poet describes the zodiac, which is a broad belt spreading about five or six degrees on each side of the ecliptic line, and contains the twelve constellations or signs. They are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces. The ecliptic line cuts the equinoctial obliquely in two opposite points, whence the poet calls the zodiac *obliquus signorum ordo*. It traverses the whole torrid zone, but neither of the temperate zones; so that *per ambas*, must mean *between*, not *thro'* them. Thus presently after, speaking of the Dragon, he says it twines, *per duas arctos*: now that constellation cannot be said to twine thro' the two Bears, but between them. The zodiac is the annual path of the sun, thro' each sign of which he passes in and about the space of a month. He is said to be in one of those signs, when he appears in that part of the heavens, where those stars are of which the sign is composed.

MARTYN.

Betwixt the first and these, indulgent Heav'n
 Two milder zones to feeble man hath giv'n ;
 Across them both a path oblique inclines, 280
 Where in refulgent order roll the signs.
 Bleak Scythia's snows, Rhipaea's tow'ring cliffs,
 High as this elevated globe uplifts,
 So low to southern Libya it descends,
 And with an equal inclination bends. 285
 One pole for ever o'er our heads is roll'd,
 One, darksome Styx and hell's pale ghosts behold
 Beneath their feet : here, the vast Dragon twines
 Between the Bears, and like a river winds ;
 The Bears that still with fearful caution keep 290
 Unting'd beneath the surface of the deep.
 There, in dead silence, still night loves to rest,
 Night without end, with thickest gloom oppress'd ;
 Or from our hemisphere, the morning ray
 Returns alternate, and restores the day ; 295
 And when to us the orient car succeeds,
 And o'er our climes have breath'd its panting steeds,
 There ruddy Vesper, kindling up the sky,
 Casts o'er the glowing realms his evening eye.
 Hence, changeful Heav'n's rough storms we may foreknow,
 The days to reap, the happiest times to sow ; 301
 When with safe oars it may be fit to sweep
 The glassy surface of the faithless deep ;
 When to the waves the well-arm'd fleet resign,
 And when in forests fell the timely pine, 305
 Nor vain to mark the varying signs our care,
 Nor the four seasons of th' adjusted year ;
 Whene'er the hind a sleety show'r detains,
 Full many a work that soon must cost him pains

290. *The Bears.*] Mr. Benson thinks this line in the original spurious, and omits it as such.

Maturare datur. durum procudit arator
 Vomeri obtusi dentem: cavat arbore lintres:
 Aut pecori signum, aut numeros inpressit acervis.
 Exacuunt alii vallos, furcasque bicornis,
 Atque Amerina parant lentae retinacula viti. 265
 Nunc facilis Rubia texatur fiscina virga:
 Nunc torrete igni fruges, nunc frangite saxo.
 Quippe etiam festis quaedam exercere dicbus
 Fas et jura sinunt: rivos diducere nulla
 Relligio vetuit, fegeti praetendere sepem, 270
 Insidias ayibus moliri, incendere vepres,
 Balantumque gregem fluvio mercfare salubri.
 Saepe olco tardi costas agitator aelli,
 Vilibus aut onerat pomis: lapidemque revertens
 Incusum, aut atrae massam picis urbe reportat. 275
 Ipsa dies alios alio dedit ordine Luna
 Felices operum. quintam fuge: pallidus Orcus,
 Eumenidesque saetae. tum partu terra nefando
 Coeumque Iapetumque creat, saevomque Typhoea,
 Et conjuratos caelum rescindere fratres. 280
 Ter sunt conati inponere Pelio Ossam
 Scilicet, atque Ossae frondosum involvere Olympum:

313. *Mark.*] How came the Romans not to find out the art of printing many ages ago? The Cæsars impressed their whole names on grants and letters, and this practice was so common a one, that even shepherds impressed their names on their cattle.

——— *Vivi quoque pondera melle
 Argenti coquito, lentumque bitumen abeno,
 Impressurus ovi tua nomina; banc tibi lites
 Aufert ingentes lectus pressor in arvo.*

Calpurnius, Ecl. 3. 85. SPENCE.

The same observation is made by Toland, in his Letters on the Druids.

337. *Ossa on Pelion.*]

Ter sunt conati imponere Pelio Ossam.

To represent the giants piling up the mountains on each other,

The

To hurry forward, when the sky is fair, 310
 He may with prudent foresight now prepare ;
 Now to a point the blunted share may beat ;
 Scoop troughs from trees, mark flocks, or sacks of wheat ;
 Long spars and forks may sharpen ; or supply
 Amerian twigs the creeping vine to tie ; 315
 With Rubean rods now baskets may be wove, [stove.
 Now grain be ground with stones, now parch'd upon the
 Nor do the laws of man, or Gods above,
 On sacred days some labours disapprove ;
 No solemn rite should e'er forbid the swain, 320
 The mead with sudden streams o'erflow'd, to drain :
 To raise strong fences for the springing corn,
 To lay the snare for birds, to burn the thorn ;
 Nor to forbear to wash the bleating flock,
 And soundly plunge them in the healthy brook, 325
 Oft' the slow ass's sides the driver loads,
 With oil, or apples, or domestic goods,
 And for the mill brings an indented stone,
 Or with black lumps of pitch returns from town.
 For various works behold the moon declare 330
 Some days more fortunate—the fifth beware !
 Pale Orcus and the Furies then sprung forth,
 Iapetus and Coeus, having earth
 Produc'd, a foul abominable birth ! }
 And fierce Typhoeus, Jove who dar'd defy, 335
 Leagu'd in conjunction dire to storm the sky !
 Ossa on Pelion, thrice t' uplift they strove,
 And high o'er nodding Ossa roll above

The line too labours, and the words move slow.

POPE.

The verse cannot be read without making pauses ; so judiciously are the hiatus's contrived. Hesiod has nobly described this battle of the giants in his Theogony. See Milton's battle of the angels, Book 6, and compare it with Hesiod.

Ter pater exstructos disjecit fulmine montis.
 Septima post decumam felix et ponere vitem,
 Et prenfos domitare boves, et licia telae 285
 Addere. nona fugae melior, contraria furtis.
 Multa adeo melius gelida se nocte dedere,
 Aut cum sole novo terras inrorat Eous.
 Nocte leves melius stipulae, nocte arida prata
 Tondentur : noctis lentus non deficit humor. 290
 Et quidam feros hiberni ad luminis ignes
 Pervigilat, ferroque faces inspicat acuto.
 Interea longum cantu solata laborem
 Arguto conjunx percurrit pectine telas :
 Aut dulcis musti Volcano decoquit humorem, 295
 Et foliis undam tepidi despumat aheni.
 At rubicunda Ceres medio succiditur aestu,
 Et medio tostas aestu terit area fruges.
 Nudus ara, fere nudus. hiems ignava colono.
 Frigoribus parto agricolae plerumque fruuntur, 300
 Mutuaque inter se laeti convivia curant.
 Invitat genialis hiems, curasque resolvit :
 Ceu pressae cum jam portum tetigere carinae,
 Puppibus et laeti nautae inposuere coronas.
 Sed tamen et quernas glandes tum stringere tempus, 305
 Et lauri baccas, oleamque, cruentaque myrta.
 Tum gruibus pedicas et retia ponere cervis,
 Auritosque sequi lepores : tum figere damas,
 Stuppea torquentem Balearis verbera fundae,

357. *Corn.*] The Romans did not *thresh* or *winnow* their corn: in the heat of the day, as soon as it was reaped, they laid it on a floor made on purpose, in the middle of the field, and then they drove horses or mules round about it, till they trod all the grain out. BENSON.

This was the common practice too all over the east; and that humane text of scripture, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn," is a plain allusion to it.

Olympus shagg'd with woods ; th' almighty fire
 Thrice dash'd the mountains down with forky fire. 340
 Next to the tenth, the seventh to luck inclines,
 For taming oxen, and for planting vines ;
 Then best her woof the prudent housewife weaves ;
 Better for flight the ninth, adverse to thieves.

Ev'n in cold night some proper tasks pursue, 345
 Or when gay morn impearls the field with dew ;
 At night dry stubble, and parcht meadows mow,
 At night, fat moisture never fails to flow ;
 One, by the glowing ember's livid light,
 Watches and works the livelong winter's night, 350
 Forms spiky torches with his sharpen'd knife ;
 Mean while with equal industry his wife,
 Beguiling time sings in the glimmering room,
 To cheer the labours of the rattling loom ;

Or on the luscious must while bubbles rise, 355
 With leaves the trembling cauldron purifies.

But cut the golden corn in mid-day's heat,
 And the parcht grain at noon's high ardor beat.
 Plough naked ; naked sow ; the busy hind
 No rest but in bleak wintry hours can find ; 360

In that drear season, swains their stores enjoy,
 Mirth all their thought, and feasting their employ ;
 The genial time to mutual joy excites,
 And drowns their cares in innocent delights.

As when a freighted ship has touch'd the port, 365
 The jovial crews upon their decks resort,
 With fragrant garlands all their sterns are crown'd,
 And jocund strains from ship to ship resound.

Yet then from leafless oaks their acorns strip,
 From bays and myrtles bloody berries slip, 370
 For noxious cranes then plant the guileful snare,
 O'er tainted ground pursue the listening hare ;
 Pitch toys for stags, and whirling round the string,
 Smite the fat doe with Balearic sling,

Cum nix alta jacet, glaciem cum flumina trudent. 310
 Quid tempestates autumni et sidera dicam ?
 Atque ubi jam breviorque dies, et mollior aestas,
 Quae vigilanda viris ? vel cum ruit imbriferum ver ;
 Spicea jam campis cum messis inhorruit, et cum
 Frumenta in viridi stipula lactentia turgent ? 315
 Saepe ego, cum flavis messorem induceret arvis
 Agricola, et fragili jam stringeret hordea culmo,
 Omnia ventorum concurrere proelia vidi :
 Quae gravidam late segetem ab radicibus imis
 Sublime expulsam eruerent : ita turbine nigro 320
 Ferret hiems culmumque levem stipulasque volantis.
 Saepe etiam inmensum caelo venit agmen aquarum,
 Et foedam glomerant tempestatem imbribus atris
 Conlectae ex alto nubes. ruit arduus aether,
 Et pluvia ingenti sata laeta boumque labores 325
 Diluit. inplentur fossae, et cava flumina crescunt.
 Cum sonitu, fervetque fretis spirantibus aequor.
 Ipse pater, media nimborum in nocte, corusca
 Fulmina molitur dextra. quo maxuma motu
 Terra tremit : fugere ferae ; et mortalia corda 330
 Per gentes humilis stravit pavor, ille flagranti

395. *Great Jove himself pavilion'd.*] This description is very sublime. While the winds are roaring, the rains descending, the rivers overflowing, he nobly introduces Jupiter himself surrounded with a thick cloud, and from thence darting his thunderbolts, and splitting the loftiest mountains, all the earth trembling and astonished with fear and dread. I follow Mr. Benson and Masvicius, in reading *plangit* (instead of *plangunt*) because it adds a poetical and bold image of Jupiter's striking the woods and shores. This description, fine as it is, is excelled by the storm in the 18th psalm. God is described flying upon the wings of the wind—"He made darkness his secret place, his pavilion round about him, with dark water and thick clouds to cover him.—The springs of waters were seen, and the foundations of the round world were discovered at thy chiding, O Lord." See the whole, too long to be transcribed, but inimitably great and sublime.

Cedite Romani scriptores, cedite Graii !

While on the ground the snow deep-crufted lies, 375
 And the clog'd floods push down thick flakes of ice.

Why fhould I fing autumnal ftars and skies ;
 What ftorms in that uncertain feafon rife ?
 How careful fwains fhould watch in fhorter days,
 When foften'd fummer feels abated rays : 380

Or what, in fhowery fpring, the farmer fears,
 When fwell with milky corn the briftling ears.
 When hinds began to reap, and bind the field,
 All the wild war of winds have I beheld

Rife with united rage at once, and tear 385
 And whirl th' uprooted harveft into air,
 With the fame force, as by a driving blaft
 Light chaff or ftubble o'er the plains are caft.

Oft in one deluge of impetuous rain,
 All heav'n's dark concave rufhes down amain, 390 }
 And fweeps away the crops and labours of the fwain.

The roaring rivers drown the oxen's toil,
 The tossing feas in furious eddies boil ;
 Great Jove himfelf, whom dreadful darknefs fhrouds,
 Pavilion'd in the thicknefs of the clouds, 395

With lightning arm'd his red right hand puts forth,
 And fhakes with burning bolts the folid earth .

The nations fhrink appall'd ; the beafts are fled ;
 All human hearts are funk, and pierc'd with dread :

398. *The beafts are fled.*] Dr. Trapp juftly obferves, that *fugere* being put in the preter-perfect tenfe has a wonderful force : “ We fee, fays he, the beafts fcutting away, and they “ are gone, and out of fight in a moment.” It is a pity that learned gentleman did not preferve the force of this tenfe in his tranflation. He has not only ufed the prefent tenfe, but has diminifhed the ftrength and quicknefs of the expreffion, which Virgil has made to confift only of two words, *fugere feras*, by adding an epithet to beafts, and mentioning the place they fly to :

—————Savage beafts to coverts fly.

Dryden has been guilty of the fame oversight :
 And flying beafts in forefts feek abode.

Aut Atho, aut Rhodopen, aut alta Ceraunia telo
 Dejicit : ingeminant auftri, et densissimus imber :
 Nunc nemora ingenti vento, nunc litora plangit.
 Hoc metuens, caeli mensis, et sidera serva, 335
 Frigida Saturni sese quo stella receptet,
 Quos ignis caeli Cyltenius erret in orbis.
 In primis venerare deos, atque annua magnae
 Sacra refer Cereri laetis operatus in herbis,
 Extremæ sub casum hiemis, jam vcre sereno. 340
 Tum pingues agni, et tum mollissima vina :
 Tum somni dulces, densæque in montibus umbrae.
 Cuncta tibi Cererem pubes agrestis adorct.
 Quoi tu lacte favos, et miti dilue baccho :
 Terque novas circum felix eat hostia fruges ; 345
 Omnis quam chorus, et socii comitentur ovantes ;
 Et Cererem clamore vocent in tecta : neque ante
 Falcem maturis quisquam supponat aristis,
 Quam Cereri torta redimitus tempora quercu
 Det motus incompósitos, et carmina dicat. 350
 Atque hæc ut certis possimus discere signis,
 Aestusque, pluviasque, et agentis frigora ventos ;
 Ipse pater statuit, quid menstrua Luna moneret,
 Quo signo caderent Auftri : quid sæpe videntes
 Agricolæ, propius stabulis armenta tenerent. 355
 Continuo ventis surgentibus aut freta ponti
 Incipiunt agitata tumescere, et aridus altis
 Montibus audiri fragor ; aut resonantia longe

The Latin, says Mr. Benson, is as quick and sudden as their flight. *Fugère ferae*, they are all vanished in an instant. But in Mr. Dryden's translation, one would imagine these creatures were drove out of some inclosed country, and were searching for entertainment in the next forest. Yet Mr. Benson himself did not observe the beauty of the tense.

Far shakes the earth, beasts fly, and mortal hearts
 Pale fear dejects.

417. *And Ceres call.*] This sacrifice the Romans called *Ambrosialia* from *ambire arva* ; for they led the victim round the fields.

He strikes vast Rhodope's exalted crown, 400
 And hurls huge Athos, and Ceraunia down.

Thick fall the rains; the wind redoubled roars; [shores.
 The God now smites the woods, and now the sounding
 Warn'd by these ills, observe the starry signs,

Whither cold Saturn's joyless orb inclines, 405

Whither light Hermes' wandering flame is driv'n.

First to the Gods be all due honours giv'n;

To Ceres chief her annual rites be paid,

On the green turf, beneath a fragrant shade,

When winter ends, and spring serenely shines, 410

Then fat the lambs, then mellow are the wines,

Then sweet are slumbers on the flowery ground,

Then with thick shades are lofty mountains crown'd.

Let all thy hinds bend low at Ceres' shrine;

Mix honey sweet, for her, with milk and mellow wine;

Thrice lead the victim the new fruits around, 416

And Ceres call, and choral hymns resound:

Presume not, swains, the ripen'd grain to reap,

Till crown'd with oak in antic dance ye leap,

Invoking Ceres, and in solemn lays, 420

Exalt your rural queen's immortal praise.

Great Jove himself unerring signs ordains,

Of chilling winds, and heats, and driving rains;

The moon declares when blust'ring Auster falls,

When herds should be confin'd near shelt'ring stalls.

When winds approach, the vex'd sea heaves around, 426

From the bleak mountain comes a hollow sound,

427. *Mountain.*] This puts me in mind of a passage in Thomson's Seasons on the same subject, the approach of a storm:

Along the woods, along the moorish fens,
 Sighs the sad genius of the coming storm;
 And up among the loose disjointed cliffs,
 And fractur'd mountains wild, the brawling brook
 And cave presageful send a hollow moan,
 Resounding long in listening fancy's ear.

THOMSON'S Winter, ver. 70.

Litora misceri, et nemorum increbrescere murmur.
 Jam sibi tum a curvis male temperat unda carinis, 360
 Cum medio celeres revolant ex aequore mergi,
 Clamoremque ferunt ad litora: cumque marinae
 In sicco ludunt fulicae: notaque paludes
 Deferit, atque altam supra volat ardea nubem.
 Saepe etiam stellas, vento inpendente, videbis 365
 Praecipites caelo labi, noctisque per umbram
 Flammarum longos a tergo albescere tractus:
 Saepe levem paleam et frondes volitare caducas,
 Aut summa nantis in aqua concludere plumas.
 At Boreae de parte trucis cum fulminat, et cum 370
 Eurique Zephyrique tonat domus; omnia plenis
 Rura natant fossis, atque omnis navita ponto
 Humida vela legunt. numquam imprudentibus imber
 Obfuit. aut illum surgentem vallibus imis
 Aëriae fugere grues: aut bucula caelum 375
 Suspiciens patulis captavit naribus auras:
 Aut arguta lacus circumvolitavit hirundo:
 Et veterem in limo ranae cecinere querelam.
 Saepius et tectis penetralibus extulit ova
 Augustum formica terens iter, et bibit ingens 380
 Arcus: et e passu decedens agmine magno
 Corvorum increpuit densis exercitus alis.
 Jam varias pelagi volucres, et quae Asia circum
 Dulcibus in stagnis rimantur prata Caystri,
 Certatim largos humeris infundere rores; 385
 Nunc caput objectare fretis, nunc currere in undas,
 Et studio incassum videas gestire lavandi.

446. *The beifer tossing.*] This prognostic is taken from Aratus; and I would observe once for all, that almost each of the signs of weather are borrowed (and indeed beautified) from that ancient writer. The line

Arguta lacus, circumvolitavit hirundo,

with several that precede and follow it, are intirely taken with very small alterations from Varro Atacinus, as may be seen in Servius.

The loud blast whistles o'er the echoing shore,
 Rustle the murm'ring woods, the rising billows roar.
 From the frail bark that ploughs the raging main, 430
 The greedy waves unwillingly refrain,
 When loud the corm'rant screams and seeks the land,
 And coots and sea-gulls sport upon the sand ;
 And the tall hern his marshy haunts forsakes,
 And tow'rs to heav'n above the 'custom'd lakes : 435
 Oft, stars fall headlong thro' the shades of night,
 And leave behind white tracks of trembling light,
 In circles play light chaff and wither'd leaves,
 And floating feathers dance upon the waves.

But when keen lightnings flash from Boreas' pole, 440
 From Eurus' house to west, when pealing thunders roll,
 The country swims, all delug'd are the dales,
 And every pilot furls his humid sails.
 Sure warnings still the stormy showers precede ;
 The conscious cranes forsake the vapoury mead, 445
 The heifer tossing high her head in air,
 With broader nostrils snuffs the gale afar ;
 Light skims the chirping swallow o'er the flood,
 The frogs croak hoarsely on their beds of mud ;
 Her eggs abroad the prudent pismire bears, 450
 While at her work a narrow road she wears.
 Deep drinks the bow ; on rustling pinions loud, [crowd.
 The crows, a numerous host ! from pasture homeward
 Lo ! various sea-fowl, and each bird that breeds
 In Asian lakes, near sweet Cayster's meads, 455
 O'er their smooth shoulders strive the stream to fling,
 And wash in wanton sport each snowy wing ;
 Now dive, now run upon the wat'ry plain,
 And long to lave their downy plumes in vain :

452. *Deep drinks the bow.*] Alludes to the ridiculous notion of the ancients, that the rainbow suck'd up water with its horns from lakes and rivers.

Tum cornix plena pluviam vocat improba voce,
 Et sola in sicca secum spatiaur arena.
 Ne nocturna quidem carpentes pensa puellae 390
 Nescivere hiemem : testa cum ardente viderent
 Scintillare oleum, et putris concresecere fungos.
 Nec minus eximbris soles et aperta serena
 Prospicere, et certis poteris cognoscere signis.
 Nam neque tum stellis acies obtusa videtur, 395
 Nec fratris radii obnoxia surgere Luna ;
 Tenuia nec lanae per caelum vellera ferri.
 Non tepidum ad solem pennas in litore pandunt
 Dilectae Thetidi Alcyones : non ore solutos
 Inmundi meminere sues jactare maniplos. 400
 At nebulae magis ima petunt, campoque recumbunt :
 Solis et occasum servans de culmine summo
 Nequicquam seros exercet noctua cantus.
 Adparet liquido sublimis in aëre Nifus,
 Et pro purpureo poenas dat Scylla capillo. 405
 Quacumque illa levem fugiens secat aethera pennis,
 Ecce inimicus atrox magno stridore per auras
 Insequitur Nifus : qua se fert Nifus ad auras,
 Illa levem fugiens raptim secat aethera pennis.
 Tum liquidas corvi presso ter gutture voces 410
 Aut quater ingeminant : et saepe cubilibus altis,
 Nescio qua praeter solitum dulcedine laeti,
 Inter se foliis strepitant. juvat imbribus actis
 Progeniem parvam dulcisque revisere nidos.

461. *Stalks across the scorching sands.*] The line admirably represents the action of the crow, and is an echo to the sense. Those who are fond of alliteration, are delighted with this verse, where so many S's are found together: they may say the same of *plena pluviam, & vocat voce*, in the preceding line.

467. *Calm.*] According to what Pierius found in several old manuscripts: *ex imbres* in the original, for the poet begins to speak of fair weather.

Book I. THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL. 225
 Loudly the rains the boding rook demands, 460
 And solitary stalks across the scorching sands:
 Nor less the virgins nightly tasks that weave
 With busy hands, approaching storms perceive,
 While on the lamp they mark the sputtering oil,
 And fungous clots the light, adhesive, soil. 465
 Nor less by certain marks may'st thou descry
 Fair seasons, in the calm, and stormless sky;
 Then shine the stars with keener lustre bright,
 Nor Cynthia borrows from her brother's light:
 No fleecy clouds flit lightly through the air, 470
 The mists descend, and low on earth appear.
 Nor Thetis' halcyons basking on the strand,
 Their plumage to the tepid sun expand:
 Nor swine deep delving with the sordid snout,
 Delight to toss the bundled straw about. 475
 To watch the setting sun, the sullen owl
 Sits pensive, and in vain repeats her baleful howl;
 Nifus appears sublime in liquid air,
 And Scylla rues the ravish'd purple hair:
 Where with swift wings she cuts th' ethereal way, 480
 Fierce Nifus presses on his panting prey,
 Where Nifus wheels, she swiftly darts away. }
 With throats compress'd, with shrill and clearer voice,
 The tempest gone, the cawing rooks rejoice;
 Seek with unusual joys, on branches hung 485
 Their much-lov'd nests, and feed their callow young.

477. *In vain repeats.*] Dr. Trapp interprets *nequicquam*, in
vain, Dr. Martyn, *not* repeats.—If we understand the poet to
 be speaking of the continuance of fair weather, *nequicquam* must
 signify *not*; because, according to Pliny, the hooting of the
 owl at such a time would be a sign of rain.

Mr. Dryden has strangely translated this passage:

And owls that mark the setting sun declare,
 A star-light evening and a morning fair.

Haud equidem credo, quia sit divinitus illis 415
 Ingenium, aut rerum fato prudentia major.
 Verum, ubi tempestas, et caeli mobilis humor
 Mutavere vias, et Juppiter uvidus auftris
 Denfat, erant quae rara modo, et, quae densa, relaxat;
 Vertuntur species animorum, et pectora motus 420
 Nunc alios, alios, dum nubila ventus agebat,
 Concipiunt. hinc ille avium concentus in agris,
 Et laetae pecudes, et ovantes gutture corvi.
 Si vero solem ad rapidum lunasque sequentis
 Ordine respicies; numquam te crastina fallat 425
 Hora, neque insidiis noctis capiere serenae.
 Luna revertentes cum primum conligit ignis,
 Si nigrum obscuro conprenderit aëra cornu,
 Maxumus agricolis pelagoque parabitur imber.
 At, si virgineum suffuderit ore ruborem, 430
 Ventus erit. vento semper rubet aurea Phoebe.
 Sin ortu quarto (namque is certissimus auctor)
 Pura, neque obtusis per caelum cornibus ibit;
 Totus et ille dies, et qui nascentur ab illo
 Exactum ad mensem, pluvia ventisque carebunt: 435
 Votaque servati solvent in litore nautae
 Glauco, -et Panopeae, et Inoo Melicertae.
 Sol quoque et exoriens, et cum se condit in undas,
 Signa dabit. solem certissima signa sequuntur,
 Et quae mane refert, et quae surgentibus astris. 440
 Ille ubi nascentem maculis variaverit ortum
 Conditus in nubem, medioque refugerit orbe;

487. *Not that to them.*] This is a remarkable instance of Virgil's clear and beautiful style in expressing even the most abstruse notions. The meaning of the words *fato prudentia major*, which occasions difficulties among the commentators, seems to be, a greater knowledge (than men have) in the fate of things.

505. *Clearly.*] The verse in the original is quoted by Seneca in his works, in a different manner from the common reading, —PLENA, nec obtusis per coelum cornibus ibit; and he certainly meant

Not that to them a genius Heav'n hath lent,
 Or piercing foresight of each dark event,
 But when the changeful temper of the skies,
 The rare condenses, the dense rarifies, 490
 New motions on the alter'd air imprest,
 New images and passions fill their breast :
 Hence the glad birds in louder concert join,
 Hence croaks th' exulting rook, and sport the lusty kine.
 But if thou shalt observe the rapid sun, 495
 And mark the moons their following courses run,
 No night serene with smiles, shall e'er betray,
 And safely may'st thou trust the coming day :
 When the young moon returning light collects,
 If 'twixt her horns we spy thick gloomy specks, 500
 Prepare, ye mariners and watchful swains,
 For wasteful storms and deluges of rains !
 But if a virgin-blush her cheeks o'erspread,
 Lo, winds ! they tinge her golden face with red ;
 But the fourth evening if she clearly rise, 505
 And sail unclouded thro' the azure skies,
 That day, and all the following month behind,
 No rattling storm shall feel of rain or wind :
 And sailors sav'd from the devouring sea,
 To Glaucus vows prefer and Panope. 510
 Nor less the sun, when eastern hills he leaves,
 And when he sinks behind the blushing waves,
 Prognostics gives : he brings the safest signs
 At morn, and when the starry evening shines :
 When with dark spots his opening face he clouds, 515
 Shorn of his beams, and half his glory shrouds,

meant it so, by what he says of it. If this be the true reading, it may be thus understood.—“ If on the fourth day of the new moon, its WHOLE DISK appears, and the horns of that part of it which is enlighten'd, are sharp, and well-pointed ; then the next day, and all the following to the end of the month, will be free both from high winds and rain.” HOLDSWORTH.

Suspecti tibi sint imbres. nãmque arguet ab alto
 Arboribusque fatisque Notus pecorique sinister.
 Aut ubi sub lucem densa inter nubila sese 445
 Divorsi rumpent radii, aut ubi pallida surget
 Tithoni croceum linquens Aurora cubile ;
 Heu, male tum mitis defendet pampinus uvas :
 Tam multa in tectis crepitans salit horrida grando.
 Hoc etiam, emenso cum jam decedet Olympo, 450
 Profucrit meminisse magis. nam saepe videmus
 Ipfius in vultu varios errare colores.
 Caeruleos pluviã denuntiat, igneus Euros.
 Sin maculae incipient rutilo inmiscerier igni ;
 Omnia tunc pariter vento nimbisque videbis 455
 Fervere. non illa quisquam me nocte per altum
 Ire, neque a terra moneat convellere funem.
 At si, cum referetque diem, condetque relatum,
 Lucidus orbis erit, frustra terreberè nimbis,
 Et claro silvas cernes aquilone moveri. 460
 Denique, quid vesper serus vehat, unde serenas
 Ventus agat nubes, quod cogitet humidus Auster,
 Sol tibi signa dabit. Solem quis dicere falsum
 Audeat ? ille etiam caecos instare tumultus
 Saepe monet, fraudemque et operta tumescere bella. 465
 Ille etiam extincto miseratus Caesare Romam,

525. *The dusky, rain.*] Tho' I believe there is no one thing in the whole language of the Romans, that we are more at a loss about now, than their names of colours ; it appears evidently enough, that *coeruleus* was used by them for some dark colour or other. One might bring a number of instances to prove this, but one or two from Virgil will be sufficient :

Coeruleus pluviã denuntiat.

— *Coeruleus supra caput astitit imber,*

Noctem hyememque ferens, et inborruit unda tenebris.

Aen. 3. 195.

POLYMETIS, pag. 167. note 24.

536. *Auster meditate.*] Several of the commentators that have been used to consider the winds only in a natural way, and never perhaps in an allegorical one, are greatly offended at the word *cogites* here. The *thinking of a wind* is to them the highest

Suspect thou showers : the south from ocean borne,
 Springs noxious to the cattle, trees and corn.
 When scatter'd are his rays ; with paleness spread
 When faint Aurora leaves Tithonus' bed ; 520
 Ah ! can the leaves their ripening grapes defend !
 Such heaps of horrid hail on rattling roofs descend !
 Observe too, when he ends his heavenly race,
 What various colours wander o'er his face :
 The dusky, rain ; the fiery, wind denotes ; 525
 But if with glowing red he mingle spots,
 Then showers and winds commixt shalt thou behold
 In dreadful tempest thro' black aether roll'd ;
 In such a night, when soon the waves will roar,
 None should persuade to loose my bark from shore. 530
 But if his orb be lucid, clear his ray,
 When forth he ushers, or concludes the day,
 Fear not the storms : for mild will be the breeze,
 And Aquilo but gently wave the trees.
 In fine, what winds may rise at evening late, 535
 What show'rs may humid Auster meditate,
 By surest marks th' unerring sun declares,
 And who, to call the sun deceitful, dares ?
 He too foretells sedition's secret schemes,
 Tumults and treasons, wars and stratagems. 540
 He too, bewailing her unhappy doom,
 When fell her glorious Caesar, pitied Rome ;

highest pitch of absurdity that can be. They are therefore for altering the passage into *quid cogat et humidus auster*, or *quid concitet*—*contra omnes codices*, as themselves say : If these gentlemen would please to consider that it is not they, but Virgil that is speaking here ; that the winds were frequently represented as persons in his time ; that he had been used to see them so represented both in Greece and in his own country ; that they were commonly worshipped as gods—and they may perhaps be persuaded not to think this so strange an expression for him to use. POLYMETIS, Dial. 13. p. 204.

Horace speaking of the river Aufidus says finely, *Diluvium MEDITATUR agris*. Od. 14. Lib. 4.

541. *He too, bewailing.*] 'Tis something strange that the best historians, Pliny, Plutarch, and Appian, join in relating these

Cum caput obscura nitidum ferrugine textit,
 Inpiaque aeternam timuerunt saecula noctem.
 Tempore quamquam illo tellus quoque, et aequora ponti,
 Obscenaque canes, inportunaeque volucres 470
 Signa dabant. quoties Cyclopum effervere in agros
 Vidimus undantem ruptis fornacibus Aetnam,
 Flammarumque globos, liquefactaque volvere saxa!
 Armorum sonitum toto Germania caelo
 Audiit: insolitis tremuerunt motibus Alpes. 475
 Vox quoque per lucos volgo exaudita silentis
 Ingens, et simulacra modis pallentia miris
 Visa sub obscurum noctis, pecudesque locutae,
 Infandum! sistunt amnes, terraeque dehiscunt,
 Et maestum inlacrimat templis ebur, aeraque sudant. 480
 Proluit infano contorquens vortice filvas
 Fluviorum rex Eridanus, camposque per omnes
 Cum stabulis armenta tulit. nec tempore eodem
 Tristibus aut extis fibrae adparere minaces,
 Aut puteis manare cruor cessavit: et alte 485
 Per noctem resonare, lupis ululantibus, urbes.
 Non alias caelo ceciderunt plura sereno
 Fulgura: nec diri toties arserunt cometae.
 Ergo inter sese paribus concurrere telis
 Romanas acies iterum videre Philippi: 490

prodigies. Plutarch not only mentions the palepest of the sun, for a whole year after Caesar's death, but adds, that the fruits rotted for want of heat. Appian relates the stories of the clashing of arms, and shouts in the air, an ox speaking with a human voice, statues sweating blood, wolves howling in the Forum, and victims wanting entrails.

562. *Eridanus.*] The redundant syllable in *fluviorum*, is expressive of the inundation. Dion Cassius relates, that the river Po did not only overflow and occasion prodigious damages, but left likewise great quantities of serpents when it retired.

569. *Philippi.*] Many learned critics have disputed about the meaning of this passage, which was never cleared up till Mr. Holdsworth published a judicious dissertation on the subject. He is of opinion, that Virgil means by his two battles of

With dusky redness veil'd his chearful light,
 And impious mortals fear'd eternal night :
 Then too, the trembling earth, and seas that rag'd, 545
 And dogs, and boding birds dire ills presag'd :
 What globes of flames hath thund'ring Aetna thrown,
 What heaps of sulphur mix'd with molten stone,
 From her burst entrails did she oft expire,
 And deluge the Cyclopean fields with fire ! 550
 A clank of arms and rushing to the wars,
 The sound of trampling steeds, and clattering cars,
 Heard thro' th' astonish'd sky, Germania shock'd,
 The solid Alps unusual tremblings rock'd !
 Thro' silent woods a dismal voice was heard, 555
 And glaring ghosts all grimly pale appear'd,
 At dusky eve ; dumb cattle silence broke,
 And with the voice of man (portentous !) spoke !
 Earth gapes aghast ; the wondering rivers stop ;
 The brazen statues mourn, cold sweats from ivory drop ;
 Monarch of mighty floods, supremely strong, 561
 Eridanus, whose forests whirl'd along,
 And rolling onwards with a sweepy sway,
 Bore houses, herds, and helpless hinds away :
 The victims' entrails dire events forebode ! 565
 Wolves howl in cities ! wells o'erflow with blood.
 Ne'er with such rage did livid lightnings glare,
 Nor comets trail such lengths of horrid hair !
 For this, Philippi saw, with civil rage,
 The wretched Roman legions twice engage ; 570

of Philippi, not two battles fought on the same individual spot, but at two distant places of the same name, the former at Philippi (alias *Tribas Pothiae*) near Pharsalus in Thessaly : the latter at Philippi near the confines of Thrace. And though historians (all except Lucius Florus) for distinction's sake, call the latter battle only by the name of Philippi ; yet, as there was one at Philippi near Pharsalia, in sight of which the former was fought, the poets call both by the same name. As to the reasons which he says determined Virgil to call both battles by the

Nec fuit indignum superis, bis sanguine nostro
 Emathiam, et latos Haemi pinguescere campos.
 Scilicet et tempus veniet, cum finibus illis
 Agricola, incurvo terram molitus aratro,
 Exesa inveniet scabra robigine pila : 495
 Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanis,
 Grændiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulcris.
 Dî patrii Indigetes, et Romule, Vestaque mater,
 Quae Tuscum Tiberim, et Romana Palatia servas,
 Hunc saltem everso juvenem succurrere saeclo 500
 Ne prohibete. fatis jam pridem sanguine nostro
 Laomedontæe luimus perjuriam Troiæ.
 Jam pridem nobis caeli te regia, Caesar,
 Invidet, atque hominum queritur curare triumphos.

same name, the chief of them I think is this: that in compliment to Augustus, he might impress the superstitious Romans with a belief, that the vengeance of the Gods against the murderers of Caesar was denounced by numbers of prodigies and omens; and in so remarkable a manner that there appeared in it a particular stroke of providence, according to the heathen superstition, that the second battle which proved fatal to the Romans, should be fought in the same province with the first, and near a second Philippi.

574. *Ploughs.*] The delicate art of the poet in returning to his subject by inserting this circumstance of the ploughman's finding old armour, cannot be sufficiently admired. Philips has finely imitated it in his *Cyder*, where speaking of the destruction of old Ariconium, he adds,

—Upon that treacherous tract of land
 She whilom stood; now Ceres, in her prime,
 Smiles fertile, and, with ruddiest freight bedeck'd
 The apple-tree, by our forefathers' blood
 Improv'd, that now recalls the devious muse,
 Urging her destin'd labours to pursue.

PHILIPS'S *Cyder*, Book I.

579. *Ye greater guardian gods.*] Virgil (says Mr. Spence) by the *dii patrii*, here means the great train of deities, first received all over the east, and afterwards successively in Greece and Italy: Among the Romans, the three deities received as
 supreme,

Emathia, (Heaven decreed!) was twice imbrud,
 And Haemus' fields twice fatten'd with our blood.
 The time at length shall come, when lab'ring swains,
 As with their ploughs they turn these guilty plains,
 'Gainst hollow helms their heavy drags shall strike, 575
 And clash 'gainst many a sword, and rusty pike;
 View the vast graves with horror and amaze,
 And at huge bones of giant heroes gaze.

Ye greater guardian gods of Rome, our pray'r,
 And Romulus, and thou, chaste Vesta, hear! 580
 Ye, who preserve with your propitious powers,
 Etrurian Tiber, and the Roman towers!
 At least permit this youth to save the world
 (Our only refuge!) in confusion hurl'd:
 Let streams of blood already spilt atone 585
 For perjuries of false Laomedon!
 The Gods, O Caesar, envy and complain,
 That men and earthly cares thy steps detain;

supreme, were Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva; and therefore Virgil adds the word *indigetes*, to fix it to the *Dei warpnoi*, or the three great supreme gods, received as such in his own country. *Indigetes* here is much the same as *nostri* in Juvenal, when he speaks of these very deities. Mr. Spence observes how faultily Dryden has translated this passage.

POLYMETIS, Dial. 20.

582. *Etrurian.*] Virgil in this place, and in Geo. 2. 530. speaks of Tuscany and Rome almost as if they were upon the same footing; chiefly out of complaisance for his great patron Mecaenas, who was descended from the old race of the kings of that country.

HOLDSWORTH.

586. *False Laomedon.*] Apollo and Neptune being hired by Laomedon, to assist him in building a wall round his city of Troy, when the work was finished were by him defrauded of their pay.

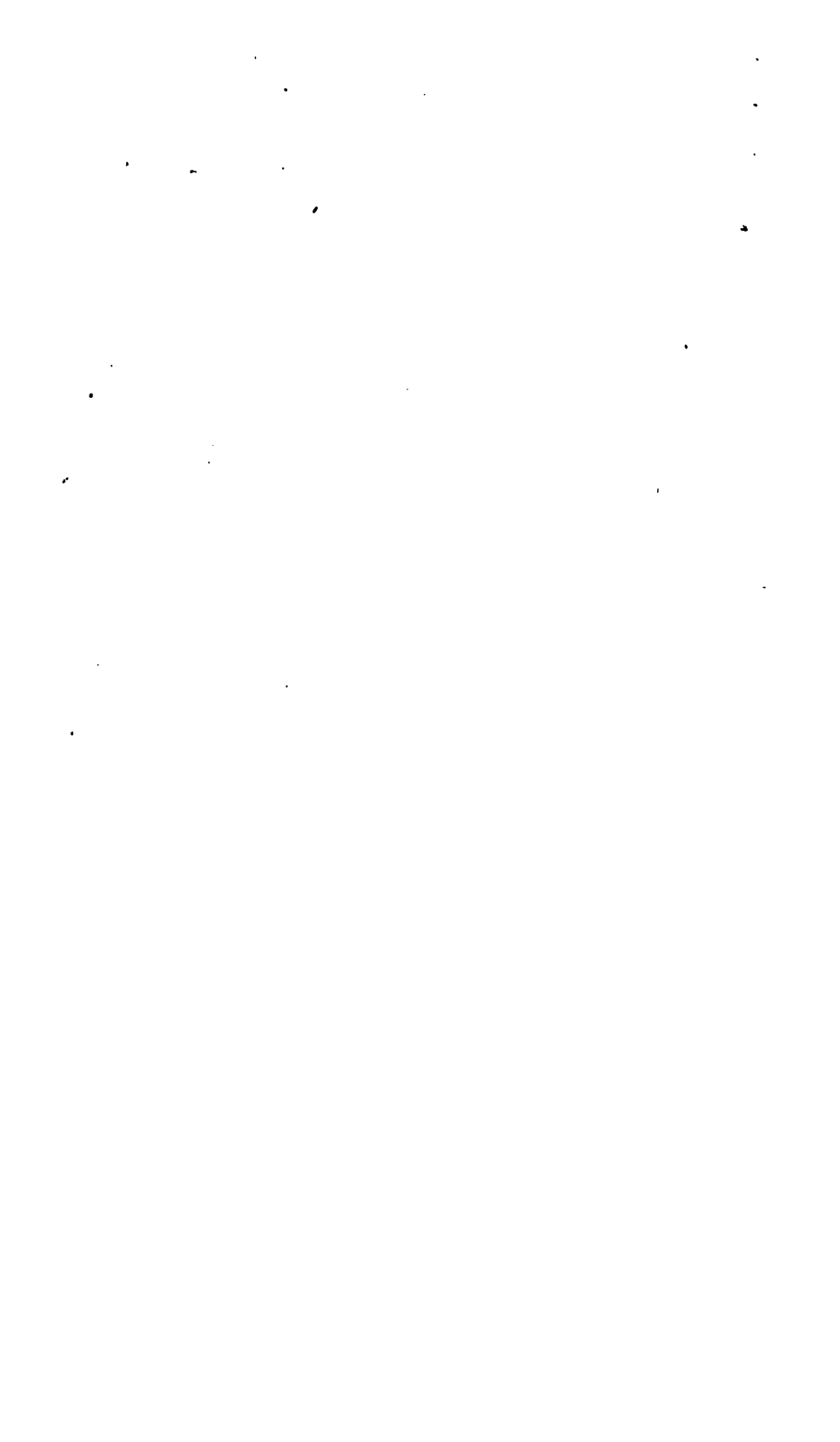
587. *O Caesar.*] I at first translated it *great Caesar*; but observed afterwards that the poet joins no epithet to Caesar; I therefore omitted so improper an addition; which weakens the dignity and simplicity of the original.

Quippe ubi fas versum atque nefas : tot bella per orbem :
 Tam multae scelerum facies : non ullus aratro 506
 Dignus honos. squalent abductis arva colonis,
 Et curvae rigidum falces constantur in enses.
 Hinc movet Euphrates, illinc Germania bellum :
 Vicinae ruptis inter se legibus urbes 510
 Arma ferunt. saevit toto Mars impius orbe.
 Ut, cum carceribus sese effudere quadrigae,
 Addunt in spatia, et frustra retinacula tendens
 Fertur equis auriga, neque audit currus habenas.

590. *Impious wars.*] The amiable and gentle temper, the universal benevolence of Virgil, appear in this striking passage. A certain melancholy flow in the numbers, and an air of pity for the distresses of his fellow-creatures, make these lines more valuable than even the poetry they contain. At the time I write this, 1761, it is impossible to read them without feeling their force.

Where sacred order, fraud and force confound,
 Where impious wars and tumults rage around, 590 }
 And every various vice and crime is crown'd :
 Dishonour'd lies the plough ; the banish'd swains
 Are hurried from th' uncultivated plains ;
 The sickles into barbarous swords are beat,
 Euphrates here, there war the Germans threat. 595
 The neighbouring cities break faith's mutual bands,
 And ruthless Mars raves wild o'er all the lands.
 As when four furious courfers whirl away
 The trembling driver, nor his cries obey,
 With headlong haste swift-pouring o'er the plains, 600
 The chariot bounds along, nor hears the reins.

END OF THE FIRST GEORGIC.



BOOK THE SECOND.

A R G U M E N T.

This Book, which treats of planting, is divided into seven parts. I. The poet speaks of the various ways in which trees are produced, both by nature and art. II. Their different species and sorts, and how they are to be managed. III. What soils are most suitable to each; from whence he naturally digresses into an encomium on the soil and productions of Italy. IV. The method of discovering and distinguishing the nature of each soil. V. The culture and management of the vine. VI. The culture of the olive and other trees. VII. The praises of a country life.

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
G E O R G I C A.

LIBER SECUNDUS.

HACTENUS arborum cultus, et fidera coeli :
Nunc te, Bacche, canam, nec non silvestria tecum
Virgulta, et prolem tarde crescentis olivae.

Huc, pater ô Lenaeæ, (tuis hic omnia plena
Muneribus : tibi pampineo gravidus auctumno 5

Floret ager ; spumat plenis vindemia labris)

Huc, pater ô Lenaeæ, veni ; nudataque musto

Tingue novo mecum direptis crura cothurnis.

Principio arboribus varia est natura creandis.

Namque aliae, nullis hominum cogentibus, ipsae 10

Sponte sua veniunt, camposque et flumina late

Curva tenent : ut molle filer, lentaeque genistae,

Populus, et glauca canentia fronde salicta.

Pars autem posito surgunt de femine : ut altae

Castanae, nemorumque Jovi quae maxima frondet 15

Ver. 2. *Now thee I sing, O Bacchus.*] Instead of coolly proposing the subject he is going to treat of, viz. the cultivation of vines, olives, &c. the poet at once breaks out into a rapturous address to Bacchus, in the style of an hymn ; the image contained in the following lines is beautiful and picturesque.

Huc, pater ô Lenaeæ, veni : nudataque musto

Tingue novo mecum direptis crura cothurnis.

We see the god treading the wine-press. Mr. Dryden's translation of this passage is remarkable.

Come, strip with me, my god, come drench all o'er
Thy limbs in must of wine, and drink at ev'ry pore.

T H E
G E O R G I C S
O F
V I R G I L.

B O O K T H E S E C O N D.

THUS far of tillage, and the heav'nly signs ;
 Now thee I sing, O Bacchus, god of vines !
 With thee the native race of sylvan trees,
 And olives, blooming late by slow degrees.
 Come, sacred fire, with luscious clusters crown'd, 5
 Here all the riches of thy reign abound ;
 Each field replete with blushing autumn glows,
 And in deep tides for thee, the foaming vintage flows.
 O come, thy buskins, sacred fire, unloose,
 And tinge with me thy thighs in purple juice. 10
 Kind nature trees, by several means, supplies,
 Spontaneous some, by art untaught, arise ;
 At will, by brook, in lawn or meadow, bloom
 Th' obedient osier, and the bending broom ;
 While with the poplar on the mazy shore 15
 The willow waves its azure foliage hoar.
 Part by the force of quick'ning seed arise,
 Hence tow'rs the lofty chestnut to the skies ;
 And Aesculus, great monarch of the grove,
 Supreme and stateliest of the trees of Jove : 20

11. *Kind nature trees.*] The poet says, wild trees are produced three several ways, 1. SPONTANEOUSLY, 2. by SEEDS, 3. and by SUCKERS. He still uses the same order at verse the 61st, &c.

Aesculus, atque habitae Graiis oracula quercus.
 Pullulat ab radice aliis densissima silva :
 Ut cerasis, ulmisque : etiam Parnasia laurus
 Parva sub ingenti matris se subjicit umbra.
 Hos Natura modos primum dedit : his genus omne 20
 Silvarum, fruticumque viret, nemorumque sacrorum.
 Sunt alii, quos ipse via sibi repperit usus.
 Hic plantas tenero abscindens de corpore matrum
 Deposuit sulcis : hic stirpes obruit arvo,
 Quadrifidasque fudes, et acuto robore vallos : 25
 Silvarumque aliae pressos propaginis arcus
 Expectant, et viva sua plantaria terra.
 Nil radicis egent aliae : summumque putator
 Haud dubitat terrae referens mandare cacumen.
 Quin et caudicibus sectis (mirabile dictu) 30
 Truditur e ficco radix oleagina ligno.
 Et saepe alterius ramos impune videmus
 Vertere in alterius, mutatamque insita mala
 Ferre pirum, et prunis lapidosa rubescere corna.
 Quare agite ô, proprios generatim discite cultus, 35
 Agricolae, fructusque feros mollite colendo :
 Neu segnes jaceant terrae : juvat Ismara baccho
 Conferere, atque olea magnum vestire Taburnum.

22. *Greece devoutly paid.*] In this, and many other passages, he glances at, and ridicules the superstitions of the Grecians.

24. *Cherries.*] This kind of fruit had not been brought into Italy many years before Virgil wrote. 'Tis said, Lucullus first introduced them into that country after he had conquered Mithridates.

29. *Yet other means.*] Having spoken of trees which spontaneously propagate their species, he now proceeds to mention those methods which are used by human industry. These are by suckers, sets, layers, cuttings, pieces of cleft wood, and in-grafting.

MARTYN.

32. *Cross-split, or sharpen'd stakes.*] There are two ways of planting setters. The *quadrifidas fudes* (says Mr. Benson) is when the bottom is slit across both ways; the *acuto robore* is when it is cut into a point, which is called the colt's foot.

37. *Olive.*] It is common in Italy to see old olive-trees, that

With the proud oak, beneath whose awful shade
 Religious rites fond Greece devoutly paid.
 Some pour an infant forest from their roots,
 Thus elms and cherries spring in frequent shoots.
 Thus too, their tender tops Parnassus' bays, 25
 Beneath their mother's sheltering shadow, raise.
 So spring, as nature various means approves,
 Or woods, or shrubs, or consecrated groves.
 Yet other means hath sage experience found ;
 This, from the mother-trunk, within the ground 30
 The tender sucker sets ; another takes
 Of larger growth, crows-split, or sharpen'd stakes.
 And oft, in native earth, the boughs we see
 Inverted, multiply the parent tree :
 Nor fears the gard'ner oft, the smallest shoot 35
 To trust to earth ; some ask not for a root.
 Nay from cleft olive-trunks with age decay'd
 New fibres shoot, and springs a wond'rous shade.
 Even different kinds a mutual change assume,
 And still improv'd, with alien foliage bloom ; 40
 By pear-trees are ingrafted apples borne,
 And stony corneils blushing plums adorn.
 Search then, ye farmers, with sagacious mind,
 How best to manage every various kind.
 With culture civilize your savage trees, 45
 Nor let your lands lie dead in slothful ease.
 What joy the grapes on Ismarus to crop,
 And clothe with olives huge Taburnus' top !

that seem totally dead in the trunk, and yet have very flourishing young heads. The same is often as surprizing in old willows ; of which I have seen several (and particularly some in the garden island in St. James's Park) which send down a tap-root from their heads through the trunk, that often seems intirely decayed ; and so form a young tree on an old stock, which looks as flourishing as the other does rotten. SPENCE.

47. *Ismarus.*] Ismarus is a mountain in Thrace ; Taburnus in Campania, famous for olives.

Tuque ades, inceptumque una decurre laborem,
 O decus, ô famæ merito pars maxima nostræ, 40
 Maecenas ; pelagoque volans da vela patenti.
 Non ego cuncta meis amplecti versibus opto :
 Non, mihi si linguæ centum sint, oraque centum,
 Ferrea vox. ades, et primi lege litoris oram.
 In manibus terræ. non hic te carmine ficto, 45
 Atque per ambages et longa exorsa tenebo.
 Sponte sua quæ se tollunt in luminis oras,
 Infecunda quidem, sed læta et fortia surgunt :
 Quippe solo Natura subest. tamen hæc quoque si quis
 Inferat, aut scrobibus mandet mutata subactis, 50
 Exuerint silvestrem animum : cultuque frequenti,
 In quascumque voces artis, haud tarda sequentur.
 Nec non et, sterilis quæ stirpibus exit ab imis,
 Hoc faciet, vacuos si sit digesta per agros :
 Nunc altæ frondes, et rami matris opacant, 55
 Crescentique adimunt foetus, uruntque ferentem.
 Jam, quæ feminibus jactis se sustulit, arbos
 Tarda venit, feris factura nepotibus umbram :

51. *Do thou, Maecenas.*] If I mistake not, no patron was ever so finely commended as Maecenas is in this work. Indeed all Virgil says to him, or of him, is as follows, viz. In the first book, Virgil names him in the second line. In the second book, he begs him to assist him in his undertaking, and declares he owes the greatest part of his reputation to him. In the third book, he mentions the difficulty of the task Maecenas had put him upon, and again begs his assistance. In the fourth book, he desires him to look favourably upon that piece, and addresses it more particularly to him, than he had done any of the former. 'Tis true there is no great eclat in all this, but the compliment to Maecenas lies here. Virgil undertook a very necessary work for the service of his prince, and his country. He declares it was Maecenas put him upon it. He found the work very difficult, but still Maecenas persuades him to persist in it ; and by his patronage, and his generosity, enabled him to go through with it ; so that the whole, all the justice that is done to Augustus's character, all the service that work could do his country, was owing to Maecenas. This was complimenting him in the finest manner. He was

Hasten then, my better part of fame, my pride,
 Do thou my course at once assist and guide ; 50
 Do thou, Maecenas, share with me the gale,
 And o'er expanded seas unfurl the swelling sail.
 Nor soars my thought ambitious to rehearse
 All nature's wonders, in my shorter verse ;
 A task like this, would ask an hundred tongues, 55
 An hundred mouths, and iron-armed lungs.
 Still will we keep the friendly shore at hand,
 Nor dare to launch too boldly from the land :
 Nor will I tire thine ear with fables vain,
 With long preambles and superfluous strain. 60

The trees, whose shades spontaneous pierce the skies,
 Tho' barren, beautiful and vigorous rise ;
 For nature works beneath : but if thy toil
 Graft, or transplant them in a gentler soil,
 Their genius wild, where-e'er thou lead'st the way, 65
 Of discipline sequacious, will obey :
 So will the sprouts that from the roots arose,
 If plac'd amid the plain, in order'd rows :
 For else the mother's overshadowing top,
 Or blasts the fruit, or checks the promis'd crop. 70
 All trees from seed advance by slow degrees,
 And for a future race their shades increase ;

was speaking of a minister. The character he gives him is that of a person, who employs his power and fortune in countenancing one that could be of use to his master, and the public. Here the poet makes a graceful figure, whilst he shews his gratitude by owning his obligations, and at the same time that he makes his court to his patron, he makes his patron's court to his prince.

BENSON.

59. *Fables vain.*] He points at the truth, and the dignity, and the utility of his subject, exalting it above subjects of mere fiction, and Grecian tales.

61. *The trees.*] The poet had before mentioned the three ways by which wild trees are produced.—Here he follows the same method, and shews by what culture each sort may be meliorated.

MARTYN.

Pomaque degenerant fuccos oblita priores :
 Et turpis avibus prædam fert uva racemos. 60
 Scilicet omnibus est labor impendendus, et omnes
 Cogendæ in fulcum, ac multa mercede domandæ.
 Sed truncis oleæ melius, propagine vites,
 Respondent, solido Paphiæ de robore myrtus.
 Plantis eduræ coruli nascuntur, et ingens 65
 Fraxinus, Herculeæque arbor umbrosa coronæ,

80. *But quite full-grown.*] A curious dissertation on the subject of these verses by Mr. Holdsworth was published not long ago, of whom I have heard many able judges declare, that he understood Virgil better than any man living. In my humble opinion, says he, after the general conclusion of planting out,

*Scilicet omnibus est labor impendendus, & omnes
 Cogendæ in fulcum; ac multa mercede domandæ,*

and the short remark added, that some trees thrive best, not by the ordinary way of planting, but by layers and truncheons,

Sed truncis oleæ melius, &c.

Virgil proceeds next to another sort of planting, still more difficult; and tells us, that not only young plants and truncheons may be removed, but even grown trees. This is methodical, and consistent with what preceded, the transition easy, and the climax just. We continue still in the plantation, but we are led into a part we had seen nothing of before, a grove of some considerable growth, newly planted. And therefore we may observe, all the epithets and decorations, used here to enliven the subject, are suited to trees of an advanced age,

Plantis eduræ coryli, &c.

By this interpretation it must appear already, that the epithet *ardua*, which is a difficulty with Dr. Martyn, becomes plain and easy: and indeed it was so far from embarrassing me, that it helped to explain what went before. We advance farther in the plantation, and are shewn, that even the palm too (an exotic) may be transplanted when tall, or, in poetic language, be born a tree; and so likewise the fir, when grown fit for a malt.

We may very reasonably imagine, that in Virgil's time, that age of luxury, the great men of Rome transplanted tall trees from woods and nurseries, as is frequently done with us, into their walks and gardens. Mæcenas, to whom this book is dedicated,

Fruits of the richest juice in time decay,
 And birds amid degenerate vineyards prey ;
 All, all, must feel the force of toil intense, 75
 Be to the trench confin'd, and tam'd with large expence.
 With best success, from truncheons olives spring ;
 Layers of the vine the fairest clusters bring ;
 From sets will bloom the myrtle, plant of love ;
 But quite full-grown transplant the hazle grove ; 80
 Ash too, tho' tall, and that fair tree whose boughs
 Bear the broad crown that binds Alcides' brows,

dicated, had a garden, we know, on the Esquiline hill, celebrated by Horace and others; and 'tis not improbable, that in order to bring it sooner to perfection, this might be practis'd there, perhaps just at the time when Virgil was writing this Georgic. If so, how artfully does the poet here insinuate, with his usual address, a compliment to his patron? I only hint this as a conjecture; but am more inclin'd to believe, that something of the wilderness part of a garden is intended, by the palm being placed among the others; which, tho' a fruit-tree in its own country, yet is not improperly put here in the company of forest-trees, because it did not bear fruit, nor was counted a fruit-tree at that time in Italy; as Pliny informs us lib. iii. c. 4. and therefore could be planted only, as the others might, for beauty and ornament to gardens.

Whether Virgil had any such view or not, there can at least be no doubt but that removing tall trees was practis'd among the Romans. We find by Pliny, that the common method of making their *arbusta*, or plantations for supporting vines, was by planting out elms, when about five years old, or about twenty foot high: lib. xvii. c. 11. And the fir, mention'd above, which Pliny tells us had so deep a root, must certainly have been a tall tree, and yet, he says, was removed. As to the palm, tho' it did not arrive to such perfection in Italy, as to bear fruit, yet we find it was common there; and a tree which not only would bear removing, but thrive the better for it.

And to put this matter about removing tall trees beyond dispute, Virgil himself confirms it in another place, and makes his Corycius Senex put it in practice, Georg. iv. 144, &c.

*Ille etiam seras in versum distulit ulmos,
 Eduramque pirum, & spinos jam pruna ferentes,
 Jamque ministrantem platanum potantibus umbras.*

'Tis true, most of the commentators and translators seem not to have rightly apprehended the meaning of this passage, as Dr.

Chaoniique patris glandes : etiam ardua palma
 Nascitur, et casus abies visura marinos.
 Inferitur vero ex foetu nucis arbutus horrida ;
 Et steriles platani malos gessere valentis, 70
 Castaneas fagus, ornusque incanuit albo
 Flore piri, glandemque sues fregere sub ulmis.
 Nec modus inserere, atque oculos inponere simplex.
 Nam qua se medio trudunt de cortice gemmae,
 Et tenuis rumpunt tunicas : angustus in ipso 75
 Fit nodo sinus : huc aliena ex arbore germen
 Includunt, udoque docent inolescere libro.
 Aut rursus enodes trunci refecantur, et alte
 Finditur in solidum cuneis via : deinde feraces
 Plantae inmittuntur. nec longum tempus, et ingens 80
 Exiit ad caelum ramis felicibus arbos,
 Miraturque novas frondes, et non sua poma.
 Praeterea genus haud unum, nec fortibus ulmis,
 Nec salici, Iotoque, neque Idaeis cyparissis :
 Nec pingues unam in faciem nascuntur olivae, 85
 Orchades, et radii, et amara pausia bacca,

Martyn observes, and thereby have lost much of its spirit. But since he has render'd it justly, and given it its full force, I doubt not, but when he compares the expressions of both passages together, he will more easily agree to my interpretation ; and will be surpriz'd, as indeed I am, how it before escap'd him. With regard to the verses following in the original,

*Inferitur vero ex foetu nucis arbutus horrida ;
 Et steriles platani malos gessere valentis,
 Castaneas fagus, ornusque incanuit albo
 Flore piri, glandemque sues fregere sub ulmis.*

Mr. Holdsworth observes, that Virgil had before spoken of grafting in the common method, from ver. 32 to 34.

*Et saepe alterius ramos impune videmus
 Vertere in alterius, mutatamque insita mala
 Ferre pirum, et prunis lapidosa rubescere corna.*

As he there grafts only kernel fruit on kernel, and stone on stone, he shews plainly that he understood what was the common method, and conforms to it. Again, from ver. 49 to 51.

Jove's oak, or palm high-waving o'er the steep,
 And fir now fit to tempt the dang'rous deep.
 On th' horrid arbut graft the walnut's spray, 85
 Or bid with apples barren planes look gay :
 Oft has the beech improv'd, the chesnut bore,
 The wild ash stood with pear-tree blossoms hoar, }
 And swine beneath the elm have crack'd the masty store. }
 The swains who graft, employ a different art 90
 From those, who to the bark a bud impart :
 For thro' the rind where bursts the tender gem,
 Fast by the knot they wound the taper stem,
 Then in the slit an alien bud confin'd,
 They teach to knit congenial with the rind ; 95
 Or thro' the polish'd trunk they wedge their way,
 And in the chasm insert a lusty spray ;
 Ere long to heaven the soaring branches shoot,
 And wonder at their height, and more than native fruit.
 Besides, of sturdy elms a different kind, 100
 Of willows, and the watery lote, we find.
 Th' Idean cypress various looks assumes,
 In numerous forms the luscious olive blooms :
 Nor Orchite's nor the Radius' kind is one,
 Nor Pausia's by their bitter berries known ; 105

under the articles of improvements, he observes, that chance-plants, which are naturally wild, may be civilized by grafting, as crabs, loes, or wild plums, &c.

——— *Tamen bacc quoque si quis
 Inerat, aut scrobibus mandat mutata subactis,
 Exuerint sylvestrem animum.*

Having thus sufficiently mentioned this practice, and there being no necessity to repeat it as he endeavours to be as concise as possible ; he proceeds in the next place to tell us, that trees of different kinds may likewise be grafted on each other. And as he had before shewed, in the four preceding verses, what art could do in transplanting tall trees ; he advances here to shew what may likewise be done by the help of art in grafting, viz. that any scion may be ingrafted on any stock. All the translators have mistaken this passage : and I am indebted to Mr. Holdsworth for his clearing it up.

Pomaque, et Alcinoi silvae: nec furculus idem
 Crustumis, Syriisque piris, gravibusque volemis.
 Non eadem arboribus pendet vindemia nostris,
 Quam Methymnaco carpit de palmite Lesbos. 90
 Sunt Thasiae vites, sunt et Marcotides albae:
 Pinguibus hae terris habiles, levioribus illae.
 Et passio Pfythia utilior, tenuisque Lageos,
 Tentatura pedes olim, vincturaque linguam,
 Purpureae, preciaeque. et quo te carmine dicam, 95
 Rhaetica? nec cellis ideo contende Falernis.
 Sunt etiam Ammineae vites firmissima vina,
 Tmolius adfurgit quibus, et rex ipse Phanaeus,
 Argitisque minor: cui non certaverit ulla,
 Aut tantum fluere, aut totidem durare per annos. 100
 Non ego te, Dis et mensis accepta secundis,
 Transierim, Rhodia, et tumidis, humaste, racemis.
 Sed neque quam multae species, nec nomina quae sint,
 Est numerus; neque enim numero comprehendere refert:
 Quem qui scire velit, Libyci velit aequoris idem 105
 Discere quam multae zephyro turbentur arenae:
 Aut, ubi navigiis violentior incidit eurus,
 Nosse quot Ionii veniant ad litora fluctus.
 Nec vero terrae ferre omnes omnia possunt.
 Fluminibus salices, crassisque paludibus alni 110
 Nascuntur: steriles saxosis montibus orni,
 Litora myrtetis laetissima. denique apertos
 Bacchus amat collis: aquilonem et frigora taxi.

114. *Pfythia*.] *Passum* is a wine made from raisins, or dried grapes, common both in Italy and the south of France. But the grapes are only hung up to dry, and not squeezed into barrels like our common raisins.

126. *Libationis*.] Among the Romans the first course consisted of flesh, and the second of fruit, at which they poured out wine to offer to the gods, called a Libation.

ARBUTHNOT ON COINS.

127. *Plumpestis*.] *Bumastus* is the very large red sort of grapes, that they give you so perpetually in their deserts in Italy:

In several hues to shine the apple loves ;
 How many species deck Alcinous' groves ?
 What vast varieties each orchard bears,
 In syrian, bergamot, and poulder pears ?
 Nor the same grape Hesperia's vintage fills, 110
 Which Lesbos gathers from Methymnia's hills.
 Of Thasian vines, and Mareotic white,
 One loves a fatten'd foil, and one a light ;
 Best are the Pſythian when by Phoebus dry'd ; 114
 Thin is Lageos' penetrating tide, [try'd ;
 By which the faltering tongue, and staggering feet are }
 Purple there are, and grapes which early spring,
 But in what strains thee, Rhaetic, shall I sing ?
 Yet dare not thou with Falern juice contest !
 Amminean wines for body are the best ; 120
 To these, ev'n Tmolus bends his cluster'd brows,
 And, king of vine-clad hills, Phanaeus bows ;
 By these is Argos' lesser grape surpass,
 Tho' fam'd so much to flow, so long to last.
 Nor thine, O Rhodes, I pass, whose streams afford 125
 Libations to the Gods, and crown the board :
 Nor thee, Bumastus, grape of plumpest size ;
 But can my song each various race comprise ?
 He that cou'd each rehearse, the sands might count,
 That from the Libyan waste in whirling eddies mount :
 Or tell the billows as they beat the shores, 131
 When all th' Ionian sea with raging Boreas roars.
 Nor every race will thrive in every ground :
 Willows along the river-banks abound ;
 While adders bud in wet and weeping plains, 135
 The wild ash on the ridgy mountain reigns :
 Myrtles the shore, the baleful eugh approves
 Bleak blasts, and Bacchus sunny summits loves.

Italy: and particularly at Florence. It has its name from its shape, each grape being like the teat of a cow; Varro half latinise; the word, where he calls it *bumamma*, HOLDSWORTH.

Aspice et extremis domitum cultoribus orbem,
 Eoasque domos Arabum, pictosque Gelonos. 115
 Divisæ arboribus patriæ. sola India nigrum
 Fert ebum: solis est turea virga Sabæis.
 Quid tibi odorato referam sudantia ligno
 Balsamaque, et baccas semper frondentis acanthi?
 Quid nemora Aethiopum molli canentia lana? 120
 Velleraque ut foliis depectunt tenuia Seres?
 Aut quos Oceano propior gerit India lucos,
 Extremi sinus orbis? ubi æra vincere summum
 Arboris haud ullæ jactu potuere sagittæ.
 Et gens illa quidem sumtis non tarda pharetris. 125
 Media fert tristis succos, tardumque saporem
 Felicis mali; quo non præsentius ullum,
 Pocula si quando sævæ infecere novercæ,
 Miscueruntque herbas et non innoxia verba,
 Auxilium venit, ac membris agit atra venena. 130
 Ipsa ingens arbos, faciemque simillima lauro;
 Et, si non alium late jactaret odorem,
 Laurus erat. folia haud ullis labentia ventis:
 Flos ad prima tenax. animas et olentia Medi
 Ora sovent illo, et senibus medicantur anhelis. 135
 Sed neque Medorum silvæ ditissima terra,
 Nec pulcher Ganges, atque auro turbidus Hermus,

154. *Median fields.*] Virgil here gives a very high character of this tree, both for its beauty and usefulness: I take it that he means orange-trees, which were brought first into Italy from Media in his time. As the orange-tree was not yet generally known in Italy, he describes it by its likeness to a tree, well known there, the laurel-tree. The leaves, says he, resemble the leaves of that; but have a finer and more diffused smell, and it is almost always beautify'd with flowers. Pliny (Nat. Hist. lib. xii. c. 3.) calls the orange-tree *malus Medica*, and his account of it agrees extremely with this in Virgil.

HOLDSWORTH.

166. *Media's groves.*] We are now come to his most beautiful praises of Italy; nor is it easy to determine which is greatest, the poet's skill, or the patriot's love of his country. He glances at Greece with some ironical sarcasms, in several parts of this passage;

Th' extreme of cultivated lands survey,
 The painted Scythians, and the realms of day; 140
 All trees allotted keep their several coasts,
 India alone the sable ebon boasts;
 Sabaea bears the branch of frankincense.
 And shall I sing, how teeming trees dispense
 Rich fragrant balms in many a trickling tear, 145
 With soft Acanthus' berries, never fear?
 From Aethiop woods, where woolly leaves increase,
 How Syrians comb the vegetable fleece?
 Or shall I tell how India hangs her woods,
 Bound of this earth, o'er Ocean's unknown floods? 150
 Where to such height the trees gigantic grow,
 That far they leave the sounding shaft below,
 Tho' skill'd the natives are to bend the bow. }
 The Median fields rich citron fruits produce,
 Tho' harsh the taste, and clammy be the juice; 155
 Blest antidote! which, when in evil hour
 The step-dame mixes herbs of poisonous power,
 And crowns the bowl with many a mutter'd spell,
 Will from the veins the direful draught expell.
 Large is the trunk, and laurel-like its frame, 160
 And 'twere a laurel, were its scent the same.
 Its lasting leaf each roaring blast defies,
 Tenacious of the stem its flourets rise:
 Hence a more wholesome breath the Medes receive,
 And of pale fires the lab'ring lungs relieve. 165
 But neither Media's groves, her teeming mold,
 Fair Ganges' flood, nor Hermus thick with gold;

passage; particularly he seems to laugh at some of their absurd stories: in these lines,

*Haec loca non tauri spirantes naribus ignem
 Invertère, satis inmanis dentibus hydri,*

he alludes to the famous story of Jason. Mr. Thomson has finely imitated these praises of Italy in his Seasons, where he celebrates Great Britain. See his Summer.

Laudibus Italiae certent : non Baëtra, neque Indî,
 Totaque turiferis Panchaïa pinguis arenis.
 Haec loca non tauri spirantes naribus ignem 140
 Invertère, fatis inmanis dentibus hydri ;
 Nec galeis, densisque virùm seges horruit hastis :
 Sed gravidæ fruges, et Bacchi Mafficus humor
 Implevere : tenent olcae armentaque laeta.
 Hinc bellator equus campo sese arduus infert : 145
 Hinc albi, Clitumne, greges, et maxuma taurus
 Victimâ, saepe tuo perfusi flumine sacro,
 Romanos ad templa deùm duxere triumphos.
 Hic ver adsiduum, atque alienis mensibus aestas :
 Bis gravidæ pecudes, bis pomis utilis arbos. 150
 At rabidæ tigres absunt, et saeva leonum
 Semina : nec miseros fallunt aconita legentis ;
 Nec rapit inmensos orbis per humum, neque tanto
 Squameus in spiram tractu se conligit anguis.
 Adde tot egregias urbis, operumque laborem, 155
 Tot congesta manu praeruptis oppida faxis ;
 Fluminaque antiquos subterlabentia muros.
 An mare, quod supra, memorem, quodque adluit infra,

181. *Clitumnus*.] Now called *Clitumno* ; it rises a little below the village of Campello in Ombria. The inhabitants near this river still retain a notion, that its waters are attended with a supernatural property, imagining that it makes the cattle white that drink of it ; a quality for which it is likewise celebrated by many of the Latin poets. See MELMOTH'S Pliny, p. 455.

196. *With towns—cliffs*.] Among other instances of the happiness of Italy, Virgil mentions its having so many towns built on craggy rocks and hills. There were more formerly, and are several still. In the road from Rome to Naples, you see no less than four in one view, from the hill on which Piperno now stands ; reckoning that for one of them. These were very useful, of old, for defence, among such a fighting race of people : and are so still for their coolness, in so hot a climate, that they are generally forced to drive their flocks of sheep up upon the mountains for the summer season, as they usually feed them in the sheltered plains by the sea-side in the winter.

HOLDSWORTH and SPENCE.

198. *Ocean*.] Italy is washed on the north side by the Adriatic sea, or gulph of Venice, which is called *mare superum*, or the

Nor all the stores Panchaia's glebe expands,
 Where spices overflow the fragrant sands ;
 Nor Bactrian, nor Arabian fields can vie 170
 With the blest scenes of beauteous Italy.
 Bulls breathing fire her furrows ne'er have known,
 Ne'er with the dreadful dragon's teeth were sown,
 Whence sprung an iron crop, an armed train,
 With helm and spear embattell'd on the plain. 175
 But plenteous corn she boasts, and gen'rous wine,
 The luscious olive, and the joyful kine.
 Hence o'er the plain the warrior-steed elate,
 Prances with portly pace in martial state ;
 Hence snowy flocks wash'd in thy sacred stream, 180
 Clitumnus, and of victims the supreme
 The mighty bull, have led, thro' shouting trains,
 Rome's pompous triumphs to the lofty fanes.
 The fields here spring's perpetual beauties crown,
 Here summer shines in seasons not her own. 185
 Twice teem the cattle each revolving year,
 And twice the trees their blushing burthen bear.
 Nor here the tygres rears her rav'nous breed,
 Far hence is the fell lion's savage seed ;
 Nor wretched simplers specious weeds invite, 190
 For wholesome herbs, to crop pale aconite :
 Nor scaly snakes in such vast volumes glide,
 Nor on a train so thick, and spires so lofty ride.
 Add too around what far-fam'd cities rise,
 What stately works of daedal artifice ! 195
 With tow'red towns here craggy cliffs are crown'd,
 Here rivers roll old moss-grown ramparts round.
 And shall my song her two-fold ocean boast,
 That pours its riches forth on either coast ?

the upper sea ; and on the south side by the *Tyrrhene* or Tuscan sea, which is called *mare inferum*, or the lower sea. The *Larius* is a great lake at the foot of the Alps in the Milanese, now called, *Lago di Como*. The *Benacus* is another great lake
 in

An ne lacus tantos ? te, Lari maxime, teque,
 Fluctibus et fremitu adsurgens, Benace, marino? 160
 An memorem portus, Lucrinoque addita claustra :
 Atque indignatum magnis stridoribus aequor,
 Julia qua ponto longe sonat unda refuso,
 Tyrrhenusque fretis inmittitur aestus Avernis ?
 Haec eadem argenti rivos, aerisque metalla 165
 Ostendit venis, atque auro plurima fluxit.
 Haec genus acre virum Marfos, pubemque Sabellam,
 Adfuetumque malo Ligurem, Volscosque verutos
 Extulit : haec Decios, Marios, magnosque Camillos :
 Scipiadas duros bello : et te, maxime Caesar : 170
 Qui nunc extremis Asiae jam victor in oris
 Inbellem avertis Romanis arcibus Indum.
 Salve, magna parens frugum, Saturnia tellus ;
 Magna virum : tibi res antiquae laudis et artis
 Ingredior, sanctos ausus recludere fontis, 175
 Aescraeumque cano Romana per oppida carmen.
 Nunc locus arborum ingeniis : quae robora cuique,
 Quis color, et quae sit rebus natura ferendis.
 Difficiles primum terrae, collesque maligni,
 Tenuis ubi argilla, et dumosis calculus arvis, 180
 Palladia gaudent silva vivacis olivae.

in the Veronese, now called *Lago di Garda*; out of which flows the Mincius, on the banks of which our poet was born. Lucrinus and Avernus are two lakes of Campania; the former of which was almost wholly destroyed by an earthquake, but the latter is still remaining, and now called *Lago d'Averno*.

214. *The Scipios.*] The elder Scipio delivered his country from the invasion of Hannibal, by transferring the war into Africa; where he subdued the Carthaginians, imposed a tribute upon them, and took hostages. Hence he had the surname of Africanus, and the honour of a triumph. The younger Scipio triumphed for the conclusion of the third Punic war, by the total destruction of Carthage. Hence they were called the thunderbolts of war—*duo fulmina belli Scipiadas*. Aen. 6. Virgil borrows the expression, from Lucretius, *Scipiades belli fulmen*.

218. *All hail.*] The conclusion of Pliny's Natural History bears a very near resemblance to this passage, and is very beautiful.

Her spacious lakes; first mighty Larius, thee? 200

And thee, Benacus, roaring like a sea?

Her ports and harbours, and the Lucrine mounds,

From which the beating main indignant bounds;

Where Julius' flood of bonds impatient raves,

And calm Avernus' freights confine the Tuscan waves?

Her fields with brass and silver veins have glow'd, 206

Her pregnant rocks with gold abundant flow'd.

She birth to many a race, in battle brave,

The Marfian, and the Sabine soldier, gave.

Her's are Liguria's sons, untaught to yield, 210

And her's the Volsci, skill'd the spear to wield;

The Decian hence, and Marian heroes came,

Hence sprung thy line, Camillus, mighty name:

Hence rose the Scipios, undismay'd in fight,

And thou, great Cæsar, whose victorious might, 215

From Rome's high walls, on Asia's utmost plains,

Aw'd into peace fierce India's rage restrains.

All hail, Saturnian soil! hail, parent great

Of fruits and mighty men! my lays repeat

For thee this argument of ancient art, 220

These useful toils, rever'd of old, impart;

For thee, I dare unlock the sacred spring,

And thro' the Roman streets Ascrean numbers sing.

Next, of each various soil the genius hear!

Its colour, strength, what best dispos'd to bear. 225

Th' unfriendly cliffs, and unprolific ground,

Where clay jejune, and the cold flint abound,

Where bushes overspread the stubborn field,

Will best th' unfading grove of Pallas yield:

tiful. Ergo in toto orbe et quacunq; coeli convexitas vergit, pulcherrima est omnium, rebusq; merito principatum obtinens, Italia, reſtrix parensq; mundi altera; viris, foeminis, ducibus, militibus, ſervitiis, artium præſtantiâ, ingeniorum claritatibus, jam ſitu ac ſalubritate coeli atq; temperie, accèſſu cunſtarum gentium facili, liſtoribus portuoſis, benigno ventorum aſſlatu. The whole paſſage is worth the reader's peruſal.

Indicio est, tractu surgens oleaster eodem
 Plurimus, et strati bæccis silvestribus agri.
 At quæ pinguis humus, dulciq; uligine lacta,
 Quique frequens herbis et fertilis ubere campus, 185
 Qualem sæpe cava montis convalle solemus
 Discipere: huc fummis liquuntur rupibus amnes,
 Felicemque trahunt limum: quique editus Austro,
 Et silicem curvis invisam pascit aratris:
 Hic tibi praevalidas olim multoque fluentes 190
 Sufficiet baccho vitis: hic fertilis uvæ,
 Hic laticis, qualem pateris libamus et auro,
 Inflavit cum pinguis ebur Tyrrhenus ad aras,
 Lancibus et pandis fumantia reddimus exta.
 Sin armenta magis studium vitulosque tueri, 195
 Aut foetus ovium, aut urentis culta capellas:
 Sæptus, et saturi petito longinqua Tarenti,
 Et qualem infelix amisit Mantua campum,
 Pascens nivos herboso flumine cycnos.
 Non liquidi gregibus fontes, non gramina decrunt: 200
 Et quantum longis carpent armenta diebus,
 Exigua tantum gelidus ros nocte reponet.
 Nigra fere, et presso pinguis sub vomere terra,
 Et cui putre solum, (namque hoc imitamur arando)
 Optima frumentis. non ullo ex aequore cernes 205
 Plura domum tardis decedere plaustra juvencis:
 Aut unde iratus silvam devexit arator,
 Et nemora evertit multos ignava per annos,
 Antiquasque domos avium cum stirpibus imis
 Eruit: illæ altum nidis petiere relictis. 210

Here the wild olive woods luxuriant shoot, 230

And all the plains are strewn with sylvan fruit.

But the rich soil with genial force endu'd,

All green with grafs, with moisture sweet bedew'd,

Such as we oft survey from cavern'd hills,

Whence many a stream descends in dripping rills, 235 }

And with rich ooze the fatt'ning valley fills;

Or that which feels the balmy southern air,

And feeds the fern unfriendly to the share;

Ere long will vines of lustiest growth produce,

And big with bounteous Bacchus' choicest juice, 240

Will give the grape, in solemn sacrifice,

Whose purple stream the golden goblet dies;

When the fat Tuscan's horn has call'd the god,

And the full chargers bend beneath the smoking load.

But bullocks would you rear, and herds of cows, 245

Or sheep, or goats that crop the budding boughs;

Seek rich Tarentum's plains, a distant coast,

And fields like those my luckless Mantua lost;

His silver-pinion'd swans where Mincio feeds,

As slow they sail among the wat'ry weeds. 250

There for thy flocks fresh fountains never fail,

Undying verdure cloaths the grassy vale;

And what is crop'd by day, the night renews,

Shedding refreshful stores of cooling dews.

A fable mold and fat beneath the share, 255

That crumbles to the touch, of texture rare,

And (what our art effects) by nature loose,

Will the best growth of foodful gain produce:

And from no field, beneath pale evening's star 259

With heavier harvests fraught, returns the nodding car.

Or else the plain, from which the ploughman's rage

Has fell'd the forest, hoar through many an age,

And tore the tall trees from their ancient base,

Long the dark covert of the feathery race;

At rudis enituit in pulso vomere campus.
 Nam jejuna quidem clivosi glareæ ruris
 Vix humilis apibus casias roremque ministrat :
 Et tophus scaber, et nigris exesa chelydris
 Creta, negant alios aequæ serpentibus agros 215
 Dulcem ferre cibum, et curvas præbere latebras.
 Quæ tenuem exhalat nebulam, fumosque volucris ;
 Et bibit humorem, et, cum volt, ex se ipsa remittit.
 Quæque suo semper viridi se gramine vestit,
 Nec scabie et salsa lædit robigine ferrum ; 220
 Illa tibi lætis intextet vitibus ulmos :
 Illa ferax oleo est : illam experire colendo,
 Et facilem pecori, et patientem vomeris unci,
 Talem dives arat Capua, et vicina Vesevo
 Ora jugo, et vacuis Clanius non aequus Acceris. 225
 Nunc, quo quamque modo possis cognoscere, dicam.
 Rara sit, an supra morem si densa, requiras ;
 Altera frumentis quoniam favet, altera baccho ;
 Densa magis cereri, rarissima quæque lyæo :
 Ante locum capies oculis, alteque jubebis 230
 In solido puteum demitti, omnemque repones
 Rursus humum, et pedibus summas æquabis arenas.
 Si deerunt, rarum pecorique et vitibus almis
 Aptius uber erit. sin in sua posse negabunt

272. *Roremque ministrat.*] *Ros* does not in this place signify dew, as Dryden translates it, but *rosemary*. Virgil says that the dry hungry soil (now under consideration) is of so barren a nature, that not even those common plants, casia and rosemary, will grow in it. Dr. Martyn has proved the casia here mentioned not to be the celebrated aromatic casia, but a very vulgar herb. Perhaps the epithet *humilis*, in this place, ought to be construed *mean* or *insignificant*, rather than *low of growth*.

288. *Dense.*] *Densa* signifies such a soil, as will not easily admit the rain, is easily crack'd and apt to gape, and so let in the sun to the root of the vines, and in a manner to strangle the young plants. This therefore must be a hard or stiff soil ; *rara*, lets the showers quite through, and is apt to be dry'd up with the sun. Therefore this must be a loose soil. See Dr. Martyn,

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Banish'd their bow'rs, abroad they mount in air, 265
While shines the recent glebe beneath the share.

For the lean gravel of the sloping field,
And mould'ring stones, where snakes their mansions build,
Where in dark windings filthy reptiles breed,
And find sweet food their lurking young to feed ; 270
To bees ungenial, scarcely will supply
Their calia-flow'rs, and dewy rosemary.

In that blest ground, which from its opening chinks,
At will, a steaming mist emits, or drinks ;
Which blooms with native gras for ever fair, 275

Nor blunts with eating rust the sliding share,
Round thy tall elms the joyous vines shall weave ;
And floods of luscious oil thy olives give ;
This, with due culture, thou shalt surely find
Obedient to thy plough, and to thy cattle kind. 280

Such fertile lands rich Capua's peasants till,
And such the soil beneath Vesuvus' hill ;
And that, where o'er Acerrae's prostrate tow'rs
Clanius his swelling tide too fiercely pours.

Rules to know different soils I next dispense ; 285
How to distinguish from the rare the dense.

This best for vines, that golden grain approves,
Ceres, the dense ; the rare Lyaeus loves.

First choose a spot that's for the purpose fit,
Then dig the solid earth ; and sink a pit ; 290

Next, to its bed th' ejected soil restore,
And press with trampling feet the surface o'er ;
If the mold fail, 'tis light ; that soil inclines
To fatten herds, and swell thy cluster'd vines.

Martyn, who grounds this interpretation on Julius Graecinus, as he is quoted by Columella.

289. *Cboofe.*] It is extremely difficult to make this experiment, which is told with great dignity in the Latin, read gracefully and agreeably in a translation, particularly the animated expressions, *negabunt ire loca, et superabit terra.*

Ire loca, et scrobibus superabit terra repletis, 235
 Spissus ager: glebas cunctantis crassaque terga
 Exspecta, et validis terram proscinde juvencis.
 Salsa autem tellus, et quae perhibetur amara,
 Frugibus infelix (ea nec mansuefcit arando,
 Nec baccho genus, aut pomis sua nomina servat) 240
 Tale dabit specimen. tu spisso vimine qualos,
 Colaue praelorum fumosis deripe tectis.
 Huc ager ille malus, dulcesque à fontibus undae
 Ad plenum calcentur. aqua eluctabitur omnis
 Scilicet, et grandes ibunt per vimina guttae. 245
 At sapor indicium faciet manifestus, et ora
 Tristia tentantum sensu torquebit amaror.
 Pinguis item quae sit tellus, hoc denique pacto
 Discimus. haud umquam manibus jactata fatiscit,
 Sed picis in morem ad digitos lentescit habendo. 250
 Humida majores alit herbas, ipsaque justo
 Laetior. ah nimium ne sit mihi fertilis illa,
 Neu se praevalidam primis ostendat aristas!
 Quae gravis est, ipso tacitam se pondere prodit;
 Quaeque levis. promptum est oculis praediscere nigram,
 Et quis cui color. at sceleratum exquirere frigus 256
 Difficile est: piceae tantum, taxique nocentes
 Interdum, aut ederae pandunt vestigia nigrae.
 His animadversis, terram multo ante memento
 Excoquere, et magnos scrobibus concidere montis, 260
 Ante supinatas aquiloni ostendere glebas,
 Quam lactum infodias vitis genus. optima putri
 Arva solo: id venti curant, gelidaeque pruinae,
 Et labefacta movens robustus jugera fossor.

309. *Bitter.*] *Amaror* is in the style of Lucretius, and the true reading; though many read *amaro*, making it agree with *sensu*.

SERVIUS.

311. *It sticks.*] *Ad digitos lentescit habendo*, cannot startle a delicate ear so much as must the translation of that expression from

Book 2.	THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL.	261
But o'er the pit replenish'd, if the ground		295
Still rise, and in superfluous heaps abound,		
O'er the thick glebe let sturdy bullocks toil,		
Cleave the compacted clods and sluggish soil.		
But earth that's bitter, or with salt imbu'd,		
Too wild for culture, for the plough too rude,		300
Where apples boast no more their purple hues,		
And drooping Bacchus yields degen'rate juice,		
May thus be known : Of twigs a basket twine		
Like that from whence is strain'd the recent wine ;		
This with the soil and crystal water fill,	305	}
Then squeeze the mafs, while thro' the twigs distil		
The big round drops in many a trickling rill ;		
Soon shall its nature from its taste appear,		
And the wry mouth the bitter juice declare.		
We learn from hence a fat and viscid land ;		310
It sticks like pitch uncrumbled to the hand ;		
The moister mold a rank luxuriance feeds,		
Of lengthen'd grafs, and tall promiscuous weeds ;		
O may be mine no over-fertile plain,		
That shoots too strongly forth its early grain !		315
The light and heavy in the balance try,		
The black and other colours strike the eye ;		
Not so the cold ; lo ! there dark ivy spreads,		
Or yews on pitch-trees lift their gloomy heads,		
These rules observ'd, expose the clods to dry,		320
Bak'd and concocted by the northern sky.		
Trench deep, and turn the soil, before ye place		
The tender vines, a joy-diffusing race ;		
Fat molds grow mellow by the delver's pains,		
By fanning winds and frosts, and cooling rains.		325

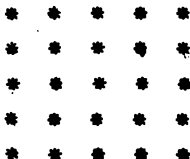
from the single circumstance, of a vulgar idea being quite concealed in any dead language.

At si quos haud ulla viros vigilantia fugit ; 265
 Ante locum similem exquirunt, ubi prima paretur
 Arboribus seges, et quo mox digesta feratur,
 Mutatam ignorent subito ne semina matrem.
 Quin etiam caeli regionem in cortice signant :
 Ut, quo quaeque modo steterit, qua parte calores 270
 Austrinos tulerit, quae terga obverterit axi,
 Restituant. adeo in teneris consuescere multum est.
 Collibus, an plano melius sit ponere vitem,
 Quaere prius. si pinguis agros metabere campi,
 Densa fere : in denso non segnior ubere bacchus. 275
 Sin, tumulis adclive solum collisque supinos,
 Indulge ordinibus : nec secius omnis in unguem
 Arboribus positis secto via limite quadret.
 Ut saepe ingenti bello cum longa cohortis
 Explicuit legio, et campo stetit agmen aperto, 280
 Directaeque acies, ac late fluctuat omnis
 Aere reudenti tellus, nec dum horrida miscent

327.] Columella says the trenches should be dug a year beforehand. Mr. Holdsworth used to say, that Columella's treatise on husbandry was by much the best comment on Virgil's Georgics, that he knew of. SPENCE.

327. *Two soils.*] Having explained the several sorts of soil, says Martyn, he proceeds to give some instructions concerning the planting of vines; and speaks of the trenches to be made to receive the plants out of the nursery; of taking care that the nursery and the vineyards should have a like soil, and that the plants should be set with the same aspect which they had in the nursery.

346. *As in just ranks.*] Virgil, says Dr. Martyn, does not mean the form of a *Quincunx* in this description, but that you should plant your vines in a square in the following order :



As Virgil compares the disposition of the trees in a vineyard, to an army drawn up in battle-array, 'tis evident that he must mean this figure. The Romans usually allowed three foot square

But hinds of greater diligence and care,
 Two soils, of genius similar prepare,
 Lest the fond offspring its chang'd mother mourn,
 And genial lap whence suddenly 'tis torn :
 Thus plants from infancy to strength arrive, 330
 And in a kindred soil, transplanted thrive.
 Besides their former site they nicely mark,
 With sharpen'd knife upon the yielding bark ;
 And place them as before they stood inclin'd
 To the hot south, or blustering northern wind : 335
 Such is the strength of custom, such appears
 The force of habits gain'd in tender years.

Consider, first, if best the vine will grow
 On the high hill, or in the valley low.
 If on rich plains extends thy level ground, 340
 Thick set thy plants, and Bacchus will abound ;
 If on a gentle hill or sloping bank,
 In measur'd squares exact your vineyards rank ;
 Each narrow path and equal opening place,
 To front, and answer to the crossing space. 345
 As in just ranks, and many an order'd band,
 On some vast plain the Roman legions stand,
 Before the shouting squadrons battle join,
 And earth reflects the dazzling armour's shine,

square for every common soldier to manage his arms, that is, six foot between each, which is a proper distance for the vines in Italy, according to Columella, who says the rows should not be wider than ten feet, nor nearer than four.

349. *And earth reflects.*] *Aere renidenti tellus*, says the original. This expression is borrowed from Lucretius's *aere renidescit tellus*. Both these poets seem to have had Euripides in their eye ;

καταχαλκον ἀπας
 Πιδον ἀγραπτι.

Phœniss. ver. 110.

The shining beauties of the clusters of the vines (says Dr. Martyn) is finely represented by the splendor of the brazen arms. I beg for once to dissent from this learned gentleman, and to observe, that this part of the comparison seems too minute, and too much like an Italian conceit, for Virgil to have thought of.

Proelia, sed dubius mediis Mars errat in armis.
 Omnia sint paribus numeris dimensa viarum :
 Non animum modo uti pascat prospectus inanem : 285
 Sed quia non aliter vires dabit omnibus aequas
 Terra, neque in vacuum poterunt se extendere rami.
 Forfitan et scrobibus quae sint fastigia quaeras.
 Ausim vel tenui vitem committere sulco.
 Altior ac terrae penitus defigitur arbos, 290
 Aesculus in primis : quae quantum vertice ad auras
 Aethérias, tantum radice in Tartara tendit.
 Ergo non hiemes illam, non flabra, neque imbres
 Convellunt. inmotâ manet, multosque nepotes,
 Multa virum volvens durando saecula vincit. 295
 Tum fortis late ramos et brachia tendens
 Huc illuc, media ipsa ingentem sustinet umbram.
 Neve tibi ad solem vergant vineta cadentem :
 Neve inter vites corum sere : neve flagella
 Summa pete, aut summa destringe ex arbore plantas :
 (Tantus amor terrae) neu ferro laede retuso 301
 Semina, neve oleae silvestris infere truncos.
 Nam saepe incautis pastoribus excidit ignis,
 Qui furtim pingui primum sub cortice tectus
 Robora comprehendit, frondesque elapsus in altas 305
 Ingentem caelo sonitum dedit. inde secutus
 Per ramos victor, perque alta cacumina regnat,
 Et totum involvit flammis nemus, et ruit atram
 Ad caelum picea crassus caligine nubem :
 Praesertim si tempestas a vertice silvis 310
 Incubuit, glomeratque ferens incendia ventus.

350. *Mars sternly.*] This is the only simile in all this Georgic ; the reason of which seems to be, that metaphors and short descriptions, which are so frequent in every part of this Georgic, are of the same nature and use in poetry, as similes. BENSON.

370. *To the west decline.*] 'Tis worth observing that the poet has brought together here, more precepts than in any part of all the Georgics ; but it is likewise remarkable, that he has placed them very artfully betwixt that fine passage just mentioned, and another equally beautiful. BENSON.

Mars sternly stalks each equal front betwixt, 350

Nor yet the fate of either host is fixt :

Ev'n thus, your vines dispos'd at distance due,

Not only strike with joy the gazer's view,

But earth more equal nutriment supplies,

The plants find space to spread, and vigorous rise. 355

Perhaps the depth of trenches you'll demand ;

The vine I dare to plant in shallow land ;

But forest-trees that rear their branches higher,

A deeper mold, and wider room require :

Chief the tall Aesculus, that tow'rs above 360

Each humbler tree, the monarch of the grove ;

High as his head shoots lofty to the skies,

So deep his root in hell's foundation lies ;

While storms and wintry blasts and driving rain

Beat fiercely on his stately top in vain ; 365

Unhurt, unmov'd, he stands in hoary state,

For many an age beyond frail mortals' date.

This way and that, his vast arms widely spread,

He in the midst supports the thick-surrounding shade.

Nor let thy vineyards to the west decline ; 370

Nor hazles plant amid the joyous vine ;

No scions pluck a-top, but near the roots ;

Nor wound with blunted steel the red'ning shoots ;

Nor let wild olives (noxious plants !) be found

Nigh to those spots where luscious grapes abound. 375

For oft from heedless shepherds falls a spark,

Which lurking first beneath the unctuous bark,

Seizes the solid tree ; with dreadful roar

The flames thro' catching leaves and branches soar,

Swift thro' the crackling wood triumphant fly, 380

And hurl the pitchy clouds into the darken'd sky.

But most they ravage, if the roaring wind

With doubled rage should rise, with fire combin'd ;

376. *Falls a spark.*] This fine description of a fire raging among the vines and their supporters, judiciously relieves the dryness of the Didactic lines preceding.

Hoc ubi ; non a stirpe valent, caesaeque reverti
 Possunt, atque ima similes revirescere terra :
 Infelix superat foliis oleaster amaris.
 Nec tibi tam prudens quisquam persuadeat auctor, 315
 Tellurem Borea rigidam spirante moveri.
 Rura gelu tum claudit hiems : nec semine jacto
 Concretam patitur radicem adfigere terrae.
 Optima vinetis fatio, cum vere rubenti
 Candida venit avis longis invisâ colubris : 320
 Prima vel auctumni sub frigora, cum rapidus Sol
 Nondum hiemem contingit equis. jam praeterit aestas,
 Ver adeo frondi nemorum, ver utile silvis :
 Vere tument terrae, et genitalia femina poscunt.
 Tum pater omnipotens secundis imbribus Aether : 325
 Conjugis in gremium laetae descendit, et omnes
 Magnus alit, magno commixtus corpore, foetus.
 Avia tum resonant avibus virgulta canoris,
 Et venerem certis repetunt armenta diebus :
 Parturit almus ager, Zephyrique tepentibus auris 330
 Laxant arva sinus. superat tener omnibus humor ;
 Inque novos soles audent se germina tuto
 Credere : nec metuit surgentis pampinus Austros,
 Aut actum caelo magnis Aquilonibus imbrem :
 Sed trudit gemmas, et frondis explicat omnis. 335
 Non alios prima crescentis origine mundi
 Inluxisse dies, aliumve habuisse tenorem
 Crediderim. ver illud erat : ver magnus agebat
 Orbis, et hibernis parcebant flatibus Euri :

394. *In spring.*] There are few passages in the Georgics more charming than this description of spring. He strives hard to excel Lucretius, but I am afraid it cannot be said that he has done it. The *conjugis in gremium* is evidently taken from

In gremium matris terrae praecipitavit.

And the following lines of the same writer, to whom Virgil

No vines, hereafter, sow'd, or prun'd, will thrive ;
 The bitter-leav'd wild olives sole survive. 385
 Let none persuade to plant, in winter hoar,
 When rigid Boreas' spirit blusters froze ;
 Winter the pores of earth so closely binds,
 No passage the too tender fibre finds ;
 Plant best the vines, in blushing spring's fresh bloom, 390
 When the white bird, the dread of snakes, is come :
 Or in cool autumn, when the summer's past,
 Ere Phoebus' steeds to the cold tropic haste.

In spring, in blushing spring, the woods resume
 Their leafy honours, and their fragrant bloom ; 395
 Earth swells with moisture all her teeming lands,
 A genial fructifying seed demands ;
 Almighty Jove descends, more full of life,
 On the warm bosom of his kindling wife ;
 The birds with music fill the pathless groves, 400
 Stung by desire the beasts renew their loves ;
 The buried grain appears, the fields unbind
 Their pregnant bosoms to the western wind ;
 The springing grass to trust this season dares ;
 No tender vine the gathering tempests fears, 405
 By the black north or roaring Auster roll'd,
 But spreads her leaves, and bids her gems unfold.
 Such were the days, the season was the same,
 When first arose this world's all-beauteous frame ;
 The sky was cloudless, balmy was the air, 410
 And spring's mild influence made young nature fair :

is indeed infinitely obliged, are very fine ; he is likewise speaking of the genial influence of the spring :

*Hinc lætas urbes pueris florere videmus,
 Frondiferaeque novis avibus canere undique sylvas.
 Hinc sessæ pecudes pingues per pabula læta
 Corpora deponunt, et candens lacteus humor
 Uberibus manat distentis ; hinc nova proles
 Artibus infirmis teneras lasciva per herbas
 Ludit lætæ mero, mentes percussa novellas.*

404. The ascribing boldness and fear to trees is highly poetical.

Cum primæ lucem pecudes hauferè, virùmque 340
 Perrea progenies duris caput extulit arvis,
 Inmissæque ferae silvis, et sidera caelo.
 Nec res hunc teneræ possent perferre laborem,
 Si non tanta quies iret frigusque caloremque
 Inter, et exciperet cæli indulgentia terras. 345
 Quod superest, quaecumque premes virgulta per agros,
 Sparge fimo pingui, et multa memor occule terra :
 Aut lapidem bibulum, aut squalentis infode conchas.
 Inter enim labentur aquae, tenuisque subibit
 Halitus, atque animos tollent fata. jamque reperti, 350
 Qui saxo super, atque ingentis pondere testae
 Urguerent : hoc effusus munimen ad imbris :
 Hoc, ubi hiulca siti findit Canis aestifer arva.
 Seminibus positis, superest deducere terram
 Saepius ad capita, et duros jactare bidentis : 355
 Aut presso exercere solum sub vomere, et ipsa
 Fletere luctantis inter vineta juvencos.
 Tum levis calamos, et rasae hastilia virgae,
 Fraxineasque aptare fudes, furcasque bicornis :
 Viribus eniti quarum, et contemnere ventos 360
 Adfuescant, summasque sequi tabulata per ulmos.
 Ac, dum prima novis adolescit frondibus aetas,
 Parcendum teneris : et dum se laetus ad auras

415. *Stars.*] This seems to be oddly put together at first sight. The forests were stock'd with beasts, and the heavens with constellations. It was not so in those times, when the constellations were generally considered as real animals, and many of them as men, but most of them as beasts. The prologue to Plautus's *Rudens* is spoken by *Arcturus*, as one of the *Dramatis Personae*. SPENCE.

422. *Pebbles* *vide.*] Mr. Evelyn mentions the placing potsherds, pebbles, or flints near the root of the stem; but then he adds, remember you remove them after a competent time, else the vermin, snails, and insects, which they produce and shelter, will gnaw and greatly injure their bark; and therefore to lay a coat of moist rotten litter with a little earth upon it, will preserve it moist in summer, and warm in winter, enriching the showers and dews that strain thro' it.

EVELYN of Forest Trees.

When cattle first o'er new-born mountains spread,
 And man, an iron race, uprear'd his hardy head:
 When beasts thro' pathless brakes began to prowl,
 And glittering stars thro' heav'n's blue concave roll. 415
 Nor could this infant world sustain th' extremes
 Of piercing winter, and hot Sirius' beams,
 Did not kind Heav'n, the fierce excess between,
 Bid gentler spring's soft season intervene.

Now, when you bend the layers to the ground, 420
 Cast fat'ning dung and copious mold around;
 Or near the roots rough shells and pebbles hide,
 Thro' which the fostering rains may gently glide;
 Thro' which may subtle vapours penetrate,
 And to large growth the tendrils instigate. 425

There are, with weights of stone who press the roots,
 Best safeguard to the plants, and future fruits,
 Both in immoderate showers, or summer's heat,
 When Sirius' beams on the parcht vineyard beat.
 About the roots oft turn the neighb'ring soil, 430

And urge the drag and hough with frequent toil;
 Or introduce thy plough's unwieldy load,
 And 'twixt thy vines the struggling bullocks goad.
 Then the smooth cane, the forky ash prepare,
 Auxiliar pole, and strong supporting spear; 435

Assisted thus, the lusty plants despise
 The shattering whirlwinds, and the stormy skies,
 And to the tall elm's top by just gradations rise. }
 The new-born buds, the tender foliage spare;
 The shoots that vigorous dart into the air, 440

436. *Assisted thus.*] The word *tabulata* in the original signifies the branches of elms extended at proper distances to sustain the vines.

440. *Dart into the air.*] The original says, *laxis per purum immixtus habenis*: this expression is doubtless extremely bold and strong, but the poet had the authority of his master Lucretius.

Crescendi magnum immixtis certamen habenis.

Palmes agit, laxis per purum inmissus habenis;
 Ipsa acies nondum falcis tentanda, sed uncis 365
 Carpendæ manibus frondes, interque legendæ.
 Inde ubi jam validis amplexæ stirpibus ulmos
 Exierint, tum stringe comas, tum brachia tonde.
 Ante reformidant ferrum : tum denique dura
 Exerce imperia, et ramos conpescce fluentis. 370
 Texendæ sepes etiam, et pecus omne tenendum :
 Præcipue dum frons tenera imprudensque laborum :
 Cui, super indignas hiemes solemque potentem,
 Silvestres uri assidue capreaque sequaces
 Inludunt : pascuntur oves avidæque juvencae. 375
 Frigora nec tantum caña concreta pruina,
 Aut gravis incumbens scopulis arentibus aestus,
 Quantum illi nocuere greges, durique venenum
 Dentis, et admorso signata in stirpe cicatrix.
 Non aliam ob culpam Baccho caper omnibus aris 380
 Caeditur, et veteres ineunt proscenia ludi :
 Præmiaque ingeniis pagos et compita circum
 Thesidæ posuere, atque inter pocula laeti
 Mollibus in pratis unctos saliere per utres.
 Nec non Ausonii, Troja gens missa, coloni 385
 Versibus incomtis ludunt, risuque soluto ;
 Oraque corticibus fumunt horrenda cavatis :
 Et te, Bacche, vocant per carmina laeta, tibique
 Oscilla ex alta suspendunt mollia pinu.

460. Hence on the lofty stage.] The ancient theatre was a semicircular building, appropriated to the acting of plays, the name being derived from *θεαομαι* to behold. It was divided into the following parts. 1. The *porticus, scalae, sedilia*; the rows of *sedilia*, or seats, were called *cunei*, because they were formed like wedges, growing narrower, as they came nearer the center of the theatre; and these were all disposed about the circumference of the theatre. 2. The *orchestra*, so called from *ορχισθαι* to dance: it was the inner part, or center of the theatre, and the lowest of all, and hollow, whence the whole open space of the theatre was called *cavea*. Here sat the senators, and here were the dancers and music. 3. The *proscenium*, which was a place drawn from one horn of the theatre

Disdaining bonds, all free, and full of life,
 O dare not wound too soon with sharpen'd knife †
 Insert your bending fingers, gently cull
 The roving shoots, and red'ning branches pull :
 But when they clasp their elms with strong embrace, 445
 Lop the luxuriant boughs, a lawless race ;
 Ere this, they dread the steel ; now, now, reclaim
 The flowing branches, the bold wand'ers tame.
 Guard, too, from cattle thy new-planted ground,
 And infant-vines that ill can bear a wound : 450
 For not alone by winter's chilling frost,
 Or summer's scorching beam the young are lost ;
 But the wild buffaloes and greedy cows,
 And goats and sportive kids the branches browse ;
 Not piercing colds, nor Sirius' beams that beat 455
 On the parcht hills, and split their tops with heat,
 So deeply injure, as the nibbling stocks,
 That wound with venom'd teeth the tender, fearful stocks ;
 Hence is the goat on Bacchus' altar laid,
 Hence on the lofty stage are fables play'd. 460
 Th' Athenians first to rival wits decreed,
 In streets and villages the poet's meed ;
 The feast with mirth and foaming goblets kept,
 And on the goat-skin bladders rudely leapt.
 Nor less th' Ausonian swains deriv'd from Troy, 465
 Sport in rough numbers and unwieldy joy ; †
 Their hollow vizards scoop from barks of trees,
 And stain their ghastly masks with purple lees ;
 Bacchus, on thee they call, in hymns divine,
 And hang thy statues on the lofty pine : 470

theatre to the other, between the orchestra and the scene, being higher than the orchestra, and lower than the scene : here the comic and tragic actors spoke and acted upon an elevated place, which was called the *pulpitum*, or stage. 4. The scene was the opposite part to the audience, decorated with pictures and columns, and originally with trees, to shade the actors, when they performed in the open air. 5. *Proscenium*, or part behind the scenes.

Hinc omnis largo pubescit vinea foetu : 390
 Conplentur vallesque cavæ faltusque profundi,
 Et quocumque Deus circum caput egit honestum.
 Ergo rite suos Baccho dicemus honores
 Carminibus patriis, lanceſque et liba feremus ;
 Et ductus cornu ſtabit facer hircus ad aram, 395
 Pinguique in verubus torquebimus exta columnis.
 Eſt etiam ille labor curandis vitibus alter :
 Cui numquam exhausti ſatis eſt. namque omne quotannis
 Terque quaterque ſolum ſcindendum, glebaque verſis
 Aeternum frangenda bidentibus : omne levandum 400
 Fronde nemus. redit agricolis labor actus in orbem,
 Atque in ſe ſua per veſtigia volvitur annus.
 Ac jam olim ſeras poſuit cum vinea frondis,
 Frigidus et ſilvis Aquilo decuſſit honorem ;
 Jam tum acer curas venientem extendit in annum 405
 Ruſticus, et curvo Saturni dente relictam
 Perſequitur vitem adtondens, fingitque putando.
 Primus humum fodito, primus devecta cremato
 Sarmenta, et vallos primus ſub tecta referto :
 Poſtremus metito. bis vitibus ingruit umbra : 410
 Bis ſegetem denſis obducunt ſentibus herbae.
 Durus uterque labor. laudato ingentia rura :
 Exiguum colito. nec non etiam aſpera ruſci
 Vimina per ſilvam, et ripis fluvialis arundo
 Caeditur, incultique exercet cura ſalicti. 415
 Jam vinetae vites : jam falcem arbuſta reponunt :
 Jam canit effoetus extremos vinitor antes.

473. *The God.*] Virgil ſpeaks of ſome little heads of Bacchus, which the countrymen of old hung up on trees, that the face might turn every way ; out of a notion that the regards of this god gave felicity to their vineyards : and Ovid mentions Bacchus's turning his face towards him, as a bleſſing. The former, in a paſſage, which is not very eaſy to be underſtood of itſelf ; and for the full underſtanding of which, I was obliged to a gem in the Great Duke's collection at Florence. Virgil on this occaſion ſays, that there is plenty wherever this god turns his beautiful face. Mr. Dryden, in his tranſlation of the words, ſeems to have borrowed his idea of Bacchus

Hence plenty every laughing vineyard fills,
 Thro' the deep vallies and the sloping hills;
 Where-e'er the God inclines his lovely face,
 More luscious fruits the rich plantations grace.
 Then let us Bacchus' praises duly sing, 475
 And consecrated cakes, and chargers bring;
 Dragg'd by their horns let victim-goats expire,
 And roast on hazel spits before the sacred fire.

Another toil in dressing vines remains,
 Unconquerable still by ceaseless pains; 480
 Thrice and four times the soil, each rolling year,
 The ponderous ploughs, and heavy drags must bear;
 Leaves must be thinn'd: still following in a ring
 The months fresh labours to the peasants bring.
 Ev'n when the tree its last pale leaves hath shed, 485
 And Boreas stript the honours of its head,

To the next year the careful farmers look,
 And form the plant with Saturn's bending hook.
 Dig thou the first, and shoots superfluous burn,
 And homeward first the vineyard's stakes return; 490
 But, unbetray'd by too impatient haste,

To reap thy luscious vintage be the last:
 Twice noxious weeds, twice shade, o'er-run the land,
 Whose rank increase requires the pruner's hand.

To larger vineyards praise or wonder yield, 495
 But cultivate a small and manageable field.

Nor fail to cut the broom and watery reed,
 And the wild willow of the grassy mead.
 The vines now ty'd with many a strengthening band,
 No more the culture of the knife demand. 500

Glad for his labour past and long employ,
 At the last rank the dresser sings for joy!

Bacchus from the vulgar representations of him on our sign-
 posts, and so calls it, [in *downright English*] *Bacchus's honest*
face. POLYMETIS, page 130.

502. *At the last rank.*] Mr. Benson complains, that he
 could not find that the word *antes* in the original, was used
 VOL. I. T by

Sollicitanda tamen tellus, pulvisque movendus,
 Et jam maturis metuendus Juppiter uvis.
 Contra, non ulla est oleis cultura : neque illae 420
 Procurvam exspectant falcem rastrosque tenaces,
 Cum semel haeserunt arvis, aurasque tulerunt.
 Ipsa fatis tellus, cum dente recluditur unco,
 Sufficit humorem, et gravidas cum vomere fruges.
 Hoc pinguem et placitam Paci nutritor olivam. 425
 Poma quoque, ut primum truncos sensere valentis,
 Et viris habuere suas, ad sidera raptim
 Vi propria nituntur, opisque haud indiga nostrae.
 Nec minus interea foetu nemus omne gravescit,
 Sanguineisque inculta rubent aviaria baccis. 430
 Tondentur cytisi, tædas silva alta ministrat,
 Pascunturque ignes nocturni, ac lumina fundunt.
 Et dubitant homines ferere, atque impendere curam ?
 Quid majora sequar ? salices, humilesque genestæ,
 Aut illae pecori frondem, aut pastoribus umbras, 435
 Sufficiunt : sepemque fatis, et pabula melli.
 Et juvat undantem buxo spectare Cytorum,
 Naryciaeque picis lucos : juvat arva videre,
 Non rastris hominum, non ulli obnoxia curæ.

by any other Roman writer, and says, that he did not know what to make of it. It undoubtedly signifies *ranks or files*, and is a metaphor taken from the army. For Cato *de Re Militari*, says, *pedites quatuor agminibus, equites duobus antibus ducet.*

505. *But happier olives.*] We are now come to a new scene. Hitherto Virgil has expatiated on the vine; but now he enters on a very different subject. He has shewn what endless labour the vine requires, and the uncertainty of the product at last. Now, says he, quite contrary to the vine, the olive requires no labour at all, after it is once well settled in the ground. All you need do, is to plough the soil about them; and you may be sure of a crop of olives.

After olives, he goes on to fruit trees; and all the trouble that belongs to them is nothing but ingrafting. Then he proceeds to the wild forest fruits, which require no manner of labour; afterwards to the cytissus, willows, hazel, box, and other plants; and lastly, he declares the utterness of old decayed trees.

Thus

Yet still must he subdue, still turn the mold,
 And his ripe grapes still fear Jove's piercing cold.
 But happier olives ask nor pains nor care, 505
 When rooted once, they mount into the air,
 Nor harrow's teeth, nor arched knives demand,
 But self-sustain'd, alone, and vigorous, stand.
 If crooked teeth just make her surface loose,
 The earth alone the plants supplies with juice ; 510
 But if more deep thy ploughs unlock the soil,
 From the large berries burst rich floods of oil :
 Then ne'er to raise the fruitful olive cease,
 The plant of Pallas, and the pledge of peace.
 And when th' engrafted apples feel their strength, 515
 Their trunks they stretch, and doubled is their length ;
 While swift they dart into the lofty skies,
 Self-nourish'd stand, nor ask from man supplies.
 Nor less wild fruits in pathless forests grow ;
 And haunts of birds with blushing berries glow ; 520
 The cytissus of foodful leaves is shorn,
 And prudence finds an use in ev'ry thorn.
 The pitchy pines afford us heat and light,
 To cheat the tedious gloom of wintry night.
 And can the swains still doubt, and still forbear, 525
 To plant, to dig, and cultivate, with care ?
 Why sing I trees alone, that loftier rise ?
 The lowly broom to cattle, browse supplies ;
 Willows to panting shepherds shade dispense,
 To bees their honey, and to corn defence. 530
 What joy to see Cytorus wave with box,
 And pines nod awful on Narycium's rocks !
 Fields, that ne'er felt or rake or cleaving share,
 Wild above art, disdain human care !

Thus he makes this work of universal concern. All lands will not bear vines, or corn, or olives ; but every land will bear something or other, and by pointing out the produce of the several kinds of soil, he applies himself to all sorts of country people.

BENSON.

Ipsae Caucaſio ſteriles in vertice ſilvae, 440
 Quas animoſi Euri aſſidue franguntque feruntque,
 Dant alios aliae foetus : dant utile lignum
 Navigiis pinus, domibus cedrumque cupreſſoſque.
 Hinc radios trivere rotis, hinc tympana plauſtris
 Agricolae, et pandas ratibus poſuere carinas. 445
 Vimibus ſalices fecundae, frondibus ulmi :
 At myrtus validis haſtilibus, et bona bello
 Cornus : Ituraeos taxi torquentur in arcus.
 Nec tiliae leves aut torno raſſile buxum
 Non formam accipiunt, ferroque cavantur acuto. 450
 Nec non et torrentem undam levis innatat alnus,
 Miſſa Pado : nec non et apes examina condunt,
 Corticibusque cavis vitioſaeque ilicis alvo.
 Quid memorandum aeque Baccheia dona tulerunt ?
 Bacchus et ad culpam cauſas dedit. ille furentis 455
 Centauros leto domuit, Rhoetumque, Pholumque,
 Et magno Hylaeum Lapithis cratere minantem.
 O fortunatos nimium, ſua ſi bona nôrint,
 Agricolas ! quibus ipſa, procul diſcordibus armis,
 Fundit humo facilem victum juſtiſſima Tellus. 460
 Si non ingentem foribus domus alta ſuperbis
 Mane ſalutantum totis vomit aedibus undam ;
 Nec varios inhiant pulchra teſtudine poſtes,

541. *Elms, foodful leaves.*] The uſe of the very leaves of this tree, eſpecially of the female, is not to be deſpiſed ; for being ſuffered to dry in the ſun upon the branches, and the ſpray ſtripped off about the decreaſe in Auguſt (as alſo where the ſuckers and ſtolones are ſupernumerary, and hinder the thriving of their nurſes) they will prove a great relief to cattle in winter, and ſcorching ſummers ; when hay and fodder is dear, they will eat them before oats, and thrive exceedingly well with them.

EVELYN.

550. *The fierce Centaurs.*] This happened at the nuptials of Pirithous, king of the Lapithæ, where a Centaur, aided by his brethren, attempted to raviſh his bride Hippodamia.

552. *Trice happy ſwains.*] The following deſcription of the pleaſures of a country life is celebrated almoſt to a proverb ; it affords the higheſt ideas of Virgil's uncorrupt mind, as well as

of

Ev'n the rough woods on Caucasus so bleak, 535

Which ever-roaring whirlwinds bend and break,

For shipping pines afford, thrice useful trees,

For houses, cedars and tall cypresses :

Hence peasants turn their spokes ; hence orb their wheels,

Hence find for swift-wing'd vessels crooked keels ; 540

Elms, foodful leaves ; and twigs, the willows bear ;

Cornels and myrtles give the martial spear :

The yew obedient to the bender's will,

Forms the strong bows with which the Parthians kill, } 546

And limes and polish'd box confess the carver's skill :

Down Po's swift torrents the light alders glide, 546

And bees in hollow oaks their honey hide.

What gifts like these can Bacchus' fruits bestow ?

To Bacchus crimes and contests, mortals owe ;

He, the fierce Centaurs, Rhoetus, Pholus slew, 550

And Hyleus who enrag'd, a massy goblet threw.

Thrice happy swains ! whom genuine pleasures bless,

If they but knew and felt their happiness !

From wars and discord far, and public strife,

Earth with salubrious fruits supports their life : 555

Tho' high-arch'd domes, tho' marble halls they want,

And columns cas'd in gold and elephant,

In awful ranks where brazen statues stand,

The polish'd works of Grecia's skilful hand ;

Nor dazzling palace view, whose portals proud 560

Each morning vomit out the cringing crowd ;

of his poetry. He has assembled here all the most striking and beautiful objects of nature. No contrast was ever worked up more strongly, than this between the city and country life.

553. *Felt their happiness.*] *Sua si bona norint*, is a tender reproach to the Romans for their insensibility of being delivered *a discordibus armis*, and restored to the quiet enjoyment of their possessions. BENSON.

556. *The' high-arch'd domes.*] Virgil hath so evidently taken the very turn and manner of expression in these lines from a passage in his master Lucretius, that I cannot forbear inserting it ; and shall leave the reader to judge which of the two is most beautiful.

Inlufasque auro veftis, Ephyreïaque aera ;
 Alba neque Affyrio fucatur lana veneno, 465
 Nec cafia liquidi conrumpitur ufus olivi :
 At fecura quies, et nefcia fallere vita,
 Dives opum variarum ; at latis otia fundis,
 Speluncae, vivique lacus ; at frigida Tempe,
 Mugitusque boum, mollesque sub arbore fomni 470
 Non abfunt. illic faltus ac luftra ferarum,
 Et patiens operum, exiguoque adfuetâ juventus,
 Sacra Deûm, fanctique patres : extrema per illos
 Iuftitia excedens terris veftigia fecit.
 Me vero primum dulces ante omnia Mufae, 475
 Quarum facra fero ingenti percuffus amore,
 Accipiant ; caelique vias, et fidera monftrent :
 Defectus folis varios, lunaeque labores :
 Unde tremor terris : qua vi maria alta tumefcant
 Objcibus ruptis, rurfumque in fe ipfa refidant : 480
 Quid tantum Oceano properent fe tinguere foles
 Hiberni, vel quae tardis mora noctibus obftet.
 Sin, has ne poffim naturae accedere partes,
 Frigidus obftiterit circum praecordia fanguis ;
 Rura mihi et rigui placeant in vallibus amnes ; 485
 Flumina amem filvasque inglorius. ô, ubi campi,
 Spercheosque, et virginibus bacchata Lacaenis

*Si non aurea sunt juvenum simulacra per aedes,
 Lampadas igniferas manibus retinentia dextris,
 Lumina nocturnis epulis ut suppeditentur ;
 Nec domus argento fulget, auroque renidet :
 Attamen inter se prostrati in gramine molli
 Propter aquae rivum, sub ramis arboris altae,
 Non magnis opibus jucunde corpora curant.*

B. 2. 24.

588. *Me may the lowly vales.*] Cowley observes upon this passage, that the first wish of Virgil was to be a good philosopher ; the second, a good husbandman ; and God, whom he feared to understand better than most of the learned heathens, dealt with him just as he did with Solomon ; because he prayed for wisdom in the first place, he added all things else which were subordinately to be desired. He made him one of the best philosophers, and the best husbandman ; and to adorn and communicate both those faculties, the best poet : he made him besides all this a rich man, and a man who desired to be no richer.

Nor wear the tiffu'd garment's cumb'rous pride,
 Nor seek soft wool in Syrian purple dy'd,
 Nor with fantastic luxury defile
 The native sweetness of the liquid oil ; 565
 Yet calm content, secure from guilty cares,
 Yet home-felt pleasure, peace, and rest, are theirs ;
 Leisure and ease, in groves, and cooling vales,
 Grottoes, and bubbling brooks, and darksome dales ;
 The lowing oxen, and the bleating sheep, 570
 And under branching trees delicious sleep !
 There forests, lawns, and haunts of beasts abound,
 There youth is temperate, and laborious found ;
 There altars and the righteous Gods are fear'd,
 And aged fires by duteous sons rever'd. 575
 There Justice linger'd ere she fled mankind,
 And left some traces of her reign behind !
 Take me, ye muses, your devoted priest,
 Whose charms with holy raptures fire my breast !
 Teach me the ways of Heav'n, the stars to know ; 580
 The radiant sun and moon's eclipses shew ;
 Whence trembles earth, what force old Ocean swells
 To burst his bounds, and backward what repells ;
 Why wintry suns roll down with rapid flight,
 And whence delay retards the lingering night. 585
 But if my blood's cold streams, that feebly flow,
 Forbid my soul great nature's works to know,
 Me may the lowly vales, and woodlands please,
 And winding rivers, and inglorious ease !
 O that I wander'd by Sperchius' flood ! 590
 Or on Taygetus' sacred top I stood !

590. *O that I wander'd.*] *O, ubi campi, &c.* It cannot possibly be the poet's enquiry where these places are situated, tho' most of the translators take it so; but it is an ardent wish to be placed in such delightful retreats. Catrou, and the learned M. Huet, bishop of Avranches, read *O ubi Tempe*, instead of *campi*, which is most consistent with the passage.

Taygeta; ô, qui me gelidis in vallibus Haemi
 Sistat, et ingenti ramorum protegat umbra!
 Felix, qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas: 490
 Atque metus omnis et inexorabile fatum
 Subjecit pedibus, strepitumque Acherontis avari!
 Fortunatus et ille, deos qui novit agrestis,
 Panaque, Silvanumque senem, Nymphasque sorores!
 Illum non populi fascēs, non purpura regum 495
 Flexit, et infidos agitans discordia fratres;
 Aut conjurato descendens Dacus ab Histro:
 Non res Romanae, perituraque regna. neque ille
 Aut doluit miserans inopem, aut invidit habenti.
 Quos rami fructus, quos ipsa volentia rura 500
 Sponte tulere sua, carpit: nec ferrea jura,
 Infanumque forum, aut populi tabularia vidit.
 Sollicitant alii remis freta caeca, ruuntque
 In ferrum; penetrant aulas, et limina regum:
 Hic petit excidiis urbem, miserosque penatis, 505
 Ut gemma bibat, et Sarrano indormiat ostro.
 Condit opes alius, defossoque incubat auro.

592. *Haemus.*] The very best of the Roman poets copied so much after the Greeks, that they sometimes give us ideas of things, that would be proper enough for a Greek, but sound quite improper from a Roman. Virgil's and Horace's instancing Thrace, as so very cold a country, is a strong proof of this. — Thrace was full north of Greece, and some of the Greeks therefore might talk of the coldness of that country as strongly, perhaps, as some among us talk of the coldness of Scotland. The Roman writers speak just in the same stile of the coldness of Thrace, tho' a considerable part of Italy lay in as northern a latitude, and some of it even farther north than Thrace.

SPENCE.

594. *Happy the man.*] These noble lines are undoubtedly a compliment to Lucretius, to whose poem Virgil is much indebted, and whose system must lead him to despise the fears of death and hell: how strongly and poetically is the latter particular expressed by the roaring (din or noise) of the infernal river Acheron!

604. *He weeps no wretch's.*] The meaning of *nec doluit miserans inopem* is not, that he looks on distress and misery with a

stoical

Who, in cold Haemus' vales my limbs will lay,
 And in the darkeſt thicket hide from day !
 Happy the man, whoſe vigorous ſoul can pierce
 Thro' the formation of this univerſe ! 595
 Who nobly dares deſpiſe, with ſoul ſedate,
 The din of Acheron, and vulgar fears, and fate.
 And happy too, tho' humbler, is the man,
 Who loves Sylvanus old, the Nymphs, and Pan :
 Nor power, nor purple pomp his thoughts engage, 600
 Nor courts and kings, nor faithleſs brothers' rage,
 Nor falls of nations, nor affairs of Rome,
 Nor Dacians leagu'd in arms, near rapid Iſter's foam :
 He weeps no wretch's pitiabſe ſtate,
 Nor looks with pining envy on the great : 605
 The loaded trees, the willing fields afford
 Unpurchas'd banquets for his temperate board ;
 The noiſy people's rage he never ſaw,
 Nor frauds and cruelties of iron law.
 Some brave the tempeſts of the roaring main, 610
 Or ruſh to dangers, toils, and blood for gain ;
 Some ravage lands, or crowded cities burn,
 Nor heed how many helpleſs widows mourn,
 To ſatiatè mad ambition's wild deſire,
 To quaff in gems, or ſleep on ſilks of Tyre : 615
 This, to ſollicit ſmiles of kings reſorts,
 Deep practis'd in the dark cabals of courts ;
 This, low in earth conceals his ill-got ſtore,
 Hov'ring and brooding on his ufeleſs ore :

ſtoical apathy and indifference, but that there is no body in the country (ſo happy are they) to be pitied. BENSON and TRAPP. But I fear this interpretation is groundleſs.

608. *The noiſy people's rage.*] The *tabularium* in the original was the place where the publick records were kept at Rome. It was in the temple of Liberty. CATROU.

615. *To quaff in gems.*] The Romans carried luxury ſo far, as to procure large drinking cups made of one entire gem. See inſtances of this kind in Pliny's Natural Hiſtory. *Pocula myrrhina* were common among them. Tyre was anciently called *Sarra*, hence *Sarrano oſtro*.

Hic stupet adtonitus Rostris : hunc plausus hiantem
 Per cuneos (geminatus enim) plebisque patrumque
 Conripuit : gaudent perfusi sanguine fratrum ; 510
 Exsilioque domos et dulcia limina mutant ;
 Atque alio patriam quaerunt sub sole jacentem.
 Agricola incurvo terram dimovit aratro :
 Hinc anni labor : hinc patriam parvosque penatis
 Sustinet ; hinc armenta boum, meritosque juvencos. 515
 Nec requies, quin aut pomis exuberet annus,
 Aut foetu pecorum, aut Cerealis mergite culmi :
 Proventuque oneret sulcos, atque horrea vincat.
 Venit hieus ; teritur Sicyonia bacca trapetis,
 Glande sues laeti redeunt, dant arbuta silvae : 520
 Et varios ponit foetus auctumnus, et alte
 Mitis in apricis coquitur vindemia faxis.
 Interea dulces pendent circum oscula gnati :
 Casta pudicitiam servat domus. ubera vaccae
 Lactea demittunt, pinguesque in gramine laeto 525
 Inter se adversis luctantur cornibus haedi.
 Ipse dies agitat festos ; fufusque per herbam,
 Ignis ubi in medio, et socii cratera coronant,
 Te libans, Lenaee, vocat : pecorisque magistris
 Velocis jaculi certamina ponit in ulmo ; 530
 Corporaque agresti nudant praedura palestra.
 Hanc olim veteres vitam coluere Sabini :
 Hanc Remus, et frater : sic fortis Etruria crevit :

641. *His infants.*] *Pendent circum oscula, hang about his kisses,* is an image most poetical and well expressed ; but would not bear a literal translation. The passage in Lucretius, from whom this is imitated, has an image still more tender and natural.—He says,—*nec dulces occurrunt oscula nati praeripere.*—which last word, representing the children running out to meet their father, and striving which shall have the first kiss is very beautiful.

652. *The frugal Sabines.*] To raise the praises of the country life still higher, he tells us, that this was the life their glorious ancestors, and the first founders of their city were so fond of. *Virum bonum cum laudabant, ita laudabant bonum agricolam bonum colonum. Amplissimè laudari existimabatur qui ita laudabatur,* says the venerable old Cato.

One doats with fondness on the rostrum's fame, 620
 To gain the prize of eloquence, his aim:
 The people's and patrician's loud applause,
 To crowded theatres, another draws;
 Some shed a brother's blood, and trembling run
 To distant lands, beneath another sun; 625
 Condemn'd in hopeless exile far to roam
 From their sweet country, and their sacred home,
 The happier peasant yearly ploughs the plains,
 His country hence, his household hence sustains;
 His milky droves, his much-deserving steers: 630
 Each season brings him, in the circling years,
 Or blushing apples, or increase of kine,
 Or bursts his barns with Ceres' gifts divine.
 Press'd are his Sicilian olives in the mills,
 His swine with fat'ning mast the forest fills, 635
 In winter wild: and yellow autumn crowns
 With various fruits his farms and smiling grounds,
 While every rocky mountain's sunny side
 The melting grapes with livid ripeness hide.
 He feels the father's and the husband's bliss, 640
 His infants climb, and struggle for a kiss;
 His modest house strict chastity maintains,
 Nor breach of marriage-vows his nuptials stains;
 Fat are the kine, with milk o'er-flow the pails,
 His kids in sportive battles skim the vales: 645
 The jocund master keeps the solemn days,
 To thee, great Bacchus, due libations pays;
 Around the chearful hearth unbends his soul,
 And crowns amid his friends the flowing bowl;
 Distributes prizes to the strong-nerv'd swains, 650
 Who best can dart or wrestle on the plains.
 The frugal Sabines thus their acres till'd,
 Thus Remus and his brother lov'd the field:

Scilicet et rerum facta est pulcherrima Roma,
 Septemque una sibi muro circumdedit arces. 535
 Ante etiam sceptrum Dictæi regis, et ante
 Inpia quam caesis gens est epulata juvencis,
 Aureus hanc vitam in terris Saturnus agebat.
 Necdum etiam audierant inflari classica, necdum
 Inpositos duris crepitare incudibus enses. 540
 Sed nos inmensum spatii confecimus aequor:
 Et jam tempus equum spumantia solvere colla.

654. *Tuscans.*] He mentions Etruria in compliment to *Mæcenas*, who was descended from the ancient kings of *Tuscany*. *Tyrrhena regum progenies, &c.* HOR.

660. *Useful bullock's gore.*] *Varro* informs us, that in ancient times it was deemed a capital crime to kill an ox; *Hic socius hominum in rustico opere, et Cereris minister. Ab hoc, antiqui manus ita abstinere voluerunt, ut capite sanxerit, si quis occidisset.* I. could not forbear quoting this passage for its great humanity.

661. *Old Saturn led.*] An author, whose elegance and clearness and chastity of style and thought approaches nearest to that of *Virgil*, of any in the *Augustan* age, and who deserves to be more universally read than he is at present, thus describes the reign of *Saturn*: a subject which all the poets of that time have touched on.

*Quam bene Saturno vivebant rege, priusquam
 Tellus in longas est patefacta vias.
 Nondum cæruleas pinus contempserat undas,
 Effusum ventis præbueratque sinum.
 Nec vagus ignotis repetens compendia terris
 Prefferat externa navita merce ratem.
 Illo non validus subiit juga tempore taurus,
 Non domito frænos ore momordit equus.*

Non

The Tuscans to these arts their greatness owe,
 'Twas hence majestic Rome began to grow,
 Rome, noblest object of the things below ;
 Who, while she subject earth with wonder fills,
 Hath, single, deck'd with towers her seven hills.
 Ere Cretan Jove a sceptre sway'd, before
 Man dar'd to spill the useful bullock's gore,
 Such was the peaceful life old Saturn led,
 Such was the golden age, from guilt secure and dread !
 Ere the loud trumpet sounded dire alarms,
 Or impious swords were forg'd, and clattering arms.
 But we have pass'd a broad and boundless plain,
 'Tis time the smoaking coursers to unrein.

*Non domus ulla fores habuit, non fixus in agris,
 Qui reget certis finibus arva, lapis.
 Ipse mella dabant quercus, ulroque ferebant
 Obvia securis ubera lactis oves.
 Non acies, non ira fuit, non bella ; neque enses
 Immiti sævus duxerat arte faber.*

TIBULL. Lib. 1. El. 3. v. 35.

664. *Impious swords.*] Upon naming the sword, the poet seems to start, as if all the miseries of the civil war were brought afresh to his sight, and instantly concludes. BENSON.

THE END OF THE SECOND GEORGIC.



BOOK THE THIRD.

ARGUMENT.

*The exordium of this book is particularly pompous and elevated. The precepts of our poet concerning the breeding of cattle, the subject of this book, are divided into four parts. I. Of the best methods of breeding cows and horses, with rules to distinguish the best breeds of each. II. Of sheep and goats. III. Of dogs. IV. Of things that are pernicious to cattle; particularly serpents, vipers, scabs, the murrain, fevers, and the plague; with a moving and sublime description of which last, this book concludes. The descriptions and digressions in the book are more frequent than in any of the rest. Such is this description of the chariot-race; of the insect *Afilus*; of the loves of the beasts; and the Scythian winter.*

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
G E O R G I C A.

LIBER TERTIUS.

TÉ quoque, magna Pales, et te memorande canemus
 Pastor ab Amphryso : vos silvæ amnesque Lycæi.
 Cetera, quæ vacuas tenuissent carmine mentes,
 Omnia jam volgata. quis aut Eurysthæa durum,
 Aut inlaudati nescit Busiridis aras ? 5
 Quoi non dictus Hylas puer, et Latonia Delos ?
 Hippodameque, humeroque Pelops insignis eburrio
 Acer equis ? tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim
 Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora
 Primus ego in patriam mecum, modo vita superfit, 10
 Aonio rediens deducam vertice Musas :
 Primus Idumæas referam tibi, Mantua, palmas :

Ver. 1. *Thy praises too, great Pales.*] This is the book which appears to me the most charming of all the Georgics. Mr. Addison's favourite is the fourth, which indeed is more sweet and elegant, but the beauties of this are more great, more manly, and sublime. He invokes Pales as the goddess of shepherds, and Apollo who fed the herds of king Admetus on the banks of the river Amphrysus.

5. *Who knows not all the songs.*] Virgil here strongly ridicules the trite and fabulous subjects of the Grecian poets. 'Tis ingeniously conjectured by Fulvius Ursinus, that he alludes to particular authors who had treated of the fabulous stories he mentions. Thus Homer has related the fable of Eurysthæus in the eighteenth Iliad. Athenæus quotes the Busiris of Mnesimachus in his ninth book. Theocritus and Apollonius finely relate the story of Hylas and Hercules his grief for his loss. Callimachus is referred to in *Latonia Delos*, and the first Olympic

T H E
G E O R G I C S
O F
V I R G I L.

B O O K T H E T H I R D.

THU praises too, great Pales, will we sing,
 With thee fam'd shepherd of Amphryfus' spring ;
 Ye too, Lycaeus' groves, and gushing streams,
 For vain are ancient tales, and vulgar themes ;
 Who knows not all the songs that once cou'd please, §
 Bufiris' shrines, Euryftheus' dire decrees ?
 Can Dian's isle, or Hylas, longer charm ?
 Or Pelops famous for his ivory arm,
 Whose steeds victorious in the dusty race
 Won him the fair Hippodame's embrace ? 10
 I too must find a path untrod before,
 And far from groveling earth, to fame sublimely soar.
 I first of Romans to th' Hesperian plain,
 Will lead th' Aonian nymphs, if life remain :
 I first will bid Idumes' palms arise, 15
 Exchange their soil, and bloom in Mantuan skies.

Olympic ode of Pindar is to be understood by the mention of Hippodamia and Pelops. He breaks out at last into a noble triumph of assurance, that he shall rival these Greek poets :

*Tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim
 Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora.*

Mr. Pope used to say, that this triumph of Virgil over the Greek poets, was one of the vainest things that ever was writ. — But surely its sublimity makes amends for this imputed vanity.

Et viridi in campo templum de marmore ponam
 Propter aquam, tardis ingens ubi flexibus errat
 Mincius, ac tenera praetexit arundine ripas.

19. *Spreading wide his ling'ring waters.*] This description of the Mincio is as exact as possible; the force of it lies chiefly in the epithets, *tardis, ingens*—the wide spreading and almost stagnation of the river, which forms the lake of Mantua.

17. *These bands.*] Mr. Hurd, in his notes on Horace's Epistle to Augustus, hath discoursed so entertainingly on the introductory lines of this third book, that it was thought proper to insert the following extract from that judicious work.

On the idea of the Apotheosis, which was the usual mode of flattery in the Augustan age, but, as having the countenance of public authority, sometimes inartificially enough employed, Virgil hath projected one of the noblest allegories in ancient poetry, and at the same time hath given to it all the force of just compliment, the occasion itself allowed. Each of these excellencies was to be expected from his talents. For as his genius led him to the *sublime*; so his exquisite judgment would instruct him to palliate this bold fiction, and qualify as much as possible, the shocking adulation implied in it. So singular a beauty deserves to be shewn at large.

The *third* GEORGIC sets out with an apology for the low and simple argument of that work, which yet the poet esteemed, for its novelty, preferable to the sublimer, but trite, themes of the Greek writers. Not but he intended, on some future occasion, to adorn a nobler subject. This was the great plan of the Aeneis, which he now *prefigures* and unfolds at large. For, taking advantage of the noblest privilege of his *art*, he breaks away, in a fit of *prophetic* enthusiasm, to predict his successes in this projected enterprize, and under the imagery of the ancient *triumph*, which comprehends or suggests to the imagination, whatever is most august in human affairs, to delineate the future glories of this ambitious design. The whole conception, as we shall see, is of the utmost grandeur and magnificence; though, according to the usual management of the poet (which as not being apprehended by his critics, hath furnished occasion even to the best of them to charge him with a want of the *sublime*) he hath contrived to soften and *familiarize* its appearance to the reader; by the artful manner in which it is introduced. It stands thus:

*Tentanda via est, qua me quoque possim
 Tollere humo, VICTORQUE virum volitare per ora.*

The idea of *victory*, thus casually dropped, he makes the basis of his imagery; which, by means of this gradual preparation, offers itself easily to the apprehension, though it thereby loses,

These hands a fane of Parian stone shall build,
 Where Mincio's stream bedews the verdant field ;
 And spreading wide his ling'ring waters, feeds
 Around his winding shores the tender reeds. 20

as the poet designed it should, much of that *broad glare*, in which writers of less judgment love to shew their ideas, as tending to set the common reader at a gaze. The allegory then proceeds :

*Primus ego in patriam mecum, modo vita superfit,
 Aonio rediens deducam vertice Musas.*

The projected conquest was no less than that of all the *Grecian Musas* at once ; whom, to carry on the decorum of the allegory, he threatens, 1. to force from their high and advantageous situation on the summit of the *Aonian Mount* ; and 2. to bring *captive* with him into Italy ; the former circumstance intimating to us the difficulty and danger of the enterprize ; and the latter, his complete execution of it.

The *palmy*, triumphal entry, which was usual to victors on their return from foreign successes, follows :

Primus Idumaeas referam tibi, Mantua, palmas.

But ancient conquerors did not hold it sufficient to reap this transient fruit of their labours. They were ambitious to consecrate their glory to immortality, by a *temple*, or other public monument, which was to be built out of the spoils of the conquered cities or countries. This the reader sees is suitable to the idea of the great work proposed ; which was, out of the old remains of Grecian art, to compose a *new* one that should comprize the virtues of all of them : as, in fact, the *Aeneid* is known to unite in itself whatever is most excellent not in *Homer* only, but, universally, in the wits of Greece. The everlasting monument of the *marble temple* is then reared :

Et viridi in campo templum de MARMORE ponam.

And because ancient superstition usually preferred, for these purposes, the banks of *rivers* to other situations, therefore the poet, in beautiful allusion to the site of some of the most celebrated pagan temples, builds *his* on the *MINCIUS*. We see with what a scrupulous propriety the allusion is carried on.

*Propter aquam, tardis ingens ubi flexibus errat
 MINCIUS, et tenera praetexit arundine ripas.*

Next, this temple was to be dedicated, as a monument of the victor's *piety*, as well as glory, to some propitious, tutelary deity, under whose auspices the great adventure had been

In medio mihi Caesar erit, templumque tenebit.

achieved. The *dedication* is then made to the poet's *divinity*, Augustus:

In medio mihi CAESAR erit, templumque tenebit.

TEMPLUM TENEBIT. The expression is emphatical; as intimating to us, and prefiguring the secret purpose of the Aeneis, which was, in the person of Aeneas, to shadow forth and consecrate the character of Augustus. His divinity was to fill and occupy that great work. And the ample circuit and magnificence of the epic plan was projected only, as a more awful enclosure of that august presence, which was to *inhabit* and solemnize the vast round of this poetic building.

And now the wonderful address of the poet's artifice appears. The mad fervility of his country had *deified* the emperor in good earnest: and his brother poets made no scruple to *worship* in his temples, and to come before him with handfuls of *real* incense, smoking from the altars. But the sobriety of Virgil's adoration was of another cast. He seizes this circumstance only to *embody* a poetical fiction; which, on the supposition of an actual *deification*, hath all the force of compliment, which the *fact* implies, and yet, as presented through the chaste veil of allegory, eludes the monstrous offence, which the *naked* recital must needs have given to decency and common sense. Had the emperor's *popular* divinity been flatly acknowledged, and adored, the praise, even under Virgil's management, had been insufferable for its extravagance; and without some support for his poetical *numen* to rest upon, the figure had been more forced and strained, than the rules of just writing allow. As it is, the historical truth of his *apotheosis* authorizes and supports the *fiction*, and the fiction, in its turn, serves to refine and palliate the *history*.

The Aeneis being, by the poet's improvement of this circumstance, thus naturally predicted under the image of a *temple*, we may expect to find a close and studied analogy betwixt them. The great, component parts of the *one*, will no doubt be made, very faithfully, to represent and adumbrate those of the *other*. This hath been executed with great art and diligence.

1. The *temple*, we observed, was erected on the banks of a river. This site was not only proper for the reason already mentioned, but also, for the further convenience of instituting *public games*, the ordinary attendants of the *consecration* of temples. These were generally, as in the case of the Olympic and others, celebrated on the banks of rivers.

*Illi victor ego, et Tyrio conspectus in ostro
Centum quadrijuges agitabo ad flumina currus.*

Canza

In the mid dome shall Caesar's form divine
Superior stand the godhead of the shrine.

*Cuncta mihi, Alpheum linquens lucosque Molorchi,
Curfibus et crudo decernet Graecia caestu.*

To see the propriety of the *figure* in this place, the reader needs only be reminded of the *book of games* in the Aeneid, which was purposely introduced in honour of the emperor, and not, as is commonly thought, for a mere trial of skill between the poet and his master. The emperor was passionately fond of these sports, and was even the author or restorer of *one* of them. It is not to be doubted, that he alludes also to the *quinquennial games*, actually celebrated, in honour of his temples, through many parts of the empire. And this the poet undertakes in the *civil* office of VICTOR.

2. What follows is in the *religious* office of PRIEST. For it is to be noted, that, in assuming this double character, which the decorum of the solemnities, here recounted, prescribed, the poet has an eye to the *political* design of the Aeneis, which was to do honour to Caesar, in either capacity of a *civil* and *religious* personage; both being essential to the idea of the perfect legislator, he was to adorn and recommend. The account of his *sacerdotal functions* is delivered in these words:

*Ipse caput tonsae foliis ornatus olivae
Dona feram. jam nunc sollempnis ducere pompas
Ad delubra juvat, caesosque videre juvencos:
Vel scaena ut verfis discedat frontibus; utque
Purpurea intexti tollunt aulaea Britanni.*

The imagery in this place cannot be understood, without reflecting on the customary form and disposition of the pagan temples. DELUBRUM, or DELUBRA, for either *number* is used indifferently, denotes the shrine, or sanctuary, wherein the statue of the presiding God was placed. This was in the center of the building. Exactly before the *delubrum*, and at no great distance from it, was the ALTAR. Further, the shrine, or *delubrum*, was inclosed, and shut up on all sides by *doors* of curious carved work, and ductile *veils*, embellished by the rich embroidery of *flowers*, *animals*, or *human figures*. This being observed, the progress of the imagery before us will be this. The procession *ad delubra*, or shrine: the sacrifice on the *altars*, erected before it: and, lastly, the painted, or rather wrought *scenery* of the purple *veils*, inclosing the image, which were ornamented, and seemed to be sustained or held up by the figures of *intwoven Britons*. The meaning of all which is, that the poet would proceed to the celebration of Caesar's praise in all the gradual, solemn preparation of poetic pomp: that he would render the most grateful *offerings* to his divinity

Illi victor ego, et Tyrio conspectus in ostro

in those occasional *episodes*, which he should consecrate to his more immediate honour; and finally, that he would provide the richest texture of his fancy, for a covering to that admired *image* of his virtues, which was to make the sovereign pride and glory of his poem. The choice of the *invoven Britons*, for the support of his *veil*, is well accounted for by those, who tell us, that Augustus was proud to have a number of these to serve about him in quality of slaves.

The ornaments of the *DOORS* of this *delubrum*, on which the sculptor used to lavish all the riches of his *art*, are next delineated.

*In foribus pugnam ex auro solidoque elephanto
Gangaridum faciam, viçtorisque arma Quirini:
Atque hic undantem bello, magnumque fluentem
Nilum, ac navali surgentis acre columnas.
Adam urbis Asiae domitas, pulsumque Niphaten,
Fidentemque fuga Partum versisque sagittis,
Et duo rapta manu diverso ex hoste trepææ,
Bisque triumphatas utroque ab litore gentis.*

Here the covering of the figure is too thin to hide the *literal* meaning from the commonest reader, who sees, that the several triumphs of Caesar, here recorded in *sculpture*, are those, which the poet hath taken so much pains to *finish*, and hath occasionally inserted, as it were, in *miniature*, in several places of his *poem*. Let him only turn to the prophetic speech of Anchises' shade in the VIth, and to the description of the shield in the VIIIth book.

Hitherto we have contemplated the decorations of the *shrine*, i. e. such as bear a more direct and immediate reference to the honour of Caesar. We are now presented with a view of the remote surrounding ornaments of the temple. These are the illustrious Trojan chiefs, whose story was to furnish the materials, or, more properly, to form the body and case, as it were, of this august structure. They are also connected with the idol deity of the place by the closest ties of relationship, the Julian family affecting to derive its pedigree from this proud original. The poet then, in his arrangement of these additional figures, with admirable judgment, completes and rounds the entire fiction.

*Stabant & Parii lapides, spirantia signa,
Assaraci proles, demissæque ab Jove gentis
Nomina, Trojque parens, & Trjææ Cynthius æstor,*

Nothing now remains but for *fame* to eternize the glories of what the great architect had, at the expence of so much art and labour, completed; which is predicted, in the highest sublime of ancient poetry, under the idea of *ENVY*, whom the poet personalizes, shuddering at the view of such transcendent

For him, myself to grace the solemn feast,
Chief of the sports, in Tyrian purple dress,

scendent perfection; and tasting, beforehand, the pains of a remediless vexation, strongly pictured in the image of the worst, infernal tortures.

*INVIDIA infelix furias amnemque severum
Cocyti metuet, tortosque Ixionis orbes,
Immanemque rotam, et non exsuperabile saxum.*

Thus have I presumed, but with a religious awe, to inspect and declare the mysteries of this ideal temple. The attempt after all might have been censured, as profane, if the great *Mystagogue* himself, or somebody for him*, had not given us the undoubted key to it. Under this encouragement I could not withstand the temptation of disclosing thus much of one of the noblest fictions of antiquity; and the rather, as the propriety of allegoric composition, which made the distinguished pride of ancient poetry, seems but little known or attended to by modern professors of this fine art.

* In these lines,

*Mox tamen ardentis accingar dicere pugnas
Caesaris, & nomen fama tot ferre per annos,
Titboni prima quot abest ab origine Caesar.*

Which I suspect not to have been from the hand of Virgil, And,

1. On account of some peculiarities in the expression.

Accingar is of frequent use in the best authors, to denote a readiness and resolution to do any thing; but as joined with an infinitive mood, *accingar dicere*, I do not remember to have ever seen it. 'Tis often used by Virgil; but, if the several places be consulted, it will always be found with an *accusative* and *preposition*, expressed or understood, as *magicas accingier artes*, or with an *accusative* and *dative*, as *accingere se praedae*, or lastly with an *ablative*, expressing the *instrument*, as *accingor ferro*. La Cerda, in his notes upon the place, seemed sensible of the objection, and therefore wrote, *Graeca locutio*: the common, but paltry, shift of learned critics, when they determine, at any rate, to support an ancient reading.

2. *Ardentes pugnas*, burning battles, sounds well enough to a modern ear; but I much doubt if it would have passed in the times of Virgil. At least, I recollect no such expression in all his works; *ardens* being constantly joined to a word, denoting a substance of apparent light, heat, or flame, to which the allusion is easy, as *ardentes gladios*, *ardentes oculos*, *campos armis sublimibus ardentibus*, and by an easy metaphor, *ardentes hostes*,

Centum quadrijugos agitabo ad flumina currus.

Cuncta mihi, Alpheum linquens lucoſque Molorchi,

Curſibus et crudo decernet Graecia caeſtu.

20

but no where, that I can find, to ſo abſtract a notion, as that of *ſight*. It ſeems to be to avoid this difficulty, that ſome have choſen to read *ardentis*, in the *genitive*, which yet Servius rejects as of no authority.

3. But the moſt glaring note of illegitimacy is in the line,

Tithoni prima quot abeſt ab origine Caefar.

It has puzzled all the commentators from old Servius down to Mr. Martyn, to give any tolerable account of the poet's choice of *Tithonus*, from whom to derive the anceſtry of Auguſtus, rather than *Anchiſes*, or *Aſſaracus*, who were not only more famous, but in the *direct* line. The pretences of any or all of them are too frivolous to make it neceſſary to ſpend a thought about them. The inſtance ſtands ſingle in antiquity; much leſs is there any thing like it to be found in the Auguſtan poets.

II. But the *phraſeology* of theſe lines is the leaſt of my objection. Were it ever ſo accurate, there is, beſides, on the firſt view, a manifeſt abſurdity in the *ſubject-matter* of them. For would any writer, of but common ſkill in the art of compoſition, cloſe a long and elaborate allegory, the principal grace of which conſiſts in its very myſtery, with a cold, and formal explanation of it? Or would he pay ſo poor a compliment to his patron, as to ſuppoſe his ſagacity wanted the aſſiſtance of this additional triplet to lead him into the true meaning? Nothing can be more abhorrent from the uſual addreſs and artifice of Virgil's manner. Or,

III. Were the *ſubject-matter* itſelf paſſable, yet, how, in defiance of all the laws of *diſpoſition*, came it to be forced in here? Let the reader turn to the paſſage, and he will ſoon perceive that this could never be the *place* for it. The allegory being concluded, the poet returns to his ſubject, which is propoſed in the ſix following lines:

*Interea Dryadum ſylvas ſaltusque ſequamur
Intactos, tua, Maecenas, haud mollia juſſa.
Te ſine nil aliſum mens inchoat. en age ſegnīs
Rumpere mēras: vocat ingenti clamore Cithaeron,
Taygetique canes, domitrixque Epidaurus equorum:
Et vox adſenſu nemorum ingeminata remugit.*

Would now any one expect, that the poet, after having conducted the reader thus reſpectfully, to the very threshold of his ſubject, ſhould immediately run away again to the point, from which he had ſet out, and this on ſo needleſs an errand, as the letting him into the ſecret of his allegory?

But this inſerted triplet agrees as ill with what *follows*, as with

Will lash an hundred cars, like chiefs of yore, 25
 By four-yok'd horses whirl'd along the sounding shore.
 All Greece shall leave her seats of ancient fame,
 To try on Roman ground, th' heroic game ;
 With manly arm the weighty gauntlet wield ;
 Or lightly skim with winged feet the field : 30

with what *precedes* it. For how abrupt is the transition, and unlike the delicate connection, so studiously contrived by the Augustan poets, from

Titboni prima quot abest ab origine Caesar,
 to

Seu quis Olympiaca miratur praemia palmae, &c.

When omit but these interpolated lines, and see how gracefully, and by how natural a succession of ideas, the poet slides into the main of his subject!—

Interea Dryadum sylvas saltusque sequamur
Intactos —

Te sine nil—

Rumpe moras : vocat ingenti clamore Cithaeron,

Taygetique canes, domitrixque Epidaurus EQUORUM ;

Et vox ad sensu nemorum ingeminata REMUGIT.

Seu quis Olympiaca miratus praemia palmae,

Pascit EQUOS ; seu quis fortis ad aratra JUVENCOS.

On the whole, I have not the least doubt, that the lines before us are the spurious offspring of some *later poet* ; if indeed the writer of them deserve that name ; for, whoever he was, he is so far from partaking of the original spirit of Virgil, that at most, he appears to have been but a servile and paltry mimic of Ovid ; from the opening of whose *Metamorphosis* the design was clearly taken. The turn of the thought is evidently the same in both, and even the *expression*. *Mutatas dicere formas* is echoed by *ardentes dicere pugnas : dicere fert animus*, is, by an affected improvement, *accingar dicere* : and *Titboni prima ab origine* is almost literally the same as *primaque ab origine mundi*. For the *insertion* of these lines in this place I leave it to the curious to conjecture of it, as they may ; but in the mean time, must esteem the office of the true *critic* to be so far resembling that of the *poet* himself, as within some proper limitations, to justify the *bonest* liberty here taken.

Cum tabulis animum censoris sumet honesti ;

Audebit quaecunque parum splendoris habebunt

Et sine pondere erunt, & honore indigna feruntur,

VERBA MOVERE LOCO ; QUAMVIS INVITA RECEDANT,

ET VERSANTUR ADHUC INTRA PENETRALIA VESTAE.

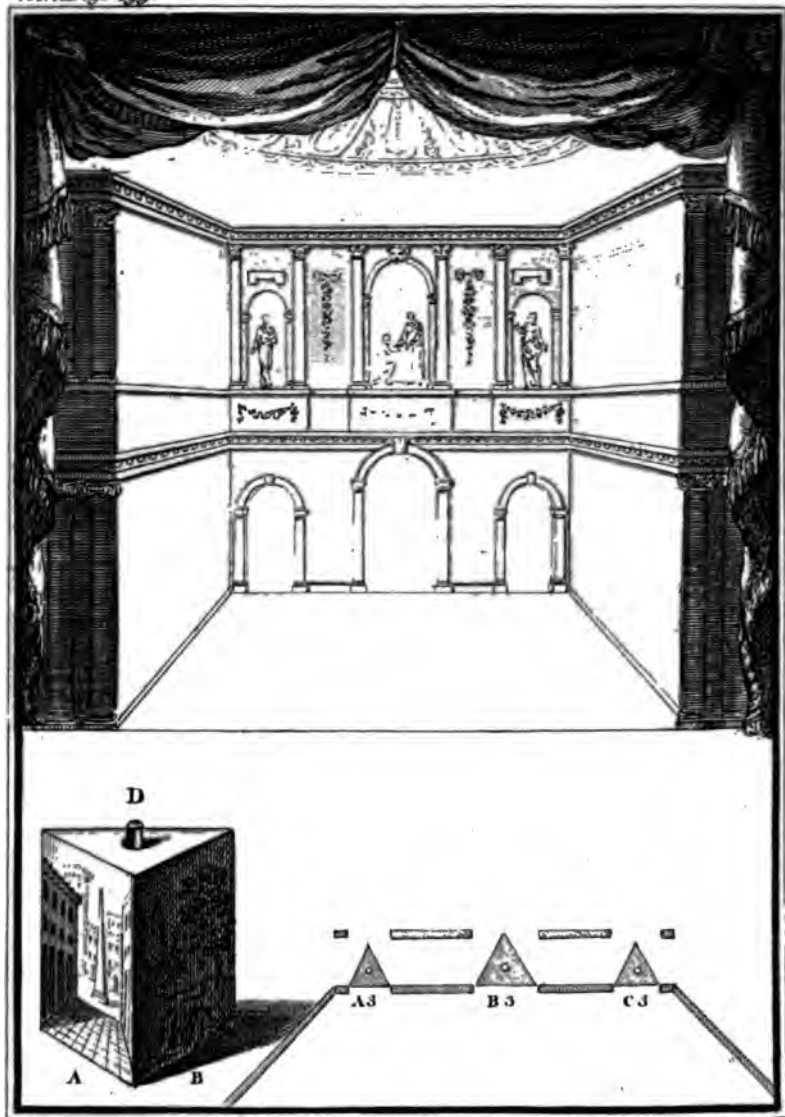
[2 Ep. ii. 110.]

Ipse caput tonsae foliis ornatus olivae
 Dona feram. jam nunc sollempnis ducere pompas
 Ad delubra juvat, caesosque videre juvencos :
 Vel scaena ut versis discedat frontibus ; utque
 Purpurea intexti tollant aulaea Britanni. 25
 In foribus pugnam ex auro solidoque elephanto
 Gangaridum faciam, victorisque arma Quirini :
 Atque hic undantem bello, magnumque fluentem
 Nilum, ac navali surgentis aere columnas.
 Addam urbis Asiae domitas, pulsumque Niphaten, 30
 Fidentemque fuga Parthum versisque sagittis,
 Et duo rapta manu diverso ex hoste tropaea,
 Bisque triumphatas utroque ab litore gentis.
 Stabunt et Parii lapides, spirantia signa,
 Assaraci proles, demissaque ab Jove gentis 35
 Nomina, Trosq; parens, et Trojae Cynthius auctor.
 Invidia infelix Furias amnemque severum
 Cocyti metuet, tortosque Ixionis orbis,
 Inmanemque rotam, et non exsuperabile saxum.
 Interea Dryadum silvas saltusque sequamur 40
 Intactos, tua, Maecenas, haud mollia iussa.

35. *I see the turning scene.*] The commentators seem not sufficiently to have explained the expression of, *ut versis discedat frontibus* in the original. The ancient scenes were painted on a triangular machine, marked in the plate, D ; which was so formed as to turn upon an axle or pin ; each of its three sides, mark'd in the ground-plan of the plate, 1. 2. 3. represented a different subject ; viz. 1. a city. 2. a palace or magnificent portico. 3. a wild forest, cave, or meadow. When a comedy was play'd, the first of these three frontispieces was turned towards the spectators ; when a tragedy, the second ; when a satyrical piece (such for instance, as the Cyclops of Euripides) the third was exposed to view. And these triangular machines were placed under the arches of the theatre, marked in the plate, A, B, C. See VITRUVIUS, B. 5. and *L'Antiquité expliquée par D. Ber. MONTFAUCON*, tom. 3. p. 235.

54. *Envy.*] The persons he is speaking of are the enemies of the Julian family ; or the faction, as he calls it, against the Caesars. These, he says, should be represented on the temple





L. P. Boitard Sculp.

While I, my brows with olive-chaplet bound,
 The meed of each victorious toil propound.
 Ev'n now I seem the stately pomp to lead,
 Now, now, beneath my steel the victims bleed :
 I see the turning scene swift change its face,
 The pictur'd Britons in the curtains trace,
 Which seem to lift the tapestry they grace. } 35
 High on the gates, the fell Gangarian fight
 In gold and ivory wrought, shall strike the fight.
 Here swoln with war, majestic Nile shall pass, } 40
 And the tall columns rise in naval bras :
 Prostrate in dust, there Asia's cities weep,
 And huge Niphates bend his mountain steep ;
 The Parthians there the backward arrow ply,
 And vainly strive to conquer as they fly : } 45
 Caesar shall here a double triumph boast,
 And conquer'd nations kneel from either coast.
 Around in order'd ranks an awful band,
 Rome's ancestors in breathing stone shall stand :
 Thy seed, Assaracus, the mighty line } 50
 That drew from Jove its origin divine :
 Next Tros, whom Troy her ancient father calls,
 With him, the God who rais'd her lofty walls.
 Envy, foul fiend, shall view with baleful eyes
 Cocytus' billows black around her rise ; } 55
 The stings of mad Ixion's snakes shall feel,
 Quake at th' unconquer'd stone, and ever-whirling wheel.
 Mean time, Maecenas, we'll the woods pursue ;
 The task is arduous, but enjoin'd by you.

he would build to Augustus, as in the tortures of Tartarus ; and more particularly as punished in the same manner as Ixion and Sisyphus. Ixion was punished there for his ingratitude and impiety : Sisyphus as a villain and a robber. So that this is calling all the party against Augustus, rascals and ingrates ; and infers the highest compliment to that prince, at the same time that it is the most cruel of invectives against his enemies.

Te sine nil altum mens inchoat. en age segnis
 Rumpe moras : vocat ingenti clamore Cithaeron,
 Taygetique canes, domitrixque Epidaurus equorum :
 Et vox adfensu nemorum ingeminata remugit. 45
 Mox tamen ardentis accingar dicere pugnas
 Caesaris, et nomen fama tot ferre per annos,
 Tithoni prima quot abest ab origine Caesar.
 Seu quis, Olympiacae miratus praemia palmae,
 Pascit equos, seu quis fortis ad aratra juvencos ; 50
 Corpora praecipue matrum legat. optuma torvae
 Forma bovis, cui turpe caput, cui plurima cervix,
 Et crurum tenus a mento palearia pendent.
 Tum longo nullus lateri modus : omnia magna :
 Pes etiam, et camuris hirtae sub cornibus aures. 55
 Nec mihi displiceat maculis in lignis et albo,
 Aut juga detractans ; interdumque aspera cornu,
 Et faciem tauro propior, quaeque ardua tota,
 Et gradiens ima verrit vestigia cauda.
 Aetas Lucinam, justosque pati hymenaeos 60
 Desinit ante decem, post quatuor incipit annos :
 Cetera nec foeturae habilis, nec fortis aratris.
 Interea, superat gregibus dum lacta juventas,
 Solve marcs : mitte in venerem pecuaria primus,
 Atque aliam ex alia generando suffice prolem. 65

75. *A clumsy head.*] Varro and Columella say that a good cow's head should be large, *latis frontibus*, her neck long and broad, her dew-laps hanging low, and in general, that her body should be long and large. *Ut sint bene compositae, ut integris membris ablongae, amplae—corpore amplo, bene costatos, largis humeris, bonis clunibus.*—Virgil seems to have had his eye on this passage. Varro likewise mentions the length of the tail.

Book 3. THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL: 301

Without thine aid no fancy fires my breast ; 60

Haste, let us burst the bands of idle rest.

Hark, from afar Cythaeron's voice I hear,

Taygetus' opening dogs my spirits cheer ;

With neighing steeds tall Epidaure resounds ;

From the deep groves the doubling din rebounds. 65

The time may come, when my maturer muse

Augustus' glowing fights her theme shall choose :

And thro' more ages bid his glory last,

Than have from Tithon's birth to Caesar pass.

The youth, who studious of th' Olympic meed, 70

And fond of fame, would rear the stately steed ;

Or bend the sturdy bullock to the share,

Must choose the dam with nice sagacious care.

First, by these marks select thy mother-cow,

A clumsy head, broad neck, and lowering brow : 75

Her double dew-laps from her chin must rise,

In spacious folds descending o'er her thighs :

Be her's a disproportion'd length of side,

Her limbs all fram'd with vast unwieldy pride :

Let tufts of hair her ample feet adorn, 80

Rough be her ear, and wreath'd her bending horn :

Nor less her worth, if o'er her jetty skin,

Some random spots of snowy white be seen ;

Or if she aim a blow, or spurn the yoke,

Or wear a stern-brow'd bull's rough threatening look. 85

Majestic she must walk with lofty mien,

And proudly sweep with length of tail the green.

When now four years have steel'd her lusty frame,

Then let her prove kind Hymen's mutual flame :

At ten release her ; now no more to prove 90

The toils of culture, or the joys of love.

Mean time, while warmth of youthful blood prevails,

To the soft bliss admit thy sprightly males :

Let their first vigour try the fierce embrace ;

So herds shall rise on herds, and race on race, 95

Optima quaeque dies miseris mortalibus aevi
 Prima fugit : subeunt morbi, tristisque senectus ;
 Et labor, et durae rapit inclementia mortis.
 Semper erunt, quarum mutari corpora malis.
 Semper enim refice : ac, ne post amissa requiras, 70
 Anteveni, et subolem armento sortire quotannis.
 Nec non et pecori est idem dilectus equino.
 Tu modo, quos in spem statues submittere gentis,
 Praecipuum jam inde a teneris impende laborem.
 Continuo pecoris generosi pullus in arvis 75
 Altius ingreditur, et mollia crura reponit.
 Primus et ire viam, et fluvios tentare minaces
 Audet, et ignoto sese committere ponti :
 Nec vanos horret strepitus. (illi ardua cervix,
 Argutumque caput, brevis alvus, obesque terga : 80
 Luxuriatque toris animosum pectus : honesti
 Spadices, glaucique ; color deterrimus albis,
 Et gilvo) tum, si qua sonum procul arma dedere,
 Stare loco nescit : micat auribus, ac tremit artus ;
 Conlectumque premens volvit sub naribus ignem : 85
 Densa juba, et dextro jactata recumbit in armo.
 At duplex agitur per lumbos spina, cavatque
 Tellurem, et solido graviter sonat ungula cornu.
 Talis Amyclaei domitus Pollucis habenis
 Cyllarus, et, quorum Graii meminere poëtae, 90

96. *Our best of days.*] This tender moral reflection thrown in, diversifies and exalts the low subject the poet is treating of.

108. *Ev'n now the colt.*] Having spoken of the marks of good cows, the poet proceeds to speak of horses, and gives a beautiful description of a colt that is fit to be chosen for a stallion. There is some difficulty concerning the meaning of *spadices* : but after much enquiry Dr. Martyn thinks it is the colour we call bay, chestnut, or sorrel.

116. *Grey.*] *Glaucus*, when spoken of the colour of an horse, signifies a dark or iron-grey ; our people in Wales, still call a grey horse *kephal glauce*. HOLDSWORTH.

119. *Restless be paws.*] This is a beautiful description of a mettlesome horse ; but it is far excelled by that noble one in the book of Job. Particularly, " He swalloweth the ground with

Our best of days advance with double speed,
 Diseases, pains, a ghastly troop ! succeed ;
 With care, and labour, and complaining age,
 And ruthless death's inexorable rage.
 For fresh supplies thy weary'd race remove ; 100
 Nor place on one alone the weight of love.
 Still propagate thy breed with annual care,
 And with new births the fleeting race repair:
 Nor less with equal care select the steed ;
 Thou who resolv'st to rear a generous breed, 105
 Nurse from his earliest youth the chosen fire,
 And feed with careful hand his native fire.
 Ev'n now the colt treads high with stately pace,
 And moves his pliant limbs with easy grace ;
 Outstrips the rest ; the first that dares to brave 110
 The unknown bridge, or tempt the threat'ning wave :
 No sudden sounds alarm his soul with dread ;
 Sublime his arched neck, and small his head :
 Short paunch, and breadth of back his might attest,
 And prominent with brawn his fearless breast. 115
 Of colours choose the dapple or the grey,
 For white and dun a dastard race betray.
 Lo ! when the battle's distant din he hears,
 Restless he paws ; erects his eager ears ;
 With generous fury glows his quivering frame, 120
 And from his nostril bursts the fierce, collected flame.
 O'er his right shoulder his redundant mane
 Waves to the zephyr as he skims the plain.
 Thro' his broad back shoots a divided spine,
 And arms with double force his mighty chine. 125
 While o'er the green as his fleet hoof is borne,
 Echoes the trembling ground beneath the solid horn.
 Such Cyllarus, by Spartan Pollux tam'd,
 And such the steeds, in Grecian story fam'd,
 with fierceness and rage, neither believeth he (for joy !) that
 it is the sound of the trumpet," is more spirited and strong than
 any circumstance in Virgil's picture.

Martis equi bijuges, et magni currus Achillis.
 Talis et ipse jubam cervice effudit equina
 Conjugis adventu pernix Saturnus, et altum
 Pelion hinnitu fugiens inplevit acuto.
 Hunc quoque, ubi aut morbo gravis, aut jam segnior annis
 Deficit, abde domo; nec turpi ignosce senectæ. 96
 Frigidus in venerem senior, frustra que laborem
 Ingratum trahit: et, si quando ad proelia ventum est,
 Ut quondam in stipula magnus sine viribus ignis,
 Incaustum furit. ergo animos aevomque notabis 100
 Praecipue: hinc alias artis, prolemque parentum,
 Et quis cuique dolor victo, quae gloria palmae.
 Nonne vides, cum praecipiti certamine campum
 Corripuere, ruuntque effusi carcere currus,
 Cum spes arrectæ juvenum, exsultantiaque haurit 105
 Corda pavor pulsans: illi instant verbere torto,
 Et proni dant lora: volat vi fervidus axis.
 Jamque humiles, jamque elati sublime videntur
 Aëra per vacuum ferri, atque adfurgere in auras.
 Nec mora, nec requies. at fulvae nimbus arenae 110
 Tollitur: humescunt spumis, flatuque sequentum.
 Tantus amor laudum, tantæ est victoria curæ.
 Primus Erichthonius currus et quatuor ausus
 Jungere equos, rapidusque rotis insistere victor.

132. *Such Saturn.*] Heyne well observes on this passage; *talem formam habebat (at quàm ornatè hoc poeta extulit) Saturnus, cum equi speciem assumpfisset, ut furta sua cum Pbilyre, unde Chiron natus, in Pelio opem celaret.*

148. *Doſt thou not ſee.*] No description was ever more spirited and lively than this of the chariot race. The poet has crowded into a few lines all the circumstances that are most striking in the famous description of Homer, and it must be owned has here excelled the Greek poet. One may say, as Longinus does on almost a similar occasion, that the soul of the reader is, as it were, mounted in the chariot, and whirled along in the race with it.

160. *Erichthonius.*] *Bigas primum junxit Phrygum natio, quadrigas Erichthonius.* Pliny. He likewise says, that Belle-
 rophon

That to the battle bore the god of war, 130
 And whirl'd the fierce Achilles' thund'ring car :
 Such Saturn too, when from the guilty bed,
 Cloath'd in a flowing mane, his queen he fled, [head. }
 And pierc'd with neighings shrill hoar Pelion's piny }
 When now his strength and youthful years decay, 135
 With no inglorious ease his pains repay ;
 But grant him, of thy gratitude, to close
 His honour'd age at home in safe repose.
 When genial warmth forsakes his frozen veins,
 Love is a soil, and barren are his pains ; 140
 In all the rage of impotent desire,
 As o'er the stubble flies the catching fire,
 His sparks are spent, and in a flash expire. }
 Be careful then to mark thy stallion's age,
 His feats, his offspring, and his native rage ; 145
 Whether he grieve, when in the race outdone,
 Or proudly triumph in the trophy won.
 Dost thou not see the cars, a rival train,
 Shoot from the goal, and pour along the plain ?
 By varying fits, each trembling charioteer, 150
 Now flush'd with hope, now pale with panting fear,
 Plies the loud lash, hangs headlong o'er the reins ;
 Swift bounds the fervid axle o'er the plains :
 Now deep in dust obscur'd the chariot flies,
 Now mounts in air, and gains upon the skies. 155
 The strife runs high, too fierce for dull delay,
 The sandy volumes darken all the way :
 Bath'd in their followers' foam appear the first :
 Such is the love of praise, and glory's thirst.
 First Erichthonius dar'd with dauntless skill 160
 To yoke four steeds, and guide the victor's wheel.

rophon invented the backing of horses, Pelethronius bridles and furniture, and the centaurs of Thessaly the fighting on horseback.

Frena Pelethronii Lapithæ, gyrosque dedere 115
 Inpositi dorso, atque equitem docuere sub armis
 Insultare solo, et gressus glomerare superbos.
 Aequus uterque labor : aequè juvenemque magistri
 Exquirunt, calidumque animis et cursibus acrem.
 Quamvis sæpe fuga versos ille egerit hostis, 120
 Et patriam Epirum referat, fortisque Mycenæ;
 Neptuniquè ipsa deducat origine gentem.
 His animadversis instant sub tempus, et omnis
 Inpendunt curas denso distendere pingui,
 Quem legere ducem, et pecori dixere maritum : 125
 Pubentesque secant herbas, fluviosque ministrant,
 Farraque ; ne blando nequeat superesse labori ;
 Invalidique patrum referant jejunia gnati :

163. *Form his pliant feet.*] There are several lines in this third Georgic; which shew that the manège was found out much earlier than some would imagine. Witness the following passage :

Gyrosque dedere

Inpositi dorso.

And that other,

Carpere nox gyrum incipiat, &c.

The simile just after was meant to shew, a violently swift, but at the same time a level and uniform motion. HOLDSWORTH.

170. *Without these virtues.*] I received the following observations on this passage from a very ingenious gentleman.

I have always been absolutely at a loss to make out the connection of these three lines [in the original] with the foregoing. Translators and commentators make *quamvis* refer to something which is certainly not expressed there, nor I think implied, or insinuated ; nor indeed consistent with what is there expressed. . . . How can the horse be supposed *sæpe versos hostes egisse*, if he was not *calidus animis* ? *Quamvis* implies an opposition between these two, whereas no two things can be more naturally connected. You have got over the difficulty as well as your neighbours, but I think it is insuperable, as the text now stands. Besides, *quamvis* implies that the horse above described was *rejected*, not that he was *sought out*, and *chosen*. In short I am persuaded, these three lines are not in their right place. Suppose them placed as follows :

*Hunc quoque, ubi aut morbo gravis, aut jam senior annis
 Desicit, abde demo ; nec turpi ignoscere senectus.*

Quamvis

Thessalia taught the conduct of the bit,
 To mount the steed, and form his pliant feet.
 To paw the ground, to wheel, to turn with grace,
 And tread the plain with more majestic pace. 165
 The same the labour and the praise to breed,
 Or for the bit or car, the vigorous steed :
 In each is requisite a generous rage,
 A swiftness in the course, and blooming age.
 Without these virtues, vain all former boast, 170
 That erst he chas'd in fight a trembling host ;
 Tho' Argos, or Epirus gave him birth,
 Or Neptune's trident-stroke, that op'd the pregnant earth.
 These rules observ'd, with copious grain they feed
 The husband of the herd, and father of the breed : 175
 With genial herbs his amorous heat sustain,
 And give the copious stream, and golden grain ;
 Lest weak he faint amid the soft embrace,
 The famish'd father of a pny race.

*Quamvis saepe fugâ versos ille egerit hostis,
 Et patriam Epirum referat, fortisque Mycenae;
 Neptuniquè ipsa deducat origine gentem.
 Frigidus in venerem senior—*

Hunc quoque—abde domo—quamvis— Observe that the horses here abovementioned are war horses; Pollux', Mars' and Achilles' his horses; *qui versos hostes egerint*; now see how well the other passage goes on without the lines in question.

*Aequus uterque labor : aequè juvenemque magistri
 Exquirunt, calidumque animis et curibus acrem.
 His animadversis—*

Nimirum, juventute, animis, pernitate—

By way of precedent, there are two remarkable transpositions of this kind in the Aeneid, which the critics have rectified against all authority of manuscripts—Aeneid 6. 745. *Donec longa dies—*and the two next lines, which should follow, after *exuritur igni*.

Aeneid 10. 717. *Ille autem impavidus—*and the next, which should come after *clamoribus instant*.

176. *With genial herbs.*] Varro and Columella speak of the necessity of feeding the bulls amply for two months before the time. *Tauros duobus mensibus ante admisuram herbâ, et paleâ et feno facio pleniore et a facinibus scerno.* VARRO.

Ipsa autem macie tenuant armenta volentes.
 Atque, ubi concubitus primos jam nota voluptas 130
 Sollicitat, frondisque negant, et fontibus arcent :
 Saepe etiam cursu quatiunt, et sole fatigant,
 Cum graviter tunsis gemit area frugibus, et cum
 Surgentem ad Zephyrum paleae jactantur inanes.
 Hoc faciunt, nimio ne luxu obtusior usus 135
 Sit genitali arvo, et fulcos oblimet inertis :
 Sed rapiat sitiens venerem, interiusque recondat.
 Rursus cura patrum cadere, et succedere matrum
 Incipit. exactis gravidæ cum mensibus errant,
 Non illas gravibus quisquam juga ducere plaustris, 140
 Non saltu superare viam sit passus, et acri
 Carpere prata fuga, fluviosque innare rapaces.
 Saltibus in vacuis pascant, et plena secundum
 Flumina : muscus ubi, et viridissima gramine ripa,
 Speluncaeque tegant, et faxea procubet umbra. 145
 Est lucos Sileri circa ilicibusque virentem
 Plurimus Alburnum volitans, quoi nomen asilo
 Romanum est, oestron Graii vertere vocantes ;
 Asper, acerba sonans : quo tota exterrita filvis
 Diffugiunt armenta ; furit mugitibus aether 150
 Concussus, silvaeque et ficci ripa Tanagri.

182. *New desires.*] *Voluptas nota* in the original, does not signify the experienced pleasure, says Dr. Martyn, but the *desire* which now *first* begins to be known by the young mare. *Jam nota*, just now (and not before) known.

203. *Asilus.*] This insect is a dreadful plague to the cows of Italy. An Italian writer quoted by Dr. Martyn informs us, that it resembles a wasp, has two membranous wings, with which it makes a most horrible whizzing. The belly is terminated by three long rings, one within another, from the last of which proceeds a formidable sting. This sting is composed of a tube, through which the egg is emitted, and two augres, which make way for the tube to penetrate into the skin of the cattle. These augres are armed with little knives, which prick with their points, and cut with their edges, causing intolerable pain to the wounded animal. The mention of these insects put me in mind of an elegant rural comparison in Spenser.

But to the mares deny they fostering food, 180 }
 And drive them from the browze and cooling flood, }
 When now the new desires invade the boiling blood; }
 Oft bid them glow beneath the sunny ray,
 And oft fatigue them thro' the dusty way :
 When groan the floors beneath the trampled corn, 185
 And light in air the fluttering chaff is borne ;
 Lest too luxurious ease and plenty cloy,
 Blunt the keen sense, and choak the paths of joy :
 So shall the female feel the flowing feed,
 And suck with greedy rage the rushing steed. 190
 We now forsake the fires, transfer our care,
 From the stout stallion, to the teeming mare.
 Let her no more, along the lab'ring ground,
 Draw the slow car, or leap the rising mound :
 Nor tempt the flood, nor skim the level mead, 195 }
 But turn her lonesome in the lawns to feed, }
 Soft with the greenest grass, and many a mossy bed ; }
 Where some full river rolls his plenteous waves,
 Mid' shades of ridgy rocks, and cooling caves.
 Along the forests dark where Selo flows, 200
 And old Alburnus lifts his ilex-crowned brows,
 Of winged insects swarms a frequent flight,
 Aestron in Greece ; at Rome Asilus hight ;
 Soon as their issuing hofts, with humming sound
 Approach, the cattle quit the groves around ; 205
 The skies re-echo to the mingling roar,
 The groves, and dry Tanager's sultry shore !

As when a swarme of gnats, at eventide,
 Out of the fennes of Allan doe arise,
 Their murmuring small trumpets sounden wide,
 Whiles in the air their cluffling armie flies,
 That as a cloud doth seeme to din the skies ;
 Ne man nor beast may rest, or take repast,
 For their sharpe wounds, and noyous injuries ;
 'Till the fierce northern wind with bluftring blast
 Doth blowne them quite away, and in the ocean cast.

Fa. Q. B. 2. l. 9. f. 16.

Hoc quondam monstro horribilis exercuit iras
 Inachiae Juno pestem meditata juvencae.
 Hunc quoque, nam mediis fervoribus acrior instat,
 Arcèbis gravido pecori, armentaque pasces 155
 Sole recens orto, aut noctem ducentibus astris.
 Post partum cura in vitulos traducitur omnis:
 Continuoque notas et nomina gentis inurunt:
 Et quos aut pecori malint submittere habendo,
 Aut aris servare sacros, aut scindere terram, 160
 Et campum horrentem fractis invertere glebis.
 Cetera pascuntur viridis armenta per herbas.
 Tu quos ad studium atque usum formabis agrestem,
 Jam vitulos hortare, viamque insiste domandi,
 Dum faciles animi juvenum, dum mobilis aetas. 165
 Ac primum laxos tenui de vimine cirelos
 Cervici subnecte: dehinc, ubi libera colla
 Servitio adfuerint, ipsis e torquibus aptos
 Junge pares: et coge gratum conferre juvencos:
 Atque illis jam saepe rotas ducantur inanes 170
 Per terram, et summo vestigia pulvere signent.
 Post valido nitens sub pondere faginus axis
 Instrepat, et junctos temo trahat aereus orbis.
 Interea pubi indomitae non gramina tantum,
 Nec vefcas salicum frondes, ulvamque palustrem, 175
 Sed frumenta manu carpes sata: nec tibi foetae,
 More patrum, nivea inplebunt mulstraria vaccae,
 Sed tota in dulcis consument ubera gnatos.
 Sin ad bella magis studium, turmasque feroces,

226. *Correction bear.*] Mr. Dryden talks here of sending the calf to school, restraining him from the bad examples of the world, and instructing him in moral precepts. Virgil says only, *ad studium et usum agrestem dum faciles animi.*

This plague, the just revenge of guilty love,
 To frantic rage th' Inachian heifer drove. 209
 More thick they swarm, when glows the noon-tide heat,
 Then shift thy pregnant herd to some sequester'd seat ;
 Or drive them forth, when dawns the purple light,
 Or Hesper gilds with glittering stars the night.

When now the dam has felt Lucina's pains,
 A farther care to rear the calf remains ; 215
 On each betimes, they print the branding fire,
 To note the name, the lineage, and the fire.
 Let this be doom'd to propagate the breed ;
 This at the sacred shrine a victim bleed :
 But that be destin'd in the field to toil, 220
 Break the stiff clods, and cleave the stubborn soil ;
 The rest unmark'd, as frolic leisure leads,
 Wanton, inglorious, o'er the grassy meads.

The steers allotted to the shining share,
 Observe to teach and tame with timely care ; 225 }
 While now their tender years correction bear.
 Bind them with collars from the tender spray,
 And when their necks the fervile band obey ;
 Connect two well-match'd bullocks in the trace,
 And bid them learn in pairs the plain to pace ; 230
 Oft let them draw the waggon's empty load,
 Whose wheels scarce print the dust, or mark the road :
 Next let them smoke beneath th' incumbent mass,
 Join'd to the beechen axle, bound with brass.
 Mean time thy unyok'd young not only feed 235
 With grass and willow-leaves, or marshy weed ;
 But crop with careful hand the nodding ears ;
 Nor let the dam, as erst in ancient years,
 Contribute to the pail her milky load ;
 Be all her udder on her calf bestow'd. 240

But if thy bosom burn in ranks of war
 To lead the marshal'd host, or urge the car,

Aut Alpheæ rotis prælabi flumina Pisæ, 180
 Et Jovis in luco currus agitare volantis;
 Primus equi labor est, animos atque arma videre
 Bellantum, lituosque pati; tractuque gementem
 Ferre rotam, et stabulo frenos audire sonantis.
 Tum magis atque magis blandis gaudere magistri 185
 Laudibus, et plausæ sonitum cervicis amare.
 Atque hæc jam primo depulsus ab ubere matris
 Audiatur, inque vicem det mollibus ora capistris
 Invalidus, et jamque tremens, et jam inscius ævi.
 At, tribus exactis, ubi quarta acceperit æstas, 190
 Carpere mox gyrum incipiat, gradibusque sonare
 Conpositis, sinuetque alterna volumina crurum;
 Sitque laboranti similis: tum cursibus auras
 Provocet, ac per aperta volans, ceu liber habenis,
 Aequora, vix summa vestigia ponat arena: 195
 Qualis, Hyperboreis Aquilo cum densus ab oris
 Incubuit, Scythiæque hiemes atque arida differt
 Nubila: tum segetes altæ campique natantes
 Lenibus horrescunt flabris, summæque sonorem
 Dant silvæ, longique urgent ad litora fluctus: 200
 Ille volat, simul arva fuga, simul aequora verrens.
 Hic vel ad Elei metas et maxima campi
 Sudabit spatia, et spumas aget ore cruentas:
 Belgica vel molli melius feret effeda collo.
 Tum demum crassa magnum farragine corpus 205
 Crescere jam domitis finito. namque ante domandum
 Ingentis tollent animos, pressique negabunt
 Verbera lenta pati, et duris parere lupatis.

263. *Like Boreas.*] It cannot be imagined, by the severest critics, who think such beauties of style in the ancients chimerical, that Virgil did not intend to represent by this swift line of dactyles the course of the wind:

Ille volat, simul arva fuga, simul aequora verrens.

270. *Elean plain.*] This alludes to the Olympic games celebrated about Olympia in the region of Elis. Whoever would have a just notion of the great political usefulness of these celebrated games of Greece, will meet with much pleasure

Where strays thro' Pifa's plain th' Alphean flood,
 Or whirl along the Thunderer's olive wood ;
 To trumpets shrill, to many a martial deed, 245
 And glare of glittering arms inure the steed :
 Oft let him toil the slow car's load to bear,
 The rustling reins oft rattle in his ear :
 With flattery sooth him, while with conscious pride,
 He feels his master clap his founding side. 250
 Begin betimes ; while weak and youthful yet,
 Bend his soft mouth to brook a slender bit ;
 Just wean'd and trembling from his mother's side ;
 New to the curb, and in the course untry'd.
 But when to four full springs his years advance, 255
 Teach him to run the ring, with pride to prance ;
 The plain in measur'd steps and time to beat,
 And in alternate paces shift his feet ;
 Oft let him seem to spring with labour'd might ;
 Then challenge whirlwinds in his airy flight : 260
 While as he pours abroad with loosen'd reins,
 His lightsome feet scarce touch the printless plains.
 Like Boreas in his course, when rushing forth
 He calms the Scythian skies, and clears the cloudy north :
 Resound the tall tops of the trembling trees, 265
 The heavy harvests nod beneath the breeze :
 O'er plains, o'er seas, the driving tempest sweeps,
 And to the founding shore pursues the boiling deeps.
 A steed like this, with conquering steps will strain,
 And foam with blood across th' Elean plain ; 270 }
 Or with obedient neck the Belgic car sustain.
 When now the colt is broke to bear command,
 Feed him with kindly care, and plenteous hand :
 For yet untam'd, his pamper'd pride disdains
 To feel the founding lash, and galling reins. 275

sure and instruction from the learned and ingenious Mr. West's dissertation prefixed to his translation of an author, to whom he alone, of all the moderns, has done justice, in a spirited and elegant translation of his odes.

Sed non ulla magis viris industria firmat,
 Quam venerem et caeci stimulos avertere amoris, 210
 Sive boum, sive est cui gratior usus equorum.
 Atque ideo tauros procul atque in sola relegant
 Pascua, post montem oppositum, et trans flumina lata :
 Aut intus clausos satura ad praesepia servant.
 Carpit enim viris paullatim, uritque videndo 215
 Femina : nec nemorum patitur meminisse, neque herbae.
 Dulcibus illa quidem inlecebris et saepe superbos
 Cornibus inter se subigit decernere amantis :
 Pascitur in magna silva formosa juvenca :
 Illi alternantes multa vi proelia miscent 220
 Volneribus crebris : lavit ater corpora sanguis,
 Versaque in obnixos urgentur cornua vasto
 Cum gemitu. reboant silvaeque et magnus Olympus.
 Nec mos bellantis una stabulare : sed alter
 Victus abit, longeque ignotis exsulat oris ; 225
 Multa gemens ignominiam plagasque superbi
 Victoris ; tum, quos amisit inultus, amores ;
 Et stabula aspectans regnis excessit avitis.
 Ergo omni cura viris exercet, et inter
 Dura jacet pernix instrato saxa cubili, 230
 Frondibus hirsutis et carice passus acuta :
 Et tentat sese, atque irasci in cornua discit
 Arboris obnixus trunco : ventosque laceffit
 Ictibus, et sparsa ad pugnam proludit arena.
 Post, ubi conlectum robur, viresque refectae, 235
 Signa movet, praeceptisque oblitum fertur in hostem :
 Fluctus uti, medio coepit cum albescere ponto,
 Longius, ex altoque sinum trahit ; utque volutus

285. *The mighty rivals.*] The description of the bulls contending for the female is admirable ; particularly, that fine circumstance of the vanquish'd bull looking back on his old accustomed stall and pastures when he is forced to retreat. And still more so, the circumstance of his lying down, sullenly disconsolate, on the stones, feeding upon rushes and prickly leaves, and exercising his horns against the trunks of trees, to enable himself to contend again with his hated rival. All these

But nought will keep their vigour more entire,
 Than from their breasts to turn the stings of blind desire :
 Their bulls they banish to some lonely scene,
 Where vast rocks, and wide rivers intervene :
 Or to the plenteous stall the beast remove, 280
 Far from the tender sex, and lure of love.
 For while the female charms his sickening sight,
 No more the groves, or springing grass invite.
 She vers'd in wanton looks, and winning wiles,
 The mighty rivals to the fight beguiles. 285
 The beautiful heifer strays the darksome wood ;
 With mutual rage they rush ; thick streams the sable blood ;
 From their broad brows the clashing horns rebound,
 With bellowings loud the groves and skies rebound.
 Nor, when the war is o'er, their rage expires ; 290
 To distant vales the vanquish'd wretch retires ;
 Weeps his disgrace, his conqu'ring rival's boast ;
 Yet more the fair, that unreveng'd he lost :
 And oft with pensive looks, as he retreats,
 The parting exile views his ancient seats. 295
 Then steels his limbs to toil, improves his might,
 And roughly rests on craggy flints the night :
 On prickly leaves and pointed rushes fed,
 He feigns to gore a tree with butting head,
 Bends his stern brows and pushes at the air, 300
 And spurns the scatter'd sand, a prelude of the war.
 Now when his nerves with new-felt fury glow,
 Headlong he seeks his unexpected foe :
 As when a rising billow by degrees,
 Begins to boil amid the whitening seas ; 305

these beautiful strokes are concluded by the noble simile of a
 vast wave rolling towards a rocky shore. The pause at *pro-*
cumbit in the original

Monte minor procumbit,

is very expressive of the thing intended.

286. *Heifer.*] This line in the original is supposed to be
 spurious.

Ad terras, immane sonat per saxa, neque ipso
 Monte minor procumbit : at ima exaestuât unda 240
 Verticibus, nigramque alte subiectat arenam.
 Omne adeo genus in terris hominumque ferarumque,
 Et genus aequoreum, pecudes, pictæque volucres,
 In furias ignemque ruunt. amor omnibus idem.
 Tempore non alio catulorum oblita leæna 245
 Saevior erravit campis : nec funera volgo
 Tam multa informes urfi stragemque dedere
 Per silvas. tum saevus aper, tum pessima tigris.
 Heu, male tum Libyæ solis erratur in agris.
 Nonne vides, ut tota tremor pertentet equorum 250
 Corpora, si tantum notas odor adtulit auras ?
 Ac neque eos jam frena virum, neque verbera saeva,
 Non scopuli, rupeque cavæ, atque objecta retardant
 Flumina correptos unda torquentis montis.
 Ipse ruit, dentisque Sabellicus exacuit sus, 255
 Et pede profubigit terram, fricat arbore costas
 Atque hinc atque illinc, humerosque ad volnera durat.
 Quid juvenis, magnum cui versat in offibus ignem
 Durus amor ? nempe abruptis turbata procellis
 Nocte natat caeca serus freta : quem super ingens 260
 Porta tonat caeli, et scopulis inlisa reclamant
 Aequora ; nec miseri possunt revocare parentes,
 Nec moritura super crudeli funere virgo.
 Quid ? lynces Bacchi variae, et genus acre luporum,

332. *How fares the youth.*] The poet alludes to the celebrated story of Hero and Leander, perhaps the most entertaining of all the ancient love-tales ; the Musæus who has written an elegant poem on this subject, was not the ancient Musæus ; for several false conceits and thoughts, rather pretty than solid, and contrary to the simplicity of the older Grecian writers, evidently betray the later age of the piece. See Vol. 3. B. 6. N. ver. 928. 'Tis observable Virgil hints, that the whole species would encounter the same dangers as Leander did for the sake of love.

Loud o'er the rocks then rolls with horrid roar,
 And mountain-like bursts on the subject shore :
 The troubled depths in circling eddies rise,
 And heave the sable sand in whirlwinds to the skies.
 Thus man and beast, the tenants of the flood, 310
 The herds that graze the plain, the feathery brood,
 Rush into love, and feel the general flame ;
 For love is lord of all, and is in all the same.

'Tis with this rage the mother lion stung,
 Prowls o'er the plain, regardless of her young. 315
 'Tis then the shapeless bear with scenes of blood,
 With murderous deeds pollutes th' affrighted wood :
 Then boars in fight with double warmth engage,
 And the grim tygres calls forth all her rage.
 Ah ! wretched then the traveller who strays 320
 Forlorn o'er Libya's unfrequented ways !

See, what thick pants the stallion's fires declare,
 Whene'er in tainted gales he scents the mare :
 Nor curbs, nor torturing whips his rage restrain,
 And mountains rise to check his flight in vain ; 325
 In vain the torrent rolls, that tumbling sweeps
 The massy fragment from the craggy steep.

Rushes the Sabine boar, and rends the ground,
 And whets his tusks to strike the surer wound :
 Rubs his rough sides against th' accustom'd oak, 330
 And disciplines his brawn to bear the rival's stroke.

How fares the youth, who feels the pleasing pain
 His marrow pierce, and throb in every vein ?
 In darkness drear he swims the stormy main :
 Above from heaven's high gate the thunder roars, 335
 The dashing waves re-echo round the shores.

Nor weeping parents, nor the fated fair
 Retards his course, too soon his cruel death to share !
 Why should I sing how hungry wolves engage,
 How beasts of Bacchu's car, how mastiffs rage ? 340

Atque canum, quid? quae inbelles dant praella cervi? 265
 Scilicet ante omnis furor est insignis equarum :
 Et mentem Venus ipsa dedit, quo tempore Glauci
 Potniades malis membra absumfere quadrigae.
 Illas ducit amor trans Gargara, transque sonantem
 Afcanium : superant montis, et flumina tranant. 270
 Continuoque avidis ubi subdita flamma medullis,
 Vere magis (quia vere calor redit offibus) illae
 Ore omnes versae in Zephyrum stant rupibus altis,
 Exceptantque levis auras : et saepe sine ullis
 Conjugiis vento gravidae (mirabile dictu) 275
 Saxa per et scopulos et depressas convallis
 Diffugiunt ; non, Eure, tuos, neque solis ad ortus ;
 In Borean Caurumque, aut unde nigerrimus Auster
 Nascitur, et pluvio contristat frigore caelum.
 Hic demum, hippomanes vero quod nomine dicunt. 280
 Pastores, lentum destillat ab inguine virus.
 Hippomanes, quod saepe malae legere novercae,
 Miscueruntque herbas et non innoxia verba.
 Sed fugit interea, fugit inreparabile tempus,
 Singula dum capti circumvectamur amore. 285
 Hoc satis armentis. superat pars altera curae,
 Lanigeros agitare greges, hirtasque capellas.
 Hic labor : hinc laudem fortes sperate coloni.
 Nec sum animi dubius, verbis ea vincere magnum
 Quam fit, et angustis hunc addere rebus honorem. 290
 Sed me Parnasi deserta per ardua dulcis
 Raptat amor. juvat ire jugis, qua nulla priorum
 Castaliam molli devertitur orbita clivo.

358. *Hippomanes.*] The hippomanes signifies two things.
 1. A certain liquor that flows from a mare ready to take horse.
 2. An excrescence of flesh which the new-foaled colts have
 upon their foreheads. It is black, round, and of the bigness
 of a dried fig. It is pretended that these two hippomanes's
 have a peculiar virtue in philtres, and other such compositions
 designed

Ev'n timorous stags provoke the woodland war;
 But far above the rest the passion of the mare.
 Ev'n Venus here a stronger lust inspir'd,
 When to revenge the Potnian mares she fir'd.
 Wing'd with desire they bound o'er Gargarus' height,
 Nor loud Ascanius' torrents stay their flight: 346
 When now their veins the vernal mildness warms,
 And with kind heat their lusty limbs informs;
 To the tall cliffs impatient they repair,
 And from the westward snuff the fleeting air: 350
 Where, wonderous power! without th' assisting steed,
 Made pregnant by the parent-breeze they breed.
 Thence wild o'er rocks and deep-sunk vallies stray,
 Far from the northern blast, or source of day;
 Or whence wet Auster's gloomy damps arise 355
 To hang with sable clouds the sadden'd skies.
 Hence from their wombs, what th' artless shepherd calls
 Hippomanes, a trickling poison falls:
 Which baleful step-dames in the bowl infuse,
 With many murmurs mix'd, and herbs of magic juice.
 But time is on the wing; too far we rove 361
 Bewilder'd with an argument we love.
 Enough of herds: fresh labours now succeed,
 The shaggy goats and fleecy flocks to feed.
 Hence shall the husbandman new glory raise, 365
 While his low cares I lift in labour'd days:
 Nor slight, to grace so mean a theme, the toil,
 And beautify with flow'rs a barren soil.
 But me the sweet desire of sacred praise
 Leads forth to trace Parnassus' pathless ways, 370
 Down to Castalia's spring my car to guide,
 Where never poet mark'd the mountain's side.

designed for fascinations. And that the last is of such a nature, that a mare has no sooner dropp'd her colt, but she eats this piece of flesh, without which she would not suckle it. A curious reader may see a learned dissertation on this subject, at the end of Mr. Bayle's Dictionary: an author fond of treating uncommon subjects.

Nunc, veneranda Pales, magno nunc ore sonandum.
 Incipiens stabulis edico in mollibus herbam 295
 Carpere ovis, dum mox frondosa reducitur aestas :
 Et multa duram stipula filicumque manipulis
 Sternere subter humum, glacies ne frigida laedat
 Molle pecus, scabiemque ferat, turpisque podagras.
 Post hinc digressus jubeo frondentia capris 300
 Arbuta sufficere, et fluvios praebere recentis ;
 Et stabula a ventis hiberno opponere soli
 Ad medium conversa diem : cum frigidus olim
 Jam cadit, extremoque inrorat Aquarius anno.
 Haec quoque non cura nobis levioere tuendae ; 305
 Nec minor usus erit : quamvis Milesia magno
 Vellera mutantur Tyrios incocta rubores.
 Densior hinc suboles : hinc largi copia lactis.
 Quam magis exhausto spumaverit ubere mulctra ;
 Laeta magis pressis manabunt flumina mammis. 310
 Nec minus interea barbas incanaeque menta
 Cinyphii tondent hirci, saetasque comantis,
 Usum in castrorum, et miseris velamina nautis.
 Pascuntur vero silvas, et summa Lycaci,
 Horrentisque rubos, et amantis ardua dumos. 315
 Atque ipsae memores redeunt in tecta, suosque
 Ducunt, et gravido superant vix ubere limen.
 Ergo omni studio glaciem ventosque nivalis,
 Quo minus est illis curae mortalis egestas,
 Avertes : victumque feres, et virgea lactus 320
 Pabula ; nec tota claudes foenilia bruma.

372. *Where never poet.*] This is an imitation of Lucretius :

*Nec me animus fallit, quam sint obscura, sed acri
 Percussit thyrso laudis spes magna meum cor———
 ———— juvat integros accedere fontes
 Atque haurire, juvatque novos decerpere flores,
 Unde prius nulli velarint tempora masas.*

Book 3. THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL. 321

Now, hallowed Pales, I resound thy reign,
 O grant thine aid ! in more majestic strain.
 First, I command, beneath the fostering shed, 375
 Till spring returns, thy sheep with grafs be fed :
 Strew fern beneath, lest from the piercing ice
 O'er their soft skins the loathsome scabs arise.
 Nor less, thy goats with leafy fodder fill,
 And give them water recent from the rill. 380
 Safe from the stormy north, their stalls prepare
 To catch the wintry sun, and southern air ;
 When cold Aquarius, from his cloudy sphere,
 Pours his last drops upon the parting year.
 Nor less the toil the shaggy goat to raise, 385
 Nor less the profit that the goat repays.
 Let Caria boast her Tyrian-tinctur'd fleece ;
 Yet these afford more numerous increase ;
 And, as their swelling dugs you drain the more,
 In fuller plenty streams the milky store. 390
 Besides, their hairy beards the shepherds shear,
 To cover tents, or cloath the mariner.
 At will they graze Lycaeus' shrubby top,
 And the rough thorn or prickly bramble crop ;
 Return untended with their bleating train, 395
 And o'er the threshold scarce their strutting dugs sustain.
 Since then so little of thy care they know,
 Guard them from freezing blasts, and icy snow :
 Gladly supply them with the leafy spray,
 Nor in bleak winter's reign refuse thy hoarded hay. 400

373. *Pals.*] The third is the most epic of all the Georgics ;
 and the introduction to it, as well as several passages in it, par-
 ticularly this, shew that Virgil regarded it as such himself.

HOLDSWORTH.

392. *Yents.*] Varro, speaking of the usefulness of goats, says,
 they are shorn for the use of sailors and war.

At vero, Zephyris cum laeta vocantibus aestas,
 In saltus utrumque gregem atque in pascua mittes.
 Luciferi primo cum sidere frigida rura
 Carpamus, dum mane novum, dum gramina canent, 325
 Et ros in tenera pecori gratissimus herba est.
 Inde, ubi quarta sitim caeli conlegerit hora,
 Et cantu querulae rumpent arbusta cicadae ;
 Ad puteos, aut alta greges ad stagna jubeto
 Currentem ilignis potare canalibus undam : 330
 Aestibus at mediis umbrosam exquirere vallem,
 Sicubi magna Jovis antiquo robore quercus
 Ingentis tendat ramos : aut sicubi nigrum
 Illicibus crebris sacra nemus adcubet umbra.
 Tum tenuis dare rursus aquas, et pascere rursus 335
 Solis ad occasum. cum frigidus aëra vesper
 Temperat, et saltus reficit jam roscida luna,
 Litoraque Alcyonen resonant, acalanthida dumi.
 Quid tibi pastores Libyae, quid pascua versu
 Prosequar, et raris habitata mapalia tectis ? 340
 Saepe diem noctemque, et totum ex ordine menssem
 Pascitur, itque pecus longa in deserta sine ullis
 Hospitiis : tantum campi jacet. omnia secum
 Armentarius Afer agit, tectumque, Laremque,
 Armaque, Amyclaeumque canem, Cressamque pharetram.

405. The freshness of the morning is painted in the liveliest colours. We must remember that 'tis a morning in Italy: a morning in a hot climate.

408. *Sbrill cicada's lay.*] Several of the modern Italian poets mention the singing of the cicada, as very loud and troublesome in the great heats of summer. *Per gli ombrosi rami le argute cicale cantando si affatica vano sotto al gran caldo.* Arcadia del Sannazaro, Prosa 10.

413. *Or where.*] How beautifully has the poet enlivened these dry precepts concerning the time of watering cattle by this description of a little landscape! of a vast old oak standing in a valley, or an ilex of ever-green oak, spreading a thick and solemn shade! The description of the cool of the evening is delightful.

413. *Ilex forest, dark and deep.*] We have not a full idea of this image, from our not knowing of how deep a green the ilex is,

But when the frolic Zephyrs breathe the spring,
 Both flocks abroad to verdant pastures bring.
 When now the morning-star but dimly dawns,
 Lead them to taste the coolness of the lawns;
 When hoar with virgin dew the grass appears, 405
 Haste, let them drink the morning's earliest tears.
 When the fierce sun grows hot with parching ray,
 And woods resound the shrill cicada's lay;
 Then drive them to fresh springs, their thirst to slake;
 To troughs of oak, or to the spreading lake : 410
 But at mid-noon, to green and gloomy glades;
 Where some tall oak uprears his aged shades;
 Or where the ilex-forest, dark and deep
 Sheds holy horrors o'er the hanging steep.
 Again refresh them, with their verdant food, 415
 When sinks the sun, and with the crystal flood,
 When evening airs their cooling damps diffuse,
 And Cynthia bathes the groves in balmy dews;
 When thro' the brakes is heard th' acanthis' song,
 And halcyons chaunt the hollow shores among. 420
 Why should I sing of Libya's artless swains;
 Her scatter'd cottages, and trackless plains?
 By day, by night, without a destin'd home,
 For many a month their flocks all lonely roam;
 So vast th' unbounded solitude appears. 425
 While, with his flock, his all the shepherd bears:
 His arms, his household gods, his homely shed,
 His Cretan darts, and dogs of Sparta bred.

is, and what a vast shade it casts in Italy, where there are great numbers of this tree. It abounds also in Sicily; Mount Etna is covered with them.

423. *By day.*] This digression to the shepherds of Africa cannot be sufficiently praised; one sees them

Pasturing on from verdant stage to stage.

THOMSON, *Cast. of Ind.*

The vastness of those plains are represented by the very flow of this line in the original,

——— *— itque pecus longa in deserta sine ullis*

Ho, pitius — tantum comi jacet.

Non secus ac patriis acer Romanus in armis 346
 Injusto sub fasce viam cum carpit, et hosti
 Ante expectatum positus stat in agmine castris.
 At non, qua Scythiae gentes, Maeotique unda,
 Turbidus ac torquens flaventis Hister arenas, 350
 Quaque redit medium Rhodope porrecta sub axem,
 Illic clausa tenent stabulis armenta; neque ullae
 Aut herbae campo adparent, aut arbore frondes:
 Sed jacet aggeribus niveis informis, et alto
 Terra gelu late, septemque adfurgit in ulnas. 355
 Semper hiems, semper spirantes frigora Cauri.
 Tum sol pallentis haud umquam discutit umbras:
 Nec cum investus equis altum petit aethera: nec cum
 Praecipitem Oceani rubro lavit aequore curram.
 Concresecunt subitae currenti in flumine crustae, 360
 Undaque jam tergo ferratis sustinet orbis,
 Puppibus illa prius patulis, nunc hospita plaustris.
 Acraque diffiliunt volgo, vestesque rigeſcunt
 Indutae, caeduntque securibus humida vina,
 Et totae solidam in glaciem vertere lacunae, 365
 Stiriaque inpexis induruit horrida barbis.

429. *So Rome's.*] The Roman soldiers were wont to carry in their campaigns, not only their swords, helmets, and shields, but likewise provisions for a fortnight, and stakes and utensils.

433. *Nor so.*] The contrast is very strong between the scenes of Africa and Scythia, and has a fine effect. This variety, this magic art of conveying the reader from one climate to another, constitutes one of the greatest beauties of poetry.

M. de Maupertuis, who, with some other academicians, was sent by the king of France, in 1736, to measure a degree of the meridian, under the arctic circle, says, that brandy was the only liquor, which could be kept sufficiently fluid for them to drink: *Pendant un froid si grand, que la langue et les levres se geloient sur le champ, contre le tasse, &c.* And a little afterwards he tells us, that the spirits of wine froze in their thermometers.

442. *Nor the sun's rays.*] In the original this is a verse consisting wholly of slow spondees, which by their melancholy flow represent the dismalness of the object described.

443. *When first he climbs.*] This winter-piece has ever been admired as one of the capital paintings of Virgil. Thomson has

So Rome's brave sons, beneath th' oppressive load
 Of arms and baggage, trace the destin'd road; 430
 And while he ne'er suspects th' impending blow,
 Sudden unfurl their standards on the foe.
 Not so the Scythian shepherds tend their sheep;
 Where sad Mœotis spreads his sable deep;
 Thick yellow sands where Ister's torrents roll, 435
 And Rhodopæ returns to meet the pole.
 Their flocks they stall; for o'er th' unfruitful scene,
 Nor fields, nor trees are cloath'd in lively green.
 One waste of snow the joyless landscape lies,
 Seven ells in height the ridgy drifts arise. 440
 There still the bitter blasts of winter dwell;
 Nor the sun's rays the paly shade dispel,
 When first he climbs his noon-tide course, or laves
 His headlong car in ocean's purple waves.
 Th' encroaching ice the loitering current feels, 445
 And on its bosom bears the studded wheels:
 Where erst the stately bark was wont to ride,
 Waggons, thro' paths unknown, securely glide.
 Oft from the vessel bursts the brazen band,
 Stiff round their sides their frozen garments stand. 450
 With sharpen'd steel they cleave the humid wine,
 And chains of solid ice whole lakes confine;
 Their matted beards, by the keen climate froze,
 With hanging icicles are hard and hoar.

has given us a noble imitation of it, in his view of winter within the polar circle; and has added some striking circumstances, not to be found in Virgil, which modern travellers have observed. I cannot forbear transcribing his conclusion, where he describes winter personally. The image is sublime,

Here Winter holds his unrejoicing court,
 And thro' his airy hall the loud misrule
 Of driving tempest is for ever heard;
 Here the grim tyrant meditates his wrath,
 Here arms his winds with all-subduing frost;
 Moulds his fierce hail, and treasures up his snows,
 With which he now oppresses half the globe.

Interea toto non secius aëre ninguit :
 Intèreunt pecudes, stant circumfusa pruinis
 Corpora magna boum : confertoque agmine cervi
 Torpent mole nova, et summis vix cornibus exstant. 370
 Hos non inmissis canibus, non cassibus ullis
 Puniceaeve agitant pavidos formidine pinnae :
 Sed frustra oppositum trudentes pectore montem
 Comminus obruncant ferro, graviterque rudentes
 Caedunt, et magno laeti clamore reportant. 375
 Ipsi in defossis specubus secura sub alta
 Otia agunt terra, congestaque robora, totaque
 Advolvere focis ulmos, ignique dedere.
 Hic noctem ludo ducunt, et pocula laeti
 Fermento atque acidis imitantur vitea sorbis. 380
 Talis Hyperboreo septem subjecta trioni
 Gens effrena virum Rhipaeo tunditur euro,
 Et pecudum fulvis velatur corpora setis.
 Si tibi lanitium curae ; primum aspera silva,
 Lappaeque tribulique absint : fuge pabula laeta : 385
 Continuoque greges villis lege mollibus albos.
 Illum autem, quamvis aries sit candidus ipse,
 Nigra subest udo tantum cui lingua palato,
 Rejice, ne maculis infuscet vellera pullis
 Nascentum ; plenoque alium circumspice campo. 390
 Munere sic niveo lanae, si credere dignum est,
 Pan deus Arcadiae captam te, Luna, sefellit,
 In nemora alta vocans : nec tu aspernata vocantem.
 At cui lactis amor, cytisum, lotosque frequentis
 Ille manu, salsaque ferat praescipibus herbas. 395

479. *The white thy ram.*] If the tongue of the ram be black or speckled (says Varro) the lambs will be of the same colour. See Aristotle of animals to the same purpose.

Book 3. THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL. 327

Mean time the skies are dim with falling snows ; 455

Thick clouds of fleet th' unwieldy ox enclose :

In growing heaps benumb'd, the crowding deer

Scarce from beneath, their branching antlers rear :

Nor these with hounds the hunter-train surprize,

With nets, or feathers dipt in purple dyes ; 460

But with the sword invade them, while in vain

Against the huge reluctant load they strain,

While void of help, in piteous sounds they bray ;

Then home, with shouts of triumph bear the prey.

In caverns deep, with oak uppil'd, they raise, 465

And many a branching elm, the crackling blaze ;

From cold secur'd, around the flaming hearth,

Waste the long dreary night in social mirth :

Guiltless of wine, the goblet still goes round,

With Ceres' juice, and sparkling cyder crown'd. 470

Such is the race of savage swains that lie

Beneath the rigours of the polar sky ;

And sore afflicted by the piercing east,

Their limbs with furs and brinded skins invest.

Is wool thy care ? avoid the shaggy ground, 475

Where thistles and the prickly bur abound.

Nor let too fat a soil thy choice invite ;

Choose first a flock with fleeces soft and white.

Tho' white thy ram, yet if a swarthy tongue

Appears beneath his humid palate hung, 480

Reject him, lest he blacken all the breed,

And let another to the task succeed.

Thus by a snowy fleece, th' Arcadian god

Drew down pale Cynthia from her bright abode ;

Nor did'st thou, queen of night, disdain his love, 485

Pleas'd with the cheat, thou met'st him in the grove.

If milk thou lov'st, with lillies from the brook,

Soft leaves, and salted herbage feed thy flock :

Hinc et amant fluvios magis, ac magis ubera tendunt,
 Et falis occultum referunt in lacte saporem.
 Multi jam excretos prohibent a matribus haedos,
 Primaque ferratis praefigunt ora capistris.
 Quod surgente die muldere horisque diurnis, 400
 Nocte premunt; quod jam tenebris et sole cadente,
 Sub lucem; exportans calathis adit oppida pastor:
 Aut parco sale contingunt, hiemique reponunt,
 Nec tibi cura canum fuerit postrema: sed una
 Velocis Spartae catulos acremque Molossum 405
 Pasce sero pingui: numquam custodibus illis
 Nocturnum stabulis furem, incurfusque lupotum,
 Aut inpacatos a tergo horrebis Hiberos.
 Saepe etiam cursu timidos agitabis onagros,
 Et canibus leporem, canibus venabere damas. 410
 Saepe volutabris pulsos silvestribus apros
 Latratu turbabis agens, montisque per altos
 Ingentem clamore premes ad retia cervom.
 Disce et odoratam stabulis accendere cedrum,
 Galbanoque agitare gravis nidore chelydros. 415
 Saepe sub inmotis praesepibus aut mala tactu
 Vipera delituit, caelumque exterrita fugit:
 Aut tecto adsuetus coluber succedere et umbrae,
 Pestis acerba boum, pecorique adspargere virus,

498. *Nor be it thy last care.*] The poet says but little concerning the care of breeding of dogs, or of hunting. Mr. Somerville, in his poem entituled the Chace, one of the best productions of this age, has in some measure supplied the defect.

498. *Nor be it thy last care.*] *Tibi cura*, says the original. *Tibi*, to you, Mecaenas; putting the reader in mind, that the poem (as didactic pieces should be) is addressed to a particular person.

513. *Serpent.*] This is from Nicander, Theriac. 35. 51. 53. See Columella also, 7. 4.

514. *The viper too.*] Dr. Martyn thinks the serpent here described to be that which Pliny calls *boas*. This author affirms they grew to a prodigious bigness, and that a child was found in the belly of one of them in the reign of Claudius: that they feed

Hence stung with thirst to the clear rills they haste,
 Hence are their swelling dugs more tightly brac'd, 490 }
 While in the milk remains the savoury taste:
 Some, when the kids their dams too deeply drain,
 Their tender mouths with steely bits restrain.
 Their morning-milk the peasants press at night,
 Their evening bear to town, when dawns the light ; 495
 Or in the mass, with sparing hand, they pour
 The tasteful salt, and keep for winter store.

Nor be it thy last care thy dogs to breed ;
 With fatt'ning whey the vigorous mastiff feed,
 And Sparta's race : thus should the thief invade, 500
 Or wolf, thy fold, when night extends her shade,
 Or roving robber from th' Iberian rocks ;
 These shall repel their rage, and guard thy flocks :
 Thy hound, the wild-asis in the sylvan chace,
 Or hare, or hart, with faithful speed will trace ; 505
 Assail the muddy cave, with eager cries,
 Where the rough boar in fullen ambush lies ;
 Press the tall stag with clamours echoing shrill,
 To secret toils, along th' aerial hill.

And learn to burn within thy sheltering rooms, 510
 The spicy cedar, and Galbanean gums ;
 Beneath th' unshifted sheds, in winding cells
 Oft shut from day, the bloated serpent dwells :
 The viper too that loves a shady seat,
 That seeks beneath thy roofs a safe retreat, 515
 Of herds thebane, of sheep the pois'nous pest
 Battens in secret o'er her darksome nest.

feed on cow's milk, whence they have their name. The line a little below in the original,

Cape saxa manu, cape robera, pastor,

is exactly expressive of hurry and eagerness: there are no particles in it ; so in the fourth Aeneid,

Ferte citi flammam, date tela, impellite flammam.

Fovit humum. cape saxa manu, cape robora, pastor, 420
 Tollentemque minas et sibila colla tumentem
 Dejice. jamque fuga timidum caput abdidit alte,
 Cum medii nexus, extremaeque agmina caudae
 Solvontur, tardosque trahit finus ultimus orbis.
 Est etiam ille malus Calabris in saltibus anguis, 425
 Squamea convolvens sublato pectore terga,
 Atque notis longam maculosus grandibus alvom :
 Qui dum amnes ulli rumpuntur fontibus, et dum
 Vere madent udo terrae, ac pluvialibus austris,
 Stagna colit, ripisque habitans, hic piscibus atram 430
 Inprobus ingluviem ranisque loquacibus explet.
 Postquam exusta palus, terraeque ardore dehiscunt,
 Exfilat in siccum, et flammantia lumina torquens
 Saevit agris, asperque siti atque extorridus aestu.
 Ne mihi tum mollis sub dio carpere somnos, 435
 Neu dorso nemoris libeat jacuisse per herbas :
 Cum positis novus exuviis nitidusque juventa
 Volvitur, aut catulos tectis aut ova relinquens,
 Arduus ad solem et linguis micat ore trifulcis.
 Morborum quoque te caussas et signa docebo. 440
 Turpis ovis tentat scabies, ubi frigidus imber
 Altius ad vivom perfedit, et horrida cano
 Bruma gelu : vel cum tonsis inlotus adhaesit
 Sudor, et hirsuti secuerunt corpora vepres.
 Dulcibus idcirco fluviis pecus omne magistri 445

524. *Calabria's woods.*] The poet here speaks of another serpent called *cherydrus*, from its living both in water, and on earth.

540. *Brandishes.*] *Micare* in its true and natural signification relates to any quick motion. So Virgil, *micat auribus* ; and Cicero, *digitis micare* ; of that old game so common in Italy of darting out their fingers, and guessing at the number of these darted out each time, so often mentioned by others of the Roman writers.

HOLDSWORTH.

543. *Scabs of the flock.*] Columella remarks, that a sheep as soon as it is sheared, should be anointed with a mixture of the juice of lupines, the lees of old wine, and the dregs of oil, in equal quantities ; and be washed four days afterwards in the sea,

Snatch, shepherd, stones, quick snatch the knotted oak,
 And quell his stately crest with many a stroke ;
 Assail his hissing throat, and swelling spires ; 520
 Lo ! by degrees his timorous head retires,
 And the last orbs of his unfolded tail
 A ling'ring length of loosen'd volumes trail.
 Calabria's woods too breed a baleful snake,
 With lofty breast elate, and scaly back, 525 }
 And with broad spots his winding belly black :
 Who when the rivers burst their rocky bounds,
 And southern showers bedew the vernal grounds,
 Haunts the moist bank, and in the wat'ry bogs
 Gluts his foul paunch with fish, and croaking frogs : 530
 But when keen heat the fens of moisture drains,
 He leaps on earth, and hisses o'er the plains,
 While mad with thirst, and fill'd with drear amaze
 At the fierce beam, his rolling eye-balls blaze.
 May ne'er soft sleep, on a green bank, surprize, 535
 Fast by some forest-side, my drooping eyes,
 When cast his skin, and sleek in youthful prime,
 Recent he rides, before the sun sublime ;
 Regardless of the nest, deserts his young,
 And brandishes abroad his triple-forked tongue. 540
 I'll teach thee too the signs and causes all,
 Of dire diseases on the folds that fall :
 Scabs oft the flock, a foul contagion, seize,
 When winter hangs with icicles their fleece ;
 Or cold rains pierce, or unwash'd sweats adhere 545
 To their shorn skins, or prickly brambles tear.
 Hence in fresh currents of the crystal wave,
 With careful hands their flocks the shepherds lave :

sea, or in rain water salted ; and quotes the authority of Celsus,
 who affirms that a sheep treated after this manner, will be free
 from the scab a whole year, and that the wool will be the softer,
 and the longer for it.

Perfundunt, udisque aries in gurgite villis
 Mersatur, missusque secundo defluit amni :
 Aut tonsum tristi contingunt corpus amurca,
 Et spumas miscent argenti, vivaque sulfura,
 Idaeasque pices, et pinguis unguine ceras, 450
 Scillamque, elleborosque gravis, nigrumque bitumen.
 Non tamen ulla magis praesens fortuna laborum est,
 Quam si quis ferro potuit rescindere summum
 Ulceris os. alitur vitium, vivitque tegendo :
 Dum medicas adhibere manus ad vulnera pastor 455
 Abnegat, et meliora deos sedet omina poscens.
 Quin etiam ima dolor balantum labfus ad ossa
 Cum furit, atque artus depascitur arida febris,
 Profuit incensos aestus avertere, et inter
 Ima ferire pedis salientem sanguine venam : 460
 Bisaltae quo more solent, acerque Gelonus,
 Cum fugit in Rhodopen, atque in deserta Getarum,
 Et lac concretum cum sanguine potat equino.
 Quam procul aut molli succedere saepius umbrae
 Videris, aut summas carpentem ignavius herbas, 465
 Extremamque sequi, aut medio procumbere campo
 Pascentem, et serae solam decedere nocti ;
 Continuo culpam ferro conpescce, prius quam
 Dira per incautum serpant contagia volgus.
 Non tam creber agens hiemem ruit aequore turbo, 470
 Quam multae pecudum pestes. nec singula mo:bi
 Corpora corripunt : sed tota aestiva repente,
 Spemque gregemque simul, cunctamque ab origine gentem.
 Tum sciat, aërias Alpīs, et Norica si quis

568. *And ferce Gelonian.*] Several northern nations at this time drink mare's milk mixed with blood. Pliny says, they mixed millet with it. The Tartars use it to this day.

580. *This truth to know.*] The sense is, if any one knows what sort of places these were, when they were full of cattle, he may now see them empty, though it is a long time since the pestilence.

SERVIUS.

And first the father of the bleating crowd,
 Floats with his moisten'd fleece along the flood : 550
 Or bathe their limbs in bitter lees of oil,
 With bubbles that from molten silver boil ;
 Live sulphur mix, with tar's black-streaming juice,
 Or temper pitch that Ida's pines produce ;
 Or mingle, fraught with fat, the waxen store, 555
 Or sea-born squills, with potent hellebore.
 But the best cure which sage experience knows,
 Is with a lance the ulcer to disclose.
 Still grows the sore, while yet the shepherd stands, }
 Doubtful, nor dares exert his healing hands, 560 }
 And anxious happier signs of heav'n demands.
 But when o'er th' inmost bones the pain hath spread,
 On their parch'd limbs a raging fever fed,
 To quell the bleating sufferer's torrid pain,
 Pierce in the bottom-foot the throbbing vein : 565
 This practise the Bisaltae, when they haste
 To Rhodope, or roam the cheerless Dacian waste :
 And fierce Gelonian, when, for savage food,
 He blends the milky stream with horse's blood.
 If one thou see'st affect the cooling shade, 570
 Or cropping listlessly the topmost blade ;
 Droop on the plain, with ling'ring paces wait
 Behind, and home return alone and late ;
 Soon let thy steel remove th' infected sheep,
 Lest o'er th' unwary flock contagion creep. 575
 Less fierce and frequent on the wintry main
 Black whirlwinds rush, than plagues that waste the plain :
 Nor single deaths suffice, at once they prey
 On young and old, and sweep whole herds away.
 This truth to know, th' aërial Alps behold, 580
 And meads thro' which Timavus' streams are roll'd ;

581. *And meads thro' which Timavus'.*] Timavus is a river of Carniola.

Castella in tumulis, et lapidis arva Timavi, 475
 Nunc quoque post tanto videat desertaque regna
 Pastorum et longe saltus lateque vacantis.
 Hic quondam morbo caeli miseranda coorta est
 Tempestas, totoque auctumni incanduit aestu,
 Et genus omne neci pecudum dedit, omne ferarum; 480
 Corruptique lacus : infecit pabula tabo.
 Nec via mortis erat simplex : sed ubi ignea venis
 Omnibus acta sitis miseros adduxerat artus,
 Rursus abundabat fluidus liquor ; omniaque in se
 Offa minutatim morbo conlapsa trahebat. 485
 Saepe in honore deum medio stans hostia ad aram,
 Lanea dum nivea circumdatur infula vitta,
 Inter cunctantis cecidit moribunda ministros.
 Aut si quam ferro mactaverat ante sacerdos,
 Inde neque inpositis ardent altaria fibris ; 490
 Nec responsa potest consultus reddere vates :
 Ac vix suppositi tinguuntur sanguine cultri,
 Summaque jejuna sanie infuscatur arena.
 Hinc laetis vituli volgo moriuntur in herbis,
 Et dulcis animas plena ad praesepia reddunt. 495
 Hinc canibus blandis rabies venit, et quatit aegros
 Tuffis anhela sues, ac faucibus angit obesis.
 Labitur infelix, studiorum atque inmemor herbae,
 Victor equus, fontisque avertitur, et pede terram

582. *And Noric cliffs.*] Noricum was a region of Germany bordering on the Alps.

586. *Here sprung of old.*] We now enter upon the celebrated description of the plague. Virgil puts forth all his strength to endeavour to excel Lucretius's sixth book on the plague at Athens. Neither can I think he has so far excelled his master (for such he was) as some critics imagine. Many hints in this description are borrowed from Thucydides's accurate and circumstantial account of the plague at Athens.

608. *The victor horse.*] *Infelix studiorum* in the original is an expression resembling *laeta laborum, vitulus animi, fortunatus laborum*. Read the description of these symptoms from this line to *saucis premit aspera lingua* : see how nobly the poet acquita

And Noric cliffs with spiry castles crown'd ;
 Lo ! waste and wild the plains appear around :
 Ev'n now deserted stands the shepherd's state,
 And far and wide the lawns are desolate. 585
 Here sprung of old by sickly gales begot,
 A plague with all the fires of autumn fraught,
 Which slew the beasts that range the field or wood,
 Defil'd the freshness of the crystal flood,
 And scorch'd with baleful breath the grassy food. 590 }
 Strange kind of death ! for when the parching pain
 Had shrunk the limbs, and throbb'd in every vein,
 A pois'nous humour flow'd from all the frame,
 Till every bone one putrid mass became.
 Before the shrine, in snowy fillets drest, 595 }
 And holy bands, the consecrated beast
 Fell, and prevented oft the lingering priest.
 Or if he sunk beneath the fatal stroke,
 Lo ! on the shrine, his entrails fail to smoke.
 No more, misled by many a doubtful sign, 600
 The prophet can the dark event divine ;
 While scarce the knife with the faint tincture reeks,
 Nor the thin gore the sandy surface streaks.
 O'er flow'ry meads, or at the plenteous stall,
 In lifeless heaps, the calves and heifers fall. 605
 The gentle dogs run mad ; the sick'ning swine
 Pant with thick coughs, with swelling quinsies pine.
 The victor horse, forgetful of his food,
 The palm renounces, and abhors the food :

quits himself on a subject, so exceedingly difficult to be described, and let us compare it with a singularly fine one in Lucretius of the same kind :

*Perturbata animi mens in moerore metuque ;
 Triste supercilium, furiosus vultus, & acer,
 Sollicitae porro, pleneaque sonoris aures :
 Creber spiritus, aut ingens, raroque coortus,
 Tenuia sputa, minuta, croci continctæ coloris,
 Salsaque per fauces raucas vix edita tussi.*

Crebra ferit : demissæ aures : incertus ibidem 500
 Sudor ; et ille quidem moriturus frigidus : aret
 Pellis, et ad tactum tractanti dura resistit.
 Hæc ante exitium primis dant signa diebus.
 Sin in processu coepit crudescere morbus,
 Tum vero ardentes oculi atque adtractus ab alto 505
 Spiritus, interdum gemitu gravis, imaque longo
 Illa singultu tendunt : it naribus ater
 Sanguis, et obsessas fauces premit aspera lingua.
 Profuit inserto latices infundere cornu
 Lenæos : ea vifa salus morientibus una. 510
 Mox erat hoc ipsum exitio, furiisque refecti
 Ardebant, ipsique suos, jam morte sub ægra,
 (Di meliora piis, erroremque hostibus illum !)
 Discissos nudis laniabant dentibus artus.
 Ecce autem duro fumans sub vomere taurus 515
 Concidit, et mixtum spumis vomit ore cruorem,
 Extremosque ciet gemitus. it tristis arator,
 Maerentem abjungens fraterna morte juvencum :
 Atque opere in medio defixa relinquit aratra.
 Non umbræ aliorum nemorum, non mollia possunt 520
 Prata movere animum, non qui per saxa volutus
 Purior electro campum petit amnis : at ima
 Solvontur latera, atque oculos stupor urguet inertis,
 Ad terramque fluit devexo pondere cervix.
 Quid labor, aut benefacta juvant ? quid vomere terras 525

629. *The bullock sinks.*] How exquisitely beautiful is the pause in this verse at the word *gemitus ! it tristis arator*, by the very melancholy flow of the words places the action of the ploughman full in our sight: the next line proceeds as slow as possible, consisting of all spondees,

Maerentem abjungens fraterna morte juvencum.

The circumstance of the brother heifer grieving is most tenderly imagined. *Non umbræ aliorum nemorum* is an imitation of Lucretius, where the dam is lamenting her calf that was sacrificed.

*Nec teneræ salices, atque herbaræ rore vigentes,
 Fluminaque ulla queunt summis labentia ripis*

Oblæsarè animum subitamque avertere curam. L. 2.

By fits, he stamps the ground with eager feet, 610
 While from his body bursts a doubtful sweat,
 That stood in icy drops, as death appear'd ;
 His parch'd hide to the touch is rough and hard.
 These signs at first his future fate preface ;
 But as the spreading pest improv'd its rage, 615
 With sanguine beams fierce glow'd his ardent eyes,
 And heav'd his struggling breath with groans and sighs ;
 Of blood black torrents from his nostrils sprung,
 To the swoln palate clove his furry tongue.
 Some have at first with short success apply'd, 620
 Pour'd thro' an horn, Lenæus' purple tide ;
 But soon fresh fuel to the growing flame
 It gave, and death the medicine became :
 While, with bare teeth, their limbs all bath'd in gore,
 Ev'n in the bitterest dying pangs they tore. 625
 O crown, ye gods, a pious people's pray'r,
 And let the bad alone so dire an error share !
 Lo ! while he toils the galling yoke beneath,
 Foaming black blood, the bullock sinks in death :
 The pensive hind the brother-steer relieves, 630
 Who faithful for his lost companion grieves,
 And the fix'd share amid the furrow leaves. }
 Nor grassy mead, nor shade of lofty grove,
 The mournful mate's afflicted mind can move :
 Nor yet from rocks delicious streams that roll 635
 As amber clear, can sooth his sorrowing soul :
 His flanks flow loose ; his eyes grow dim and dead ;
 And low to earth he bears his heavy head.
 Ah ! what avails their ceaseless useful toil ?
 What boots it to have turn'd the stubborn soil ? 640

It was upon reading these exquisite lines, that Scaliger declared, he had rather have been the author of them, than to have been the first favourite of Croesus or Cyrus. I wish there was no sentiment in Scaliger's works more extravagant than this.

Invertisse gravis? atqui non Massica Bacchi
 Munera, non illis epulae nocuere repostae:
 Frondibus et victu pascuntur simplicis herbae:
 Pocula sunt fontes liquidi, atque exercita cursu
 Flumina, nec somnos abrumpit cura salubres. 530
 Tempore non alio dicunt regionibus illis
 Quaesitas ad sacra boves Junonis, et uris
 Inparibus ductos alta ad donaria currus.
 Ergo aegre rastris terram rimantur, et ipsi
 Unguibus infodiunt fruges, montisque per altos 535
 Contenta cervice trahunt stridentia plaustra.
 Non lupus insidias explorat ovilia circum,
 Nec gregibus nocturnus obambulat: acrior illum
 Cura domat: timidi damae cervique fugaces
 Nunc interque canes et circum tecta vagantur. 540
 Jam maris inmensi prolem, et genus omne natantum
 Litore in extremo, ceu naufraga corpora, fluctus
 Proluit: insolitae fugiunt in flumina phocae.
 Interit et curvis frustra defensa latebris
 Vipera, et adtoniti squamis adstantibus hydri. 545
 Ipsis est aer avibus non acquus, et illae
 Praecipites alta vitam sub nube relinquunt.
 Praeterea jam nec mutari pabula refert,
 Quaesitaeque nocent artes: cessere magistri
 Philyrides Chiron Amythaoniusque Melampus. 550
 Saevit et in lucem Stygiis emissâ tenebris
 Pallida Tisiphone, Morbos agit ante Metumque,

653. *The wily wolf.*] Observe these circumstances of the wolves prowling no more, because *acrior illum cura domat*, and the deer wandering near the dwellings of men.

657. *On the shores.*] Virgil, 'tis observed, expressly contradicts Aristotle, who asserts, that pestilential diseases never affect fishes.

661. *Th' astonish'd hydra.*] I know not a stronger image in any poet whatever, than this of the serpents dying with their scales erect and stiffened: *attoniti* (which is a most expressive word in this place) *squamis astantibus hydri!*

The poet brings into his subject the inhabitants of every element, making as it were all nature affected with this dreadful plague.

Yet ne'er choice Maffic wines debauch'd their taste,
 Ne'er did they riot in the rich repast ;
 Their food is leafy browze, and nature's grafs,
 Their draught fresh rills that thro' the meadows pafs,
 Or torrents rushing from the rocky fteep ; 645
 Nor care disturbs their falutary fleep.
 Then cars were drawn, while fail'd th' accustom'd kine,
 By ill-pair'd buffaloes, to Juno's fhrine.
 And men with harrows toil'd to till the plain,
 Ev'n with their nails dug in the golden grain ; 650
 The rattling waggon's galling yoke fustain'd,
 And up the rocky fteep laborious ftrain'd.
 The wily wolf, no more by hunger bold,
 With fecret ftep explores the nightly fold.
 Deers herd with hounds, and leave their fylvan feat, 655
 And feek with man to find a fafe retreat :
 Thick on the fhores, like fhip-wreck'd corfes caft,
 Appear the finny race of ocean vaft ;
 Th' affrighted Phocae to the rivers hafte. }
 His cave no more to fhield the fsnake avails ; 660
 Th' aftonifh'd hydra dies, erecting all his fcales.
 Ev'n their own fkies to birds unfaithful prove,
 Headlong they fall, and leave their lives above ;
 Nor change of pafture could relief impart ;
 Destructive proves each vain attempt of art : 665
 Chiron, Melampus healing herbs, no more,
 Fathers of facred medicine explore :
 TISIPHONE, from hell let loofe to light,
 Before her drives DISEASES and AFFRIGHT ;

666. *Chiron, Melampus.*] The poet does not mean that the plague happened in the days of Chiron and Melampus, but that the very beft phyficians acknowledged their fkill ufelefs in this cafe. Particulars are named for generals. Lucretius fpeaks perfonally of the art of phyfic, which has a fine effect.

— *Muffabat tacito* MEDICINA timore.

668. *Tifiphone from hell.*] The figure of Tifiphone driving before her a train of difeafes and fear, is nobly conceived. Is
 2 2 puts

Inque dies avidam surgens caput altius effert.
 Balatu pecorum et crebris mugitibus amnes,
 Arentesque sonant ripas, collesque supini. 555
 Jamque catervatim dat stragem, atque aggerat ipsis
 In stabulis turpi dilabfa cadavera tabo:
 Donec humo tegere, ac foveis abscondere discunt.
 Nam neque erat coriis usus: nec viscera quisquam
 Aut undis abolere potest, aut vincere flamma: 560
 Nec tondere quidem morbo illuvieque peresa
 Vellera, nec telas possunt adtingere putris.
 Verum etiam, invisos si quis tentarat amictus;
 Ardentes papulae, atque immundus olentia sudor
 Membra sequebatur. nec longu deinde moranti 565
 Tempore contactos facer artus ignis edebat.

puts one in mind of that exalted image in Habakkuk, where the prophet speaking of Jehovah in his wrath, says, "Before him went the pestilence." The circumstance of the fury Tisiphone's growing every day larger and larger, is truly admirable, as it so justly alludes to the daily increase of the pestilence.

673. *The withering banks.*] What can be more pathetic than the circumstance of the hills perpetually echoing with the mournful bleatings of the sheep? &c.

675. *She piles.*] That is Tisiphone; making this Fury the agent, and continuing to personify her.

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Still day by day more huge the fiend appears, 670
 Till high to heav'n her horrid head she rears :
 While lowings loud, and many a mournful bleat,
 The withering banks and hanging hills repeat :
 At length whole herds to death at once She sweeps,
 High in the stalls she piles the loathsome heaps ; 675
 Dire spectacle ! till sage experience found
 To bury deep the carrion in the ground.
 Useless their hides ; nor from the flesh the flame
 Could purge the filth, nor streams the favour tame.
 Nor could their skins supply the woolly store, 680
 O'ergrown with scabs, and stiff with many a sore :
 Wove from such fleeces those who wore a vest,
 Were with foul sweats, and burning spots oppress'd ;
 Till thro' the limbs diffus'd, th' insatiate flame 684
 With dire contagious touch consum'd the putrid frame.

684. *Th' insatiate flame.*] Some imagine that by *sacer ignis* an erysipelas or St. Anthony's fire may be meant. But perhaps *sacer* may mean *accursed*, or *direful*—*auri sacra fames*—*sacer esto*. I cannot agree with many critics, that Virgil hath on the whole excelled his master Lucretius in his description of the plague. There are several strokes of the strongest painting, and the deepest pathetic in Lucretius's sixth book ; which sixth book, by the way, seems but an odd and imperfect conclusion of his work.

THE END OF THE THIRD GEORGIC.



BOOK THE FOURTH.

A R G U M E N T.

Having treated of many other animals together in the foregoing book, the poet selects a single creature for the subject of this, and devotes a whole book to the description of the wonderful bee. It is divided into eight parts. I. Of a proper station for bees. II. Of their gathering honey, their swarms, and their battles. III. Of two species of bees. IV. Of their wisdom, civil prudence, government, and republic. V. Of the time of taking their honey. VI. Of the diseases incident to bees, with the signs and the remedies of such diseases. VII. Of the method of repairing the race of bees when the whole breed is lost. VIII. Of Aristæus, the author of this method of repairing a stock of bees; his adventure with Proteus; the reasons Proteus assigns to Aristæus for his loss, which artfully introduce the story of Orpheus and Eurydice: with whose unhappy fate the poet concludes his consummate work.

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
G E O R G I C A.

LIBER QUARTUS.

PROTINUS aërii mellis coelestia dona
 Exsequar. hanc etiam, Mæcenas, adspice partem.
 Admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum,
 Magnanimosque duces, totiusque ordine gentis
 Mores, et studia, et populos, et praelia dicam. 5
 In tenui labor: at tenuis non gloria; si quem
 Numina laeva sinunt, auditque vocatus Apollo.
 Principio sedes apibus statioque petenda,
 Quo neque fit ventis aditus, (nam pabula venti
 Ferre domum prohibent) neque oves haedique petulci 10
 Floribus insultent, aut errans bucula campo

Ver. 1. *Honey.*] The poet calls honey *aerial* and *heavenly*, according to the opinion of the old philosophers, who believed that it was derived from the dew of heaven. This heavenly dew they thought was received by the flowers, and thence gathered by the bees. Every reader of taste perceives how Virgil exalts and dignifies these wonderful insects, by ascribing to them thro' this whole book, the manners, passions, and actions of men. I have before said, that the characteristic of this book is elegance, and of the former, sublimity. Virgil has borrowed most of his observations upon bees from Varro, and Aristotle's treatise of animals. Modern philosophy has cleared up many mistakes which these ancients fell into, with regard to bees and other animals.

T H E
G E O R G I C S
O F
V I R G I L.
B O O K T H E F O U R T H.

NEXT heavenly honey, and ambrosial dews,
This too Maecenas hear ! my song pursues ;
Great wonders of an insect-race imparts,
Their manners, mighty leaders, arms, and arts ;
The subject trivial, but not low the praise, §
If Heav'n should smile, and Phoebus aid the lays.
First for your bees a shelter'd station find,
Impervious to the gusts of rushing wind ;
Rude blasts permit them not, as wide they roam,
To bring their food and balmy treasures home. 10
To tread the sweets of neighb'ring flow'rs forbid
The sportful lambkin, and exulting kid ;

12. *Sportful lambkin.*] Which puts me in mind of those sweet lines of Euripides, Hippol. Coron. 73.

Σοι τοῦδε κλεινὸν γέφαιον ἐξ ἀκέραιου
Λιμῶνος, ἢ δόστωμα, κοσμησῆς φέρον,
Ἐθ' ὅτι πωμῆν ἀξιοί φέρβην βοῶν,
Οὐδ' ἦλθε πρὸ σιδήρος, ἀλλ' ἀκέραιον
Μελίσσα λιμῶν ἡρινοὶ διερχεται.

An author (whose meanest praise is his critical taste and judgment) instead of *ἡρινοὶ* in the last verse, would read *ἡρινοί*. *Μελίσσα ἡρινοί, ibi vergetal bee.*

Jortin on Ecclesiastical Hist. 387. vol. 2.

Decutiat rorem, et surgentis adterat herbas.
 Absint et picti squalentia terga lacerti
 Pinguibus a stabulis, meropesque, aliaque volucres ;
 Et manibus Procne pectus signata cruentis. 15
 Omnia nam late vastant, ipsasque volantis
 Ore ferunt dulcem nidis inmitibus escam.
 At liquidi fontes et stagna virentia musco
 Adsint, et tenuis fugiens per gramina rivus,
 Palmaque vestibulum aut ingens oleaster inumbret. 20
 Ut, cum prima novi ducent examina reges
 Vere suo, ludetque favis emissa juventus,
 Vicina invitet decedere ripa calori ;
 Obviaque hospitii teneat frondentibus arbos.
 In medium, seu stabit iners, seu profluet humor, 25
 Transversas salices, et grandia conjice faxa :
 Pontibus ut crebris possint consistere, et alas
 Pandere ad aestivom solem ; si forte morantis
 Sparferit, aut praeceps Neptuno inmerferit Eurus.
 Haec circum caesae virides, et olentia late 30
 Serpulla, et graviter spirantis copia thymbrae
 Floreat, inriguumque bibant violaria fontem.
 Ipsa autem, seu corticibus tibi futa cavatis,
 Seu lento fuerint alvearia vimine texta,
 Angustos habeant aditus. nam frigore mella 35
 Cogit hiems, eademque calor liquefacta remittit.

16. *The merops.*] *Apiaster*, or *Bee-eater*, is shaped like a kingfisher. It is about the size of a black-bird. Progne the daughter of Pandion was turned into a swallow, which has the feathers of its breast stained with red.

23. *Palm.*] Dr. Martyn observes that the palm-tree is of several sorts ; but believes the species cultivated in Italy (and consequently that meant in this place) to be the date-tree.

27. *This cool retreat.*] Milton has an expression of the same nature with *hospitiis frondentibus in Comus*,

— To lodge

Under the spreading favour of these pines.

30. *Willows.*] In the original *transversas salices*. Varro would have a small stream near the apiary not above 2 or 3 fingers

Nor springing herbs let roving heifers crush,
 Nor nibbling sheep the morning dew-drops brush,
 Nor scaly lizards near their walls be found, 15
 Nor ravenous birds, nor merops flit around,
 Nor Progne, markt her breast with hands of blood;
 Each wandering insect they destroy for food,
 Arrest the lab'ring bees, a luscious prey,
 And to th' expectant hungry nests convey, 20
 But near, let fountains spring, and rivulets pass,
 Meand'ring thro' the tufts of moss and grass;
 Let spreading palm before the portal grow,
 Or olive wild his sheltering branches throw;
 That when the youthful swarms come forth to play, 25
 Beneath the vernal sun's unclouded ray,
 The kings may lead them to this cool retreat,
 Where flow'ry banks invite, and boughs defend from heat.
 Hast thou a living rill, or stagnant lake?
 With willows and huge stones the waters break; 30
 On which the wanderers safely may alight,
 When rains or winds retard their destin'd flight;
 On which emerging from the waves, may land,
 And their wet wings to tepid suns expand.
 Let cassia green and thyme shed sweetness round, 35
 Savoury, and strongly-scented mint abound,
 Herbs that the ambient air with fragrance fill;
 While beds of violets drink the freshening rill.
 Whether your hive you frame of woven boughs,
 Or rear with pliant bark the concave house, 40
 Strait be its entrance; lest the varying year
 Congeal the golden combs with frost severe,

fingers deep, with several shells or small stones standing a little above the surface of the water, that the bees may drink.

36. *Savoury*.] The *thymbra* of the ancients is generally thought, says Dr. Martyn, to be some species of *satyria*, or *savoury*. *Serpyllum* is wild *thyme*. *Cassia* is not *rosemary*, as some have supposed.

Utraque vis apibus pariter metuenda : neque illae
 Nequidquam in tectis certatim tenuia cera
 Spiramenta linunt, fucoque et floribus oras
 Explent, conlectumque haec ipsa ad munera gluten, 40
 Et visco et Phrygiae servant pice lentius Idae.
 Saepe etiam effossis (si vera est fama) latebris
 Sub terras fovere larem, penitusque repertae
 Pumicibusque cavis, exesaeque arboris antro.
 Tu tamen e levi rimosa cubilia limo 45
 Ungue fovens circum, et raras superinjice frondis.
 Neu propius tectis taxum sine, neve rubentis
 Ure foco caneros, altae neu crede paludi :
 Aut ubi odor coeni gravis, aut ubi concava pulsu
 Saxa sonant, vocisque offensa resultat imago. 50
 Quod superest, ubi pulsam hiemem sol aureus egit
 Sub terras, caelumque aestiva luce reclusit ;
 Illae continuo saltus silvasque peragrant,
 Purpureosque metunt flores, et flumina libant
 Summa leves. hinc nescio qua dulcedine laetae 55
 Progeniem nidosque fovent : hinc arte recentis
 Excudunt ceras, et mella tenacia fingunt.
 Hinc ubi jam emissum caveis ad sidera caeli
 Nare per aestatem liquidam suspexeris agmen,
 Obscuramque trahi vento mirabere nubem¹; 60
 Contemplator : aquas dulcis, et frondea semper
 Tecta petunt. huc tu jussos adsperge sapos,

56. *The red'ning crabs.*] This must sound very odd to modern readers. The Romans were wont to burn crabs to ashes, and used them as a remedy for scalds and burns.

61. The poet proceeds to speak of the swarming of bees, and points out the method of making them settle.

Or melt the mass in summer's scorching beams ;
 Baneful alike to bees are both extremes.
 For this, around the chinks, by nature led, 45
 Soft wax and flow'rs and fungus thick they spread :
 For this, their stores with potent glews enrich,
 More tough than bird-lime or Idean pitch.
 And oft in caverns, as tradition tells,
 They fix their bower, and form their secret cells ; 50
 Oft in cleft stones their boarded sweets are laid,
 Or moss-green oaken trunks with age decay'd
 Thou too with mud the chinky sides o'erlay,
 And thinly shade them with the leafy spray.
 Nor by their walls let yews unwholesome grow, 55
 Nor let the red'ning crabs in embers glow,
 Ne'er trust them near the fen, or stagnate flood,
 Nor rank pernicious stench of reeking mud,
 Nor where the voice from hollow rocks rebounds,
 And hill to-hill returns the mimic sounds. 60

For what remains, when the bright sun hath driv'n
 Pale winter down, and op'd the smiling heav'n
 With cloudless lustre, strait abroad they rove,
 Around each lawn, around each verdant grove,
 And sip the purple flowers, and lightly skim 65
 Across the dimpled brook and river's brim :
 Hence inexpressive fondness fills their breast,
 For their young progeny and rising nest ;
 With joy their waxen labours they renew,
 Thick'ning to honey their nectareous dew. 70

Burst from their cells if a young troop be seen,
 That sails exulting through the blue serene,
 Driv'n by the winds, in clouds condens'd and dark,
 Observe them close, the paths they steer remark ;
 They seek fresh fountains, and thick shady bowers, 75
 'Tis then the time to scatter fragrant flowers,

Trita melisphylla, et cerinthae ignobile gramen :
 Tinnitusque cie, et Matris quate cymbala circum.
 Ipsae confident medicatis sedibus : ipsae 65
 Intuma more suo sese in cunabula condent.
 Sin autem ad pugnam exierint ; (nam saepe duobus
 Regibus incessit magno discordia motu)
 Continuoque animos volgi et trepidantia bello
 Corda licet longe praesciscere : namque morantis 70
 Martius ille aeris rauci canor increpat, et vox
 Auditur fractos sonitus imitata tubarum.
 Tum trepidae inter se coeunt, pennisque coruscant,
 Spiculaque exacuunt rostris, aptantque lacertos,
 Et circa regem atque ipsa ad praetoria densae 75
 Miscentur, magnisque vocant clamoribus hostem.
 Ergo, ubi ver naetae sudum camposque patentis,
 Erumpunt portis ; concurritur ; aethere in alto
 Fit sonitus, magnum mixtae glomerantur in orbem,
 Praecipitesque cadunt. non densior aere grando, 80
 Nec de concussa tantum pluit illice glandis.
 Ipsi per medias acies, insignibus alis,
 Ingentis animos angusto in pectore versant.
 Usque adeo obnixi non cedere, dum gravis aut hos,
 Aut hos versa fuga victor dare terga subegit. 85

77. *Cerinth, &c.*] *Trita melisphylla, et cerinthae ignobile gramen*, says the original. Dr. Martyn, who is very accurate and full in explaining the botanical part of the Georgics, says, that the first plant seems to be a contraction of *melisphyllon* ; and that the description of it agrees very well with the *melissa* or *baum*, a common herb in the English gardens. *Cerinthe* (which is derived from *κηρική*, a *honey-comb*) is the *cerinthe flavo flore asperior*, or *yellow-flowered boney-wort*. The stalks are about the thickness of one's finger, round, smooth, whiteish, and divided into several branches. The leaves embrace the stalks and branches with their bases, and diminish gradually to a point. They are of a bluish colour marked with white spots, set on both sides with prickles, and neatly indented. Dr. Martyn in his quarto edition has given a beautiful print of the cerinthe finely coloured.

Bruis'd baum, and vulgar cerinth spread around,
 And ring the tinkling brags, and sacred cymbals found:
 They'll fettle on the medicated seats,
 And hide them in the chambers' last retreats. 80

But if intent on war they seek the foe,
 'Twixt two contending kings when discords glow,
 The peoples' troubled minds you soon presage,
 Burning for battle, swoln with eager rage;
 Hark! a rough clangor calls the hosts to arms, 85

A voice, like the deep trumpet's hoarse alarms!
 Furious they meet, and brandishing their wings,
 Fit all their claws, and sharpen all their stings;
 Around their monarch's high pavilion crowd,
 And call the lagging foe with shoutings loud. 90

Now when a day serene and bright they gain,
 From the vext city rush both battles main;
 Dire is the conflict, loud resounds the sky,
 Close in one cluster they contend on high,
 And headlong fall, as thick as clattering hail, 95
 Or acorns strew'd, from shaken oaks, the vale.

The kings shine glorious 'mid the thickest war,
 And mighty souls in narrow bosoms bear:
 Stedfast in fight, unknowing how to yield,
 Till these or those forsake the deathful field. 100

78. *Cymbals.*] *Tinnitusque cie, &c.* This custom is still used. Aristotle mentions it likewise, and questions whether they hear or not, and whether it be delight or fear that causes the bees to be quieted with such noises. For my own part I believe it to be of no manner of service in this case. MARTYN.

85. *Hosts to arms.*] This battle is described with as much spirit and strength, and the fury of the combatants is painted in terms as bold and majestic, as if it were an engagement between the greatest heroes. One cannot but observe how Virgil exalts his bees by giving them all the warlike apparatus of an army. Such are the expressions —————
Aeris rauci canor, spicula, and praetoria, magnisque vocant clamoribus hostem, per medias acies, crumpunt pertis —————
concurritur.

Hi motus animorum atque hæc certamina tanta
 Pulveris exigui jactu compressa quiescunt.
 Verum ubi ductores acie revocaveris ambo ;
 Deterior qui visus, eum, ne prodigus obfit ;
 Dede neci : melior vacua sine regnet in aula. 90
 Alter erit maculis auro squalentibus ardens :
 (Nam duo sunt genera) hic melior, insignis et ore,
 Et rutilis clarus squamis ; ille horridus alter
 Desidia, latamque trahens inglorius alvom.
 Ut binæ regum facies, ita corpora plebis. 95
 Namque aliae turpes horrent : ceu pulvere ab alto
 Cum venit, et sicco terram spuit ore viator
 Aridus : elucent aliae, et fulgore coruscant
 Ardentes auro, et paribus lita corpora guttis.
 Hæc potior suboles. hinc caeli tempore certo 100
 Dulcia mella premes : nec tantum dulcia, quantum
 Et liquida, et durum bacchi domitura saporem.
 At cum incerta volant, caeloque examina ludunt,
 Contemnuntque favos, et frigida tecta relinquunt ;
 Instabilis animos ludo prohibebis inani. 105
 Nec magnus prohibere labor. tu regibus alas
 Eripe. non illis quisquam cunctantibus altum
 Ire iter, aut castris audebit vellere signa.
 Invitent croceis halantes floribus horti,

115. *Spits from parch'd lips.*] 'Tis observable that this is the only low, or droll image, that Virgil hath admitted into the Georgics ; so careful was he of keeping up a dignity and majesty throughout his poem. Philips in his *CYDER*, has not always followed this judicious example : witness the following passages, bordering on burlesque.

Alloo thy furious mastiff—

Blind bayard rather— Add to these instances,

the bag-piper, and the description of a swain eating a beautiful apple whose inside is decayed ; whose surprize, to heighten the ridicule by a pompous simile, is compared to an army marching over flowery meadows under which are caverns filled with gun-powder.

These fierce contentions, this pernicious fray,
 A little dust flung upwards will allay.
 When now both chiefs have left the doubtful strife,
 The vanquish'd wretch must yield his forfeit life;
 Lest he consume the stores, an useless drone; 105
 While uncontroll'd the victor mounts the throne.
 Two diff'rent kinds of regal bees behold!
 The better bears a coat that glows with gold;
 More delicate proportions grace his frame,
 And radiant scales o'er all his body flame: 110
 While in the other, sloth's foul hues prevail,
 Groveling he scarce his breadth of paunch can trail.
 Alike a different form the people wear,
 These squalid to the sight, and rough appear:
 As when the traveller, all spent with thirst, 115
 Spits from parch'd lips the froth-attemper'd dust.
 The better race refulgent hues unfold,
 Bedropt with equal spots of glistening gold;
 At stated seasons, these shall plenteous pour
 From their swoln combs the sweet nectareous show'r; 120
 Yet pure as sweet, and potent to diffuse
 New flavours mild o'er Bacchus' harsher juice.
 But when the swarms in aether idly play,
 And from their emptied hives uncertain stray;
 From the vain sport their giddy minds restrain; 125
 Nor great, to check the fugitives, the pain:
 Be it thy care, from these high reverenc'd kings,
 Conductors of their flight, to clip the wings;
 The troops to march without their leaders fear,
 Nor dare the standard from the camp to bear. 130
 Let gardens gay, with saffron flowers, invite
 The fickle wanderers, and retard their flight:

powder. This is more like Cervantes than Virgil: and indeed there is an air of burlesque poetry throughout the whole poem of CYDER, much resembling his SPLENDID SHILLING.

Et custos furum atque avium cum falce saligna 110
 Hellepontiaci servet tutela Priapi.
 Ipse thymum pinosque ferens de montibus altis
 Tecta sesat late circum, cui talia curae :
 Ipse labore manum duro terat : ipse feracis
 Figat humo plantas, et amicos iriget imbris. 115
 Atque equidem, extremo ni jam sub fine laborum
 Vela traham, ac terris festinem advertere proram ;
 Forsitan et, pinguis hortos quae cura colendi
 Ornaret, canerem, biferique rosaria Paesti :
 Quoque modo potis gauderent intuba rivis ; 120
 Et virides apio ripae, tortusque per herbam
 Cresceret in ventrem cucumis : nec sera comantem
 Narcissum, aut flexi tacuissim vimen acanthi,
 Pallentisque ederas, et amantis litora myrtos.
 Namque sub Oebaliae memini me turribus altis, 225
 Qua niger humectat flaventia culta Galefus,
 Corycium vidisse senem : cui pauca relictæ
 Jugera ruris erant : nec fertilis illa juvencis,
 Nec pecori opportuna seges, nec commoda baccho.
 Hic rarum tamen in dumis olus, albaque circum 130
 Lilia, verbenasque premens, vescumque papaver,

145. *How celeri.*] These exquisite lines make us wish the poet had enlarged upon the subject of gardening. We have no poem on it but an insipid one of F. Rapin, written in pure Latin indeed, but with no poetical spirit, and indeed I think not comparable to an old fragment of Columella on this subject. Considering the many great improvements made in this science, perhaps the garden is the properest and most fruitful subject for a didactic poem of any whatsoever. Especially as this art hath been lately so much improved by Mr. Kent, who with great taste hath banished the regular, strait walks, Dutch work, and unnatural uniformity formerly so much admired.

151. *Once.*] Who that reads this, says Dr. Trapp, despises not the wealth, and pities not the persons of all the great ones upon earth ?

154. *Hereditary field.*] Some interpreters say, *relictæ ruris* means acres of waste, or neglected land.

158. *Lillies.*] The original is, *albaque circum lilia*. Tho' the white lilly be the most common species of that flower, among

Safe let them live beneath Priapus' eye,
 Whose hook rapacious birds and robbers fly.
 And let the swain who makes the hive his care, 135
 Sweet thyme and pines from the steep mountains bear,
 Nor should himself refuse, their straw-built house
 Far round to shade with thickly-woven boughs ;
 Himself should plant the spreading greens, and pour
 Thick o'er the thirsting beds the friendly show'r. 140

And here, but that I hasten to the shore,
 Prepar'd to strike my sails, and launch no more ;
 Perhaps the gardens' culture I might praise,
 Teach doubly-fruitful Paestum's rose to raise ;
 How celeri and endive love to grow. 145

On verdant banks where gushing rivulets flow ;
 How best the creeping cucumber may swell ;
 Nor daffadil's late bloom would fail to tell ;
 Acanthus' bending stalks, nor ivy hoar,
 Nor myrtles green, that love the breezy shore. 150

For once beneath Oebalia's lofty towers,
 Where black Galefus thro' rich pastures pours,
 An old Corycian yeoman I beheld,
 Lord of a small hereditary field,
 Too poor to nourish sheep, or fatning kine, 155
 The golden corn, or Bacchus' joyous vine ;
 Yet he thin fallads 'mid the bushy ground,
 And vervain planted, and white lillies round ;

among us, yet it was the most celebrated, and best known among the ancients. Thus Virgil does not produce the epithet *alba* in this place, without reason. In other passages our poet has taken care to insist on the whiteness of the lilly ; as in Aen. lib. 12.

— *Mixta rubent ubi lilia multa*
Alba rosa—

And Aen. 6.

— *Candida circum,*
Lilia funduntur.

Regum aequabat opes animis ; feraque revertens
 Noſte domum dapibus menſas onerabat inemtis.
 Primus vere roſam atque auctumno carpere poma,
 Et cum triſtis hiems etiamnum frigore ſaxa 135
 Rumperet, et glacie curſus frenaret aquarum,
 Ille comam mollis jam tum tondebat acanthi,
 Aeſtatem increpitans ſeram Zephyroſque morantis.
 Ergo apibus foetis idem atque examine multo
 Primus abundare, et ſpumantia cogere preſſis 140
 Mella favis : illi tiliae, atque uberrima pinus :
 Quotque in flore novo pomis ſe fertilis arbos
 Induerat, totidem auctumno matura tenebat.
 Ille etiam ſeras in verſum diſtulit ulmos,
 Eduramque pirum, et ſpinos jam pruna ferentis, 145
 Jamque miniſtrantem platanum potantibus umbras.
 Verum haec ipſe equidem ſpatiis excluſus iniquis
 Praetereo, atque aliis poſt me memoranda relinquo.
 Nunc age, naturas apibus quas Juppiter ipſe
 Addidit, expediam : pro qua mercede, canoros 150
 Curetum ſonitus crepitantiaque aera ſecutae,
 Diſtaeo caeli regem pavere ſub antro.
 Solae communis gnatos, conſortia tecta

170. *Pines.*] Columella obſerves that limes are hurtful to bees, but mentions the pine as agreeable to them.

175. *Planes.*] This relates to the Corycians having the art of removing even large trees.

179. *Wond'rous powers.*] There are many paſſages in the *Georgic*, where Virgil manages his prince's cauſe with great dexterity, and at the ſame time ſhews an equal regard for the liberty and intereſt of his country ; but certainly nothing can come up to the fourth book, on this head. What wonderful knowledge muſt that writer have had, who could ranſack all nature to find out a ſpecies of inſects whoſe conſtitution might be ſuppoſed to be made up of a republic governed by a monarch !

This was one of the principal reaſons of Virgil's chooſing the bees for his finiſhing piece ; and this makes him ſay to Maecenas in his introduction to it,

Admiranda

And late at eve returning home to rest,
 His frugal board with unbought dainties blest, 160 }
 Nor wish'd to be the richest monarch's guest.
 When spring with flowers, with fruits when autumn
 He first could pull the apple, crop the rose; [glows,
 When winter drear had clove the rocks with cold,
 And chain'd in ice the rivers as they roll'd, 165
 Ev'n then acanthus' tender leaves he shear'd,
 Slow zephyr blam'd, and a late summer fear'd.
 He the first swarms could boast and pregnant bees,
 From the full combs could richest honey squeeze : }
 Tall were his pines and limes, and fruitful all his trees. }
 Whatever buds the bending branches wore, 171
 So many fruits in autumn swell'd his store.
 He too could high-grown elms transplant in rows,
 Or harden'd pear-trees from their place transpose,
 Or plumbs with all their fruits, or lofty planes 175
 That shelter'd with broad shades the quaffing swains.
 But since too narrow bounds my song confine,
 To future bards these subjects I resign.

Now listen while the wond'rous powers I sing,
 And genius giv'n to bees by heav'n's almighty king, 180
 Whom in the Cretan cave they kindly fed,
 By cymbals' sound, and clashing armour led.
 They, they alone a general interest share,
 Their young committing to the public care ;

Admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum.

You will soon see to whom the wonders are applicable, which I relate of these little creatures. How fine a compliment was it to the Roman people, and their prince, to shew that the bees had their laws (upon which all their happiness was founded) by inspiration from Jupiter, and their prince from the same source!

BENSON.

180. *King.*] The poet here insinuates, that Jupiter gave the bees a degree of reason, as a reward for their feeding him, when an infant, with honey, while he was concealed in a cave from his father Saturn.

Urbis habent, magnisque agitant sub legibus aevom :
 Et patriam solae, et certos novere penatis : 155
 Venturaeque hic mis memores aestate laborem
 Experiuntur, et in medium quaesita reponunt.
 Namque aliae victu invigilant, et foedere pacto
 Exercentur agris : pars intra septa domorum
 Narcissi lacrimam, et lentum de cortice gluten, 160
 Prima favis ponunt fundamina. deinde tenacis
 Suspendunt ceras : aliae spem gentis adultos
 Educunt foetus : aliae purissimam mella
 Stipant, et liquido distendunt nectare cellas.
 Sunt, quibus ad portas cecidit custodia forti : 165
 Inque vicem speculantur aquas, et nubila caeli :
 Aut onera accipiunt venientum, aut agmine facto
 Ignavam fucos pecus a praesepibus arcent.
 Fervit opus, redolentque thymo fragrantia mella.
 Ac veluti, lentis Cyclopes fulmina massis 170
 Cum properant, alii taurinis follibus auras
 Accipiunt redduntque, alii stridentia tinguunt
 Aera lacu : gemit inpositis incudibus antrum.

198. *Intent, and watchful.*] Vaniere, in his book on the management of bees, relates the following extraordinary circumstance, which he says he takes from M. Maraldi, *Histoire de l'Academie Royale de Sciences*, 16 Nov. 1712. sur les abeilles, p. 299.

*Excubias vigilum fallens, impune penates
 Cum semel intrasset limax cornutus, eosque
 Turparet fluidae crasso lentore salivae ;
 Obsupere domi gerulum, stimulisque frequentes
 Invasere fero retrahentem corpus ab illo,
 Seque suae vallo testae, spumisque regentem ;
 Irrita jam cum tela forent ; apis advocat artes
 Ingenua suas ; et cerae prodiga totam
 Incrustat cochleam ; monstrum fatale recondens
 Hoc veluti tumulo, ne tetrum afflaret odorem.*

Prædii Rustici, lib. 14. p. 257.

This is an instance, if it be true, of more astonishing sagacity than any mentioned by Virgil.

205. *Cyclops.*] Pope observes with fine taste on this passage :
 " That the use of the grand style on little subjects, is not only

And all concurring to the common cause, 185
 Live in fixt cities under settled laws :
 Of winter mindful and inclement skies,
 In summer hoard, for all the state, supplies :
 Alternate some provide the nation's food,
 And search it o'er each forest, field, and flood : 190
 Some for the comb's foundations gather glew,
 And temper gums with daffadil's rich dew ;
 Then with nice art the waxen arches bend,
 Or with nectareous sweets the fret-work cells distend.
 Commission'd some, th' important office bear, 195
 To form the youth, the nation's hope, with care ;
 Some, by joint compact, at the city's gate
 Intent, and watchful of heav'n's changes, wait,
 Examine ev'ry motion of the skies,
 What show'rs approach, what storms or winds arise ;
 Or ease the burden'd lab'ers limbs, or drive 201
 The drones, a race of sluggards, from the hive ;
 The crowded dome with toil intensely glows,
 And from the breathing sweets a blended fragrance flows.
 As when Jove's bolts to frame, the Cyclops sweat, 205 }
 The rough and stubborn ore subdue with heat, }
 While chiming hammers in just order beat ; }

only ludicrous, but a sort of transgression against the rules of proportion and mechanics : I believe, now I am upon this head, it will be found a just observation, that the low actions of life cannot be put into a figurative style without being ridiculous, but things natural can. Metaphors raise the latter into dignity, as we see in the Georgics ; but throw the former into ridicule, as in the Lutrin. I think this may be very well accounted for ; laughter implies censure ; inanimate and irrational beings are not objects of censure ; therefore these may be elevated as much as you please, and no ridicule follows : but when rational beings are represented above their real character, it becomes ridiculous in art, because it is vicious in morality. The bees in Virgil, were they rational beings, would be ridiculous, by having their actions represented on a level with creatures so superior as men ; since it would imply folly or pride, which are the proper objects of ridicule."

POPE, Postscript to the *Odysey*.

Illi inter sese magna vi brachia tollunt
 In numerum, versantque tenaci forcipe ferrum. 175
 Non aliter, si parva licet componere magnis,
 Cecropias innatus apes amor urguet habendi,
 Munere quamque suo. grandaevis oppida curae,
 Et munire favos, et daedala fingere tecta.
 At fessae multa referunt se nocte minores, 180
 Crura thymo plenae : pascuntur et arbuta passim,
 Et glaucas salices, casiamque, crocumque rubentem
 Et pinguem tiliam, et ferrugineos hyacinthos.
 Omnibus una quies operum, labor omnibus unus.
 Mane ruunt portis ; nusquam mora. rursus eandem 185
 Vesper ubi e passu tandem decedere campis
 Admonuit, tum tecta petunt, tum corpora curant.
 Fit fonitus, mussantque oras et limina circum.
 Post, ubi jam thalamis se composuere, siletur
 In noctem, fessosque sopor suus occupat artus. 190
 Nec vero a stabulis pluvia inpendente recedunt
 Longius, aut credunt caelo adventantibus euris .
 Sed circum tutae sub moenibus urbis aquantur,
 Excursusque brevis tentant, et saepe lapillos,
 Ut cymbae instabiles fluctu jactante saburram, 195
 Tollunt : his sese per inania nubila librant.
 Illum adeo placuisse apibus mirabere morem,
 Quod neque concubitu indulgent, nec corpora segnes
 In venerem solvont, aut foetus nixibus edunt :
 Verum ipsae e foliis gnatos et suavibus herbis 200

236. *Enfeebling joys of love.*] Vaniere, who received new lights on this subject from the observations of modern philosophers, describes the queen laying her eggs in the following manner :

*Explorans paritura toros regina paratos ;
 Inserit alvelis caput, ut quae nixibus edet,
 Unis ova parens reponat singula nidis.
 Circumstae stipata cohors, uteroque dolentem
 Reginam mulcet pennis ; et murmure blando
 Fortatur duros partus tolerare labores.
 Illa retro gradiens, averso corpore nidos,
 Ingreditur ; parientem abdit sexangula cera ;*

Some turn the weighty mafs with griping tongs,
 While others heave the puffing bellows' lungs,
 Or the red bars in hissing water lave, 210
 Deep Aetna groans below, thro' many an echoing' cave :
 No lefs (fmall things with greater to compare)
 Toil the Cecropian bees with ceafelefs care ;
 Each knows his task : the old-their towns attend,
 Shape their nice cells, their daedal works defend ; 215
 But late at evening thofe of youthful prime
 Return fatigu'd, their thighs furcharg'd with thyme ;
 They prey on arbutes, willow buds devour,
 Sweet caffia, and the faffron's glowing flow'r ;
 From fruitful limes fip rich mellifluous dew, 220
 And fuck foft hyacinths of purple hue.
 All reft together, all together toil :
 At morn they rufh abroad, the flow'rs to fpoil ;
 When twilight evening warms them to their home,
 With weary wings and heavy thighs they come, 225 }
 And crowd about the gate, and mix a drowfy hum.
 At laft, into their inmoft chambers creep,
 And filent lie diffolv'd in balmy fleep.
 When Eurus blows, or gathering winds impend,
 The skies they truff not, nor their flights extend ; 230
 But drink of freams that flow their city nigh,
 Work near the walls, and fhort excurfions try ;
 Poize their light bodies like a ballanc'd boat,
 With fands, as through tempeftuous air they float.
 But chief, this circumftance may wonder move, 235
 That none indulge th' enfeebling joys of love,
 None pangs of child-birth feel, but leaves among,
 And fragrant flow'rs, they gather all their young ;

*Turba miniftra, tamen pennas limina tenfas
 Explicat, obducens faftae quafi vela parenti,
 Virginibus tantum pudor atque modestia cordi eft.*

Praedii Ruffici, lib. 14. pag. 260.

237. *Feel.*] The modern philofophers are much better acquainted with the nature of insects, than were Aristotle or Theophrastus,

Ore legunt : ipsae regem parvosque Quirites
Sufficiunt, aulæque, et ceræ regna refingunt.

Theophrastus, from whom Virgil borrowed largely in his account of bees. They assert and prove that no animal (nay no plant) is produced without a concurrence of the two sexes, and that consequently equivocal generation is an idle and most groundless opinion. See *Redi de insectis*, and the works of Linnæus. With regard to the generation of bees, I shall present the reader with a large but entertaining extract from a French author lately published. The matter of the treatise is taken from the works of the learned Mr. Maraldi, and Mr. de Reaumur, and is slung into a sprightly dialogue.

It begins with a general view of the hive. The glass hive represents a city of sixteen or eighteen thousand inhabitants. This city is a monarchy, consisting of a queen, of grandees, soldiers, artizans, porters, houses, streets, gates, magazines, and a most strict civil policy. The queen dwells in a palace in the inner part of the city; some of the cells (which run perpendicular from the top of the hive) are larger than the rest, and belong to those, who after the queen, hold the first rank in the commonwealth; the others are inhabited by the common people. The cells are all publick buildings, which belong to the society in common; for among this people there is no *meum* nor *tuum*. Some cells are close magazines for a store of honey; others for the daily nourishment of the labouring bees; others are destin'd to receive eggs, and to lodge the worm from which the young bee springs.

In the hive there is usually but one queen, six or eight hundred, or even a thousand males called drones, and from sixteen to sixteen thousand, or upwards, of bees without sex, who carry on the whole policy and manufacture of the hive. The mother-bee, or the queen-mother, is the soul of the community, and but for her, every thing would languish; when she is secreted from the hive, the other bees lose all care of posterity, and make neither honey nor wax, so that the city soon becomes desolate and empty.—The rest of the bees pay her the most dutiful respect, and follow her wherever she goes, or is carried from home. Her subjects perform their several functions without any instructions, and without giving her the least trouble. Her only business is to people the hive; and this she fulfils so perfectly, as well to deserve the most honourable of all political titles, that of *Parent of her country*. To merit the love of her subjects, 'tis necessary she should produce from ten to twelve thousand children in the space of seven weeks, and one year with another, from thirty to forty thousand. She is easily distinguish'd from the other bees, by the form of her body, which is longer and slenderer. Her wings are shorter,
in

Hence their great king and citizens create,
And build their waxen realms, and courts of state. 240

in proportion to her length : in the other bees, they cover the whole body ; in her they terminate about half way, at the third ring of her trunk. She has, like the rest, a sting and bladder of poison ; but is with much more difficulty provoked to use them ; though when she does, the wound is larger and much more painful.

The drones, or the thousand husbands of this single queen, are found in the hive only from the beginning of May to the end of July. Their number increases every day during that space of time, and is greatest when the queen is breeding ; in a few days after which period they die a violent death. Their way of living is very different from the rest : for excepting the single moment when they pay their duty to the queen, they are quite idle, and enjoy a most luxurious fare ; being fed only with the finest honey, whereas the common bees live in a great measure upon wax. These go out early in the morning, and don't return till they are loaded with honey and wax, for the good of the society. The drones, on the contrary, don't go abroad till about eleven o'clock to take the air, and return punctually about six at night. They have no stings, nor those long elastic teeth with which the other bees work up the honey ; nor those kind of hollows, which serve them for baskets to bring it home to the hive. The other bees, or the *manufarers* (as we may call them) have an infinite number of strange particularities about them, of which we can only impart a few to the reader.

Their head seems triangular, and the point of the triangle is formed by the meeting of two long elastic teeth, which are concave on the inside. In the second and third pair of their legs, is a part called the brush, of a square figure, with its outward surface polish'd and sleek, and its inward hairy, like a common brush. With these two instruments they prepare their wax and honey. The materials of their wax lie in the form of dust, upon the *lamina* of flowers. When the bee would gather this dust, she enters into the flower, and takes it up by means of her brush, to which it easily adheres. She comes out all covered with it, sometimes yellow, sometimes red, or according to the native colour of the dust. If this dust be inclosed in the *Capsulae* of a flower, she pierces the *Capsulae*, with her long moveable teeth, and then she gathers it. When it is quite loaded with dust, she rubs herself to collect it, and rolls it up in a little mass. Sometimes she performs this part of her business by the way ; sometimes she stays till she comes to the hive. As soon as it is formed into a ball about the size of a grain of pepper, she lodges it in her basket, and returns home with a joy proportionable to the quantity she brings. The honey of the bees is found in the same place with the wax. It is lodged in little reservoirs, placed at the bottom of the flower.

Saepe etiam duris errando in cotibus alas
 Adtrivere, ultroque animam sub fasce dedere.
 Tantus amor florum, et generandi gloria mellis. 205
 Ergo ipsas quamvis angusti terminus aevi
 Excipiat : (neque enim plus septima ducitur aestas)
 At genus immortale manet, multosque per annos
 Stat Fortuna domus, et avi numerantur avorum.
 Praeterea regem non sic Aegyptos, et ingens 210
 Lydia, nec populi Parthorum, aut Medus Hydaspes
 Observant. rege incolumi mens omnibus una est :
 Amisso rupere fidem ; constructaque mella
 Diripuerunt ipsae, et crates solvere favorum.
 Ille operum custos : illum admirantur, et omnes 215
 Circumstant fremitu denso, stipantque frequentes ;
 Et saepe adtollunt humeris, et corpora bello
 Obiectant, pulchramque petunt per vulnera mortem.
 His quidam signis atque haec exempla secuti,
 Esse apibus partem divinae mentis, et haustus 220
 Aetheros dixerunt. deum namque ire per omnis
 Terrasque, tractusque maris, caelumque profundum.
 Hinc pecudes, armenta, viros, genus omne ferarum,
 Quosque sibi tenuis nascentem arcessere vitas.
 Scilicet huc reddi deinde ac resoluta referri 225
 Omnia : nec morti esse locum, sed viva volare
 Sideris in numerum, atque alto succedere caelo.
 Si quando sedem augustam servataque mella
 Thesauris relines ; prius haustu sparsus aquarum
 Ora fove, fumosque manu praetende sequacis. 230
 Bis gravidos cogunt foetus, duo tempora messis,
 Taygete simul os terris ostendit honestum
 Plias, et Oceani spretos pede repulit amnis :

241. *Rugged rocks.*] These lines in the original are certainly misplaced ; they seem to come in more properly, says Martyn, after ver. 196 of the original. I am indebted for this observation to the learned Sir Daniel Molyneux, Bart. F. R. S.

272. *Taygete.*] Virgil in speaking of the rising of the Pleiades, speaks of them in the singular number, and that personally.

Taygete simul os terris ostendit honestum
Plias —

'Tis

On rugged rocks, oft as abroad they fly
 They tear their wings, sink with their loads and die ;
 Such love of flow'rs inflames their little hearts,
 So great their glory in these matchless arts.
 Tho' seven short years are to one race decreed, 245 }
 Still they continue an exhaustless breed, }
 From age to age increase, and fires to fires succeed.
 Lydians, nor Medes, so much their king adore,
 Nor those on Nilus' or Hydaspes' shore :
 The state united stands, while he remains, 250
 But should he fall, what dire confusion reigns !
 Their waxen combs, and honey late their joy,
 With grief and rage distracted, they destroy :
 He guards the works, with awe they him surround,
 And crowd about him with triumphant sound ; 255
 Him frequent on their duteous shoulders bear,
 Bleed, fall, and die for him in glorious war.
 Led by such wonders, sages have opin'd,
 That bees have portions of an heavenly mind :
 That God pervades, and like one common soul, 260
 Fills, feeds, and animates the world's great whole ;
 That flocks, herds, beasts, and men from him receive
 Their vital breath, in him all move and live ;
 That souls discept from him shall never die,
 But back resolv'd to God and heaven shall fly, 265 }
 And live for ever in the starry sky. }

When of its sweets the dome thou would'st deprive,
 Diffuse warm-spirited water thro' the hive,
 Or noxious smoke thro' all their dwellings drive. }
 Twice the sweet artists plenteous honey make, 270
 Thou twice each year th' ambrosial treasures take ;
 First when Taygete shews her beauteous head,
 Disdaining Ocean's melancholy bed ;

'Tis probable, that on the ancient globes this was a distinct
 constellation from Taurus, and represented by one of the
 sisters only, that named by Virgil. Aratus and Eratosthenes
 both speak of it as distinct from Taurus ; and the latter calls it
 Πλιας, and not Πλιαδης. SPENCE.

Aut eadem sidus fugiens ubi Piscis aquosi
 Tristior hibernas caelo descendit in undas. 235
 Illis ira modum supra est, laesaeque venenum
 Moribus inspirant, et spicula caeca relinquunt
 Adfixae venis, animasque in volnera ponunt.
 Sin duram metues hiemem, parcesque futuro,
 Contusosque animos, et res miserabere fractas; 240
 At suffire thymo, cerasque recidere inanis
 Quis dubitet? nam saepe favos ignotus adedit
 Stellio, lucifugis congesta cubilia blattis:
 Inmunisque fedens aliena ad pabula fucus,
 Aut asper crabro inparibus se inmiscuit armis; 245
 Aut dirum tineae genus, aut invisae Minervae
 Laxos in foribus suspendit aranea casses.
 Quo magis exhaustae fuerint, hoc acrius omnes
 Incumbent generis lapsi farcire ruinas,
 Conplebuntque foros, et floribus horrea texent. 250
 Si vero (quoniam casus apibus quoque nostros
 Vita tulit) tristi languerunt corpora morbo,
 Quod jam non dubiis poteris cognoscere signis;
 Continuo est aegris alius color: horrida voltum
 Deformat macies: tum corpora luce carentum 255
 Exportant tectis, ac tristitia funera ducunt:
 Aut illae pedibus connexae ad limina pendent,
 Aut intus clausis cunctantur in aedibus omnes,
 Ignavaeque fame et contracto frigore pigrae.
 Tum sonus auditur gravior, tractimque susurrant: 260
 Frigidus ut quondam filvis inmurmurat auster:
 Ut mare sollicitum stridit refluentibus undis;
 Aestuatur ut clausis rapidus fornacibus ignis.

279. *Die upon.*] It is said to be a vulgar error, that bees lose their lives with their stings.

280. *Winter.*] He now proceeds regularly to tell us, how to manage those hives in which the honey is left for supporting the bees through the winter, and likewise enumerates the particular vermin, and plagues that infest them.

And when with sudden flight the fish the leaves,
 Descending pensive to the wintry waves. . . . 275
 Fierce rage and choler in their bosoms glow,
 With venom'd stings they dart upon their foe,
 Their subtle poison creeps the veins around,
 In sweet revenge they die upon the wound.
 But if in winter bleak, their broken state, 280
 And drooping spirits you commiserate,
 Who doubts, regardful of the pinching time,
 To fumigate their hives with fragrant thyme,
 And pare their empty wax? The lizard lurks,
 Or slow-pac'd beetle in their inmost works, 285
 Or oft their golden hoards the fat drones spoil,
 A race that riots on another's toil;
 Or the fierce hornet, sounding dire alarms,
 Provokes the lab'ers to unequal arms;
 Or baneful moths, or she whom Pallas hates, 290
 Suspends her filmy nets before their gates.
 The more they lose, the more with ceaseless care,
 They strive the state's destruction to repair;
 Their plunder'd wealth and wasted combs renew,
 And swell their granaries with thicken'd dew. 295
 But when, as human ills descend to bees,
 The pining nation labours with disease;
 Chang'd is their glittering hue to ghastly pale,
 Roughness and leanness o'er their limbs prevail;
 Forth the dead citizens with grief are borne, 300
 In solemn state the sad attendants mourn.
 Clung by the feet they hang the live-long day
 Around the door, or in their chambers stay,
 Hunger and cold and grief their toils delay. }
 'Tis then in hoarser tones their hums resound, 305
 Like hollow winds the rustling forest round,
 Or billows breaking on a distant shore;
 Or flames in furnaces that inly roar.

Hic jam galbaneos suadebo incendere odores,
 Mellaque arundineis inferre canalibus, ultro 265
 Hortantem, et fessas ad pabula nota vocantem.
 Proderit et tunsum gallae admiscere saporem,
 Arentisque rosas, aut igni pinguia multo
 Defruta, vel Psythia passos de vite racemos,
 Cecropiumque thymum, et grave olentia centaurea. 270
 Est etiam flos in pratis, cui nomen amello
 Fecere agricolae, facilis quaerentibus herba.
 Namque uno ingentem tollit de cespite silvam,
 Aureus ipse : sed in foliis, quae plurima circum
 Funduntur, violae sublucet purpura nigrae. 275
 Saepe deum nexis ornatae torquibus arae.
 Asper in ore sapor. tonsis in vallibus illum
 Pastores, et curva legunt prope flumina Mellae.
 Hujus odorato radices incoque baccho,
 Pabulaque in foribus plenis adpone canistris. 280
 Sed si quem proles subito defecerit omnis,
 Nec, genus unde novae stirpis revocetur, habebit ;
 Tempus et Arcadii memoranda inventa magistri
 Pandere, quoque modo caesis jam saepe juvencis
 Infincerus apes tulerit cruor. altius omnem 285
 Expediam prima repetens ab origine famam.
 Nam qua Pellaci gens fortunata Canopi
 Adcolit effuso stagnantem flumine Nilum,
 Et circum pictis vehitur sua rura fafelis ;
 Quaque pharetratae vicinia Perfidis urget, 290
 Et viridem Aegyptum nigra fecundat arena,
 Et diversa ruens septem discurrit in ora
 Usque coloratis amnis devexus ab Indis :

326. *But should.*] The poet having already spoken of the ways of driving noxious animals from the bees, and of the method of curing their diseases ; now proceeds to describe the manner after which the total loss of them may be repaired ; which, he tells us, was practised by the Egyptians. MARTYN.

333. *Canopus.*] The commentators are divided about the meaning of these four verses. Dr. Martyn takes Virgil to mean only a description of the Delta or lower Egypt. Canopus is the west angle of that triangular region ; Pelusium is the east angle, being nearest to Persia ; and the south angle is the point where

Galbanean odours here I shall advise ;
 And thro' a reed to pour the sweet supplies 310
 Of golden honey, to invite the taste
 Of the sick nation, to their known repast :
 Bruis'd galls, dry'd roses, thyme and centuary join,
 And raisins ripen'd on the Psithian vine.
 Besides, in meads the plant Amellus grows, 315 }
 And from one root thick stalks profusely throws,
 Which easily the wand'ring simpler knows :
 Its top a flow'r of golden hue displays,
 Its leaves are edg'd with violet-tinctur'd rays ;
 Rough is the taste ; round many an holy shrine 320
 The sacred priests its beauteous foliage twine :
 This, where meand'ring Mella laves the plains,
 Or in the new-shorn valley, seek the swains ;
 Its roots infuse in wine, and at their door
 In baskets hang the medicated store. 325

But should your stock decay thro' dire disease,
 Nor hope remain new families to raise,
 Hear the strange secret I shall now impart,
 The great Arcadian master's matchless art ;
 An art to reproduce th' exhausted store 330 }
 From a slain bullock's putrifying gore :
 I'll to its distant source the wond'rous tale explore. }

Where happy the Canopian nation dwells,
 Where Nile with genial inundation swells,
 Where swains, the meadows while he largely floats, 335
 Around his pastures glide in painted boats,
 From tawny India while he rolls his tides,
 And into seven huge mouths his stream divides,
 And pressing close on quiver'd Persia's clime
 Green Egypt fattens with prolific slime : 340
 where the Nile is divided to form the Delta. Δ. The circum-
 stance,

Circum piæis webitur sua rura phæelis,

is a very agreeable picture of that country, which during the inundation of the Nile resembles a vast level lake.

340. Green Egypt.] The Nile is the greatest wonder of Egypt.

Omnis in hac certam regio jacet arte salutem.
 Exiguus primum, atque ipsos contractus ad usus 295
 Eligitur locus. hunc angustique imbrice tecti.
 Parietibusque premunt artis, et quatuor addunt,
 Quatuor a ventis obliqua luce fenestras.
 Tum vitulus, bima curvans jam cornua fronte,
 Quaeritur: huic geminae nares, et spiritus oris 300
 Multa reluctanti obstruitur, plagisque perempto
 Tunsa per integram solvuntur viscera pellem.
 Sic positum in clauso linquunt, et ramea costis
 Subjiciunt fragmenta, thymum, casiasque recentis.
 Hoc geritur, zephyris primum inpellentibus undas, 305
 Ante novis rubeant quam prata coloribus, ante
 Garrula quam tignis nidum suspendat hirundo.

As it seldom rains there, this river, which waters the whole country by its regular inundations, supplies that defect, by bringing, as a yearly tribute, the rains of the other countries; which made a poet say ingeniously, the Egyptian pastures, how great soever the drought may be, never implore Jupiter for rain.

*Te propter nullos tellus tua postulat imbres,
 Arida nec pluvio supplicat herba Jovi.*

Tibull. B. 1. 7. 25.

To multiply so beneficent a river, Egypt was cut into numberless canals, of a length and breadth proportioned to the different situation and wants of the lands: the Nile brought fertility every where with its salutary streams; united cities one with another, and the Mediterranean with the Red Sea; maintained trade at home and abroad, and fortified the kingdom against the enemy; so that it was at once the nourisher and protector of Egypt. The fields were delivered up to it; but the cities that were raised with immense labour, and stood like islands in the midst of the waters, look down with joy on the plains which were overflowed, and at the same time enriched by the Nile.

This is a general idea of the nature and effects of this river, so famous among the ancients.

There cannot be a finer sight than it affords at two seasons of the year. For if a man ascends some mountain, or one of the largest pyramids of Grand Cairo, in the months of July and August, he beholds a vast sea, in which numberless towns and villages appear, with several causeys leading from place to place,

These swains, when grows extinct their honied race,
 Sure hope and refuge in this practice place.
 First for the work they choose a narrow ground,
 With streigthen'd walls and roof embrac'd around :
 Fronting the winds four windows add, to strike 345
 Athwart the twilight space their beams oblique :
 Then seek in prime of youth a lusty steer,
 Whose forehead crooked horns begins to wear ;
 His mouth and nostrils stop, the gates of breath,
 And buffet the indignant beast to death ; 350
 Till the bruised bowels burst with many a stroke,
 But still th' external skin remains unbroke ;
 Then leave him dead ; his putrid limbs below,
 Green twigs and thyme, and recent cassia strew.
 Be this perform'd when zephyr's balmy breeze 355
 First curls the surface of the smiling seas,
 Ere bloom the meads in crimson vesture drest,
 Ere swallows twitter o'er the new-built nest.

place, the whole interspersed with groves and fruit-trees, whose tops are only visible, all which forms a delightful prospect. This view is bounded by mountains and woods, which terminate, at the utmost distance the eye can discover, the most beautiful horizon that can be imagined. On the contrary, in winter, that is to say, in the months of January and February, the whole country is like one continued scene of beautiful meadows, whose verdure enamelled with flowers charms the eye. The spectator beholds, on every side, flocks and herds dispersed over all the plains, with infinite numbers of husbandmen and gardeners. The air is then perfumed by the great quantity of blossoms on the orange, lemon, and other trees ; and is so pure, that a wholesomer and more agreeable is not found in the world: so that nature, being then dead, as it were, in all other climates, seems to be alive only for so delightful an abode.

ROLLIN'S Ancient History, page 13, 8vo, 1749.

355. *Zephyris primum* in the original.] This little description of the spring diversifies the subject, and enlivens the dryness of the preceding paragraph.

Interea teneris tepesfactus in ossibus humor
 Aestuat, et visenda modis animalia miris,
 Trunca pedum primo. mox et stridentia pennis 310
 Miscentur, tenuem magis ac magis aëra carpunt :
 Donec, ut aestivis effusus nubibus imber,
 Erupere ; aut ut, nervo pulsante sagittae,
 Prima leves incunt si quando proelia Parthi.
 Quis deus hanc, Musae, quis nobis extudit artem ? 315
 Unde nova ingressus hominum experientia cepit ?
 Pastor Aristaeus fugiens Peneia Tempe,
 Amissis (ut fama) apibus morboque fameque,
 Tristis ad extremi sacrum caput adstitit amnis,
 Multa querens, atque hac adfatus voce parentem : 320
 Mater Cyrcne, mater, quae gurgitis hujus
 Ima tenes, quid me praeclara stirpe deorum,
 (Si modo, quem perhibes, pater est Thymbræus Apollo)
 Invisum fatis genuisti ? quo tibi nostri
 Pulsus amor ? quid me caelum sperare jubebas ? 325
 En etiam hunc ipsum vitae mortalis honorem,
 Quem mihi vix frugum et pecudum custodia sollers
 Omnia tentanti extuderat, te matre, relinquo.
 Quin age, et ipsa manu felices crue silvas :
 Fer stabulis inimicum ignem, atque interfice messis : 330
 Ure fata, et validam in vitis molire bipennem ;
 Tanta meae si te ceperunt taedia laudis.
 At mater sonitum thalamo sub fluminis alti

360. *Bepts to boil.*] Nothing can be expressed in a livelier manner, than this generation of the bees ;

Interea teneris tepesfactus in ossibus humor.

Such lines as these on a low and indeed a gross subject, shew Virgil's command of language ; the two similes at the end add an ornament and an elegance likewise to the passage. It must be observed, that insects cannot be generated by putrefaction ; carcases are only a proper *nidus* and receptacle for their young : and therefore the female parent chooses there to lay her eggs, that the warmth of the fermenting juices may help to hatch them.

See REEDS de Insectis.

Book 4. THE GEORGICS OF VIRGIL. 373

The tainted juices, in this prison pent,
Begin to boil, and thro' the bones ferment ; 360
A wond'rous swarm strait from the carcase crawls,
Of feeble and unfinish'd animals ;
Anon their infant buzzing wings they try,
And more and more attempt the boundless sky :
At last embody'd from their birth-place pour, 365
Thick as from copious clouds a summer-show'r,
Or flight of arrows, when with twanging bows,
The Parthians in fierce onset gall their foes.

What God, ye nine, this art disclos'd to man,
Say whence this great experiment began ? 370
Sad Aristaeus from sweet Tempe fled,
His bees with famine and diseases dead,
And at the spring of sacred Peneus' flood,
Thus plaining to his sea-green parent flood.

Mother, Cyrene ! mother, you who keep 375
Your wat'ry court beneath this crystal deep,
Why did you bear me of a race divine,
Yet stain with sorrows my celestial line ?
If Phoebus be my sire, as you relate,
Why am I doom'd the sport of angry Fate ? 380
How have I lost, O how ! your former love ?
Why did you bid me hope to rise to heav'n above ?
Lo ! all I gain'd, by cattle, fields and corn,
(Those works which best this mortal state adorn)
The fruits of toil and thought intense are lost, 385
Tho' for my mother I a goddess boast !

Come then, with your own hand uproot my groves,
My stalls and stables burn, infect my droves,
My harvests murder, cut each blooming vine,
Since at my rising honours you repine. 390
His wondering mother heard the mournful sound,
Low in the chambers of the waves profound.

Sensit. eam circum Milesia vellera Nymphæ
 Carpebant, hyali saturo fucata colore : 335
 Drymoque, Xanthoque, Ligeaque, Phyllidoceque,
 Caesariem effusæ nitidam per candida colla :
 Nefæe, Spioque, Thaliaque, Cymodoceque,
 Cydippeque, et flava Lycorias ; altera virgo,
 Altera tum primos Lucinae experta labores ; 340
 Clioque et Beroe soror, Oceanitides ambæ,
 Ambæ auro, pictis incinctæ pellibus ambæ ;
 Atque Ephyre, atque Opis, et Asia Deiopea ;
 Et tandem positis velox Arethusa sagittis.
 Quas inter curas Clymene narrabat inanes 345
 Volcani, Martisque dolos, et dulcia furta :
 Aque Chao densos divom enumerabat amores.
 Carmine quo captæ, fufis dum mollia pensa
 Devolvont, iterum maternas inpulit auris
 Luctus Aristæi, vitreisque sedilibus omnes 350
 Obstupuere : sed ante alias Arethusa sorores
 Prospiciens, summa flavom caput extulit unda.
 Et procul : O gemitu non frustra exterrita tanto,
 Cyrene soror ; ipse tibi tua maxima cura
 Tristis Aristæus Penei genitoris ad undam 355
 Stat lacrimans, et te crudelem nomine dicit.
 Huic percussa nova mentem formidine mater,
 Duc age, duc ad nos ; fas illi limina divom
 Tangere, ait : simul alta jubet discedere late.

395. *Ligea, Xantho.*] There are but eighteen nymphs mentioned by Virgil in this account of Cyrene's grotto; including Clymene and Cyrene herself; of which passage Mr. Dryden says, The poet here records the names of fifty river nymphs, and for once I have translated them all.

POLYMETIS, page 316. note 46.

406. *Vulcan's fruitless cares.*] Some of the graver critics make an observation, which the ladies must needs think unjust and satirical. When Dido gives a feast to Aeneas, her physician Iopas entertains the company, which were chiefly composed of men and strangers, with a song on a philosophical subject. But, say they, where Virgil introduces a nymph singing to her mistress Cyrene, and to her fellow virgins, she describes to them

The nymphs around her plac'd, their spindles ply'd,
 And spun Milesian wool, in verdure deeply dy'd,
 Ligea, Xantho, Drymo, Spio, fair ; 395 }
 Thalia, and Phylloce, whose hair }
 Wav'd o'er their snowy shoulders in the air ; }
 Nefæa, Ephyre, with Opis, thee !
 And, her that calms the waves, Cymmodoce ;
 The yellow maid, Lycorias, and the bride 400
 Cydippe, who Lucina's pangs had try'd ;
 Clio, and Beroë, sea-born both, behold,
 Both clad in spotted skins and radiant gold ;
 Deïope, and Arethuse, the chaste,
 No more intent to pierce the flying beast. 405
 There Clymene sung Vulcan's fruitless cares,
 The luscious thefts, and soft deceits of Mars ;
 And how from Chaos old, all-mighty Love
 Had fill'd the bosom of each god above.
 While thus they toil'd, enchanted with the strain, 410
 His voice alarm'd his mother's ears again ;
 The listening sisters heard unusual groans
 Amaz'd, and started from their crystal thrones :
 But Arethuse first heav'd her beauteous head
 Above the waves ; and, O Cyrene, said, 415
 Well might'st thou fear these echoing sounds of woe,
 These sorrows from thy Aristæus flow ;
 Thy darling care mourns by thy father's flood,
 And calls thee cruel, and complains aloud.
 Pitying the youth, the fear-struck mother said, 420 }
 My son, O quickly, quickly hither lead, }
 To him 'tis given the courts of Gods to tread. }

them the loves of Mars and Venus: the *dulcia furta* were the subject that sweetened their labours at the loom. The poet hints at the topics which employ the conversation of the ladies when they are alone by themselves. The commentators, who make such unfair reflections, must doubtless be a set of ill-bred, abusive fellows, that know very little of the world, and less of the ladies.

Flumina, qua juvenis gressus inferret. at illum 360
 Curvata in montis faciem circumstetit unda,
 Accepitque sinu vasto, misitque sub amnem,
 Jamque domum mirans genetricis, et humida regna,
 Speluncisque lacus clausos, lucosque sonantis,
 Ibat, et ingenti motu stupefactus aquarum, 365.
 Omnia sub magna labentia flumina terra
 Spectabat diversa locis, Phasinque, Lycumque,
 Et caput, unde altus primum se erumpit Enipeus,
 Unde pater Tiberinus, et unde Aniena fluente,
 Saxosusque sonans Hypanis, Mysusque Caicus, 370
 Et gemina auratus taurino cornua voltu
 Eridanus : quo non alius per pingua culta

423. *Rivers.*] The descent of Aristaeus into the earth, is founded on an ancient superstition of the Egyptians. Servius tells us, that on certain days sacred to the Nile, boys born of holy parents, were delivered to the nymphs by the priests; who, when they were grown up, and returned back, reported, that there were groves under the earth, and an immense water containing all things, and from whence every thing is procreated.

432. *Dup.*] This is one of the most sublime passages in Virgil. Nothing can strike the imagination more strongly, than to conceive a person entering the bowels of the earth, and at once hearing and seeing the most celebrated rivers in the world bursting forth from their several sources. The rough and horrible scenes of rocks, caves, and waters which Aristaeus passes through, are at last finely softened by the kind reception he meets with from his mother, and the graceful appearance of the nymphs spinning and singing the loves of the Gods. Fracastorius has a descent into the earth in search of metals, where, no doubt, he had Virgil in his eye; and in which he has been followed by Dr. Garth, in the Dispensary.

438. *Eridanus—the Po.*] This passage cannot be better explained than by quoting the following words from Mr. Spence, in his Polymetis:

“ But there is another thing in it, with which I am not yet satisfied: and that is, Virgil’s calling the Po here, the most violent of all rivers. I know one of the most celebrated and most ingenious writers of our age has endeavoured to soften this, by understanding it only of the rivers in Italy. But (not to enquire at all whether the Po be really the most violent of all the rivers in Italy) how can Virgil be understood of the rivers

At once the bids the swelling rivers cleave,
 Th' obedient floods an ample entrance leave ;
 Down thro' the deeps he goes, on either hand 425
 The congregated waves like mountains stand.
 Now wondering at the wat'ry realms he went,
 At dashing lakes in hollow caverns pent,
 His mother's palace, and the sounding woods,
 And deaf'ning roar of subterraneous floods. 430
 Amaz'd he saw, this spacious globe below,
 Deep in its bed each mighty river flow,
 Phasis, and Lycus, and the fruitful head, [spread ;
 Whence burst Enipeus' streams, whence father Tiber's
 Whence Hypanis, that swiftly-pouring roars 435
 With thundering billows on his rocky shores ;
 Whence Anio's and Caicus' copious urns,
 Whence bull-fac'd Po adorn'd with gilded horns,

rivers of one country only, where he is expressly speaking of all the rivers of the world ? and of one common point, from whence all their sources were anciently supposed to be derived ?

“ I am not quite clear as to that expression, replied Polymetis: but to answer you as far as I can, I must give you the opinion of a man whom you both know ; and whose name I need not mention to you, when I have told you it is the person who understands Virgil in a more masterly manner, than perhaps any one in this age. It is his opinion, (with all that modesty, with which he generally offers his opinions) that the difficulty you mention may possibly be got over, by the expression joined with it ; *per pinguia culta*. The most violent rivers in the world are such as run, or fall, through a chain of mountains ; and (not to speak of any of the Apennine rivers, or rather torrents, in Italy itself) the Isar which we cross so often in the two or three last days journey before we enter Italy, is (in all that part of its course) much more violent and more disturbed than the Po : but the Po, you know, very soon after its source, flows on thro' the vale of Piedmont, and afterwards traverses all the rich vale of Lombardy. These are the *pinguia culta* which Virgil speaks of : almost the whole course of the Po is through such rich low ground : and perhaps there may not be any river in the world, which has almost all its course through so fat and rich a soil, which is so violent as the Po is.”

POLYMETIS, Dial. 14. p. 232.

In mare purpureum violentior effluit amnis.
 Postquam est in thalami pendentia pumice tecta
 Perventum, et gnati fletus cognovit inanis 375
 Cyrene; manibus liquidos dant ordine fontis
 Germanae, tonsisque ferunt mantelia villis.
 Pars epulis onerant mensas, et plena reponunt
 Pocula. Panchaeis adolefcunt ignibus arae.
 Et mater, Cape Maeonii carchesia bacchi: 380
 Oceano libemus, ait. simul ipsa precatur
 Oceanumque patrem rerum Nymphasque sorores,
 Centum quae fibras, centum quae flumina servant.
 Ter liquido ardentem perfudit nectare Vestam:
 Ter flamma ad summum tecti subjecta reluxit. 385
 Omine quo firmans animum, sic incipit ipsa:
 Est in Carpathio Neptuni gurgite vates
 Caeruleus Proteus, magnum qui piscibus aequor
 Et juncto bipedum curru metitur equorum.
 Hic nunc Emathiae portus patriamque revisit 390
 Pallenen. hunc et Nymphae veneramur, et ipse
 Grandaevus Nereus. novit namque omnia vates,
 Quae sint, quae fuerint, quae mox ventura trahantur.
 Quippe ita Neptuno visum est: inmania cujus
 Armenta, et turpis pascit sub gurgite phocas. 395
 Hic tibi, gnate; prius vinclis capiundus, ut omnem
 Expediat morbi causam, eventusque secundet.
 Nam sine vi non ulla dabit praecepta, neque illum
 Orando vinces: vim duram et vincula capto
 Tende. doli circum haec demum frangentur inanes. 400

454. *An hundred groves.*] I follow the sense given to this passage in the *Arcadia del Sannazaro, Prosa* 10.

459. *Proteus.*] This fable of Proteus is imitated by Virgil, from the fourth book of the *Odyssy*; where Menelaus is sent to consult the same deity, by the advice and assistance of his own daughter Eidothea.

Than whom no river, thro' such level meads
 Down to the sea with swifter torrents speeds. 440
 Now to the vaulted chamber was he come,
 Where hanging pumice form'd an awful dome;
 When fond Cyrene ask'd him of his woe,
 And whence those bitter tears began to flow.
 The sisters, water from the purest spring, 445
 And towels soft, with haste officious bring;
 Prepare full bowls, and heap up choicest meats;
 The altars blaze with rich Arabian sweets.
 Of Lydian wine, she cry'd, these goblets take,
 To Ocean let us due libations make; 450
 At once to Ocean old, in ritual lays,
 Parent of all things, she devoutly prays;
 And to the sister nymphs, whose gentle sway
 An hundred groves, an hundred streams obey;
 Thrice o'er the fire the liquid nectar throws, 455
 Thrice to the shining roof the flames arose.
 She thus, with that auspicious omen fir'd;
 In the Carpathian gulf there dwells retir'd
 The prophet Proteus; o'er the wat'ry way,
 Whose car the finny, two-legg'd steeds convey: 460
 Now to his distant country he resorts,
 Emathia seeking, and Pallene's ports;
 The sea-nymphs this caerulean seer adore,
 And him reveres ev'n hallow'd Nereus hoar;
 All things he knows, tho' hid in time's dark womb, 465
 What is, what long is past, and what shall come;
 So Neptune will'd; whose monstrous herds he keeps,
 Of squalid calves, beneath the rolling deeps.
 Him must thou chain, and force him to disclose
 The cause and cure of thy distracting woes. 470
 Nought he'll unfold, except the god thou bind,
 Nor prayers, nor tears can move his stedfast mind.
 With force and chains, my son, his limbs surround,
 These can alone his treach'rous wiles confound.

Ipsa ego te, medios cum sol accenderit aestus,
 Cum sitiunt herbae, et pecori jam gratior umbra est,
 In secreta senis ducam, quo fessus ab undis
 Se recipit; facile ut somno adgrediare jacentem.
 Verum ubi conreptum manibus vinclisque tenebis; 405
 Tum variae eludent species atque ora ferarum.
 Fiet enim subito sus horridus, atraque tigris,
 Squamosusque draco, et fulva cervice leaena:
 Aut acrem flammae sonitum dabit, atque ita vinclis
 Excidet, aut in aquas tenues dilapsus abibit. 410
 Sed quanto ille magis formas se vertet in omnis,
 Tanto, gnate, magis contende tenacia vincla:
 Donec talis erit mutato corpore, qualem
 Videris, incepto tegetur cum lumina somno.
 Haec ait, et liquidum ambrosiae diffundit odorem: 415
 Quo totum gnati corpus perduxit. at illi
 Dulcis conpositis spiravit crinibus aura,
 Atque habilis membris venit vigor. est specus ingens
 Exesi latere in montis, quo plurima vento
 Cogitur, inque sinus scindit sese unda reductos; 420
 Deprensus olim statio tutissima nautis.
 Intus se vasti Proteus tegit objice saxi.
 Hic juvenem in latebris aversum a lumine Nympha
 Conlocat: ipsa procul nebulis obscura resistit.
 Jam rapidus, torrens sitientis, Sirius, Indos 425
 Ardebat; caelo et medium sol igneus orbem
 Hauserat. arebant herbae, et cava flumina siccis
 Faucibus ad limum radii tepefacta coquebant:
 Cum Proteus consueta petens e fluctibus antra

494. *Deep in the mountain.*] The reader may compare this description of the cave of Proteus, with the following one in Spenser.

His bowre is in the bottome of the maine,
 Under a mighty rock, gainst which do rave
 The roring billows in their proud disdaine;
 That, with the angry working of the wave,

Therein

When the parch'd herbage fades with mid-day heat, 475
 And fainting cattle to cool shades retreat,
 Myself will lead thee to the close abode,
 Where stretcht in slumber, thou may'st seize the god.

Instant he'll try, elusive of the rape;
 The varied force of every savage shape; 480

Become a bristly boar, or tyger fell,
 Or like a scaly bloated dragon swell;
 Like a gaunt lion shake a tawny mane,
 Or in loud crackling fire escape thy chain;
 Or while thou closely grasp'st thy fraudulent prey, 485
 Chang'd to a flowing stream glide swift away.

Yet still retentive with redoubled might,
 Thro' each vain fleeting form constrain his flight;
 Till the same shape, all changes past, appear,
 That ere the senior slept, thou saw'st him wear. 490

She spoke, and o'er him rich ambrosia shed,
 With liquid odours bath'd his breathing head,
 And thro' his glowing limbs celestial vigour spread. }

Deep in the mountain lies a spacious cave,
 Worn by the workings of the restless wave, 495

Whither vast waters drive before the wind,
 And shatter'd ships commodious shelter find.
 There, far within a grot, old Proteus dwells,
 And draws a vast rock o'er his secret cells.

She plac'd her son beneath the darksome roof, 500
 Herself, involv'd in clouds, retires aloof.

Now rabid Sirius scorcht the gasping plains,
 And burnt intense the panting Indian swains;
 In his 'mid course the sun all fiery stood,
 Parcht was the grass; the rivers bak'd to mud; 505
 When Proteus, weary of the waters, sought
 The cool retirement of his 'custom'd grott;

Therein is eaten out an hollow cave,
 That seemes rough masons hand with engines keene
 Had long while laboured it to engrave.

Ibat. eum vasti circum gens humida ponti 430
 Exsultans rorem late dispergit amarum.
 Sternunt se somno diversae in litore phocae.
 Ipse, velut stabuli custos in montibus olim,
 Vesper ubi e pastu vitulos ad tecta reducit,
 Auditisque lupos acuunt balatibus agni, 435
 Confidit scopulo medius, numerumque recenset :
 Cujus Aristaeo quoniam est oblata facultas ;
 Vix defessa senem passus componere membra,
 Cum clamore ruit magno, manicisque jacentem
 Occupat. ille suae contra non inmemor artis, 440
 Omnia transformat sese in miracula rerum,
 Ignemque, horribilemque feram, fluviumque liquentem.
 Verum, ubi nulla fugam reperit pellacia, victus
 In sese redit, atque hominis tandem ore locutus :
 Nam quis te, juvenum confidentissime, nostras 445
 Jussit adire domos ? quidve hinc petis ? inquit. at ille :
 Scis, Proteu, scis ipse : neque est te fallere cuiquam.
 Sed tu desine velle. deum praecepta secuti
 Venimus hinc labris quaesitum oracula rebus.
 Tantum effatus, ad haec vates vi denique multa 450
 Ardentis oculos intorsit lumine glauco,
 Et graviter frendens, sic fati ora resolvit :
 Non te nullius exercent numinis irae.
 Magna luis commissa : tibi has miserabilis Orpheus
 Haudquaquam ob meritum poenas, ni fata resistent, 455
 Suscitavit ; et rapta graviter pro conjuge faevit.

509. *Spray.*] The circumstance of these monsters scattering the spray of the sea about them, greatly enlivens this beautiful sea-piece.

512. *Like a peasant.*] Virgil has imitated Homer so nicely in his adventure with Proteus, that he has not forgot this simile of the shepherd, in his copy. *Lupos acuunt* is wonderfully expressive, and short.

The finny race exulting round him play,
 And in wild gambols dash the bitter spray ;
 The scaly phocæe, sunk in sleep profound, 510
 Along the shore their guardian god surround ;
 He (like a peasant skill'd the herds to keep,
 When evening homeward warns the calves and sheep,
 When hungry wolves, with pleasure listening, hear,
 And mark for prey, the lambs that bleat from far) 515
 With watchful eyes, high-seated on a rock,
 Reviews and counts the numbers of his flock.
 The lucky youth with this occasion blest,
 Just as the seer compos'd his limbs to rest,
 Rush'd on him with a mighty threatening sound, 520
 And fast, the weary, slumbering senior bound.
 He, every various art dissembling tries,
 And many a monster's direful shape belies ;
 Roars horrid like a prowling savage, glows
 Like crackling fire, or like a river flows ; 525
 But when no fraud could further his escape,
 He spoke, return'd to human voice and shape :
 Rash youth ! who bade thee to my court repair
 With impious boldness ? what thou seek'st, declare !
 O Proteus ! well thou know'st the cause, he cry'd, 530
 Nought from thy piercing eyes, can mortals hide ;
 Obedient to the Gods, I seek to know
 What fate decrees, and how to heal my woe.
 The prophet, while his bosom boil'd with ire,
 And while his green eyes shot indignant fire, 535
 Gnashing his teeth, with fury in his look,
 Compell'd, at length, the fates disclosing, spoke ;
 Thou suffer'st for atrocious crimes ; on thee
 Falls the just vengeance of a deity ;
 Unhappy Orpheus on thy guilt hath sent, 540
 And more dost thou deserve, this punishment ;
 And more shalt feel, unless by fate deny'd,
 For still he rages for his murder'd bride.

Illa quidem, dum te fugeret per flumina præceps,
 Inmanem ante pedes hydrum moritura puella
 Servantem ripas alta non vidit in herba.

At chorus aequalis Dryadum clamore supremos 460

Inplerunt montis. serunt Rhodopeiae arces,
 Altaque Pangaea, et Rhefi Mavortia tellus,
 Atque Getae, atque Hebrus, et Actias Orithyia.

Ipsæ cava solans aegrum testudine amorem,
 Te, dulcis conjux, te solo in litore secum, 465

Te veniente die, te decedente canebat.

Taenarias etiam fauces, alta ostia Ditis,

Et caligantem nigra formidine lucum

Ingressus, Manisque adiit, regemque tremendum,
 Nesciaque humanis precibus mansuescere corda. 470

At cantu conmotæ Erebi de sedibus imis

Umbræ ibant tenues, simulacraque luce carentum :

548. *But with loud shrieks.*] Virgil does not at length describe the serpents stinging and killing Eurydice. This from the pen of a lower genius, would have taken up twenty lines. He contents himself with saying—*alta non vidit herba*; and adds immediately,

At chorus aequalis Dryadum.

554. *To thee.*] There are few things in the ancient poetry more moving than the story of Orpheus and Eurydice. It hath acquired new beauties by falling into the hands of the tender and passionate Virgil; and is told by him in so melting a strain, that some of the touches he hath given it can hardly be read without tears. When we are wrought up to such a temper, it naturally leads us to compassionate the hard fate of the unhappy lovers; and we begin to feel some indignation at the captious condition, upon which he was to possess his beauty, or lose her for ever: not to look at his loved Eurydice. Arbitrary and capricious! unbecomming the just brother of Jove, and unlike the bounties of a divine, unenvious nature: unless indeed there be something else understood than appears: some truth in life or morals that lies latent under this circumstance of the tale.

The great and unhappy Lord Verulam, who was sensible of the incongruity, has given an explication of the fable; but seems not to have hit upon the real meaning. What he says is entertaining

She from thy arms, by headlong fear misled,
 Swift o'er the river's verdant margin fled ; 545
 Nor at her feet the fated maid descry'd
 The dreadful snake that kept its grassy side.
 But with loud shrieks her sister-dryads moan'd,
 And high Pangaea's utmost mountains groan'd ;
 Their cries to Rhodope and Thrace were borne, 550
 The Getae, Hebrus, Orithyia mourn.
 He on the desert shore all lonely griev'd,
 And with his concave shell his love-sick heart reliev'd ;
 To thee, sweet wife, still pour'd the piteous lay,
 Thee, sung at dawning, thee at closing day ! 555
 Ev'n hell's wide jaws he ventur'd to explore,
 Deep gates of Dis, and Death's tremendous shore ;
 Down to the Manes went, and cheerless plains, [reigns ;
 The grove where horror frowns, and hell's dread monarch
 Obdurate hearts ! to whom unmov'd by woes 560
 Pray'rs plead in vain, and sorrow useless flows.
 Struck with his song, from Erebus profound,
 Light flitting ghosts, and spirits flock'd around ;

entertaining and beautiful: for he was a spirit of that high order that go ingeniously wrong, and who cannot err without instruction. But I incline to think that the moral of the fiction is rather to be learned at an ordinary music-meeting, or an unmeaning opera, than, where his lordship directs us, in the recesses of an abstruse philosophy.

Orpheus's mistress was music. The powers of it are enchanting. It lulls the reason, and raises the fancy in so agreeable a manner, that we forget ourselves while it lasts. The mind turns dissolute and gay, and hugs itself in all the deluding prospects and fond wishes of a golden dream. Whilst every accent is warbled over by a charming voice, a silly song appears sound morality, and the very words of the opera pass for sense, in presence of their accompaniment. But no sooner does the music cease, than the charm is undone, and the fancies disappear. The first sober look we take of it breaks the spell ; and we are hurried back with some regret to the common dull road of life, when the florid illusion is vanish'd. BLACKWELL'S enquiry concerning the life and writings of Homer, Sect. 11.

Quam multa in foliis avium se millia condunt,
 Vesper ubi, aut hibernus agit de montibus imber :
 Matres, atque viri, defunctaque corpora vita 475
 Magnanimùm heroum, pueri, innuptaeque puellae,
 Inpositique rogis juvenes ante ora parentum,
 Quos circum limus niger, et deformis arundo
 Cocyti, tardaue palus inamabilis unda
 Adligat, et novies Styx interfusa coërcet. 480
 Quin ipsae stupuere domus, atque intuma Lethi
 Tartara, caeruleosque inplexae crinibus anguis
 Eumenides, tenuitque inhians tria Cerberus ora,
 Atque Ixionii vento rota constitit orbis.
 Jamque pedem referens casus evaserat omnis, 485
 Redditaque Eurydice superas veniebat ad auras,
 .Pone sequens ; namque hanc dederat Proserpina legem :
 Cum subita incautum dementia cepit amantem,
 Ignoscenda quidem, scirent si ignoscere Manes.
 Restitit, Eurydicenque suam jam luce sub ipsa 490
 Inmemor, heu, victusque animi respexit. ibi omnis
 Effusus labor, atque inmitis rupta tyranni
 Foedera, terque fragor stagnis auditus Avernis.
 Illa, Quis et me, inquit, miseram, et te perdidit, Orpheu ?
 Quis tantus furor ? en iterum crudelia retro 495
 Fata vocant, conditque natantia lumina somnus.

585. *He stops—and casts.*] The philosophic goddess of Boethius having related the story of Orpheus, who, when he had recovered his wife from the dominions of death, lost her again by looking back upon her in the confines of light, concludes with a very elegant and forcible application ; Whoever you are that endeavour to elevate your mind to the illuminations of Heaven, consider yourselves as represented in this fable ; for he that is once so far overcome, as to turn back his eye towards the infernal caverns, loses, at the first sight, all that influence that attracted him on high.

*Vos haec fabula respicit,
 Quicumque in superum diem,
 Mentem ducere quaeritis.
 Nam qui tartarum in specus,*

Thick as the birds to leafy groves descend,
 When evening clouds, or wintry storms impend; 565
 Mothers and husbands, heroes' awful shades,
 Sweet infant boys, and pure unmarried maids,
 Youths whose fond parents saw their bloom expire,
 And forrowing plac'd them on the funeral pyre;
 Whom black Cocytus' fullen waters bound, 570 }
 Foul shores of mud with reeds unsightly crown'd,
 And the nine streams of winding Styx furround;
 Ev'n these dread mansions listen'd with amaze;
 With awe, death's deepest dungeons heard his lays;
 Struck were the snake-crown'd Furies; Cerberus shews
 His jaws wide-gaping, yet in act to close; 576
 A pause of rest the sad Ixion found,
 His wheel stopt sudden at the powerful sound.
 And now at length no farther toil remain'd,
 The upper air Eurydice regain'd, 580 }
 Behind she came, so Proserpine ordain'd:
 When strait a frenzy the fond lover caught,
 (Could Hell forgive, 'twas sure a venial fault)
 Ev'n on life's confines, impotent of mind,
 He stopt, alas! and cast one look behind. 585
 Fell Pluto's terms he broke! his hopes were lost!
 A groan thrice echoed o'er Avernus' coast.
 Ah! who destroys us both, she sadly cry'd,
 What madness, Orpheus, tears thee from thy bride?
 The cruel fates force me again away! 590
 My swimming eyes no more discern the day;

*Vidus lumina flexerit,
 Quicquid praecipuum trahit,
 Perdit, dum videt inferos.* The Rambler, No. 178.

[587. Thrice echoed.] ———— *Torque fragor stagnis auditus
 Avernis,* says the original very finely. A certain dismal and
 hollow sound was heard through the vaults of hell. Some
 imagine, but I think groundlessly, that it was the shout of
 ghosts rejoicing for Eurydice's return. Surely the other sense
 is far the more poetical and more forcibly imagined.

Jamque vale. feror ingenti circumdata nocte,
 Invalidasque tibi tendens, heu non tua, palmas.
 Dixit, et ex oculis subito, ceu fumus in auras
 Conmixtus tenuis, fugit diversa : neque illum, 500
 Prenfantem nequidquam umbras, et multa volentem
 Dicere praeterea, vidit : nec portitor Orci
 Amplius objectam passus transire paludem.
 Quid faceret ? quo se rapta bis conjuge ferret ?
 Quo fletu Manis, qua numina voce moveret ? 505
 Illa quidem Stygia nabat jam frigida cymba.
 Septem illum totos perhibent ex ordine mensis
 Rupe sub aëria deserti ad Strymonis undam
 Fleffe sibi, et gelidis haec evoluisse sub astris,
 Mulcentem tigris, et agentem carmine quercus. 510
 Qualis populea maerens philomela sub umbra
 Amissos queritur foetus ; quos durus arator
 Observans nido inplumis detraxit : at illa
 Flet noctem, ramoque sedens miserabile carmen
 Integrat, et maestis late loca questibus inplet. 515
 Nulla Venus, nullique animum flexere hymenaei.
 Solus Hyperboreas glacies, Tanaiñque nivalem,
 Arvaque Rhipacis numquam viduata pruinis
 Lustrabat, raptam Eurydicen atque inrita Ditis
 Dona querens. spretae Ciconum quo munere matres, 520
 Inter sacra deum, nocturnique orgia Bacchi,
 Discerptum latos juvenem sparsere per agros.
 Tum quoque marmorea caput a cervice revolsum,
 Gurgite cum medio portans Oeagrius Hebrus

610. *As Philomel.*] Is not Proteus too great a poet in this simile ? But the lines are some of the most exquisite in Virgil. To heighten the pathetic, the birds are not only *inplumis*, but taken from the nest. Nor are they singly *taken*, but *dragged* out of the nest ; to which they *clung back* : which is strongly implied by the word *detraxit*. The verse cannot be read without laying a particular emphasis on this word, as well as on *durus*.

Adieu ! no longer muſt thou bleſs my fight—
 I go ! I ſink ! involv'd in thickeſt night !
 In vain I ſtretch my feeble arms to join
 Thy fond embrace ; ah ! now no longer thine ! 595
 Swift from his ardent gaze, while thus ſhe ſpoke,
 She vaniſh'd into air, like ſubtile ſmoke,
 And left him catching at her empty gholt,
 Deſiring much to ſay, in ſpeechleſs ſorrow loſt :
 The rigid ferryman of hell no more 600
 Would deign to waſt him to the gloomy ſhore :
 What ſhould he do ? where turn ? how ſeek relief ?
 Twice loſt his conſort, how appeaſe his grief ?
 How move the Manes, with what doleful note ?
 She fail'd, already cold, in Charon's boat. 605
 For ſeven long months, by deſart Strymon's ſide,
 Beneath a lofty rock, he mourn'd his bride,
 And ſtretcht in gelid caverns, with his ſong
 Made tygers tame, and drew hard oaks along.
 As Philomel in poplar ſhades, alone, 610
 For her loſt offſpring pours a mother's moan,
 Which ſome rough ploughman marking for his prey,
 From the warm neſt, unſledg'd, hath dragg'd away ;
 Percht on a bough, ſhe all night long complains,
 And fills the grove with ſad repeated ſtrains. 615
 No ſecond fair, no nuptial rites could move,
 Nought ſoften his diſtracted mind to love :
 The Hyperboræan ice he wander'd o'er,
 And ſolitary roam'd round Tanais' ſhore,
 And Scythia's deſerts of eternal froſt, 620
 Lamenting his loſt bride, and Pluto's favours loſt.
 The Thracian dames enrag'd to be deſpis'd,
 At Bacchus' midnight feaſts they ſolemniz'd,
 Inſpir'd with frantic fury ſeiz'd the ſwain,
 And ſtrew'd his mangled carcaſe o'er the plain : 625
 His pale head from his ivory ſhoulders torn,
 Adown Ocagrian Hebrus' tide was borne ;

Volveret, Eurydicen vox ipsa et frigida lingua, 525
 Ah miseram Eurydicen anima fugiente vocabat :
 Eurydicen toto referebant flumine ripae,
 Haec Proteus, et se jactu dedit aequor in altum.
 Quaque dedit, spumantem undam sub vertice torfit.
 At non Cyrene : namque ultro adfata timentem : 530
 Nate, licet tristis animo deponere curas.
 Haec omnis morbi caussa : hinc miserabile Nymphae,
 Cum quibus illa choros lucis agitabat in altis,
 Exitium misere apibus, tu munera supplex
 Tende petens pacem, et faciles venerare Napaeas. 535
 Namque dabunt veniam votis, irasque remittent,
 Sed, modus orandi qui sit, prius ordine dicam.
 Quatuor eximios praestanti corpore tauros,
 Qui tibi nunc viridis depascunt summa Lycæi,
 Delige, et intacta totidem cervice juvencas. 540
 Quatuor his aras alta ad delubra dearum
 Constatue, et sacrum jugulis demitte cruorem :
 Corporaque ipsa boum frondoso desere luco.
 Post, ubi nona suos Aurora ostenderit ortus,
 Inferias Orphi Lethaea papavera mittes, 545
 Fiatam Eurydicen vitula venerabere caesa,
 Et nigram mactabis ovem, lucumque revives.
 Haud mora : continuo matris praecepta faceffit :
 Ad delubra venit ; monstratas excitat aras ;
 Quatuor eximios praestanti corpore tauros 550
 Ducit, et intacta totidem cervice juvencas,

633. *He spoke.*] Though the episode of Orpheus and Eurydice be so admirable in itself, that we thank the poet for having introduced it at any rate ; yet, after all, is it not stich'd in a little inartificially ? Is it to be conceived that Proteus, who, being made a prisoner, and speaking by constraint, is in no very good humour, should tell this long story (which is not very material to the point neither) to entertain Aristaeus, who has offered that violence to him ? Was it not enough to inform him, that his misfortune was occasioned by Eurydice's death, without telling all these circumstances consequent of it ? Perhaps it may be reply'd, that it is more material to the point

As in the rapid waves it roll'd along,
 Ev'n then with faltering voice and feeble tongue,
 To name his poor Eurydice he try'd, 630 }
 Eurydice, with parting breath he cry'd, }
 Eurydice! the rocks and echoing shores reply'd. }
 He spoke; and 'mid the waves his body hurl'd,
 About his head the foaming waters curl'd.
 Not so Cyrene; to assuage his fears, 635
 My son, she cries, allay thy restless cares;
 Behold the cause of all this dire disease;
 The nymphs have sent destruction on thy bees,
 With whom Eurydice was wont t' advance,
 And lead in lofty groves the sacred dance. 640
 Thou suppliant offer gifts, and sue for peace,
 The mild Napaeans will their anger cease;
 But hear me first in order due declare,
 The means to sooth their rage, and frame thy pray'r:
 Select four large and beauteous bulls that crop 645
 Thy verdant pastures on Lycaeus' top,
 Four heifers too, that ne'er have plough'd the field,
 Four altars in the Dryads' temples build;
 From the slain victims pour the sacred blood,
 And leave their bodies in the shady wood: 650
 When the ninth morn o'er dewy hills shall spring,
 To Orpheus' ghost Lethean poppies bring;
 With a black ewe Eurydice adore,
 And shed for her a victim-heifer's gore:
 Revisit then the grove. Without delay 655
 He speeds his mother's precepts to obey;
 Hastes to the temple, there his altars builds, [fields:
 Four bulls, four heifers leads, that ne'er had plough'd the

point than is commonly imagined. These consequences greatly aggravate the guilt of Aristaeus; and so it was proper enough, if not absolutely necessary, to recite them. Whether this answer be sufficient, or not, I neither know, nor much care. Be it as it will, I would not lose this episode, to be the author of all the best criticisms that ever were, or shall be, written upon the classics.

TRAPP.

Post, ubi nona suos Aurora induxerat ortus,
Inferias Orphi mittit, lucumque revisit.

Hic vero subitum ac dictu mirabile monstrum

Aspiciunt, liquefacta boum per viscera toto 555

Stridere apes utero, et ruptis effervere costis ;

Inmensaque trahi nubes ; jamque arbore summa

Confluere, et lentis uvam demittere ramis.

Hæc super arborum cultu pecorumque canebam,

Et super arboribus : Caesar dum magnus ad altum 560

Fulminat Euphraten bello, victorque volentis

Per populos dat jura, viamque adfectat Olympo.

Illo Virgilium me tempore dulcis alebat

Parthenope, studiis florentem ignobilis otii :

Carmina qui lusi pastorum, audaxque juvenæ, 565

Tityre, te patulæ cecini sub tegmine fagi.

663. *Putrid bowels.*] Observe how the poet has varied his expressions on a subject so difficult to be ornamentally expressed as this birth of the bees, for

— liquefacta boum per viscera toto —

— et ruptis effervere costis —

is quite newly expressed from what it was before in the passage above, *Interea teneris tepesactus in ossibus humor.*

673. *Parthenope.*] There may be a propriety in this that is not generally remarked. Naples was a town of indolence and pleasure, and was therefore, as some suppose, said to have been founded by Parthenope one of the Sirens, who were goddesses of indolence and pleasure :

Improba firen

Desidia — — —

Otiosa Neapolis.

HOR.

This idea too makes the contrast between Augustus and Virgil much the stronger.

SPENCE.

At the ninth morning's dawn to Orpheus bears
 Th' appointed gifts, and to the grove repairs : 660
 When lo ! a wond'rous prodigy they found,
 An host of bees rush'd forth with humming sound,
 By the slain bullocks' putrid bowels form'd,
 From whose burst sides, in clouds immense they swarm'd ;
 Then from a tree's high top, conglob'd depend, 665
 Whose branches with the bellying cluster bend.

Thus have I sung the labours of the swain,
 Of trees, of flocks, of cattle, and of grain ;
 While mighty Caesar to Euphrates bears
 His conquering arms, the thunder of his wars ; 670
 To all the willing world new laws decrees ;
 And ardent presses on, th' Olympian heights to seize,
 Then me, Parthenope's calm pleasures blest,
 And studious leisure and ignoble rest ;
 Who bold in youth, once sung the shepherds loves, 675
 Sung thee, O Tityrus, stretcht beneath the beechen groves.

673. *Then me.*] I cannot forbear being of opinion that the four concluding lines of the Georgics, *illo Virgilium, &c. &c.* are of the same stamp and character with the four justly-exploded ones, which are prefixed to the Aeneid. *Audaxque juvenia* is, I think, an expression entirely unworthy of Virgil, and a mere botch. Besides nothing can be a more complete and sublime conclusion than that compliment to Augustus — *Viamque affeclat Olympo.*

676. *Groves.*] Each book of Virgil's Georgics is in a different stile (or has a different colouring) from all the rest. That of the first is *plain* ; of the second *various* ; of the third, *grand* ; and of the fourth *pleasing*.
 HOLDSWORTH.

THE END OF THE FOURTH GEORGIC.



REFLECTIONS
ON
DIDACTIC POETRY.

THE ancients have left us no rules or observations concerning this species of poetry. Aristotle, chiefly intent on giving laws to dramatic writers, advises the true poet to disappear as much as possible, to write only in dialogue, and never to speak in his own person; because, says he, it may be laid down as a general rule in this art, that when the poet speaks in his own person, he is no longer an imitator. In conformity to this opinion, Castelvetro, the learned Italian commentator on Aristotle's Poetics, has declared, that if Virgil had written nothing but the Georgics, he ought not to have been enrolled among the number of the poets. For, says he, p. 29. not very much to the honour of the art he is teaching, physiology can never be the subject of poetry, which was invented not to instruct, but barely to amuse and entertain the minds of the multitude. And what was the general opinion of the ancients on this subject, may be easily known from that story of Socrates related in the Phaedon of Plato: who being admonished in a dream to apply himself to music, began to compose an hymn to Apollo, whose feast was then celebrating. But upon afterwards

afterwards reflecting, that a person who would be a true poet, must make fables (must *create*) and not write mere discourses in metre; he at once took a common fable from Aesop, not having any inventive faculty himself. And 'tis observable, that Plutarch, after quoting this story of Socrates, excludes Empedocles, Parmenides, Nicander, and Theognis, out of the number of legitimate poets; because, adds he, we know there may be sacrifices without music and dancing, but there can be no true poetry or imitation, without fiction and fables. This severe remark, which seems not to be founded on nature and truth, would effectually exclude all didactic and descriptive poetry. Surely the poet is an imitator, when he paints any object of universal nature, animate or inanimate, whether he speaks in his own person or introduces speakers; tho' indeed imitations of the latter species have not the same dignity or utility with those of human manners, passions, and characters.

To render instruction amiable, to soften the severity of science, and to give virtue and knowledge a captivating and engaging air, is the great privilege of the didactic muse; 'tis she, who

———— *praesepiens ante Vixi*
Cuncta coloribus egregiis, et odoribus opplet.

LUCRETIVS.

Profess'd teaching is highly disagreeable to the natural pride of man, as it implies a superiority of understanding over the person instructed. That precepts may gain an easy admission into the heart, it is necessary to deliver them in a concealed indirect manner, divested of all pretensions to a larger share of reason, and of all dogmatical stiffness. A man who peruses any system, written in this modest unassuming method, and adorned moreover with striking images and harmonious numbers,

—— *discit citius, meminitque libentius.* HOR.
 As

As material objects are most susceptible of poetical ornaments, so perhaps, the various employments, businesses, and amusements of life, together with the elegant arts and sciences, are more proper subjects for didactic poetry, than such as are purely speculative and metaphysical. Abstract ideas admit but of few embellishments. All parts of natural philosophy in particular, as being conversant about sensible images, seem the best calculated to shine in this way of writing ;

— *Coelique vias et sidera monstrant,
Defectus solis varios, lunaeque labores :
Unde tremor terris, qua vi maria alta tumescant
Objicibus ruptis, rursusque in seipsa resident ;
Quid tantum oceano properent se tingere soles
Hyberni, vel quae tardis mora noctibus obstet.*

We have some elegant but short specimens of this sort in the *Musae Anglicanae* : such are the poems on a barometer, on the circulation of the blood, on the telescope, and on Dr. Hales's vegetable statics.

In making choice of a proper subject, regard should be had, to fix, if possible, upon one of an important and universal nature ; and which may deeply interest all mankind. Such is Dr. Armstrong's poem on the art of preserving health. And after this interesting subject is chosen, only such rules relating to it should be selected, as will bear to be delivered gracefully ; and to be enlivened with poetical imagery. It is not required or expected of a poet, to enter into a minute detail of dry precepts, but to single out those precepts, that will entertain as well as instruct his reader.

— *et quae*

Desperat tractata nitescere posse, relinquit. HOR.

Mr. Addison observes, that there are several ways of conveying the same truth to the mind of man ; and to choose the pleasantest of these ways, is that which chiefly distinguishes

tinguishes poetry from prose, and makes Virgil's rules of husbandry pleasanter to read than Varro's. Where the prose writer tells us plainly what ought to be done, the poet often conceals the precept in the description, and represents his countryman performing the action in which he would instruct his reader. Where the one sets out as fully and distinctly as he can, all the parts of the truth which he would communicate to us, the other singles out the most pleasing circumstance of this truth, and so conveys the whole in a more diverting manner to the understanding.

The delicate address of Virgil in this particular is worth our attention; of which the following instances may be given. Instead of telling his husbandman plainly, that his crops will fail by bad management; he says,

*Hæc magnum alterius frustra spectabis acervum,
Concussaque famem in sylvis solabere quercu.*

Instead of saying, that elms by engrafting have borne acorns, he speaks of that operation in this lively manner:

— *Glandemque suos fregere sub ulmis.*

Instead of informing us that the farmers often root up an old forest, he adorns this proceeding with the following picturesque circumstances:

*Antiquasque domos avium cum stirpibus imis
Eruit; illae altum nidis petiere relictis.*

He does not call the plane a large tree, but says,

Jamque ministrantem platanum potantibus umbram.

And instead of ordering the farmer to water his grounds, what a landscape does he present us with!

*Ecce, supercilio clivosi tramitis undam
Elicit: illa cadens raucum per lævia murmur
Saxa ciet, scatebrisque arenia temperat arva!*

After this manner should the didactic poet raise and enliven every precept he gives; he should turn rules into

images; he should describe things by their effects; and speak of them as already done, instead of regularly ordering the manner in which they should be done; and throw in circumstances and adjuncts, that may forcibly strike the imagination, and embellish and conceal the dryness of the subject.

But altho' the poet delivers his precepts in the most artful manner imaginable, and renders them as palatable as possible, yet the reader will soon be disgusted with a continued series of instruction, if his mind be not relieved at proper intervals by pleasing digressions of various kinds, naturally arising from the main subject, and closely connected with it. If Virgil had confined himself merely to agriculture, and had never inserted in his poem the prodigies that attended the death of Julius Caesar, the praises of Italy; the chariot-race, the Scythian winter-piece, the happiness of a country-life, the loves of the beasts, and the pathetic description of the plague among the cattle; his *Georgics*, tho' abounding in most useful rules, delivered with dignity and grace united, would never have been the delight and admiration of his own, and all succeeding ages. His art is no where more remarkable than in those passages, where, after seeming to have left his subject and his husbandmen, he suddenly returns to them, and connects all he has been saying, though he appears to have wandered far from his purpose, by adding some rural circumstance; thus having spoken of the battle of *Pharfalia*, he subjoins immediately with great address,

*Scilicet & tempus veniet cum finibus illis
Agricolae, incurvo terram molitus aratro
Exesa inveniet scabra rubigine pila;
Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanes,
Grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulchris.*

And again, after saying the world was distracted with many wars, he instantly adds,

———— Non

————— *Non ullus aratro*

Dignus bonos ———

————— Thus Maro's muse,
 Thrice sacred muse! commodious precepts gives,
 Instructive to the swains; not only bent
 On what is gainful, sometimes she diverts
 From solid counsels, shews the force of love
 In savage beasts; how virgin face divine
 Attracts the hapless youth thro' storms and waves,
 Alone in deep of night; then she describes
 The Scythian winter, nor disdains to sing
 How under ground the rude Riphæan race,
 Mimic brisk cyder with the brake's product wild,
 Sloes pounded, hips, and servis' hardest juice.

PHILIPS's Cyder, B. 1.

This last mentioned author, among other classical beauties, hath closely copied Virgil in throwing many artful digressions into his poem. He opens his second book with an address to Lord Harcourt's son, then abroad upon his travels in Italy, and afterwards returns to his subject with great dexterity in the following lines :

Mean while (altho' the Massic grape delights,
 Pregnant of racy juice, and Formian hills
 Temper thy cups, yet) wilt thou not reject
 Thy native liquors; lo! for thee my mill
 Now grinds choice apples, and the British vats
 O'erflow with generous cyder. Book 2.

This poet, speaking afterwards of the pernicious effects of drunkenness, and of the discords and quarrels arising from this vice, slides with great art and address into a description of the civil wars and dissensions that have frequently troubled the repose of this kingdom. And when he comes to mention the last great rebellion, very dexterously flings in the following line :

Yet was the cyder land unstain'd with guilt.

This

This at once recalls the mind of the reader to the subject, which the author seemed to have forsaken, during so long a digression. Of the same kind are his descriptions of the destruction of old Ariconium, the praises of Herefordshire; the moral characters of the most celebrated poets, at the conclusion of the first, and the effects of the Union at the end of the second book: where, after saying, that

———— Where'er the British spread
Triumphant banners, or their fame has reach'd
Diffusive to the utmost bounds of this
Wide universe, —

he concludes fully and appositely to his subject,

———— Silurian cyder borne,
Shall please all tastes, and triumph o'er the vine.

But of all the various kinds of digressions, those of a pathetic nature, if they can be introduced with propriety, will have the best effect. A moving tale, such as the history of Orpheus and Eurydice in the fourth book of the Georgics, is most likely to render a didactic poem interesting. A stroke of passion is worth a hundred of the most lively and glowing descriptions. Men love to be moved, much better than to be instructed. Supposing (says the Abbé du Bos) that the subject of a didactic poem is so exceedingly curious, as to induce you to read it once over with great pleasure; yet you will never peruse it a second time with the same satisfaction you taste even from an eclogue. The understanding feels no pleasure in being instructed twice in the same thing; but the heart is capable of feeling the same emotion twice, with great pleasure. This amiable and ingenious writer, who hath struck out many new observations upon poetry, illustrates his opinion, that a poem abounding in the best-written descriptions will never deeply affect a

reader, except something of the pathetic be added, by the following remarks on a sister art.

“ The finest landscape of Titian or Carrache, does not interest the beholder more than would the real prospect of a village in a disagreeable or pleasant country. There is nothing in such a picture that speaks to one, if I may be allowed the expression. And as it does not touch the heart, it cannot gain the attention. [The best painters were so well convinced of this truth, that they have very seldom given us landscapes wholly desert, and without human figures *. They have peopled their pictures; they have introduced into them persons employed in some action capable of moving us, and by consequence of engaging our attention. This is the constant practice of Pouffin, Rubens, and the other great masters, who do not think it sufficient to place in their landscapes a man passing on the road, or perhaps a countrywoman carrying her fruits to market. They introduce men agitated with passions, in order to excite ours, and by such an emotion to interest us and engage our attention. In effect, the figures introduced in these pictures, are more frequently mentioned and talked of, than their trees or terraces.

* This observation may be illustrated by that fine simile of Milton.

As one who long in populous city pent,
 Where houses thick and sewers annoy the air,
 Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe
 Among the pleasant villages and farms
 Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight,
 The smell of grain, or tedded grass, or kine,
 Or dairy, each rural sight, each rural sound;
 If chance with nymphlike step fair virgin pass,
 What pleasing seem'd, FOR HER now pleases more;
 She most, and in her look sums all delight.

Paradise Lost, B. 9. v. 445.

The beholder's delight is doubled, at the appearance of this living beauty.

The

The landscape which Poussin painted several times over, and which is commonly called his Arcadia, would never have been so celebrated, if it had contained no human figures.

Who has not heard of that famous country, which is said to have been inhabited by the happiest men that ever existed on earth? Men employed only on their pleasures, and who knew no other inquietudes, than those which beset the imaginary shepherds in romances, whose condition is so much to be envied. The picture of which I am speaking, represents a landscape in this delightful country. In the midst we see the monument of a young virgin, dead in the flower of her age: this we know by means of her statue laid at length on her tomb after the manner of the ancients. The sepulchral inscription is but four Latin words: *and yet I lived in Arcadia. Et in Arcadiâ ego.* But this inscription, short as it is, gives occasion for very serious reflections, to two young men and two young maidens, crowned with chaplets of flowers, who seem to have met accidentally with this mournful monument, in a place where they might well imagine no melancholy object was to be found. One of their company makes the rest take notice of this inscription, by pointing to it with his finger. And one may perceive, in the midst of the affliction and pity that begin to spread themselves over their features, something of the remains of an expiring joy. We imagine we hear the reflections of these young persons on the power of death, who spares neither age, nor beauty; and against whom the happiest climates can afford no protection. We figure to ourselves what touching things they would say to one another, when they recovered from their first surprize, and we apply these things to ourselves, and to those for whom we are concerned. It is in poetry as in painting; and the imitations which poetry makes of nature, touch and affect us, only in proportion to the impression, which

the thing intended would make on our hearts, if we find it in reality.*

These observations, drawn from the art of painting, are in full of good sense, as of solid reflection, and seem to be founded on a knowledge of the human heart; on which knowledge all true criticism must be founded. They sufficiently evince that without something of the pathetic, something that comes home to our business and business, no didactic poem can possibly be interesting.

As to the style of a didactic poem, which comes next to be considered, it ought certainly to abound in the most bold and forcible metaphors, the most glowing and picturesque epithets: it ought to be elevated and embellished by pomp of numbers, and majesty of words, and by every figure that can lift a language above the vulgar and current expressions. One may add, that in no kind of poetry has not even in the sublime ode, is a beauty of expression so much to be required as in this. For the epic writer should be very cautious of indulging himself in the least a manner of expression; especially in the dramatic parts of his fable, where he introduces dialogue. And the writer of tragedy cannot afford him in introducing any metaphors or epithets, as in the sublime didactic poem.

FINIS

* I have observed in a great number of instances, that the

it may not be improper to mention the following young
 person in the history of his country, and to mention his
 virtues and talents. When I have seen the strength
 and industry of his mind, and the force of his
 in some of his writings, I have been much
 in his mind, and I have seen in his mind
 of the country, and I have seen in his mind
 of the country.

I am persuaded by experience
 and observation to think that the
 in some of his writings, and I have seen
 of the country, and I have seen in his mind
 of the country.

pompous epithets, studied phrases, and high-flown metaphors, into the mouths of his characters. But as the didactic poet speaks in his own person, it is necessary and proper for him to use a more luscious colouring of style, and to be more studious of ornament. And this is agreeable to an admirable precept of Aristotle, which no writer in any kind of composition, be it prose or poetry, should ever forget,—that diction ought most to be laboured in the unactive, that is, the descriptive parts of the poem, in which the opinions, manners and passions of men are not represented; for too glaring an expression obscures the manners and the sentiments. Την δὲ λέξιν διδιαπορεύει ἐν τοῖς ἀεργοῖς μέρεσσι, καὶ μὴτε ἠθικοῖς, μὴτε διανοητικοῖς. ἀποκερταί: γὰρ παλιν ἢ λίαν λαμπρὰ λέξιν τὰ ἠθῆ, καὶ τὰς διανοίας. Poetics, chap. 24.

Accordingly Virgil hath used every possible method of exalting his style into dignity and grace, by bold metaphors, grecisms, striking epithets, and poetical circumlocutions.

Hence it is that he will not say *quo tempore*, but *sydere*, in the very first line of his poem. Hence he says, *scindimus æquor* for ploughing, and *Saturni dente* for the pruning hook. Hence is it that he ascribes human properties and passions to plants and animals.

And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,
 An alligator stuf, and other skins
 Of ill-fhap'd fishes; and about his shelves
 A beggarly account of empty boxes;
 Green earthen-pots, bladders and musty seeds,
 Remnants of packthread, and old cakes of roses,
 Were thinly scatter'd to make up a shew.

Act 5. Scene 3.

I appeal to those who know any thing of the human heart, whether Romeo in this distressful situation, could have leisure to think of the alligator, empty boxes, and bladders, and other furniture of this beggarly shop, and to point them out so distinctly to the audience. The description is indeed very lively and natural, but very improperly put into the mouth of a person agitated with such passion as Romeo is represented to be.

Exuerint sylvestrem animam, cultuque frequenti,

3 *In quascunque voces artes, haud tarda sequuntur.*

Georg. ii. v. 51.

Moerentem abjungens, fraternâ morte juvenum.

Georg. iii. 518.

Miraturque novas frondes et non sua poma.

Georg. ii. 82.

Et quis cuique dolor victo, quae gloria palmae.

Georg. iii. 102.

Tardaue Eleusinae matris volventia plaustra.

Georg. i. v. 163.

'Tis after this manner Virgil judiciously conceals the nakedness and barrenness of his subject, by the lustre of his language, and gives to Ceres the cestus of Venus. 'Tis thus (to use Addison's words) that he breaks the clods, and tosses the dung about with an air of gracefulness. Or, as Boileau speaks of another, it is thus that he turneth every thing he touches into gold.

I shall now endeavour to point the merit or imperfection of the most celebrated didactic poets, ancient and modern, by giving a short and I hope impartial account of each. I shall begin with Hesiod, whose character has been drawn by Mr. Addison in the following words. "If we may guess, says he, at Hesiod's character from his writings, he had much more of the husbandman than the poet in his temper: he was wonderfully grave, discreet and frugal; he lived altogether in the country, and was probably, for his great prudence, the oracle of the whole neighbourhood. These principles of good husbandry ran thro' his works, and directed him to the choice of tillage and merchandize, for the subject of that which is the most celebrated of them. He is every where bent on instruction, avoids all manner of digressions, and does not stir out of the field once in the whole Georgic. His method in describing month after month with its proper seasons

seasons and employments, is too grave and simple; it takes off from the surprize and variety of the poem, and makes the whole look but like a modern almanack in verse. The reader is carried through a course of weather, and may beforehand guess, whether he is to meet with snow or rain, clouds or sun-shine, in the next description. The descriptions indeed have abundance of nature in them; but then it is nature in her simplicity and undress. — Nor has he shewn more of art or judgment in the precepts he has given us, which are sown so very thick, that they clog the poem too much, and are often so minute and full of circumstances, that they weaken and unnerve his verse. But after all, we are beholden to him for the first rough sketch of a Georgic, where we may still discover something venerable in the antiqueness of the work; but if one would see the design enlarged, the figures reformed, and the colouring laid on, and the whole piece finished, we must expect it from a greater master's hand."

I cannot help thinking, but that Mr. Addison hath placed the merit of this venerable father of didactic poetry rather too low. There is a great beauty in his natural and artless way of writing; and such primaeval simplicity, tho' it does not strike us at first sight so forcibly, as a more laboured and artificial style, yet is infinitely pleasing to one of a just taste, and every real lover of nature. However Hesiod sometimes rises into great dignity of expression, and has given many instances of true poetry. Of this kind is his account of the iron age, where the goodness of his heart appears in every line; and which concludes with the following admirable verses, describing with a lofty prosopoeia, ENVY, like a constant companion following all the sons of men, and MODESTY and NEMESIS, retreating from the earth.

Ζηλος δ' ανθρωποισιν οιζυροισιν ἀπασιν,
 Δυσικλαδος, κακοχαρτος, ἰμαρτασιν ενγυμνωτας.
 Και τοτε δε προς ολυμποι απο χροτος ευνοφαιας,
 Λευκοισιν φαρισσοι καλυφμενιν χροα καλοι,
 Αθαλατων μετα φυλοι ιτην, περιλοιποτ' ανθρωπων,
 Αιδως και Νεμισισ' τα δε λειψεται αλγια λυγχα
 Θνητοις ανθρωποισι' κακω δ' υπ ισοιται αλαχη.

Εργ. 2, Ημερ. α. 194.

The four last of these lines, in which the goddesses Modesty and Nemesis are described as beautiful personages, arrayed in white robes, are I think more poetical than even Virgil's imitation of them,

———— *extrema per illos*

Justitia excedens terris vestigia fecit. Georg. ii.

Neither hath Mr. Addison justly represented our author's description of the cold in the month of January. "The wild beasts, says he, run shivering through the woods with their heads stooping to the ground, and their tails clapt between their legs; the goats and oxen are almost flayed with cold." In this translation of Mr. Addison the following fine description of Boreas rushing from the kingdom of Thrace, throwing down the tallest oaks, and spreading the valleys with uprooted beeches, is totally and unfairly omitted.

Οτι δια Θρηκης ιππασσιν ευρει ποτω,
 Εμπνυσας ωρει' μετασθ' δι γαια και ὕλη.
 Πολλας δε δρυς ὑψικομωσ, ελατας τε παχιασ,
 Ουριος εν βησσης πιλιᾶ, χβοι πυλυβοτειρη
 Εμπνιπῶν, και πασα βοᾶ τοτε νηριτος ὕλη.

As to the passage which Mr. Addison translates, "The old men too are bitterly pincht with the weather;" I beg leave to think that the words in the original have great dignity, and that it is a stroke of nature, very artfully introduced into the description.

———— τροχαιοι

—τροχάλον δὲ γέροντα τῆρασι.

Εργ. 2^η Ημερ. β. 135.

Our old poet's picture of the spring, and the pleasures to be enjoyed at that delicious season, is indeed not so highly finished as Virgil's (Georg. ii. 323.) yet is very pleasing to the mind, as it gives one so lively an idea of the simple and natural manners of those early ages.

Ἄλλα τούτ' ἤδη

Ἐν πετρᾷν τι σκῆν, καὶ βιβλίος οἶκος,
 Μαζὰ τ' ἀμολγαῖν, γαλα τ' αὐγῶν ὄβεντυμμεναι,
 Καὶ βοὸς ὑλοφαγοῖο κρεῖας μῆτ' ἑτοπιμας,
 Πρωτογοῶν τ' κρεῖων' ἔπι δ' αἰδοπα πτεροῖο οἶον,
 Ἐν σκῆν εἰζομίον, κροκημίον πτερ ἰδωδης,
 Ἀρτίον ευκρεῖος ἀνιμ τρεψαντα προσωποσ,
 Κρηης τ' ἀσιαν καὶ ἀποροτυ, η τ' ἀβολωτος.

Εργ. 2^η Ημερ. βιβ. β. 206.

I shall conclude these remarks on Hesiod with his character, as drawn by Paterculus, lib. i. c. 7. *Vir persol-gantis ingenii, et mollissimâ dulcedine carminum memorabilis, otii quietisque cupidissimus, ut tempore tanto viro [Homero scil.] ita operis auctoritate proximus.*

EMPEDOCLES flourished about the 80th olympiad : he was a native of Sicily, and wrote a poem on the nature of things, and the four elements ; the loss of which, if we may judge from some few noble fragments that remain, we have great reason to regret. Even the severe Aristotle speaks of him with great respect, and says, * that he was very Homeric in his manner ; that his style was forcible, well laboured, and full of metaphors ; and that he made use of all the proper methods that could conduce to the beauty of his poetry. One of his fragments is well

* Ὁμηρικὸς Ἐμπεδοκλῆς, καὶ διῶνος περὶ φρασῶν γέροντι, μεταφορικὸς πρὸς τὸν, καὶ τοῖς ἀλλοῖς τοῖς περὶ ποιητικῶν ἰκτινύμασι χρεώματος. Ἀριστοτ. ἐν τῶν περὶ ποιητικῶν. Dig. Laeg.

worthy our attention, as it contains some of the most exalted and spiritualized notions of the Deity that are any where to be found in the poetry of the ancient Greeks. He seems to have been ridiculing the absurd notions that prevailed of corporeal gods; and expressly affirms, that it is impossible God can have any parts or members, or any thing resembling the human shape. I hope it will not be deemed pedantry to set down at length so extraordinary a fragment.

Οὐτι γὰρ ἀνδρομῆ κεφαλὴ κατὰ γυναι κικαται,
 Οὐ μὲν ἀπαι ἰστων γὰρ δύο κλάδοι αἴσθησιν,
 Οὐ πῶδες, ἢ ὄρα γυν, ἢ μῆλια λαχρηίτα,
 Ἄλλα φρενὶ ἰεση, καὶ ἀδισφατος ἐπλάτο μῦθος,
 Φροτισὶ κοσμοὶ ἅπαντα καταίσσυσσα ὄρασι.

But what may justly give us the highest idea of this poet, and of the loss the learned world has sustained by the want of his work, is the noble and affectionate character given of him by Lucretius, in a passage, in which the poetry and the panegyric are equally great. Where after speaking of the wonders of Sicily in very sublime terms, he adds, that nothing which that country had produced was so worthy of attention and admiration, or so truly valuable and illustrious as this incomparable man;

*Quorum Acragantinus cum primis Empedocles est,
 Insula quem Triquetris terrarum gessit in oris,
 Quam fluitans circum magnis amfraetibus aequor,
 Ionium glaucis aspergit virus ab undis;
 Angustoque fretu rapidum mare dividit undis
 Aeoliae terrarum oras a finibus ejus.
 Hic est vasta Charybdis, et hic Aetnea minantur
 Murmura flammaram rursus se colligere in iras
 Faucibus eraptos iterum ut vis evomat ignes;
 Ad coelumque ferat flammai fulgura rursus;
 Qua, quem magna modis multis miranda videtur*

Gentibus

*Gentibus humanis regio, visendaque fertur,
Rebus opima bonis, multâ munita virum vi;
Nil tamen hoc habuisse viro praeclarius in se,
Nec sanctum magis, et mirum, carumque videtur.
Carmina quin etiam divini pectoris ejus
Vociferantur, et exponunt praeclara reperta;
Ut vix humanâ videatur stirpe creatus.*

LUCRETIVS, l. i. 717.

ARATUS, who flourished in the reign of Ptolomy Philadelphus, was the cotemporary and friend of Theocritus*: he composed an astronomical poem on the nature and motion of the stars. Cicero (not probably the most able judge of poetry, and who translated this work into Latin) says, he writes *ornatissimos atque optimos versus*; but he certainly wants spirit and elevation. Virgil has manifestly borrowed many of his prognostics in the first book, from this writer's phaenomena; and it may be no unpleasing amusement to see how the Roman has improved and heightened the images he took from the Greek.

The loud resounding of the sea-coasts, and the noise among the mountains, are mentioned as prognostics of wind by Aratus in the following lines;

Στμα δι τοι αιμοιο, και οιδανσα θαλασσα
Γινεθω, και μακρον επ' αιγαλοι βοουντες,
Αχλας τ' αιγαλοι, οποι' ευδοι ηχησσα
Γιγιοιται, κορυφαι τε βομμεται κριος ακραι.

Which circumstances Virgil hath plainly borrowed;

Continuo

- * Who addresses his sixth Idyllium to him;

Δαιμοτας και Δαφνις ο Βουκοχος κς ινα χυρον
Ται αγιλιαν ποι Αρατι; ———

and is imagined to speak of his loves in the seventh. This is the poet whom the polite apostle St. Paul quotes to the Athenians, Acts xvii. 28. Τα γαρ και γενος εσμεν, *We are also his offspring.*

*Continuo ventis surgentibus, aut freta ponti
Incipiunt agitata tumescere, et aridus ulte
Mentibus audiri fragor: aut resonantia longe
Littora misceri, et nemorum increbescere murmur.*

It is obvious that the Roman poet hath added many beauties to his original: such is, the heaving and swelling of the sea, so strongly expressed in words that rise one above another like the waves;

— *Freta ponti
Incipiunt agitata tumescere* —

Such is the *aridus fragor*, not to be found in the Greek; and the rustling murmur of the woods, represented by *nemorum increbescere murmur*. Again, Aratus mentions the prognostic of the water-fowl ducking themselves before rain:

Πολλὰς λιμναίας η̄ ποταμούς ορνίθας
Απλάγην κλυζέταις ουρανῶν ὑδατίσσι.

But see what lively and picturesque circumstances Virgil hath added of his own!

*Certatim largos humeris infundere rores;
Nunc caput oblectare fretis, nunc currere in undas,
Et studio incassum videas gestire lavandi.*

Αυτὰρ ὅτ' ἐξ ἔνθεο καὶ ἐκ ἰσθμῶν ἀγρῶν ἦσαν
Ἄλλοτε δ' ἐκ ζιφυροῦ, καὶ ἄλλοτε παρ' ὀρέων,
Ὅτε τις πλάγῃ ἐν δίδυμῶν ἰαυτῶν ἀγρῶν.

ARATUS.

*At Boreae de parte trucidis cum fulminat, et cum
Eurique Zephyrique tonat domus, omnia plenis
Rura natant fossis, atque omnis navita ponto
Humida vela legit.*

The expressions of *trucidis*, of *Zephyri domus*, and *plenis rura natant fossis*, are poetical additions. Even the celebrated description of the crows is taken from Aratus.

Tum

*Tum Equidas corvi presso ter gutture voces
Aut quater ingeminant; et saepe cubilibus altis,
Nescio qua praeter solitum dulcedine laeti
Inter se foliis strepitant; juvat imbribus aëris
Progeniem parvam, dulcesque revisere nidos.*

And it must be granted that the Greek verses are extremely good, and indeed little inferior to Virgil's :

Και κορακὸς μύθοι μὲν, κρημαῖοι βοῶντες
Δίσσακίς αὐτὰς ἰσχυτὰ μεταθροα κελυφούτας.
Πλειότεραι δ' ἀγέληδον ἐπὶν κούτοιο μιδάκται,
Φητὸς ἐμπλάσιοι, χαιρῶν καὶ τὶς ἀπασπύτο,
Οἷα τὰ μὲν, βοῶνσι, λυγρομεροῖσι δ' ὄμοια.
Πολλὰ δὲ διδρυμοῖο παρὶ φλοῦν ἀλλοτ' ἐπ' αὐτοῖο.
Ἢχ' ἢ τὶ κλισίῃ καὶ ὑποτροκοῖ ἀπίασεται.

But what Virgil adds is purely his own: when he accounts for this unusual joy, by the various effects which the alteration of the air will have on their bodies, in the most perspicuous and beautiful terms :

*Haud equidem credo quia sit divinitus illis
Ingenium, aut rerum facta prudentia major;
Verum, ubi tempestas et coeli mobilis humor,
Mutavere vias, et Jupiter humidus austris.
Densat, erant quae rara modo, et quae densa relaxat;
Vertuntur species animorum, et pectora motus
Nunc alios, alios, dum nubila ventus agebat,
Concipiunt.*

To express such abstruse notions with so much clearness and grace, is a great instance of Virgil's supreme mastery of language.

On the whole, Aratus appears to have a great deal of nature, but not much dignity and vivacity in his manner. His character is so finely and so justly drawn by Quintilian, and is applicable to so many didactic poets, that I shall give it to the reader without apology for so many quotations :

quotations : *Arati materia vestâ caret, ut in quâ nulla varietas, nullus affectus, nulla persona, nulla cujusquam se oratio; sufficit tamen operi cui se parum crediderit.* Instit. Orat. L. 10.

I believe it is scarce possible for a passage of equal length to contain more taste and judgment in it than this : insomuch that there is hardly a fault, which a didactic poet can commit, that is not here hinted at.

OPPIAN lived in the beginning of Commodus's reign, and was afterwards greatly patronized by Severus. He wrote two didactic poems, one upon fishing, called *Halieutica*; the other on hunting, entitled *Cynegetica*. The former is the most celebrated of the two. Rapin tells us, he is a dry prosaic writer. But it is observable, that this critic seldom speaks favourably of the Greek authors : the reason of which may probably be, that like many a modern critic he did not understand that language ; and M. Menage assures us he did not. Scaliger, a much abler * judge, says of Oppian, that he is an excellent poet ; easy, eloquent, sublime and harmonious ; that he not only far surpasses Gratius and Nemesianus, who have written on the same subject, but that he seems to have the very air of Virgil, whom he endeavoured particularly to imitate ; and that he has given us the truest and liveliest image of that divine poet. Though the censures and praises of Scaliger are generally extravagant ; and though in the present case, he seems to have bestowed his encomiums on Oppian a little too lavishly, yet I believe this writer is well worthy the learned reader's perusal, for many of his descriptions (for instance one of a horse and a battle of furious bulls) are well worked up and extremely natural and lively.

Thus

* The Jesuit *Vavassor*, in his famous treatise *de ludicrâ dictione*, greatly commends *Oppian*.

Thus much may suffice for the Greek didactic poets : as Nicander, who flourished in the 158th olympiad, is but a flat and prosaic writer, in his Theriaca, though copied by Virgil.

———— *Major rerum mihi nascitur ordo.*

For I am next to speak of LUCRETIVS, whose merit as a poet has never yet been sufficiently displayed, and who seems to have had more fire, spirit, and energy, more of the *vivida vis animi*, than any of the Roman poets, not excepting Virgil himself. Whoever imagines, with Tully, that Lucretius had not a great genius, is desired to cast his eye on two pictures he has given us at the beginning of his poem; the first of Venus with her lover * Mars, beautiful to the last degree, and more glowing than any figure painted by Titian; the † second of the terrible and gigantic figure, the daemon of Superstition, worthy the energetic pencil of Michael Angelo. Neither do I think that the description that immediately follows of the sacrifice of Iphigenia, was excelled by the famous picture of Timanthes on the same subject, of which Pliny speaks so highly in the 35th book of his Natural History : especially the minute and moving circumstances of her perceiving the grief of her father Agamemnon, and of the priest's concealing his sacrificing knife,

* ——— *in gremium qui saepe tuum se
Rejicit, aeterno devinctus vulnere amoris ;
Atque ita suspiciens tereti cervice repostâ
Pascit amore avidos in te, dea, visus ;
Equè tuo pendat resupini spiritus oris.* L. i. 33.

† *Humana ante oculos foedè cum vita jaceres,
In terris oppressa gravi sub RELIGIONE,
Quae caput e coeli regionibus ostendebat
Horribili super aspectu mortalibus instans ;
Primum Graius homo mortales tollere contra
Est oculos ausus*————

knife, and of the spectators bursting into tears, and her falling on her knees.

*Cui semel insula virginis circumdata cemptus
Ex utraq; pari malarum parte profusa est,
Et moestum simul ante aras aflare parentem,
Sensit, et hunc propter ferrum celare minivus,
Aspectuque suo lacrymas effundere cives;
Muta metú terram genibus summissis petebat.*

Lib. i. 88.

Few passages even in Virg. himself are so highly finished, contain such lively descriptions, or are so harmonious in their versification, as where our poet speaks of the fruitfulness occasioned throughout all nature by vernal showers, lib. i. 251 to ver. 293; of the ravages committed by tempestuous winds, lib. i. 272 to ver. 295; of the difficulty of his undertaking, and of his affection to his patron Memmius, lib. i. 920 to ver. 950; where after mentioning the great obscurity of his subject, he breaks out into that enthusiastic rapture;

— *Sed acri*

*Percussit thyrso laudis spes magna meum cor,
Et simul incussit suavem mi in pectus amorem
Musarum, quo nunc instinctus mente vigenti
Avia Pieridum peragro loca, nullius ante
Trita solo; juvat integros accedere fontes, &c.*

The second book opens with a sublime description of a true philosopher, standing on the top of the temple of Wisdom, and looking down with pity and contempt on the busy hum of men. This is followed by a forcible exhortation to temperance of each kind, and by that account of the pleasures of a country life (ver. 24 to ver. 36.) which Virgil hath exactly copied at the end of his second book of the Georgics. The fears and the cares that

that infect human life are afterwards personified in the following manner:

*Re verâque METUS hominum, CURAEQUE sequaces
Nec metuunt sonitus armorum, nec fera tela ;
Audacterque inter reges, rerumque potentes
Versantur, neque fulgorem reverentur ab auro.*

These images are surely far superior to those admired ones of Horacè,

— *Nec CURAS laqueata circum*

*Tecta volantes—
Scandit aeratas vitiosa naves
CURA———*

I know not how to resist the temptation of giving the reader the following landscape of a distant mountain with flocks feeding on the side of it.

*Nam saepe in colli tondentes pabula laeta
Lanigeræ reptant pecudes, quo quamque vocantes
Invitant herbae, gemmantes rore recenti ;
Et satiati agni ludunt, blandèque coniscant,
Omnia quæ nobis longè confusa videntur,
Et veluti in viridi candor consistere colli.*

L. ii. 317.

And I could wish to have room to set down the description that immediately follows, lib. ii. 324 to 330, of a field of battle, or the subsequent one of a cow's lamenting her calf that was sacrificed. There is something so truly pathetic, that I must trespass on the reader's patience, and give it him.

*At mater virides saltus orbata peragrans
Linqvit humi pedibus vestigia pressa bisulcis,
Omnia convulsens oculis loca, si queat usquam
Conspicere amissum foetum, completque querelis
Frondiserum nemus adfistens ; et crebra revisit
Ad stabulum, desiderio perfixa juvenci.*

L. ii. 355.

In the beginning of the third book, which opens with the praises of Epicurus, is a passage that of itself, without alledging other instances, is sufficient to shew the strength and sublimity of our author's imagination. At the sound of thy voice (says he, addressing himself to the father of his philosophy) the Terrors of the mind (here personified) fly away with fear and astonishment.

*Nam simul ac † RATIO tua coepit vociferari
Naturam rerum haud divinâ mente coortam
Diffugiunt animi † TERRORES.*

The walls of the world suddenly part asunder! I look down into the immense void! and distinctly see all it contains!

——— *Moenia mundi*

Discedunt, totum video per inane geri res.

This image always puts me in mind of that exalted one in Milton, which is so strongly conceived.

On heavenly ground they stood, and from the shore
They view'd the vast immeasurable abyss
Outrageous as a sea, dark, wasteful, wild,
Up from the bottom turn'd by furious winds
And surging waves, as mountains to assault
Heav'n's height, and with the center mix the pole.

Par. Lost, B. vii. 210.

Our poet adds, in lines as finished and as smooth as Virgil's, that he there saw the happy and undisturbed state of the gods.

*Apparet divum numen, sedesque quietae,
Quas neque concutiunt venti, neque nubila nimbis
Aspergunt, neque nix acri concreta pruina
Cana cadens violat; semperque innubilis aether
Integit, et largè diffuso lumine ridet:—
At contra nusquam apparent Acherusia templa.*

L. iii. 25.

On the perusal of this passage, can one forbear crying
but with the author ?

*His tibi me rebus, quaedam divina voluptas
Percipit atque horror !*

The descriptions of a person in a deep lethargy, lib. iii. ver. 465 ; of the effects of drunkenness, ver. 475 ; of the falling sickness, ver. 486 ; and the noble prosopopoeia, ver. 944, where Nature is introduced chiding her ungrateful sons for their folly and discontent, are equal to any thing in the Roman poesy ; as is likewise the conclusion of this book, where the poet allegorizes all the punishments of hell, from ver. 991 to 1036. 'Tis hard to determine whether the poetry or impiety of this third book (where many weak arguments are brought against the immortality of the soul) be greatest.

In the fourth book our author hath painted the evils and inconveniences attending the passion of love in the liveliest terms. No poet seems to have felt more strongly than Lucretius. For this see the following description of jealousy, and observe the minute circumstances it enumerates.

*Aut quod in ambiguo verbum jaculata reliquit,
Quod cupido adfixum cordi vivefcit ut ignis ;
Aut nimium jaçtare oculos, aliumve tueri
Quod putat, in vultuque videt vestigia risûs.*

L. iv. 1131.

I know not what apology to make to the reader for such a number of quotations : but I have always thought that general criticism, without producing particular passages, was both useless and unentertaining. Besides, I look upon the giving him these descriptions, to be like leading him through a gallery adorned with the most exquisite paintings. I am sure there is no piece by the hand of Guido or Carrache, that exceeds the following groupe of allegorical personages.

*It Ver, et Venus, et Venoris praenuntius ante
 Pinnatus graditur Zephyrus, vestigia propter.
 Flora quibus mater, praespergens ante viai
 Cuncta coloribus egregiis, et odoribus opplet.
 Inde loci sequitur Calor aridus, et Comes una
 Pulverulenta Ceres, et Etesia Flabra Aquilonum.
 Inde Autumnus adit, graditur simul Evius Evan:
 Inde aliae Tempestates, Ventique sequuntur,
 Altitonans Voltumnus, et Auster fulmine pollens:
 Tandem Bruma nives adfert, pigrumque rigorem
 Reddit, Hyems sequitur, crepitans ac dentibus Algas.*

L. v. 736.

This fifth book concludes with a description of the uncivilized state of man, together with the origin and progress of government, arts, and sciences. The poetical beauties it contains are so many and so various, that they will merit a particular discussion; but intending to publish a translation of this part of Lucretius with critical observations, I wave all farther mention of it at present.

The sixth book is the least obscure and abstruse of any, being wholly taken up with describing the appearances of nature, and accounting for some seeming prodigies. The plague with which the whole poem concludes being more known and perhaps more read than any other part of it, I shall not point out any particular passages.

I could not forbear saying thus much of an author, whose fertile and strong imagination, whose nervous and forcible expression seem not sufficiently regarded. The arguments of impiety which the poem contains, are indeed so sophistical and weak, and have been so many times solidly confuted, that I do not see the danger some are apprehensive of from a diligent perusal of this noble work.

It were much to be wished that the cardinal de POLIGNAC had

had any of the force and fire of Lucretius, whom he has endeavoured to answer: his arguments are indeed strong, but he has not a spark of poetry: his versification is smooth, but not enough varied with different pauses; and he is generally too verbose and diffuse. One merit must be allowed him, that of perspicuity in expressing and explaining the most difficult subjects: for perhaps there are few accounts of the nature of free-will so clear and convincing, as what he has given us in the fifth book of his *Anti-Lucretius*, ver. 1164 et seq. 'Tis great pity he did not follow the sound philosophy of Newton, instead of that of his whimsical countryman. Why, says Voltaire, should we still continue to substitute the reveries of Descartes, in the place of the reveries of Lucretius? *Oeuvres de Voltaire, tom. 10. 304.*

So much hath already been said of VIRGIL (who should next be mentioned) both in these reflections, in the foregoing notes, and particularly in the prefatory dedication, that any farther observations on him in this place are superfluous.

HORACE'S Epistle to the Piso's, commonly called his Art of Poetry, seems never to have been so fully understood, and so judiciously explained, as lately by the author of Notes and a Commentary upon it. He hath endeavoured to prove, that there is an artful concealed method observed throughout the whole; and that it is not a general system of poetry, as hath usually been imagined, but is confined merely to the state and defects of the drama in the age of Augustus. The Romans seem to have stood in need of such an instructor, for they had no extraordinary talents or taste for the stage. *In comediâ maxime claudicamus*, says the impartial Quintilian: notwithstanding Varro's opinion, that if the Muses were to speak Latin, they would speak in Plautus's language; notwithstanding our forefathers talk so highly of Cæ-

cilius ; and notwithstanding Terence's writings were attributed to Scipio Africanus. He adds the reason with his usual elegance ; *Vix levem consequimur umbram, adeo ut mihi sermo ipse Romanus non recipere videatur, illam solis concessam Atticis Venerem, quando eam ne Græci quidem in alio genere linguæ obtinuerint.* Infit. Orat. lib. 11. And as to tragedy the Romans have made no considerable figure in it ; but Quintilian assures us (and in this one instance I can with difficulty give credit to him) that the *Thyestes* of Varius was comparable to any tragedy of the Greeks ; and that the *Medæa* of Ovid evidently shewed, how much he could have excelled, if he had chosen to refrain, rather than give a loose to his genius, Infit. Orat. l. 11. The unnatural and affected Seneca cannot be mentioned without distaste. It is needless to add what almost every school-boy is acquainted with, that the precepts of Horace are chiefly drawn from Aristotle's *Poetics*, are indeed the most useful commentary on that inestimable treatise, and will best enable us to judge of the ancient stage : but he hath likewise inserted many precepts, peculiarly adapted to the use of his countrymen ; and hath delivered the whole with that graceful negligence that ought to be the predominant quality of epistolary writings both in verse and prose ; while they should

———— familiarly convey

The truest notions in the easiest way.

He who supreme in judgment as in wit,

Might boldly censure, as he boldly writ,

Yet judg'd with coolness, tho' he sung with fire :

His precepts teach but what his works inspire.

POPE'S *Essay on Criticism*, ver. 656.

Under this head (in which I shall include all the writers on this subject) it will be unpardonable to omit **MARCUS HIERONYMUS VIDA**, one of the first restorers of

of polite literature and just criticism. His Poetics have been always deservedly read and admired as a fine didactic poem, and considering the time in which he wrote, were of great use in diffusing a good taste among his countrymen; and from thence over all Europe. The highest panegyric he ever received was from Mr. Pope in the following passage, which gave occasion to the reading and publishing him in England, where formerly he was but little known :

But see ! each Muse in Leo's golden days,
Starts from her trance, and trims her wither'd bays ;
Rome's ancient Genius, o'er its ruins spread,
Shakes off the dust and rears his reverend head ;
Then Sculpture and her sister arts revive,
Stones leap'd to form, and rocks began to live ;
With sweetest notes each rising temple rung,
A Raphael painted, and a Vida sung.
Immortal Vida ! on whose honour'd brow,
The poet's bays and critic's ivy grow :
Cremona now shall ever boast thy name,
As next in place to Mantua, next in fame !

The characteristics of Vida seem to be elegance, perspicuity, and purity ; but he frequently wants majesty and force. He rises however into poetry at the end of his first book, and in the middle of his second, where he describes the poet under the influence of inspiration returning upon him powerfully after a languid interval, and an absence of the poetic inclination :

——— *Unde haec tam clara repente
Tempestas ? Deus, ecce Deus ! jam corda fatigat,
Altius insinuat venis, penitusque per artus
Diditur, atque faces saevas sub pectore versat.
Nec se jam capit acer agens calor, ignoaque intus
Vis saevit, totoque agitat se corpore numen.
Ille autem exultans jacet jam non sua verba,*

*Oblitusque hominem mirum sonat : haud potis ignem,
 Excutere, invitum miratur se ire, rapique
 Praecipitem, te Phoebæ vacans, te Phoebæ frementem,
 Vociferans, plenusque Deo, simulisque subactus
 Haud placidis ; non ille dapum, non ille quietis,
 Aut semni memar hanc potis est deponere curam,*

Whence shot this sudden flash that gilds the pole?
 The god, the god comes rushing on his soul ;
 Fires with aethereal vigor every part,
 Thro' ev'ry trembling limb he seems to dart,
 Works in each vein, and swells his rising heart.
 Deep in his breast the heav'nly tumult plays,
 And sets his mounting spirits on a blaze.
 Nor can the raging flames themselves contain,
 For the whole god descends into the man.
 He quits mortality, and knows no bounds,
 But sings inspir'd with more than human sounds.
 Nor from his breast can shake th' immortal load,
 But pants and raves impatient of the god ;
 And, rapt beyond himself, admires the force
 That drives him on reluctant to the course.
 He calls on Phoebus, by the god oppress'd,
 Who breathes excessive spirit in his breast ;
 No force of thirst or hunger can controul
 The fierce, the ruling transport of his soul.

PITT'S *Translation of Vida*, p. 49.
 2d Edit.

The precepts of Vida principally respect the Epopœia, but are most of them applicable to every other species of poetry. In his third and last book he hath treated of poetical style in general ; hath examined the force and propriety of every figure of speech with great accuracy and true taste ; hath laid down some judicious rules, on that difficult and delicate task, correction ; and concludes with a panegyric on the poems of Virgil. It ought to be

he observed, that all succeeding writers on this subject are more indebted to Vida, than he was to his predecessors in the same way.

BOILEAU'S Art of Poetry has a brevity in its precepts, a perspicacity in its observations, and an energy in its style, seldom to be found in the diffusive writings of his countrymen. He hath delivered rules for every species of poetry in its regular gradations from the pastoral to the epic: only 'tis observable that he speaks not a syllable of the didactic. We have in this highly-finish'd work*, which however consists but of four short canto's, all that could be expected from a man of strong sense and keen observation (tho' perhaps of no warm poetical genius) who had spent his life in studying and defending the ancients, had formed his taste upon the Greek and Roman models alone, and therefore always practis'd and recommended a manly simplicity of style and sentiment.

I choose to speak of Mr. POPE'S Essay on Criticism in the words of his friend and commentator. "When the reader considers the regularity of the plan, the masterly conduct of each part, the penetration into nature, and the compass of learning so conspicuous throughout, he should at the same time know it was the work of an author who had not attained to the twentieth year of his age."

Altho' there are some sensible observations, and perhaps a few sparks of poetry in the Duke of BUCKINGHAM'S Essay on Poetry, and in that of Lord ROSCOMMON on translated verse, yet I must presume to think, that the reputation they have gained, is in a great mea-

* *Ou Corneille eût trouvé beaucoup à apprendre, says M. de Voltaire.*
Louis xiv. T. 2. 187.

sure owing to the rank of their authors, and to the age in which they were written; when criticism had not spread so widely, nor was so well understood, as apparently it hath been since their times.

I am doubtful whether I ought to mention OVID's Art of Love in this list of didactic poems, from the libertine nature of its subject. With respect both to his style and matter, one may apply to him what Quintilian says of another, *abundat dulcibus vitis.*

There is great dispute among the critics, whether MANILIUS wrote his astronomical poem in the age of Augustus, as he himself affirms he did. Many instances of such language, and such versification as cannot be met with in any other poet of that time, may be found in his work: for which the curious reader may see the third dialogue of Mr. Spence's Polymetis, page 25. Whatever use his poem may be of to astronomers, who are inclined to consider the systems of the ancients, 'tis certain that there is not a grain of genius or poetical spirit to be discovered throughout the whole, tho' on a subject so susceptible of poetry. And indeed, what could one expect from a writer who made the following cold declaration at the very beginning of his work, and which he strictly verifies in the course of it:

Ornari res ipsa negat, contenta doceri.

At the restoration of literature under the glorious pontificate of Leo X. several true geniuses arose. Among the rest FRACASTORIUS, who wrote the *Syphilis*. He was unfortunate in the choice of a subject, very difficult to be treated in an ornamental manner; yet 'tis surprizing to see how he has enlivened so unpromising a theme by the beauty and dignity of his language. See how he hath described a blooming and beautiful youth, labouring under this dreadful distemper:

Paulatim

*Paulatim ver id nitidum, flos ille juventae
 Disperiit, vis illa animi; tum squalida tabes
 Artus (horrendum!) miseris obduxit, et alid
 Grandia turgebant faedis abscissibus ossa.
 Ulcera (prole divum pietatem!) infirmia pulchros
 Pascebant oculos, et diae lucis amorem,
 Pascebantque acri corrosas vulnere nares.
 Illum Alpes vicinae, illum vaga flumina ferunt,
 Illum omnes Ollique Deae, Eridanisque puellae
 Fleverunt, nemorumque Deae rurisque puellae;
 Sibynusque alto gemitum lacus sedit amne.*

Syphilis, L. 1.

The style of Fracastorius * is not made up of shreds and patches, and ends of lines collected from Virgil and Horace; (as are several copies of verses in our *Musae Anglicanae*); but it is one continued thread equally woven thro' the whole piece. There is a good deal of imagination in the third book, where he describes the manner of finding the Hyacus in America. In a word, the *Syphilis* is perhaps the best conducted and most finished of modern didactic poems in Latin verse. It doubtless eminently exceeds the Silk-worms of his countryman and cotemporary Vida †, (who hath too closely and servilely copied the Bees of Virgil) and the Gardens of Rapin, of whom

* See his beautiful epistle to Baptista Turianus of Verona, concerning his way of life and method of passing his time with his family; together with that to J. Turrianus on the death of his sons. The two books of his JOSEPH are not equal to the *Syphilis*.

† However the following lines are elegant and pretty, on the worms being turned into butterflies.

*Haerent attonitae verum novitate, nec audent
 Remigio alarum se aperto credere coelo,
 Dissimilesque sui tacite nova corpora secum
 Mirari, formam nec sese agnoscere in illa;
 Cornua mirantur fronti, mirantur et alas,
 Et vires nil supra audent tentare priores
 Dissis, memoresque sui,*

the French after their manner boast so highly ; who is a feeble and flegmatic poet, and hath filled his work, under the notion of digressions, with many puerile and extravagant fables, the *Caricatura's* of Ovid ; whose idle turns and witticisms he hath likewise frequently imitated. “ There is more pleasure, says Addison, in the little platform of a garden which Virgil gives us about the middle of the fourth Georgic, than in all the spacious walks and water-works of Rapin.”

The art of painting seems to be the finest and fruit-fullest subject for a didactic poem. What FRESNOY has written on that subject is exceedingly dry, prosaic, and unentertaining ; for he has only given the mechanic rules of a painter ; it is to be wished that some true genius would undertake to treat it as a poet.

The *Praedium Rusticum* of the Jesuit VANIERE, is a long and languid production ; but from the labour of the writer, who has collected some curious particulars relating to the management of the farmers of his country, it may perhaps answer one perusal.

The Italians boast much of a poem on Agriculture, *La Coltivazione di Luigi Alamanni*. He wrote it in France under the protection of Francis I. It is in six books, and in blank verse ; and is esteemed pure Italian. But the subject is very little diversified with digressions, and not very poetically treated.

They have likewise a didactic poem on the management of bees, but it is little more than a translation of Virgil's fourth book, omitting the story of Aristaeus, with a few additional precepts of the author. It was written by GIOVANNI RUCCELLAI, and ends with an address to his intimate friend Trissino, the author of that cool and insipid epic poem, *Italia Liberata* ; but whose memory ought to be revered for having given us the
first

first regular modern tragedy, in blank verse, his *Sophonisba*; as *Rucellai* himself produced the second that was seen in Italy, entitled, *Rosmunda*.

Before I conclude these reflections, it will, I presume, be expected that I speak a few words on the didactic poets of our own nation.

PHILIPS's *Cyder* is a very close and happy imitation of the *Georgic*, and conveys to us the fullest idea of *Virgil's manner*: whom he hath exactly followed in a pregnant brevity of style, in throwing in frequent moral reflections, in varying the method of giving his precepts, in his digressions, and in his happy address in returning again to his subject; in his knowledge and love of philosophy, medicine, agriculture and antiquity, and in a certain primaeval simplicity of manners, which is so conspicuous in both.

If there be any fault in Philips, it is, perhaps, his insertion of many images that excite laughter, and are contrary to the majesty of the didactic Muse; and his having used too many elisions, exotic and antique expressions, and transpositions, under the notion of strengthening his verse, and of resembling Milton; who, by the way, is not so uniformly obsolete and difficult in his diction, as is sometimes imagined; but makes use of these uncommon and unfamiliar phrases chiefly when he is describing things that lie out of the compass of nature, and that are marvellous and strange, such as hell, chaos, and heaven.

SOMERVILLE in his *CHASE*, writes with all the spirit and fire of an eager sportsman.

Farewell, Cleora! here deep sunk in down
Slumber secure with happy dreams amus'd—

—————Me other joys invite,

The horn sonorous calls, the pack awak'd
Their mattins chant, nor brook my long delay.

My courser hears their voice; see there with ears

And

And tail erect, neighing he paws the ground ;
 Fierce rapture kindles in his red'ning eyes,
 And boils in every vein.—

B. ii. 84

The descriptions of hunting the hare, the fox, and the stag, are extremely spirited, and place the very objects before our eyes ; of such consequence is it for a man to write on that which he hath frequently felt with pleasure. He neglects his versification sometimes, and there are doubtless great inequalities, both with respect to harmony and expression, in the poem. He hath failed in describing the madness that sometimes rages among hounds, and particularly in his account of the effects of the bite of a mad dog on a man.

To describe so difficult a thing, gracefully and poetically, as the effects of a distemper on the human body, was reserved for Dr. ARMSTRONG ; who accordingly hath nobly executed it, at the end of the third book of his Art of preserving health, where he hath given us that pathetic account of the sweating-sickness. There is a classical correctness and closeness of style in this poem, that are truly admirable, and the subject is raised and adorned by numberless poetical images. What can be more pleasing than his description of a healthy situation for a house ?

See ! where enthron'd in adamantinè state,
 Proud of her bards imperial Windsor sits ;
 There choose thy seat, in some aspiring grove
 Fast by the slowly-winding Thames ; or where
 Broader she laves fair Richmond's green retreats ;
 (Richmond that sees an hundred villas rise
 Rural or gay). O from the summer's rage
 O wrap me in the friendly gloom that hides
 Umbrageous Ham.

This ends with a well-conducted prosopopœia.

Green

Green rise the Kentish hills in chearful air ;
 But on the marshy plains that Essex spreads
 Build not, nor rest too long thy wand'ring feet.
 For on a rustic throne of dewy turf,
 With baneful fogs her aching temples bound,
 Quartana there presides ; a meagre fiend
 Begot by Eurus, when his brutal force
 Compress'd the slothful Naiads of the fens.

B. i. 108.

In how lofty a manner hath he introduced his precepts
 concerning drinking water !

Now come, ye Naiads, to the fountains lead !
 Now let me wander through your gelid reign ;
 I turn to view th' enthusiastic wilds
 By mortal elf untrod. I hear the din
 Of waters thundering o'er the ruin'd cliffs.
 With holy reverence I approach the rocks
 Whence glide the streams renown'd in ancient song.
 Hence from the desert down the rumbling steep
 First springs the Nile ; here bursts the sounding Po
 In angry waves ; Euphrates hence devolves
 A mighty flood to water half the East ;
 And there in Gothic solitude reclin'd
 The chearless Tanais pours his hoary urn.
 What solemn twilight ! what stupendous shades
 Enwrap these infant floods ! Thro' every nerve
 A sacred horror thrills ; a pleasing fear
 Glides o'er my frame !

B. ii. 352, &c.

In short, this author hath evidently shewn, that there
 is no subject but what is capable of being exalted into
 poetry by a genius.

There is a sublimity of sentiment *, an energy of
 diction,

* See particularly Ep. i. ver. 267 to the end. If there be
 any fault in this poem, it is perhaps the mixing droll and
 burlesque

diction, a spirit unextinguished by correctness and rhyme; to be found in Mr. POPE's Essay on Man, that will ever render it the honour of our nation and language. And it is not my province at present to determine; what some are apt to dispute, Whether or no this poem (in the words of Dr. Warburton) "hath a precision, force, and "closeness of connection, rarely to be met with even "in the most formal treatises of philosophy?"

The PLEASURES OF IMAGINATION are, in their very nature, a most proper and pregnant subject for a didactic poem. The amiable author who happily fixt on these as his subject, it must be allowed by the severest critic, hath done them ample justice; whether we consider his glowing and animated style, his lively and picturesque images †; the graceful and harmonious flow of his numbers; or the noble spirit of poetical enthusiasm, which breathes through his whole work. But that I may not lose myself in a wide field of panegyric, I will produce the following three passages, in which images of Greatness, Wonderfulness, and Beauty (from the perception of which all the pleasures of poetry and the imagination principally flow) are thus nobly exemplify'd.

I. GREATNESS:

— The high-born soul
 Disdains to rest his heav'n aspiring wing
 Beneath its native quarry. Tir'd of earth
 And this diurnal scene, she springs aloft
 Through fields of air; pursues the flying storm;

burlesque images with serious doctrines: such is that line (taken from Charron, Book 1. on Wisdom)

"See man for mine, replies a pimper'd goose."

† See particularly the description of PLEASURE, VIRTUE, and PAIN, Book ii. 409, &c. of a solemn wood, and particularly ver. 290. B. iii. and of a poet at the time of his first conceiving some great design, B. iii. ver. 373.

Rides on the volley'd lightning thro' the heav'ns;
 Or yok'd with whirlwinds and the northern blast,
 Sweeps the long tract of day. Then high she soars
 The blue profound, and hov'ring o'er the sun
 Beholds him pouring the redundant stream
 Of light; beholds his unrelenting sway
 Bend the reluctant planets and absolve
 The fated rounds of time. Thence far effus'd
 She darts her swiftness up the long career
 Of devious comets; through its burning signs
 Exulting circles the perennial wheel
 Of nature, and looks back on all the stars,
 Whose blended light, as with a milky zone,
 Invests the orient. Now amaz'd she views
 Th' empyreal waste, where happy spirits hold,
 Beyond this concave heav'n, their calm abode;
 And fields of radiance, whose unfading light
 Has travell'd the profound six thousand years,
 Nor yet arrives in sight of mortal things;
 Ev'n on the barriers of the world untir'd
 She meditates th' eternal depth below;
 Till, half recoiling, down the headlong steep
 She plunges; soon o'erwhelm'd and swallow'd up
 In that immense of being. There her hopes
 Rest at the fated goal.—

2. W O N D E R F U L N E S S .

— What need words

To paint its power? For this, the daring youth
 Breaks from his weeping mother's anxious arms,
 In foreign climes to rove: the pensive sage
 Heedless of sleep, or midnight's harmful damp,
 Hangs o'er the sickly taper; and untir'd
 The virgin follows, with enchanted step,
 The mazes of some wild and wond'rous tale

From morn to eve; unmindful of her form,
 Unmindful of the happy drefs that stole
 The wifhes of the youth, when every maid
 With envy pin'd. Hence finally, by night
 The village-matron, round the blazing hearth,
 Sufpends the infant-audience with her tales,
 Breathing aftonifhment! of witching rhymes,
 And evil fpirits of the death-bed call
 To him who robb'd the widow and devour'd
 The orphan's portion; of unquiet fouls
 Ris'n from the grave to eafe the heavy guilt
 Of deeds in life conceal'd; of fhapes that walk
 At dead of night, and clank their chains, and wave
 The torch of hell about the murd'rer's bed.
 At ev'ry folemn pause the croud recoil
 Gazing each other fpeechlefs, and congeal'd
 With fhiv'ring fighs: till eager for th' event,
 Around the beldame all erect they hang,
 Each trembling heart with grateful terrors quell'd.

3. B E A U T Y.

——— Brighteft progeny of heav'n!
 How fhall I trace thy features? where felect
 The rofeate hues to emulate thy bloom?
 Haffe then, my fong, thro' nature's wide expanfe,
 Haffe then and gather all her comeliest wealth,
 Whate'er bright fpoils the florid earth contains,
 Whate'er the waters, or the liquid air,
 To deck thy lovely labour. Wilt thou fly
 With laughing Autumn to th' Atlantic ifles
 And range with him th' Hefperian field and fea,
 Where'er his fingers touch the fruitful grove,
 The branches fhoot with gold; where'er his ftep
 Marks the glad foil, the tender clufers glow
 With purple ripeness, and invest each hill

As with the blushes of an evening sky?
 Or wilt thou rather stoop thy vagrant plume,
 Where, gliding thro' his daughter's honour'd shade,
 The smooth Penéus from his glassy flood
 Reflects purpureal Tempe's pleasant scene?
 Fair Tempe! haunt below'd of sylvan pow'rs,
 Of nymphs and fauns; where in the golden age
 They play'd in secret on the shady brink
 With ancient Pan, while round their choral steps
 Young hours and genial gales with constant hand,
 Shower'd blossoms, odours, shower'd ambrosial dews,
 And Spring's Elyfian bloom.

I must beg the reader's leave to lay before him one passage more, with which I shall conclude, both because it is a proper instance of our author's genius, and because it contains a strong and seasonable exhortation to the study of the Grecian literature, which is at present so strangely neglected among us, that persons are not wanting who set up for scholars and critics, without even pretending ever to have perused the Greek classics.

Genius of ancient Greece! whose faithful steps
 Well-pleas'd I follow thro' the sacred paths
 Of nature and of science; nurse divine
 Of all heroic deeds and fair desires!
 O! let the breath of thy extended praise
 Inspire my kindling bosom to the height
 Of this untempted theme. Nor be my thoughts
 Presumptuous counted, if, amid the calm
 That soothes this vernal evening into smiles,
 I steal impatient from the fordid haunts
 Of strife and low ambition to attend
 Thy sacred presence in the sylvan shade,
 By their malignant footsteps ne'er profan'd.
 Descend, propitious! to my favour'd eye;
 Such in thy mien, thy warm, exalted air,

As when the Persian tyrant, foil'd and flung
 With shame and desperation, gnash'd his teeth
 To see thee rend the pageants of his throne ;
 And at the lightning of thy lifted spear
 Crouch'd like a slave. Bring all thy martial spoils,
 Thy palms, thy laurels, thy triumphant songs,
 Thy smiling band of arts, thy godlike fires
 Of civil wisdom, thy heroic youth
 Warm from the schools of glory. Guide my way
 Thro' fair Lyceum's walk, the green retreats
 Of Academus, and the thymy vale,
 Where oft enchanted with Socratic sounds,
 Ilissus pure devolv'd his tuneful stream
 In gentler murmurs. From the blooming store
 Of these auspicious fields, may I unblam'd
 Transplant some living blossoms, to adorn
 My native clime : while far above the flight
 Of fancy's plume aspiring, I unlock
 The springs of ancient wisdom ; while I join
 Thy name, thrice honour'd ! with th' immortal praise
 Of nature ; while to my compatriot youth
 I point the high example of thy sons,
 And tune to Attic themes the British lyre.

Book i. ver. 567.

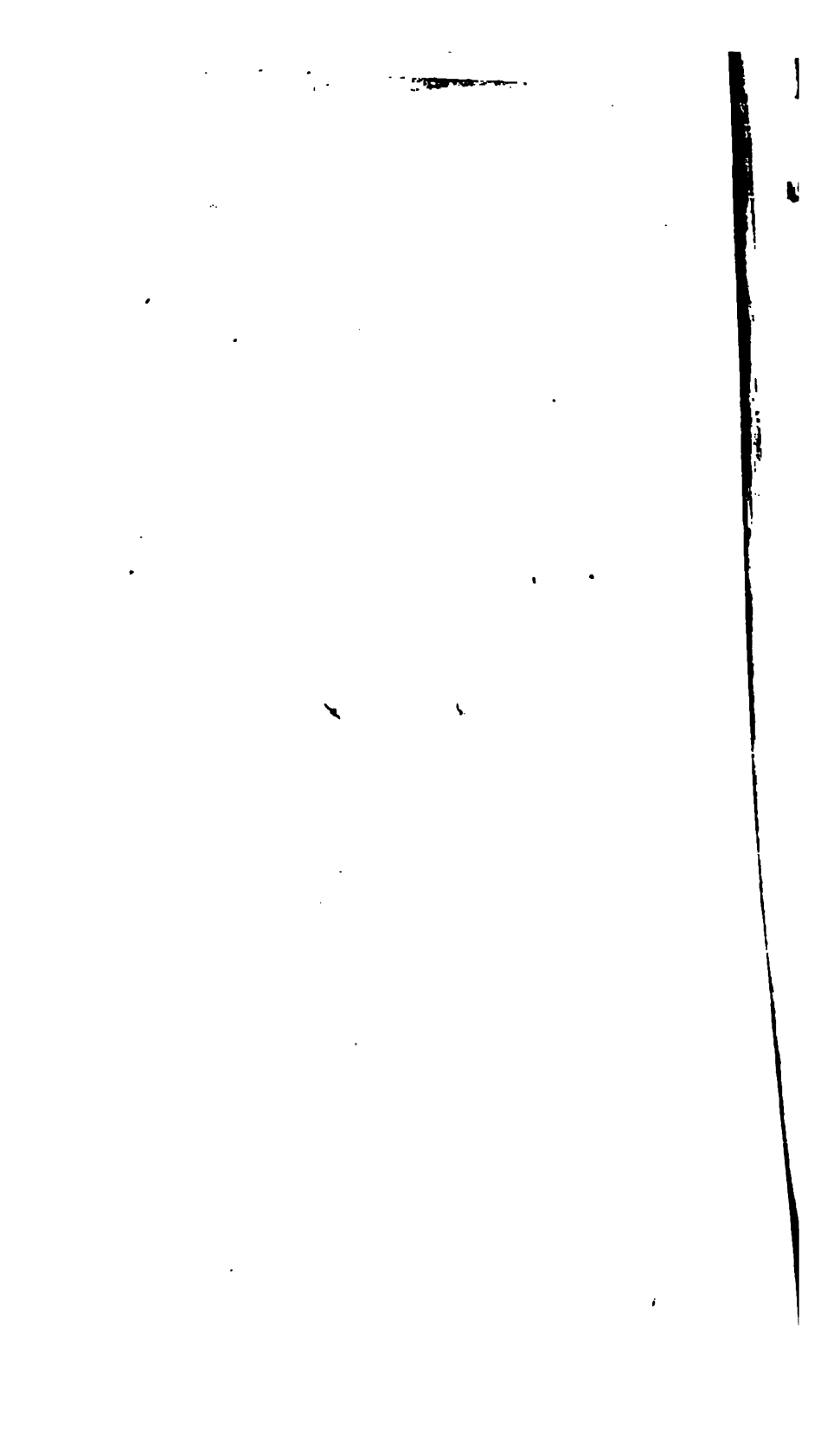
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