

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

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

^a Cf. Aesch. *Sept.* 422 *sqq.*

STATIUS

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

Tristibus interea somnum turbata figuris 570
 torva sagittiferi mater Tegeatis ephebi,
 crine dato passim plantisque ex more solutis,
 ante diem gelidas ibat Ladonis ad undas
 purgatura malum fluvio vivente soporem.
 namque per attonitas curarum pondere noctes 575
 saepe et delapsas adytis, quas ipsa dicarat,
 exuvias, seque ignotis errare sepulcris
 extorrem nemorum Dryadumque a plebe fugatam,
 saepe novos nati bello rediisse triumphos,
 armaque et alipedem notum comitesque videbat, 580
 numquam ipsum, nunc ex umeris fluxisse pharetras,
 effigiesque suas simulacraque nota cremari.
 praecipuos sed enim illa metus portendere visa est
 nox miserae totoque erexit pectore matrem.
 nota per Arcadias felici robore silvas 585
 quercus erat, Triviae quam desacraverat ipsa
 electam turba nemorum numenque colendo
 fecerat : hic arcus et fessa reponere tela,
 armaque curva suum et vacuorum terga leonum
 figere et ingentes aequantia cornua silvas. 590
 vix ramis¹ locus, agrestes adeo omnia cingunt

¹ ramis *Pω* : radiis *Barth.*

^a Atalanta, an Arcadian maiden, vowed to chastity, until, according to one legend, she became the mother of Parthenopaeus by Ares, according to another, by Milanion, who married her after defeating her in the famous footrace; other legends again make her of Boeotian origin. Tegea is in Arcadia. Statius seems to follow the first form of the

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this sepulchre." Thus impartial Mars in the cruel vicissitudes of war gave interchange of mutual slaughter to Greeks and to Sidonians alike: here they mourn fierce Hippomedon, there Hypseus, no slower to the fray, and each gain solace from their foes' distress.

Meanwhile the stern-eyed mother of the Tegean archer-lad,^a troubled in her sleep by gloomy dreams, with flying hair and feet duly unsandalled was going before day-break to Ladon's chilly stream, that she might cleanse her from her tainted slumbers in its living waters. For throughout many a distracted, care-worn night she would often see spoils that she herself had dedicated fallen from the shrines, and herself, a fugitive from the woodlands and chased away by Dryad folk, wandering by unknown tombs, and often new-won triumphs of her son brought home from the war, his armour, his well-known steed, his comrades, but himself never; or again she would see her quiver fallen from her shoulders, and her own images and familiar likenesses aflame. But that night seemed to the unhappy woman to portend surpassing terrors, and disturbed all her mother's heart. Well-known throughout the forests of Arcadia was an oak of fertile growth, which she herself had chosen from a multitude of groves and made sacred to Diana, and by her worship endued with power divine; here she would lay by her bow and weary shafts, and fasten the curved weapons of boars and the flayed skins of lions, and antlers huge as woodland boughs. Scarce have the branches room, so closely set is it with spoils of the country-side, and the story (*cf.* l. 613 and "culpam," l. 617), but he speaks of "parents" in l. 780 without any allusion to Ares.

STATIUS

exuviae, et viridem ferri nitor impedit umbram.
 hane, ut forte iugis longo defessa redibat
 venatu, modo rapta ferox Erymanthidos ursae
 ora ferens, multo proscissam vulnere cernit 595
 deposuisse comam et rorantes sanguine ramos
 exspirare solo ; quaerenti Nympha eruentas
 Maenadas atque hostem dixit saevisse Lyaeum.
 dum gemit et planetu circumdat pectus inani,
 abruptere oculi noctem maestoque cubili 600
 exsilit et falsos quaerit per lumina fletus.
 Ergo ut in amne nefas merso ter crine piavit
 verbaque sollicitas matrum solantia curas
 addidit, armatae ruit ad delubra Dianae 605
 rore sub Eoo, notasque ex ordine silvas
 et quercum gavisa videt. tunc limina divae
 adstitit et tali nequiquam voce precatur :
 “ virgo potens nemorum, cuius non mollia signa
 militiamque trucem sexum indignata frequento
 more nihil Graio—nec te gens aspera ritu 610
 Colchis Amazoniaeve magis coluere catervae— :
 si mihi non umquam thiasi ludusve protervae
 noctis et, invisio quamvis temerata cubili,
 non tamen aut teretes thyrsos aut mollia gessi
 pensa, sed in tetricis et post conubia lustris 615
 sic quoque venatrix animumque innupta remansi :
 nec mihi secretis culpam occultare sub antris
 cura, sed ostendi prolem posuique trementem
 ante tuos confessa pedes ; nec degener ille
 sanguinis inque meos reptavit protinus arcus, 620

^a For this use of “impedit” may be compared Hor. *Od.* i. 4. 9 “viridi nitidum caput impedire myrto.”

^b Ominous of her son's fate in the Theban war.

^c *i.e.*, of Theban Bacchanals.

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

So when by dipping thrice her hair in the river she had atoned the sacrilege, and added words that comfort a mother's troubled heart, she hastened to armed Diana's shrine while the morning dew was falling, and rejoiced to see the familiar woodland and the oak-tree all unharmed. Then standing at the threshold of the goddess she prays thus, to no avail: "Maiden Queen of the forests, whose ungentle standards and ruthless warfare I follow, scorning my sex, in no Grecian manner—nor are the barbarous-fashioned Colchians or troops of Amazons more truly thy votaries—if I have never joined revelling bands or the wanton nightly sport,^c if, although stained by a hated union, I have nevertheless handled not the smooth wands nor the soft skeins, but even after wedlock remained in the rough wilds, a huntress still and in my heart a virgin; if I took no thought to hide my fault in some secret cave, but showed my child and confessed and laid him trembling at thy feet—no puny weakling was he, but straightway crawled to my bow, and as a babe he cried for arrows

STATIUS

tela puer lacrimis et prima voce poposcit :¹
 hunc mihi—quid trepidae noctes somnusque minan-
 tur ?—

hunc, precor, audaei qui nunc ad proelia voto
 heu nimium tibi fisus abit, da visere belli
 victorem, vel, si ampla peto, da visere tantum !² 625
 hic sudet tuaque arma ferat. preme dira malorum
 signa ; quid in nostris, nemoralis Delia, silvis
 Maenades hostiles Thebanaeque numina regnant ?
 ei mihi ! cur penitus—simque augur eassa futuri !—
 cur penitus magnoque interpretor omine quercum ?
 quod si vera sopor miserae praesagia mittit, 631
 per te maternos, mitis Dictynna, labores
 fraternumque decus, cunctis³ hunc fige sagittis
 infelicem uterum ; miserae sine funera matris
 audiat ille prior !” dixit, fletuque soluto 635
 aspicit et niveae saxum maduisse Dianae.

Illam diva ferox etiamnum in limine sacro
 expositam et gelidas verrentem crinibus aras
 linquit, et in mediis frondentem Maenalon astris
 exsuperat saltu gressumque ad moenia Cadmi 640
 destinat, interior caeli qua semita lucret⁴
 dis tantum, et cunctas iuxta videt ardua terras.
 iamque fere medium Parnassi frondea praeter
 colla tenebat iter, cum fratrem in nube corusca
 aspicit haud solito visu : remeabat ab armis 645
 maestus Echioniis, demersi funera lugens

¹ *This line is not in P, and is condemned by some edd.*

² *In some late mss. after this line follows “ si non victorem, da tantum cernere victum,” “ grant me to behold him, if not victor, at least vanquished.”*

³ cunctis P : iustis ω.

⁴ lucret ω : ducit P.

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

The stern goddess leaves her still stretched upon the sacred doorway and brushing the cold altar with her tresses, and with a bound crosses the leafy summit of Maenalos in mid-air and directs her steps to Cadmus' walls, where the inner path of heaven^a shines for gods alone, and high uplifted views all the earth together. And now, near half-way on her road, she was passing the forest-clad ridges of Parnassus, when in a glittering cloud she saw her brother not as she was wont to see him : for he was returning sadly from the Echionian fray, mourning

different grades of supernatural beings ; *cf.* *Phars.* ix. 5, where Lucan speaks of demigods (“*semidei manes*”) having the space between earth and moon allotted to them (also *Silv.* ii. 7. 109). The “*interior semita*” would refer to some loftier zone.

STATIUS

auguris. inrubit caeli plaga sidere mixto,
 occursuque sacro pariter iubar arsit utrimque,
 et coiere arcus et respondere pharetrae.¹
 ille prior : “ scio, Labdacias, germana, cohortes 650
 et nimium fortes ausum petis Arcada pugnas.
 fida rogat genetrix : utinam indulgere precanti
 fata darent ! en ipse mei—pudet !—inritus arma
 cultoris frondesque sacras ad inania vidi
 Tartara et in memet versos descendere vultus ; 655
 nec tenui currus terraeque abrupta coegi,
 saevus ego immeritusque coli. lugentia cernis
 antra, soror, mutasque domos : haec sola rependo
 dona pio comiti ; nec tu peritura movere
 auxilia et maestos in vanum perge labores. 660
 finis adest iuveni, non hoc mutabile fatum,
 nec te de dubiis fraterna oracula fallunt.”
 “ sed decus extremum certe ² ” confusa vicissim
 virgo refert, “ veraeque licet solacia morti
 quaerere, nec fugiet poenas, quicumque nefandam
 insontis pueri scelerarit sanguine dextram 666
 impius, et nostris fas sit saevire sagittis.”
 sic effata movet gressus libandaque fratri
 parcius ora tulit, Thebasque infesta petivit.
 At pugna ereptis maior crudescit utrimque 670
 regibus, alternosque ciet vindicta furores.
 Hypseos hinc turmae desolatatumque magistro
 agmen, at hinc gravius fremit Hippomedontis adempti

¹ *Lines 648-9 omitted in P.*

² *certe P : misero ω.*

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

the death of the engulfed augur. The region of the sky glowed red as their rays mingled; at the divine conjunction the beams of each shone out, their bows met, and quiver rang to quiver.^a He first began: "I know, my sister, 'tis the Labdacian ranks thou seekest, and the Arcadian who dares a fight too valiant for him. His faithful mother begs thee: would that the Fates might grant her prayer! Lo! I myself have availed not—ah! for shame!—but seen my votary's arms and consecrated laurels go down to the void of Tartarus, and his face turned toward me as he went, nor did I check his car or close the chasm of the earth, heartless that I am and unworthy to be worshipped. Thou seest how my caverns mourn, O sister, and the silence of my shrine; this is my sole recompense to my loyal friend. Nor do thou continue to summon aid that can but fail, nor pursue thy sad task in vain; the youth is near his end, 'tis fate immutable, nor do thy brother's oracles deceive thee on a doubtful matter." "But I may surely obtain glory for him at the last," the maiden in dismay replies, "and find a solace for his death, if indeed it so must be, nor shall that man escape unpunished, whoever shall impiously stain his guilty hand with the blood of an innocent boy, and may my shafts wreak a dire revenge!" With these words she moved upon her way, and suffering her brother but a scant embrace sought Thebes in hostile mood.

But on either side after the slaying of the chiefs the fight waxed fiercer, and the lust of vengeance aroused mutual rage. Here the squadrons of Hypseus shout and the troop that has lost its leader, there with deeper roar the bereft cohort of the dead

STATIUS

orba cohors ; praebent obnixa corpora ferro,
 idem ardor rabidis externum haurire cruorem 675
 ac fudisse suum, nec se vestigia mutant :
 stat cuneo defixa acies, hostique cruento
 dant animas et terga negant¹ : cum lapsa per auras
 vertice Dircae velox Latonia montis
 adstitit ; adgnoscent colles notamque tremiscit 680
 silva deam, saevis ubi quondam exserta sagittis
 fecundam lasso Nioben consumpserat arcu.
 Illum acies inter coepta² iam caede superbum
 nescius armorum et primas tunc passus habenas
 venator raptabat equus, quem discolor ambit 685
 tigris et auratis adverberat unguibus armos.
 colla sedent nodis et castigata iubarum
 libertas, nemorisque notae sub pectore primo
 iactantur niveo lunata monilia dente.
 ipse bis Oebalio saturatam murice pallam 690
 lucentesque auro tunicas—hoc neverat unum
 mater opus—tenui collectus in ilia vinelo,
 cornipedis laevo clipeum demiserat armo,
 ense gravis nimio : tereti iuvat³ aurea morsu
 fibula, pendentes circum latera aspera cinctus, 695
 vaginaeque sonum tremulumque audire pharetrae
 murmur et a cono missas in terga catenas ;
 interdum cristas hilaris iactare comantis
 et pictum gemmis galeae iubar. ast ubi pugna
 cassis anhela calet, resoluta vertice nudus 700

¹ negant ω : natant *P* : vetant *Postgate*.

² coepta *Kohlmann* : coeptas *P* : medias ω .

³ iuvat ω : iubet *P* : ligat, levat, vorat *edd*.

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

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

^a *i.e.*, Laconian (from Oebalus, once king of Sparta) : *cf.* Hor. *Od.* ii. 18. 8. It was the purple dye from shell-fish.

exoritur¹ : tunc dulce comae radiisque trementes²
 dulce nitent visus et, quas dolet ipse morari,
 nondum mutatae rosea lanugine malae.
 nec formae sibi laude placet multumque severis
 asperat ora minis, sed frontis servat honorem 705
 ira decens. dat sponte locum Thebana iuventus,
 natorum memores, intentaque tela retorquent,
 sed premit et saevas miserantibus ingerit hastas.
 illum et Sidoniae iuga per Teumesia³ Nymphae
 bellantem atque ipso sudore et pulvere gratum 710
 laudant, et tacito ducunt suspiria voto.

Talia cernenti mitis subit alta Dianae
 corda dolor, fletuque genas violata "quod" inquit,
 "nunc tibi, quod leti quaeram dea fida propinqui
 effugium? haecne ultro properasti in proelia, saeve
 ac miserande puer? cruda heu festinaque virtus 716
 suasit et hortatrix animosi gloria leti.
 scilicet angustum iamdudum urgentibus annis
 Maenaliū tibi, parve, nemus, perque antra ferarum
 vix tutae sine matre viae, silvestria cuius 720
 nondum tela procax arcumque implere valebas.
 et nunc illa meas ingentem plangit ad aras
 invidiam surdasque fores et limina lassat:
 tu dulces lituos ululataque proelia gaudes
 felix et miserae tantum moriture parenti." 725
 ne tamen extremo frustra morientis honori
 adfuerit, venit in medios caligine furva

¹ nudus exoritur *P*ω : vultus exseritur *conj.* *Garrod.*

² trementes *BDQ* : frementes *P* : meantes, micantes, *etc.*,
MSS.

³ iuga per *T.* ω : Teumesi e vertice *P* (*from viii. 344*).

^a *i.e.*, he would die so nobly that only his mother would weep.

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

Tender sorrow steals to the depth of Diana's heart as she beholds this sight, and staining her cheeks with tears she cries: "What escape from approaching death can thy faithful goddess find thee now? Was it to battles such as these thou hastenedst, fierce, ill-fated lad? Alas! thy rash and untried spirit drove thee, and the love of fame that prompts to a glorious death. Too scant already, forsooth, was the Maenalian forest for thy impetuous years, and the paths that lay through lairs of beasts, scarce safe for thee, child, without thy mother, to whose bow and woodland spears, impudent boy, thy strength was yet unequal. And she now is making loud and bitter complaint about my altars, and wearies the unhearing doors and thresholds; in the well-loved clarions and the battle's outcry thou art rejoicing, happy thou, and thou shalt die making but thy mother wretched." ^a Yet lest as he dies she fail to bring him her last honour, she advances into the midst of the array, hemmed about

STATIUS

saepta globos, primumque leves furata sagittas
 audacis tergo pueri caelestibus implet
 coryton telis, quorum sine sanguine nullum 730
 decidit ; ambrosio tum spargit membra liquore,
 spargit equum, ne quo violetur¹ vulnere corpus
 ante necem, cantusque sacros et conscia miscet
 murmura, secretis quae Colchidas ipsa sub antris
 nocte docet monstratque feras quaerentibus herbas.

Tunc vero exserto circumvolat igneus arcu 736
 nec se mente regit, patriae matrisque sui que
 immemor, et nimium caelestibus utitur armis :
 ut leo, cui parvo mater Gaetula cruentos
 suggerit ipsa cibos, cum primum crescere sensit 740
 colla iubis torvusque novos respexit ad unguis,
 indignatur ali, tandemque effusus apertos
 liber amat campos et nescit in antra reverti.

quos, age, Parrhasio sternis, puer improbe, cornu ?
 prima Tanagraeum turbavit harundo Coroebum 745
 extremo galeae primoque in margine Parmae
 angusta transmissa via, stat faucibus unda
 sanguinis, et sacri facies rubet igne veneni.
 saevius Eurytion, cui luminis orbe sinistro
 callida² tergeminis acies se condidit uncis. 750

ille trahens oculo plenam labente sagittam
 ibat in auctorem : sed divum fortia quid non
 tela queant ? alio geminatum lumine volnus
 explevit tenebras ; sequitur tamen improbus hostem,
 qua meminit, fustum donec prolapsus in Idan 755
 decidit : hic saevi miser inter funera belli
 palpitat et mortem sociosque hostesque precatur.

¹ violetur *P* : temeretur ω .

² callida *PB* : aspera ω .

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

Then indeed uncovering his bow he darts in fiery course about the field, nor is controlled by caution, forgetful of his native land, his mother and himself, and uses overmuch his heavenly weapons: just as a lion, whose Gaetolian dam brings him herself in his infancy gory food, as soon as he feels his neck swell with muscles and grimly looks at his new talons, scorns to be fed, and at last breaks forth to freedom and loves the open plains, and can no more return to his cave. Whom now slayest thou, ruthless boy, with thy Parrhasian horn? Coroebus of Tanagra, did thy first shaft lay low, sped on a narrow path between the lowest margin of the helm and the uppermost of the shield; the blood wells up into his throat, and his face glows red with the sacred fiery venom. More cruelly Eurytion falls, in the orb of whose left eye the cunning point buries itself with triple barb. Pulling out the arrow that brings the melting eyeball with it, he dashes at his assailant; but what cannot the brave weapons of the gods perform? A second wound in the other orb makes his darkness complete; yet he yields not but pursues the foe by memory's aid, until he trips and falls o'er prostrate Idas: there wretchedly he lies gasping amid the victims of the cruel fight, and entreats friend

addit Abantiadas, insignem crinibus Argum
 et male dilectum miseræ Cydona sorori.¹ 759
 huic geminum obliqua traiecit harundine tempus, 761
 exsilit hac ferrum, velox hac pinna remansit :
 fluxit utrimque cruor. nulli tela aspera mortis
 dant veniam, non forma Lamum, non infula Lygdum,
 non pubescentes texerunt Aeolon anni : 765
 figitur ora² Lamus, flet saucius inguina Lygdus,
 perfossus³ telo niveam gemis, Aeole, frontem.
 te praeceps Euboea tulit, te candida Thisbe
 miserat, hunc virides non excipietis Erythrae.⁴ 769
 numquam cassa manus, nullum sine numine⁵ fugit
 missile, nec requies dextrae, sonitumque priori
 iungit harundo sequens. unum quis crederet arcum
 aut unam saevire manum ? modo derigit ictus,
 nunc latere alterno dubius conamina mutat,
 nunc fugit instantes et solo respicit arcu. 775

Et iam mirantes indignantesque coibant
 Labdacidae, primusque Iovis de sanguine claro
 Amphion ignarus adhuc, quae funera campis
 ille daret : “ quonam usque moram lucrabere fati,
 o multum meritos puer orbature parentes ? 780
 quin etiam menti tumor atque audacia gliscit,
 congressus dum nemo tuos pugnamque minorem
 dignatur bellis, iramque relinqueris infra.
 i, repete Arcadium mixtusque aequalibus illic,

¹ After 759 follows “ illi perfossum telo patefecerat inguen,” not found in *P* ω , only in later *MSS.*, and clearly spurious.

² ora ω : ilia *P* : ile *Garrod*. *Klotz* suggests that ilia was a gloss on inguina.

³ perfossus *Bentley* : perfossam *P* ω .

⁴ Erythrae *Koestlin* : Amyclae *P* ω , which must be wrong, as Thebans are spoken of : Hyrides . . . amicae *Phillimore*.

⁵ numine *P* : vulnere ω .

and foe to slay him. To these he adds the sons of Abas, Argus of the noble locks, and Cydon, guiltily loved by his unhappy sister. Him did he pierce through both his temples with transverse-flying shaft: from one temple the point protrudes, at the other the feathers' flight was stayed, from both the blood came flowing. None do his angry darts excuse from death, Lamus is not shielded by his beauty, nor Lygdus by his fillet, nor Aeolos by his budding manhood. Lamus is pierced in the face, Lygdus bewails a wounded groin, thou, Aeolus, dost bemoan the dart that transfixed thy snow-white brow. Thee rocky Euboea bore, thee Thisbe shining white had sent, this warrior, green Erythrae, thou wilt not receive again. No blow but tells, no missile flies unfavoured of heaven, his right hand rests not, and the next arrow's twang follows hard upon the last. Who could believe that one bow, one arm was dealing death? Now aims he forward, now shifts from side to side in bewildering change of attack, now flees when they assail and turns nought but his bow to face them.

And now in wonder and indignation the sons of Labdacus were rallying, and first Amphion, of Jove's famous seed, ignorant still what deaths the lad was dealing on the battle-field: "How long shalt thou still make profit of death's delaying, thou boy that shalt be a sore loss to thy goodly parents? Nay, even yet thy spirit swells high and thy rashness grows, while none deigns to meet thy onset and thy too feeble might, and thou art left as beneath their wrath. Go, return to thy Arcadia and mingling with thy equals

dum ferus hic vero desaevit pulvere Mavors, 785
 proelia lude domi: quodsi te maesta sepulcri
 fama movet, dabimus leto moriari¹ virorum! ”
 iamdudum hunc contra stimulis gravioribus ardet
 trux Atalantiades—needum ille quierat—et inquit:
 “ sera etiam in Thebas, quarum hic exercitus, arma
 profero; quisnam adeo puer, ut bellare recuset 791
 talibus? Arcadiae stirpem et fera semina gentis,
 non Thebana vides: non me sub nocte silenti
 Thyias Echionio genetrix famulata Lyaeo
 edidit, haud umquam deformis vertice mitras 795
 induimus turpemque² manu iactavimus hastam.
 protinus adstrictos didiei reptare per amnes
 horrendasque domos magnarum intrare ferarum
 et—quid plura loquar? ferrum mea semper et arcus
 mater habet, vestri feriunt cava tympana patres.” 800
 non tulit Amphion vultumque et in ora loquentis
 telum immane rotat; sed ferri lumine diro
 turbatus sonipes sese dominumque retorsit
 in latus atque avidam transmisit devius hastam.
 acrior hoc iuvenem stricto mucrone petebat 805
 Amphion, cum se medio Latonia campo
 iecit et ante oculos omnis stetit obvia vultu.

Haerebat iuveni devinctus amore pudico
 Maenalius Dorceus, cui bella suumque timorem
 mater et audaces pueri mandaverat annos. 810
 huius tum vultu dea dissimulata profatur:
 “ hactenus Ogygias satis infestasse catervas,
 Parthenopaeae, satis; miserae iam parce parenti,

¹ moriari *Housman*: moriere *Pw*.

² turpemque *Klotz*: turpique *Pw*.

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

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

^a *i.e.*, Diana (=Artemis, daughter of Latona).

STATIUS

parce deis, quicumque favent." nec territus ille :
 " hunc sine me—non plura petam—fidissime Dorceu,
 sternere humi, qui tela meis gerit aemula telis 816
 et similes cultus et frena sonantia iactat.
 frena regam, cultus Triviae pendebitis alto
 limine, captivis matrem donabo pharetris."
 audiit et mixto risit Latonia fletu. 820

Viderat hanc caeli iamdudum in parte remota
 Gradivum complexa Venus, dumque anxia Thebas
 commemorat Cadmumque viro caraeque nepotes
 Harmoniae, pressum tacito sub corde dolorem
 tempestiva movet : " nonne hanc, Gradive, protervam
 virginitate vides mediam se ferre virorum 826
 coetibus ? utque acies audax et Martia signa
 temperet ? en etiam donat praebetque necandos
 tot nostra de gente viros. huic tradita virtus,
 huic furor ? agrestes superest tibi figere dammas."
 desiluit iustis commotus in arma querellis 831
 Bellipotens, cui sola vagum per inane ruenti
 Ira comes, reliqui sudant ad bella Furores.
 nec mora, cum maestam monitu Letoida duro
 increpat adsistens : " non haec tibi proelia divum 835
 dat pater ; armiferum ni protinus improba campum
 deseris, huic aequam nosces nec Pallada dextrae."
 quid faciat contra ? premit hinc Mavortia cuspis,
 hinc plenae tibi, parve, colus, Iovis inde severi
 vultus : abit solo post haec evicta pudore. 840

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

Long time from a distant quarter of the sky had Venus, in the embrace of Mars, beheld her, and while she anxiously commended Thebes and Cadmus and her dear Harmonia's progeny to her lord, she stirred with timely utterance the grief that lay hidden in his silent breast: "Seest thou not, O Gradivus, yonder wanton maid who goes to and fro among the troops of warriors? And with what boldness she is ordering the lines and the Martial standards? Lo! she even presents and offers to the slaughter all these men of our own race! Hath she then valour? Hath she the rage of battle? Nought then remains for thee but to hunt the woodland deer!" Moved by these just complaints the lord of war sprang down into the fight: as he sped through the paths of air Anger alone was his companion: the other Madnesses were busy in the sweat of war. Without delay he stands by Lato's sorrowing daughter and chides her with harsh reproof: "Not such battles as these does the Father of the gods allow thee: leave forthwith the field of arms, thou shameless one, or thou shalt learn that not even Pallas is a match for this right hand." What can she do against him? On one side the spear of Mavors threatens her, on the other, child, is thy distaff, full already, yonder the stern countenance of Jove: then she departs, yielding to reverence alone.

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At pater Ogygias Mavors circumspicit alas
 horrendumque Dryanta movet, cui sanguinis auctor
 turbidus Orion, comitesque odisse Dianae
 (inde furit) patrium. hic¹ turbatos arripit ense
 Arcadas exarmatque ducem ; cedit agmine longo
 Cyllenes populus Tegeesque habitator opacae, 846
 Aepytiique duces Telphusiacaque phalanges.
 ipsum autem et lassa fidit prosternere dextra,
 nec servat vires : etenim huc iam fessus et illuc
 mutabat turmas ; urgent praesagia mille 850
 funeris, et nigrae praecedunt nubila mortis.
 iamque miser raros comites verumque videbat
 Dorcea, iam vires paulatim abscedere sensit,
 sensit et exhaustas umero levioe pharetras ;
 iam minus atque minus fert arma puerque videtur 855
 et sibi, cum torva clipei metuendus obarsit
 luce Dryas : tremor ora repens ac viscera torsit
 Arcados ; utque feri vectorem fulminis albus
 cum supra respexit olor, cupit hiscere ripam
 Strymonos et trepidas in pectora contrahit alas : 860
 sic iuvenem saevi conspecta mole Dryantos
 iam non ira subit, sed leti nuntius horror.
 arma tamen, frustra superos Triviamque precatus,
 molitur pallens et surdos expedit arcus.
 iamque instat telis et utramque obliquus² in ulnam³
 cornua contingit mucrone et pectora nervo, 866
 cum ducis Aonii magno cita turbine cuspis

¹ patrium hic *Alton* : primum *Pω*, hic *DNS* and *Q* (*with n over*), hinc *B*.

² obliquus ω : oblitus *P* : obnixus *Phillimore*.

³ ulnam ω : urnam *P*.

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

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

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

STATIUS

fertur in adversum nervique obliqua sonori
vincla secat : pereunt ictus manibusque remissis
vana supinato ceciderunt spicula cornu. 870

tunc miser et frenos turbatus et arma remisit,
vulneris impatiens, umeri quod tegmine dextri
intrarat facilemque cutem : subit altera cuspis
cornipedisque fugam succiso poplite sistit.
tunc cadit ipse Dryas—mirum—nec vulneris umquam
consciis : olim auctor teli causaeque patebunt.¹ 876

At puer infusus sociis in devia campi
tollitur—heu simplex aetas !—moriensque iacentem
flebat equum ; cecidit laxata casside vultus,
aegraque per trepidos exspirat gratia visus, 880
et prensis concussa comis ter colla quaterque
stare negant, ipsisque nefas lacrimabile Thebis,
ibat purpureus niveo de pectore sanguis.

tandem haec singultu verba incidente profatur :
“ labimur, i, miseram, Dorceu, solare parentem. 885

illa quidem, si vera ferunt praesagia curae,
aut somno iam triste nefas aut omine vidit.
tu tamen arte pia trepidam suspende diuque
decipito ; neu tu subitus neve arma tenenti
veneris, et tandem, cum iam cogere fateri, 890

dic : merui, genetrix, poenas invita capesse ;
arma puer rapui, nec te retinente quievi,
nec tibi sollicitae tandem inter bella peperci.
vive igitur potiusque animis irascere nostris,
et iam pone metus. frustra de colle Lycaei 895

¹ patebunt *P* : patebant *ω* : latebant *Grotius*.

^a The word is perhaps intended to refer to the ends of the bow that sprang back when the string was cut.

^b *i e.*, in their endeavour to rouse him.

straight upon him, and cuts the slanted fastenings of the echoing bowstring : the shot is lost, his hands relax, and the arrow falls fruitless from the backward falling^a bow. Then in confusion and distress he drops both reins and weapons, reckless of the wound that had pierced the harness and the soft skin of his right shoulder ; another javelin follows and checks the charger's flight, cutting the tendons of his leg. Then Dryas himself falls—strange !—nor ever knows who wounds him ; one day the author of the deed and its cause will be revealed.

But the lad is carried from the field in his comrades' arms—alas, for his tender years !—and dying bewails his fallen steed ; relieved of the helm his head sinks back, and a sickly charm plays about his quivering eyes ; thrice and four times, grasping his hair, they shake the neck^b that refuses to stay upright, and—a horror whereat Thebes itself might weep—the purple blood came welling from the snow-white breast. At last he speaks, with sobs that break his utterance : “ I am dying, Dorceus : go, solace my poor mother. Already, if care doth bring true presage, she hath seen this calamity in dream or omen. Yet do thou with loyal craft keep her fears in suspense, and long deceive her ; nor come upon her of a sudden, nor when she holds a weapon in her hand ; and when at last thou art forced to admit the truth, say this to her : Mother, I confess my fault ; exact thy unwilling punishment ; I rushed to arms, though a mere boy, nor, though thou didst hold me back, would I be still, nor, despite thy trouble, war once begun did I spare thee at the last. Live then thou and be angry rather at my impetuous spirit and now be done with fears. In vain dost thou

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anxia prospectas, si quis per nubila longe
 aut sonus aut nostro sublatus ab agmine pulvis :
 frigidus et nuda iaceo tellure, nec usquam
 tu prope, quae voltus efflantiaque ora teneres.
 hunc tamen, orba parens, crinem” dextraque
 secundum 900
 praebuit “ hunc toto capies pro corpore crinem,
 comere quem frustra me dedignante solebas.
 huic dabis exsequias, atque inter iusta memento,
 ne quis inexpertis hebetet mea tela lacertis
 dilectosque canes ullis agat amplius antris.¹ 905
 haec autem primis arma infelicia castris
 ure, vel ingratae crimen² suspende Dianae.”

¹ *Lines 903-5 not in P.*

² crimen *Imhof* : crinem *P* : munus crimen *B* : munus *DNS*.