

# **Verses and Translations**

C. S. C.



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# Verses and Translations

**C. S. C.**

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- VISIONS.
- GEMINI AND VIRGO.
- "THERE STANDS A CITY."
- STRIKING.
- VOICES OF THE NIGHT.
- LINES SUGGESTED BY THE FOURTEENTH OF FEBRUARY.
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  - TO HIS SLAVE.
  - THE DEAD OX.
  - FROM THEOCRITUS.
  - SPEECH OF AJAX.

## Verses and Translations

- FROM LUCRETIUS.
- FROM HOMER.
- Footnotes:

This etext was produced by David Price, email [ccx074@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:ccx074@coventry.ac.uk), from the 1862 Deighton, Bell, and Co. edition.

**VISIONS.**

"She was a phantom," c.

In lone Glenartney's thickets lies couched the lordly stag,  
The dreaming terrier's tail forgets its customary wag;  
And plodding ploughmen's weary steps insensibly grow quicker,  
As broadening casements light them on towards home, or home-brewed  
liquor.

It is (in fact) the evening—that pure and pleasant time,  
When stars break into splendour, and poets into rhyme;  
When in the glass of Memory the forms of loved ones shine –  
And when, of course, Miss Goodchild's is prominent in mine.

Miss Goodchild!—Julia Goodchild!—how graciously you smiled  
Upon my childish passion once, yourself a fair-haired child:  
When I was (no doubt) profiting by Dr. Crabb's instruction,  
And sent those streaky lollipops home for your fairy suction!

"She wore" her natural "roses, the night when first we met" –  
Her golden hair was gleaming 'neath the coercive net:  
"Her brow was like the snawdrift," her step was like Queen Mab's,  
And gone was instantly the heart of every boy at Crabb's.

The parlour-boarder chassed tow'rds her on graceful limb;  
The onyx decked his bosom—but her smiles were not for him:  
With ME she danced—till drowsily her eyes "began to blink,"  
And I brought raisin wine, and said, "Drink, pretty creature, drink!"

And evermore, when winter comes in his garb of snows,  
And the returning schoolboy is told how fast he grows;  
Shall I—with that soft hand in mine—enact ideal Lancers,  
And dream I hear demure remarks, and make impassioned answers:–

I know that never, never may her love for me return –  
At night I muse upon the fact with undisguised concern –  
But ever shall I bless that day: (I don't bless, as a rule,  
The days I spent at "Dr. Crabb's Preparatory School.")

And yet—we two MAY meet again—(Be still, my throbbing heart!) –  
Now rolling years have weaned us from jam and raspberry tart:–  
One night I saw a vision—"Twas when musk-roses bloom  
I stood—WE stood—upon a rug, in a sumptuous dining-room:

One hand clasped hers—one easily reposed upon my hip –  
And "BLESS YE!" burst abruptly from Mr. Goodchild's lip:

## Verses and Translations

I raised my brimming eye, and saw in hers an answering gleam –  
My heart beat wildly—and I woke, and lo! it was a dream.



**GEMINI AND VIRGO.**

Some vast amount of years ago,  
Ere all my youth had vanished from me,  
A boy it was my lot to know,  
Whom his familiar friends called Tommy.

I love to gaze upon a child;  
A young bud bursting into blossom;  
Artless, as Eve yet unbeguiled,  
And agile as a young opossum:

And such was he. A calm-browed lad,  
Yet mad, at moments, as a hatter:  
Why hatters as a race are mad  
I never knew, nor does it matter.

He was what nurses call a 'limb;'  
One of those small misguided creatures,  
Who, though their intellects are dim,  
Are one too many for their teachers:

And, if you asked of him to say  
What twice 10 was, or 3 times 7,  
He'd glance (in quite a placid way)  
From heaven to earth, from earth to heaven:

And smile, and look politely round,  
To catch a casual suggestion;  
But make no effort to propound  
Any solution of the question.

And so not much esteemed was he  
Of the authorities: and therefore  
He fraternized by chance with me,  
Needing a somebody to care for:

And three fair summers did we twain  
Live (as they say) and love together;  
And bore by turns the wholesome cane  
Till our young skins became as leather:

And carved our names on every desk,  
And tore our clothes, and inked our collars;  
And looked unique and picturesque,  
But not, it may be, model scholars.

## Verses and Translations

We did much as we chose to do;  
We'd never heard of Mrs. Grundy;  
All the theology we knew  
Was that we mightn't play on Sunday;

And all the general truths, that cakes  
Were to be bought at four a-penny,  
And that excruciating aches  
Resulted if we ate too many:

And seeing ignorance is bliss,  
And wisdom consequently folly,  
The obvious result is this –  
That our two lives were very jolly.

At last the separation came.  
Real love, at that time, was the fashion;  
And by a horrid chance, the same  
Young thing was, to us both, a passion.

Old POSER snorted like a horse:  
His feet were large, his hands were pimply,  
His manner, when excited, coarse:–  
But Miss P. was an angel simply.

She was a blushing gushing thing;  
All—more than all—my fancy painted;  
Once—when she helped me to a wing  
Of goose—I thought I should have fainted.

The people said that she was blue:  
But I was green, and loved her dearly.  
She was approaching thirty-two;  
And I was then eleven, nearly.

I did not love as others do;  
(None ever did that I've heard tell of;)  
My passion was a byword through  
The town she was, of course, the belle of.

Oh sweet—as to the toilworn man  
The far-off sound of rippling river;  
As to cadets in Hindostan  
The fleeting remnant of their liver –

To me was ANNA; dear as gold  
That fills the miser's sunless coffers;  
As to the spinster, growing old,  
The thought—the dream—that she had offers.

## Verses and Translations

I'd sent her little gifts of fruit;  
I'd written lines to her as Venus;  
I'd sworn unflinchingly to shoot  
The man who dared to come between us:

And it was you, my Thomas, you,  
The friend in whom my soul confided,  
Who dared to gaze on her—to do,  
I may say, much the same as I did.

One night I SAW him squeeze her hand;  
There was no doubt about the matter;  
I said he must resign, or stand  
My vengeance—and he chose the latter.

We met, we 'planted' blows on blows:  
We fought as long as we were able:  
My rival had a bottle-nose,  
And both my speaking eyes were sable.

When the school-bell cut short our strife,  
Miss P. gave both of us a plaster;  
And in a week became the wife  
Of Horace Nibbs, the writing-master.

\* \* \*

I loved her then—I'd love her still,  
Only one must not love Another's:  
But thou and I, my Tommy, will,  
When we again meet, meet as brothers.

It may be that in age one seeks  
Peace only: that the blood is brisker  
In boy's veins, than in theirs whose cheeks  
Are partially obscured by whisker;

Or that the growing ages steal  
The memories of past wrongs from us.  
But this is certain—that I feel  
Most friendly unto thee, oh Thomas!

And wheresoe'er we meet again,  
On this or that side the equator,  
If I've not turned teetotaller then,  
And have wherewith to pay the waiter,

To thee I'll drain the modest cup,  
Ignite with thee the mild Havannah;  
And we will waft, while liquoring up,  
Forgiveness to the heartless ANNA.

GEMINI AND VIRGO.

## Verses and Translations

**"THERE STANDS A CITY."**

INGOLDSBY.

Year by year do Beauty's daughters,  
In the sweetest gloves and shawls,  
Troop to taste the Chattenham waters,  
And adorn the Chattenham balls.

'Nulla non donanda lauru'  
Is that city: you could not,  
Placing England's map before you,  
Light on a more favoured spot.

If no clear translucent river  
Winds 'neath willow-shaded paths,  
"Children and adults" may shiver  
All day in "Chalybeate baths:"

If "the inimitable Fechter"  
Never brings the gallery down,  
Constantly "the Great Protector"  
There "rejects the British crown:"

And on every side the painter  
Looks on wooded vale and plain  
And on fair hills, faint and fainter  
Outlined as they near the main.

There I met with him, my chosen  
Friend—the 'long' but not 'stern swell,' {15a}  
Faultless in his hats and hosen,  
Whom the Johnian lawns know well:—

Oh my comrade, ever valued!  
Still I see your festive face;  
Hear you humming of "the gal you'd  
Left behind" in massive bass:

See you sit with that composure  
On the eeliest of hacks,  
That the novice would suppose your  
Manly limbs encased in wax:

Or anon,—when evening lent her  
Tranquil light to hill and vale, —  
Urge, towards the table's centre,

"THERE STANDS A CITY."

## Verses and Translations

With unerring hand, the squail.

Ah delectablest of summers!

How my heart—that "muffled drum"  
Which ignores the aid of drummers –  
Beats, as back thy memories come!

Oh, among the dancers peerless,  
Fleet of foot, and soft of eye!  
Need I say to you that cheerless  
Must my days be till I die?

At my side she mashed the fragrant  
Strawberry; lashes soft as silk  
Drooped o'er saddened eyes, when vagrant  
Gnats sought watery graves in milk:

Then we danced, we walked together;  
Talked—no doubt on trivial topics;  
Such as Blondin, or the weather,  
Which "recalled us to the tropics."

But—oh! in the deuxtemps peerless,  
Fleet of foot, and soft of eye! –  
Once more I repeat, that cheerless  
Shall my days be till I die.

And the lean and hungry raven,  
As he picks my bones, will start  
To observe 'M. N.' engraven  
Neatly on my blighted heart.

**STRIKING.**

It was a railway passenger,  
And he lept out jauntilie.  
"Now up and bear, thou stout porter,  
My two chattels to me.

"Bring hither, bring hither my bag so red,  
And portmanteau so brown:  
(They lie in the van, for a trusty man  
He labelled them London town:)

"And fetch me eke a cabman bold,  
That I may be his fare, his fare;  
And he shall have a good shilling,  
If by two of the clock he do me bring  
To the Terminus, Euston Square."

"Now,—so to thee the saints alway,  
Good gentleman, give luck, —  
As never a cab may I find this day,  
For the cabman wights have struck:  
And now, I wis, at the Red Post Inn,  
Or else at the Dog and Duck,  
Or at Unicorn Blue, or at Green Griffin,  
The nut-brown ale and the fine old gin  
Right pleasantly they do suck."

"Now rede me aright, thou stout porter,  
What were it best that I should do:  
For woe is me, an I reach not there  
Or ever the clock strike two."

"I have a son, a lytel son;  
Fleet is his foot as the wild roebuck's:  
Give him a shilling, and eke a brown,  
And he shall carry thy chattels down,  
To Euston, or half over London town,  
On one of the station trucks."

Then forth in a hurry did they twain fare,  
The gent, and the son of the stout porter,  
Who fled like an arrow, nor turned a hair,  
Through all the mire and muck:  
"A ticket, a ticket, sir clerk, I pray:  
For by two of the clock must I needs away."

## Verses and Translations

"That may hardly be," the clerk did say,  
"For indeed—the clocks have struck."



**VOICES OF THE NIGHT.**

"The tender Grace of a day that is past."

The dew is on the roses,  
The owl hath spread her wing;  
And vocal are the noses  
Of peasant and of king:  
"Nature" (in short) "reposes;"  
But I do no such thing.

Pent in my lonesome study  
Here I must sit and muse;  
Sit till the morn grows ruddy,  
Till, rising with the dews,  
"Jeameses" remove the muddy  
Spots from their masters' shoes.

Yet are sweet faces flinging  
Their witchery o'er me here:  
I hear sweet voices singing  
A song as soft, as clear,  
As (previously to stinging)  
A gnat sings round one's ear.

Does Grace draw young Apollos  
In blue mustachios still?  
Does Emma tell the swallows  
How she will pipe and trill,  
When, some fine day, she follows  
Those birds to the window-sill?

And oh! has Albert faded  
From Grace's memory yet?  
Albert, whose "brow was shaded  
By locks of glossiest jet,"  
Whom almost any lady'd  
Have given her eyes to get?

Does not her conscience smite her  
For one who hourly pines,  
Thinking her bright eyes brighter  
Than any star that shines –  
I mean of course the writer  
Of these pathetic lines?

## Verses and Translations

Who knows? As quoth Sir Walter,  
"Time rolls his ceaseless course:  
"The Grace of yore" may alter –  
And then, I've one resource:  
I'll invest in a bran–new halter,  
And I'll perish without remorse.

**LINES SUGGESTED BY THE FOURTEENTH OF FEBRUARY.**

Ere the morn the East has crimsoned,  
When the stars are twinkling there,  
(As they did in Watts's Hymns, and  
Made him wonder what they were:)  
When the forest-nymphs are beading  
Fern and flower with silvery dew –  
My infallible proceeding  
Is to wake, and think of you.

When the hunter's ringing bugle  
Sounds farewell to field and copse,  
And I sit before my frugal  
Meal of gravy-soup and chops:  
When (as Gray remarks) "the moping  
Owl doth to the moon complain,"  
And the hour suggests eloping –  
Fly my thoughts to you again.

May my dreams be granted never?  
Must I aye endure affliction  
Rarely realised, if ever,  
In our wildest works of fiction?  
Madly Romeo loved his Juliet;  
Copperfield began to pine  
When he hadn't been to school yet –  
But their loves were cold to mine.

Give me hope, the least, the dimmest,  
Ere I drain the poisoned cup:  
Tell me I may tell the chymist  
Not to make that arsenic up!  
Else, this heart shall soon cease throbbing;  
And when, musing o'er my bones,  
Travellers ask, "Who killed Cock Robin?"  
They'll be told, "Miss Sarah J-s."

Verses and Translations

**A, B, C.**

A is an Angel of blushing eighteen:  
B is the Ball where the Angel was seen:  
C is her Chaperone, who cheated at cards:  
D is the Deuxtemps, with Frank of the Guards:  
E is the Eye which those dark lashes cover:  
F is the Fan it peeped wickedly over:  
G is the Glove of superlative kid:  
H is the Hand which it spitefully hid:  
I is the Ice which spent nature demanded:  
J is the Juvenile who hurried to hand it:  
K is the Kerchief, a rare work of art:  
L is the Lace which composed the chief part.  
M is the old Maid who watch'd the girls dance:  
N is the Nose she turned up at each glance:  
O is the Olga (just then in its prime):  
P is the Partner who wouldn't keep time:  
Q 's a Quadrille, put instead of the Lancers:  
R the Remonstrances made by the dancers:  
S is the Supper, where all went in pairs:  
T is the Twaddle they talked on the stairs:  
U is the Uncle who 'thought we'd be going':  
V is the Voice which his niece replied 'No' in:  
W is the Waiter, who sat up till eight:  
X is his Exit, not rigidly straight:  
Y is a Yawning fit caused by the Ball:  
Z stands for Zero, or nothing at all.

**TO MRS. GOODCHILD.**

The night-wind's shriek is pitiless and hollow,  
The boding bat flits by on sullen wing,  
And I sit desolate, like that "one swallow"  
Who found (with horror) that he'd not brought spring:  
Lonely as he who erst with venturous thumb  
Drew from its pie-y lair the solitary plum.

And to my gaze the phantoms of the Past,  
The cherished fictions of my boyhood, rise:  
I see Red Ridinghood observe, aghast,  
The fixed expression of her grandam's eyes;  
I hear the fiendish chattering and chuckling  
Which those misguided fowls raised at the Ugly Duckling.

The House that Jack built—and the Malt that lay  
Within the House—the Rat that ate the Malt –  
The Cat, that in that sanguinary way  
Punished the poor thing for its venial fault –  
The Worrier-Dog—the Cow with Crumpled horn –  
And then—ah yes! and then—the Maiden all forlorn!

O Mrs. Gurton—(may I call thee Gammer?)  
Thou more than mother to my infant mind!  
I loved thee better than I loved my grammar –  
I used to wonder why the Mice were blind,  
And who was gardener to Mistress Mary,  
And what—I don't know still—was meant by "quite contrary"?

"Tota contraria," an "Arundo Cami"  
Has phrased it—which is possibly explicit,  
Ingenious certainly—but all the same I  
Still ask, when coming on the word, 'What is it?'  
There were more things in Mrs. Gurton's eye,  
Mayhap, than are dreamed of in our philosophy.

No doubt the Editor of 'Notes and Queries'  
Or 'Things not generally known' could tell  
That word's real force—my only lurking fear is

## Verses and Translations

That the great Gammer "didna ken hersel":  
(I've precedent, yet feel I owe apology  
For passing in this way to Scottish phraseology).

Alas, dear Madam, I must ask your pardon  
For making this unwarranted digression,  
Starting (I think) from Mistress Mary's garden:—  
And beg to send, with every expression  
Of personal esteem, a Book of Rhymes,  
For Master G. to read at miscellaneous times.

There is a youth, who keeps a 'crumpled Horn,'  
(Living next me, upon the selfsame story,)  
And ever, 'twixt the midnight and the morn,  
He solaces his soul with Annie Laurie.  
The tune is good; the habit p'raps romantic;  
But tending, if pursued, to drive one's neighbours frantic.

And now,—at this unprecedented hour,  
When the young Dawn is "trampling out the stars," —  
I hear that youth—with more than usual power  
And pathos—struggling with the first few bars.  
And I do think the amateur cornopean  
Should be put down by law—but that's perhaps Utopian.

Who knows what "things unknown" I might have "bodied  
Forth," if not checked by that absurd Too-too?  
But don't I know that when my friend has plodded  
Through the first verse, the second will ensue?  
Considering which, dear Madam, I will merely  
Send the aforesaid book—and am yours most sincerely.

**ODE—'ON A DISTANT PROSPECT' OF MAKING A FORTUNE.**

Now the "rosy morn appearing"  
Floods with light the dazzled heaven;  
And the schoolboy groans on hearing  
That eternal clock strike seven:—  
Now the waggoner is driving  
Towards the fields his clattering wain;  
Now the bluebottle, reviving,  
Buzzes down his native pane.

But to me the morn is hateful:  
Wearily I stretch my legs,  
Dress, and settle to my plateful  
Of (perhaps inferior) eggs.  
Yesterday Miss Crump, by message,  
Mentioned "rent," which "p'raps I'd pay;"  
And I have a dismal presage  
That she'll call, herself, to-day.

Once, I breakfasted off rosewood,  
Smoked through silver-mounted pipes —  
Then how my patrician nose would  
Turn up at the thought of "swipes!"  
Ale,—occasionally claret, —  
Graced my luncheon then:— and now  
I drink porter in a garret,  
To be paid for heaven knows how.

When the evening shades are deepened,  
And I doff my hat and gloves,  
No sweet bird is there to "cheep and  
Twitter twenty million loves:"  
No dark-ringleted canaries  
Sing to me of "hungry foam;"  
No imaginary "Marys"  
Call fictitious "cattle home."

Araminta, sweetest, fairest!  
Solace once of every ill!  
How I wonder if thou bearest  
Mivins in remembrance still!  
If that Friday night is banished  
Yet from that retentive mind,  
When the others somehow vanished,  
And we two were left behind:—

## Verses and Translations

When in accents low, yet thrilling,  
I did all my love declare;  
Mentioned that I'd not a shilling –  
Hinted that we need not care:  
And complacently you listened  
To my somewhat long address –  
(Listening, at the same time, isn't  
Quite the same as saying Yes).

Once, a happy child, I carolled  
O'er green lawns the whole day through,  
Not unpleasingly apparelled  
In a tightish suit of blue:–  
What a change has now passed o'er me!  
Now with what dismay I see  
Every rising morn before me!  
Goodness gracious, patience me!

And I'll prowl, a moodier Lara,  
Through the world, as prowls the bat,  
And habitually wear a  
Cypress wreath around my hat:  
And when Death snuffs out the taper  
Of my Life, (as soon he must),  
I'll send up to every paper,  
"Died, T. Mivins; of disgust."



**ISABEL.**

Now o'er the landscape crowd the deepening shades,  
And the shut lily cradles not the bee;  
The red deer couches in the forest glades,  
And faint the echoes of the slumberous sea:  
And ere I rest, one prayer I'll breathe for thee,  
The sweet Egeria of my lonely dreams:  
Lady, forgive, that ever upon me  
Thoughts of thee linger, as the soft starbeams  
Linger on Merlin's rock, or dark Sabrina's streams.

On gray Pilatus once we loved to stray,  
And watch far off the glimmering roselight break  
O'er the dim mountain-peaks, ere yet one ray  
Pierced the deep bosom of the mist-clad lake.  
Oh! who felt not new life within him wake,  
And his pulse quicken, and his spirit burn –  
(Save one we wot of, whom the cold DID make  
Feel "shooting pains in every joint in turn,")  
When first he saw the sun gild thy green shores, Lucerne?

And years have past, and I have gazed once more  
On blue lakes glistening beneath mountains blue;  
And all seemed sadder, lovelier than before –  
For all awakened memories of you.  
Oh! had I had you by my side, in lieu  
Of that red matron, whom the flies would worry,  
(Flies in those parts unfortunately do,)  
Who walked so slowly, talked in such a hurry,  
And with such wild contempt for stops and Lindley Murray!

O Isabel, the brightest, heavenliest theme  
That ere drew dreamer on to poesy,  
Since "Peggy's locks" made Burns neglect his team,  
And Stella's smile lured Johnson from his tea –  
I may not tell thee what thou art to me!  
But ever dwells the soft voice in my ear,  
Whispering of what Time is, what Man might be,  
Would he but "do the duty that lies near,"  
And cut clubs, cards, champagne, balls, billiard-rooms, and beer.

## Verses and Translations

**DIRGE.**

"Dr. Birch's young friends will reassemble to-day, Feb. 1st."

White is the wold, and ghostly  
The dank and leafless trees;  
And 'M's and 'N's are mostly  
Pronounced like 'B's and 'D's:  
'Neath bleak sheds, ice-encrusted,  
The sheep stands, mute and stolid:  
And ducks find out, disgusted,  
That all the ponds are solid.

Many a stout steer's work is  
(At least in this world) finished;  
The gross amount of turkies  
Is sensibly diminished:  
The holly-boughs are faded,  
The painted crackers gone;  
Would I could write, as Gray did,  
An Elegy thereon!

For Christmas-time is ended:  
Now is "our youth" regaining  
Those sweet spots where are "blended  
Home-comforts and school-training."  
Now they're, I dare say, venting  
Their grief in transient sobs,  
And I am "left lamenting"  
At home, with Mrs. Dobbs.

O Posthumus! "Fugaces  
Labuntur anni" still;  
Time robs us of our graces,  
Evade him as we will.  
We were the twins of Siam:  
Now SHE thinks ME a bore,  
And I admit that I am  
Inclined at times to snore.

I was her own Nathaniel;  
With her I took sweet counsel,  
Brought seed-cake for her spaniel,  
And kept her bird in groundsel:  
We've murmured, "How delightful  
A landscape, seen by night, is," –

And woke next day in frightful  
Pain from acute bronchitis.

\* \* \*

But ah! for them, whose laughter  
We heard last New Year's Day, –  
(They reeked not of Hereafter,  
Or what the Doctor'd say,) –  
For those small forms that fluttered  
Moth-like around the plate,  
When Sally brought the buttered  
Buns in at half-past eight!

Ah for the altered visage  
Of her, our tiny Belle,  
Whom my boy Gus (at his age!)  
Said was a "deuced swell!"  
P'raps now Miss Tickler's tocsin  
Has caged that pert young linnet;  
Old Birch perhaps is boxing  
My Gus's ears this minute.

Yet, though your young ears be as  
Red as mamma's geraniums,  
Yet grieve not! Thus ideas  
Pass into infant craniums.  
Use not complaints unseemly;  
Tho' you must work like bricks;  
And it IS cold, extremely,  
Rising at half-past six.

Soon sunnier will the day grow,  
And the east wind not blow so;  
Soon, as of yore, L'Allegro  
Succeed Il Penseroso:  
Stick to your Magnall's Questions  
And Long Division sums;  
And come—with good digestions –  
Home when next Christmas comes.

**LINES SUGGESTED BY THE FOURTEENTH OF FEBRUARY.**

Darkness succeeds to twilight:  
Through lattice and through skylight  
The stars no doubt, if one looked out,  
    Might be observed to shine:  
And sitting by the embers  
I elevate my members  
On a stray chair, and then and there  
    Commence a Valentine.

Yea! by St. Valentinus,  
Emma shall not be minus  
What all young ladies, whate'er their grade is,  
    Expect to-day no doubt:  
Emma the fair, the stately –  
Whom I beheld so lately,  
Smiling beneath the snow-white wreath  
    Which told that she was "out."

Wherefore fly to her, swallow,  
And mention that I'd "follow,"  
And "pipe and trill," et cetera, till  
    I died, had I but wings:  
Say the North's "true and tender,"  
The South an old offender;  
And hint in fact, with your well-known tact,  
    All kinds of pretty things.

Say I grow hourly thinner,  
Simply abhor my dinner –  
Tho' I do try and absorb some viand  
    Each day, for form's sake merely:  
And ask her, when all's ended,  
And I am found extended,  
With vest blood-spotted and cut carotid,  
    To think on Her's sincerely.

**"HIC VIR, HIC EST."**

Often, when o'er tree and turret,  
Eve a dying radiance flings,  
By that ancient pile I linger  
Known familiarly as "King's."  
And the ghosts of days departed  
Rise, and in my burning breast  
All the undergraduate wakens,  
And my spirit is at rest.

What, but a revolting fiction,  
Seems the actual result  
Of the Census's enquiries  
Made upon the 15th ult.?  
Still my soul is in its boyhood;  
Nor of year or changes reck.  
Though my scalp is almost hairless,  
And my figure grows convex.

Backward moves the kindly dial;  
And I'm numbered once again  
With those noblest of their species  
Called emphatically 'Men':  
Loaf, as I have loafed aforetime,  
Through the streets, with tranquil mind,  
And a long-backed fancy-mongrel  
Trailing casually behind:

Past the Senate-house I saunter,  
Whistling with an easy grace;  
Past the cabbage-stalks that carpet  
Still the beefy market-place;  
Poising evermore the eye-glass  
In the light sarcastic eye,  
Lest, by chance, some breezy nursemaid  
Pass, without a tribute, by.

Once, an unassuming Freshman,  
Through these wilds I wandered on,  
Seeing in each house a College,  
Under every cap a Don:  
Each perambulating infant  
Had a magic in its squall,  
For my eager eye detected  
Senior Wranglers in them all.

## Verses and Translations

By degrees my education  
Grew, and I became as others;  
Learned to court delirium tremens  
By the aid of Bacon Brothers;  
Bought me tiny boots of Mortlock,  
And colossal prints of Roe;  
And ignored the proposition  
That both time and money go.

Learned to work the wary dogcart  
Artfully through King's Parade;  
Dress, and steer a boat, and sport with  
Amaryllis in the shade:  
Struck, at Brown's, the dashing hazard;  
Or (more curious sport than that)  
Dropped, at Callaby's, the terrier  
Down upon the prisoned rat.

I have stood serene on Fenner's  
Ground, indifferent to blisters,  
While the Buttress of the period  
Bowled me his peculiar twisters:  
Sung 'We won't go home till morning';  
Striven to part my backhair straight;  
Drunk (not lavishly) of Miller's  
Old dry wines at 78:–

When within my veins the blood ran,  
And the curls were on my brow,  
I did, oh ye undergraduates,  
Much as ye are doing now.  
Wherefore bless ye, O beloved ones:–  
Now unto mine inn must I,  
Your 'poor moralist,' {51a} betake me,  
In my 'solitary fly.'

**BEER.**

In those old days which poets say were golden –  
    (Perhaps they laid the gilding on themselves:  
And, if they did, I'm all the more beholden  
    To those brown dwellers in my dusty shelves,  
Who talk to me "in language quaint and olden"  
    Of gods and demigods and fauns and elves,  
Pans with his pipes, and Bacchus with his leopards,  
And staid young goddesses who flirt with shepherds:)

In those old days, the Nymph called Etiquette  
    (Appalling thought to dwell on) was not born.  
They had their May, but no Mayfair as yet,  
    No fashions varying as the hues of morn.  
Just as they pleased they dressed and drank and ate,  
    Sang hymns to Ceres (their John Barleycorn)  
And danced unchaperoned, and laughed unchecked,  
And were no doubt extremely incorrect.

Yet do I think their theory was pleasant:  
    And oft, I own, my 'wayward fancy roams'  
Back to those times, so different from the present;  
    When no one smoked cigars, nor gave At-homes,  
Nor smote a billiard-ball, nor winged a pheasant,  
    Nor 'did' their hair by means of long-tailed combs,  
Nor migrated to Brighton once a-year,  
Nor—most astonishing of all—drank Beer.

No, they did not drink Beer, "which brings me to"  
    (As Gilpin said) "the middle of my song."  
Not that "the middle" is precisely true,  
    Or else I should not tax your patience long:  
If I had said 'beginning,' it might do;  
    But I have a dislike to quoting wrong:  
I was unlucky—sinned against, not sinning –  
When Cowper wrote down 'middle' for 'beginning.'

So to proceed. That abstinence from Malt  
    Has always struck me as extremely curious.  
The Greek mind must have had some vital fault,  
    That they should stick to liquors so injurious –  
(Wine, water, tempered p'raps with Attic salt) –  
    And not at once invent that mild, luxurious,  
And artful beverage, Beer. How the digestion  
Got on without it, is a startling question.



Had they digestions? and an actual body  
Such as dyspepsia might make attacks on?  
Were they abstract ideas—(like Tom Noddy  
And Mr. Briggs)—or men, like Jones and Jackson?  
Then Nectar—was that beer, or whiskey—toddy?  
Some say the Gaelic mixture, *I* the Saxon:  
I think a strict adherence to the latter  
Might make some Scots less pigheaded, and fatter.

Besides, Bon Gaultier definitely shews  
That the real beverage for feasting gods on  
Is a soft compound, grateful to the nose  
And also to the palate, known as 'Hodgson.'  
I know a man—a tailor's son—who rose  
To be a peer: and this I would lay odds on,  
(Though in his Memoirs it may not appear,)   
That that man owed his rise to copious Beer.

O Beer! O Hodgson, Guinness, Allsop, Bass!  
Names that should be on every infant's tongue!  
Shall days and months and years and centuries pass,  
And still your merits be unrecked, unsung?  
Oh! I have gazed into my foaming glass,  
And wished that lyre could yet again be strung  
Which once rang prophet-like through Greece, and taught her  
Misguided sons that "the best drink was water."

How would he now recant that wild opinion,  
And sing—as would that I could sing—of you!  
I was not born (alas!) the "Muses' minion,"  
I'm not poetical, not even blue:  
And he (we know) but strives with waxen pinion,  
Whoe'er he is that entertains the view  
Of emulating Pindar, and will be  
Sponsor at last to some now nameless sea.

Oh! when the green slopes of Arcadia burned  
With all the lustre of the dying day,  
And on Cithaeron's brow the reaper turned,  
(Humming, of course, in his delightful way,  
How Lycidas was dead, and how concerned  
The Nymphs were when they saw his lifeless clay;  
And how rock told to rock the dreadful story  
That poor young Lycidas was gone to glory:)

What would that lone and labouring soul have given,  
At that soft moment, for a pewter pot!  
How had the mists that dimmed his eye been riven,  
And Lycidas and sorrow all forgot!  
If his own grandmother had died unshriven,

BEER.

## Verses and Translations

In two short seconds he'd have reeked it not;  
Such power hath Beer. The heart which Grief hath canker'd  
Hath one unfailing remedy—the Tankard.

Coffee is good, and so no doubt is cocoa;  
Tea did for Johnson and the Chinamen:  
When 'Dulce et desipere in loco'  
Was written, real Falernian winged the pen.  
When a rapt audience has encored 'Fra Poco'  
Or 'Casta Diva,' I have heard that then  
The Prima Donna, smiling herself out,  
Recruits her flagging powers with bottled stout.

But what is coffee, but a noxious berry,  
Born to keep used-up Londoners awake?  
What is Falernian, what is Port or Sherry,  
But vile concoctions to make dull heads ache?  
Nay stout itself—(though good with oysters, very) –  
Is not a thing your reading man should take.  
He that would shine, and petrify his tutor,  
Should drink draught Allsop in its "native pewter."

But hark! a sound is stealing on my ear –  
A soft and silvery sound—I know it well.  
Its tinkling tells me that a time is near  
Precious to me—it is the Dinner Bell.  
O blessed Bell! Thou bringest beef and beer,  
Thou bringest good things more than tongue may tell:  
Seared is (of course) my heart—but unsubdued  
Is, and shall be, my appetite for food.

I go. Untaught and feeble is my pen:  
But on one statement I may safely venture;  
That few of our most highly gifted men  
Have more appreciation of the trencher.  
I go. One pound of British beef, and then  
What Mr. Swiveller called a "modest quencher;"  
That home-returning, I may 'soothly say,'  
"Fate cannot touch me: I have dined to-day."

**ODE TO TOBACCO.**

Thou who, when fears attack,  
Bid'st them avaunt, and Black  
Care, at the horseman's back  
    Perching, unseatest;  
Sweet when the morn is grey;  
Sweet, when they've cleared away  
Lunch; and at close of day  
    Possibly sweetest:

I have a liking old  
For thee, though manifold  
Stories, I know, are told,  
    Not to thy credit;  
How one (or two at most)  
Drops make a cat a ghost –  
Useless, except to roast –  
    Doctors have said it:

How they who use fusees  
All grow by slow degrees  
Brainless as chimpanzees,  
    Meagre as lizards;  
Go mad, and beat their wives;  
Plunge (after shocking lives)  
Razors and carving knives  
    Into their gizzards.

Confound such knavish tricks!  
Yet know I five or six  
Smokers who freely mix  
    Still with their neighbours;  
Jones—who, I'm glad to say,  
Asked leave of Mrs. J.) –  
Daily absorbs a clay  
    After his labours.

Cats may have had their goose  
Cooked by tobacco–juice;  
Still why deny its use  
    Thoughtfully taken?  
We're not as tabbies are:  
Smith, take a fresh cigar!  
Jones, the tobacco–jar!  
    Here's to thee, Bacon!



**DOVER TO MUNICH.**

Farewell, farewell! Before our prow  
Leaps in white foam the noisy channel,  
A tourist's cap is on my brow,  
My legs are cased in tourists' flannel:

Around me gasp the invalids –  
(The quantity to-night is fearful) –  
I take a brace or so of weeds,  
And feel (as yet) extremely cheerful.

The night wears on:– my thirst I quench  
With one imperial pint of porter;  
Then drop upon a casual bench –  
(The bench is short, but I am shorter) –

Place 'neath my head the harve–sac  
Which I have stowed my little all in,  
And sleep, though moist about the back,  
Serenely in an old tarpaulin.

\* \* \*

Bed at Ostend at 5 A.M.  
Breakfast at 6, and train 6.30.  
Tickets to Konigswinter (mem.  
The seats objectionably dirty).

And onward through those dreary flats  
We move, with scanty space to sit on,  
Flanked by stout girls with steeple hats,  
And waists that paralyse a Briton; –

By many a tidy little town,  
Where tidy little Fraus sit knitting;  
(The men's pursuits are, lying down,  
Smoking perennial pipes, and spitting;)

And doze, and execrate the heat,  
And wonder how far off Cologne is,  
And if we shall get aught to eat,  
Till we get there, save raw polonies:

Until at last the "grey old pile"  
Is seen, is past, and three hours later

## Verses and Translations

We're ordering steaks, and talking vile  
Mock-German to an Austrian waiter.

\* \* \*

Konigswinter, hateful Konigswinter!  
Burying-place of all I loved so well!  
Never did the most extensive printer  
Print a tale so dark as thou could'st tell!

In the sapphire West the eve yet lingered,  
Bathed in kindly light those hill-tops cold;  
Fringed each cloud, and, stooping rosy-fingered,  
Changed Rhine's waters into molten gold; –

While still nearer did his light waves splinter  
Into silvery shafts the streaming light;  
And I said I loved thee, Konigswinter,  
For the glory that was thine that night.

And we gazed, till slowly disappearing,  
Like a day-dream, passed the pageant by,  
And I saw but those lone hills, uprearing  
Dull dark shapes against a hueless sky.

Then I turned, and on those bright hopes pondered  
Whereof yon gay fancies were the type;  
And my hand mechanically wandered  
Towards my left-hand pocket for a pipe.

Ah! why starts each eyeball from its socket,  
As, in Hamlet, start the guilty Queen's?  
There, deep-hid in its accustomed pocket,  
Lay my sole pipe, smashed to smithereens!

\* \* \*

On, on the vessel steals;  
Round go the paddle-wheels,  
And now the tourist feels  
As he should;  
For king-like rolls the Rhine,  
And the scenery's divine,  
And the victuals and the wine  
Rather good.

From every crag we pass'll  
Rise up some hoar old castle;  
The hanging fir-groves tassel  
Every slope;  
And the vine her lithe arms stretches

DOVER TO MUNICH.

## Verses and Translations

O'er peasants singing catches –  
And you'll make no end of sketches,  
I should hope.

We've a nun here (called Therese),  
Two couriers out of place,  
One Yankee, with a face  
Like a ferret's:  
And three youths in scarlet caps  
Drinking chocolate and schnapps –  
A diet which perhaps  
Has its merits.

And day again declines:  
In shadow sleep the vines,  
And the last ray through the pines  
Feebly glows,  
Then sinks behind yon ridge;  
And the usual evening midge  
Is settling on the bridge  
Of my nose.

And keen's the air and cold,  
And the sheep are in the fold,  
And Night walks sable–stoled  
Through the trees;  
And on the silent river  
The floating starbeams quiver; –  
And now, the saints deliver  
Us from fleas.

\* \* \*

Avenues of broad white houses,  
Basking in the noontide glare; –  
Streets, which foot of traveller shrinks from,  
As on hot plates shrinks the bear; –

Elsewhere lawns, and vista'd gardens,  
Statues white, and cool arcades,  
Where at eve the German warrior  
Winks upon the German maids; –

Such is Munich:– broad and stately,  
Rich of hue, and fair of form;  
But, towards the end of August,  
Unequivocally WARM.

There, the long dim galleries threading,  
May the artist's eye behold,  
Breathing from the "deathless canvass"

DOVER TO MUNICH.

## Verses and Translations

Records of the years of old:

Pallas there, and Jove, and Juno,  
"Take" once more "their walks abroad,"  
Under Titian's fiery woodlands  
And the saffron skies of Claude:

There the Amazons of Rubens  
Lift the failing arm to strike,  
And the pale light falls in masses  
On the horsemen of Vandyke;

And in Berghem's pools reflected  
Hang the cattle's graceful shapes,  
And Murillo's soft boy-faces  
Laugh amid the Seville grapes;

And all purest, loveliest fancies  
That in poets' souls may dwell  
Started into shape and substance  
At the touch of Raphael. –

Lo! her wan arms folded meekly,  
And the glory of her hair  
Falling as a robe around her,  
Kneels the Magdalene in prayer;

And the white-robed Virgin-mother  
Smiles, as centuries back she smiled,  
Half in gladness, half in wonder,  
On the calm face of her Child:–

And that mighty Judgment-vision  
Tells how man essayed to climb  
Up the ladder of the ages,  
Past the frontier-walls of Time;

Heard the trumpet-echoes rolling  
Through the phantom-peopled sky,  
And the still voice bid this mortal  
Put on immortality.

\* \* \*

Thence we turned, what time the blackbird  
Pipes to vespers from his perch,  
And from out the clattering city  
Pass'd into the silent church;

Marked the shower of sunlight breaking  
Thro' the crimson panes o'erhead,

DOVER TO MUNICH.



## Verses and Translations

And on pictured wall and window  
Read the histories of the dead:

Till the kneelers round us, rising,  
Cross'd their foreheads and were gone;  
And o'er aisle and arch and cornice,  
Layer on layer, the night came on.

**CHARADES.**

I.

She stood at Greenwich, motionless amid  
The ever-shifting crowd of passengers.  
I marked a big tear quivering on the lid  
Of her deep-lustrous eye, and knew that hers  
Were days of bitterness. But, "Oh! what stirs"  
I said "such storm within so fair a breast?"  
Even as I spoke, two apoplectic curs  
Came feebly up: with one wild cry she prest  
Each singly to her heart, and faltered, "Heaven be blest!"

Yet once again I saw her, from the deck  
Of a black ship that steamed towards Blackwall.  
She walked upon MY FIRST. Her stately neck  
Bent o'er an object shrouded in her shawl:  
I could not see the tears—the glad tears—fall,  
Yet knew they fell. And "Ah," I said, "not puppies,  
Seen unexpectedly, could lift the pall  
From hearts who KNOW what tasting misery's cup is,  
As Niobe's, or mine, or Mr. William Guppy's."

\* \* \*

Spake John Grogblossom the coachman to Eliza Spinks the cook:  
"Mrs. Spinks," says he, "I've foundered: 'Liza dear, I'm overtook.  
Druv into a corner reglar, puzzled as a babe unborn;  
Speak the word, my blessed 'Liza; speak, and John the coachman's yourn."

Then Eliza Spinks made answer, blushing, to the coachman John:  
"John, I'm born and bred a spinster: I've begun and I'll go on.  
Endless cares and endless worrits, well I knows it, has a wife:  
Cooking for a genteel family, John, it's a goluptious life!

"I gets 20 pounds per annum—tea and things o' course not reckoned, —  
There's a cat that eats the butter, takes the coals, and breaks MY  
SECOND:  
There's soci'ty—James the footman;—(not that I look after him;  
But he's aff'ble in his manners, with amazing length of limb;) —

"Never durst the missis enter here until I've said 'Come in':  
If I saw the master peeping, I'd catch up the rolling-pin.  
Christmas-boxes, that's a something; perkisites, that's something too;  
And I think, take all together, John, I won't be on with you."

CHARADES.

## Verses and Translations

John the coachman took his hat up, for he thought he'd had enough;  
Rubbed an elongated forehead with a meditative cuff;  
Paused before the stable doorway; said, when there, in accents mild,  
"She's a fine young 'oman, cook is; but that's where it is, she's  
spiled."

\* \* \*

I have read in some not marvellous tale,  
    (Or if I have not, I've dreamed)  
Of one who filled up the convivial cup  
    Till the company round him seemed

To be vanished and gone, tho' the lamps upon  
    Their face as aforetime gleamed:  
And his head sunk down, and a Lethe crept  
O'er his powerful brain, and the young man slept.

Then they laid him with care in his moonlit bed:  
    But first—having thoughtfully fetched some tar –  
Adorned him with feathers, aware that the weather's  
    Uncertainty brings on at nights catarrh.

They staid in his room till the sun was high:  
    But still did the feathered one give no sign  
Of opening a peeper—he might be a sleeper  
    Such as rests on the Northern or Midland line.

At last he woke, and with profound  
Bewilderment he gazed around;  
Dropped one, then both feet to the ground,  
    But never spake a word:

Then to my WHOLE he made his way;  
Took one long lingering survey;  
And softly, as he stole away,  
    Remarked, "By Jove, a bird!"

II.

If you've seen a short man swagger tow'rds the footlights at Shoreditch,  
Sing out "Heave aho! my hearties," and perpetually hitch  
Up, by an ingenious movement, trousers innocent of brace,  
Briskly flourishing a cudgel in his pleased companion's face;

If he preluded with hornpipes each successive thing he did,  
From a sun-browned cheek extracting still an ostentatious quid;  
And expectorated freely, and occasionally cursed:—

CHARADES.

## Verses and Translations

Then have you beheld, depicted by a master's hand, MY FIRST.

O my countryman! if ever from thy arm the bolster sped,  
In thy school-days, with precision at a young companion's head;  
If 'twas thine to lodge the marble in the centre of the ring,  
Or with well-directed pebble make the sitting hen take wing:

Then do thou—each fair May morning, when the blue lake is as glass,  
And the gossamers are twinkling star-like in the beaded grass;  
When the mountain-bee is sipping fragrance from the bluebell's lip,  
And the bathing-woman tells you, Now's your time to take a dip:

When along the misty valleys fieldward winds the lowing herd,  
And the early worm is being dropped on by the early bird;  
And Aurora hangs her jewels from the bending rose's cup,  
And the myriad voice of Nature calls thee to MY SECOND up:—

Hie thee to the breezy common, where the melancholy goose  
Stalks, and the astonished donkey finds that he is really loose;  
There amid green fern and furze-bush shalt thou soon MY WHOLE behold,  
Rising 'bull-eyed and majestic'—as Olympus queen of old:

Kneel,—at a respectful distance,—as they kneeled to her, and try  
With judicious hand to put a ball into that ball-less eye:  
Till a stiffness seize thy elbows, and the general public wake —  
Then return, and, clear of conscience, walk into thy well-earned steak.

### III.

Ere yet "knowledge for the million"  
Came out "neatly bound in boards;"  
When like Care upon a pillion  
Matrons rode behind their lords:  
Rarely, save to hear the Rector,  
Forth did younger ladies roam;  
Making pies, and brewing nectar  
From the gooseberry-trees at home.

They'd not dreamed of Pan or Vevay;  
Ne'er should into blossom burst  
At the ball or at the levee;  
Never come, in fact, MY FIRST:  
Nor illumine cards by dozens  
With some labyrinthine text,  
Nor work smoking-caps for cousins  
Who were pounding at MY NEXT.

Now have skirts, and minds, grown ampler;  
Now not all they seek to do

CHARADES.

## Verses and Translations

Is create upon a sampler  
Beasts which Buffon never knew:  
But their venturous muslins rustle  
O'er the cragstone and the snow,  
Or at home their biceps muscle  
Grows by practising the bow.

Worthier they those dames who, fable  
Says, rode "palfreys" to the war  
With gigantic Thanes, whose "sable  
Destriers caracoled" before;  
Smiled, as—springing from the war—horse  
As men spring in modern 'cirques' —  
They plunged, ponderous as a four—horse  
Coach, among the vanished Turks:—

In the good times when the jester  
Asked the monarch how he was,  
And the landlady address her  
Guests as 'gossip' or as 'coz';  
When the Templar said, "Gramercy,"  
Or, "'Twas shrewdly thrust, i' fegs,"  
To Sir Halbert or Sir Percy  
As they knocked him off his legs:

And, by way of mild reminders  
That he needed coin, the Knight  
Day by day extracted grinders  
From the howling Israelite:  
And MY WHOLE in merry Sherwood  
Sent, with preterhuman luck,  
Missiles—not of steel but firwood —  
Thro' the two—mile—distant buck.

IV.

Evening threw soberer hue  
Over the blue sky, and the few  
Poplars that grew just in the view  
Of the hall of Sir Hugo de Wynkle:  
"Answer me true," pleaded Sir Hugh,  
(Striving to woo no matter who.)  
"What shall I do, Lady, for you?"  
"Twill be done, ere your eye may twinkle.  
Shall I borrow the wand of a Moorish enchanter,  
And bid a decanter contain the Levant, or  
The brass from the face of a Mormonite ranter?  
Shall I go for the mule of the Spanish Infantar —

CHARADES.

## Verses and Translations

(That R, for the sake of the line, we must grant her,) –  
And race with the foul fiend, and beat in a canter,  
Like that first of equestrians Tam o' Shanter?  
I talk not mere banter—say not that I can't, or  
By this MY FIRST—(a Virginia planter  
Sold it me to kill rats)—I will die instanter."

The Lady bended her ivory neck, and  
Whispered mournfully, "Go for—MY SECOND."  
She said, and the red from Sir Hugh's cheek fled,  
And "Nay," did he say, as he stalked away  
The fiercest of injured men:  
"Twice have I humbled my haughty soul,  
And on bended knee I have pressed MY WHOLE –  
But I never will press it again!"

V.

On pinnacled St. Mary's  
Lingers the setting sun;  
Into the street the blackguards  
Are skulking one by one:  
Butcher and Boots and Bargeman  
Lay pipe and pewter down;  
And with wild shout come tumbling out  
To join the Town and Gown.

And now the undergraduates  
Come forth by twos and threes,  
From the broad tower of Trinity,  
From the green gate of Caius:  
The wily bargeman marks them,  
And swears to do his worst;  
To turn to impotence their strength,  
And their beauty to MY FIRST.

But before Corpus gateway  
MY SECOND first arose,  
When Barnacles the freshman  
Was pinned upon the nose:  
Pinned on the nose by Boxer,  
Who brought a hobnailed herd  
From Barnwell, where he kept a van,  
Being indeed a dogsmeat man,  
Vendor of terriers, blue or tan,  
And dealer in MY THIRD.

'Twere long to tell how Boxer  
Was 'countered' on the cheek,  
And knocked into the middle

CHARADES.

Of the ensuing week:  
How Barnacles the Freshman  
Was asked his name and college;  
And how he did the fatal facts  
Reluctantly acknowledge.

He called upon the Proctor  
Next day at half-past ten;  
Men whispered that the Freshman cut  
A different figure then:—  
That the brass forsook his forehead,  
The iron fled his soul,  
As with blanched lip and visage wan  
Before the stony-hearted Don  
He kneeled upon MY WHOLE.

VI.

Sikes, housebreaker, of Houndsditch,  
Habitually swore;  
But so surpassingly profane  
He never was before,  
As on a night in winter,  
When—softly as he stole  
In the dim light from stair to stair,  
Noiseless as boys who in her lair  
Seek to surprise a fat old hare —  
He barked his shinbone, unaware  
Encountering MY WHOLE.

As pours the Anio plainward,  
When rains have swollen the dykes,  
So, with such noise, poured down MY FIRST,  
Stirred by the shins of Sikes.  
The Butler Bibulus heard it;  
And straightway ceased to snore,  
And sat up, like an egg on end,  
While men might count a score:  
Then spake he to Tigerius,  
A Buttons bold was he:  
"Buttons, I think there's thieves about;  
Just strike a light and tumble out;  
If you can't find one, go without,  
And see what you may see."

But now was all the household,  
Almost, upon its legs,  
Each treading carefully about  
As if they trod on eggs.

CHARADES.

With robe far-streaming issued  
Paterfamilias forth;  
And close behind him,—stout and true  
And tender as the North, —  
Came Mrs. P., supporting  
On her broad arm her fourth.

Betsy the nurse, who never  
From largest beetle ran,  
And—conscious p'raps of pleasing caps —  
The housemaids, formed the van:  
And Bibulus the Butler,  
His calm brows slightly arched;  
(No mortal wight had ere that night  
Seen him with shirt unstarched;)  
And Bob, the shockhaired knifeboy,  
Wielding two Sheffield blades,  
And James Plush of the sinewy legs,  
The love of lady's maids:  
And charwoman and chaplain  
Stood mingled in a mass,  
And "Things," thought he of Houndsditch,  
"Is come to a pretty pass."

Beyond all things a Baby  
Is to the schoolgirl dear;  
Next to herself the nursemaid loves  
Her dashing grenadier;  
Only with life the sailor  
Parts from the British flag;  
While one hope lingers, the cracksman's fingers  
Drop not his hard-earned 'swag.'

But, as hares do MY SECOND  
Thro' green Calabria's copses,  
As females vanish at the sight  
Of short-horns and of wopses;  
So, dropping forks and teaspoons,  
The pride of Houndsditch fled,  
Dumbfounded by the hue and cry  
He'd raised up overhead.

\* \* \*

They gave him—did the Judges —  
As much as was his due.  
And, Saxon, should'st thou e'er be led  
To deem this tale untrue;  
Then—any night in winter,  
When the cold north wind blows,  
And bairns are told to keep out cold

CHARADES.



## Verses and Translations

By tallowing the nose:  
When round the fire the elders  
Are gathered in a bunch,  
And the girls are doing crochet,  
And the boys are reading Punch:—  
Go thou and look in Leech's book;  
There haply shalt thou spy  
A stout man on a staircase stand,  
With aspect anything but bland,  
And rub his right shin with his hand,  
To witness if I lie.

## PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY.

### Introductory

Art thou beautiful, O my daughter, as the budding rose of April?  
Are all thy motions music, and is poetry throned in thine eye?  
Then hearken unto me; and I will make the bud a fair flower,  
I will plant it upon the bank of Elegance, and water it with the water of  
Cologne;  
And in the season it shall "come out," yea bloom, the pride of the  
parterre;  
Ladies shall marvel at its beauty, and a Lord shall pluck it at the  
last.

### Of Propriety.

Study first Propriety: for she is indeed the Polestar  
Which shall guide the artless maiden through the mazes of Vanity Fair;  
Nay, she is the golden chain which holdeth together Society;  
The lamp by whose light young Psyche shall approach unblamed her Eros.  
Verily Truth is as Eve, which was ashamed being naked;  
Wherefore doth Propriety dress her with the fair foliage of artifice:  
And when she is drest, behold! she knoweth not herself again. –  
I walked in the Forest; and above me stood the Yew,  
Stood like a slumbering giant, shrouded in impenetrable shade;  
Then I pass'd into the citizen's garden, and marked a tree clipt into  
shape,  
(The giant's locks had been shorn by the Dalilahshears of Decorum;)  
And I said, "Surely nature is goodly; but how much goodlier is Art!"  
I heard the wild notes of the lark floating far over the blue sky,  
And my foolish heart went after him, and lo! I blessed him as he rose;  
Foolish! for far better is the trained boudoir bulfinch,  
Which pipeth the semblance of a tune, and mechanically draweth up water:  
And the reinless steed of the desert, though his neck be clothed with  
thunder,  
Must yield to him that danceth and 'moveth in the circles' at Astley's.  
For verily, O my daughter, the world is a masquerade,  
And God made thee one thing, that thou mightest make thyself another:  
A maiden's heart is as champagne, ever aspiring and struggling upwards,  
And it needeth that its motions be checked by the silvered cork of  
Propriety:  
He that can afford the price, his be the precious treasure,  
Let him drink deeply of its sweetness, nor grumble if it tasteth of the  
cork.

### OF FRIENDSHIP.

## Verses and Translations

Choose judiciously thy friends; for to discard them is undesirable,  
Yet it is better to drop thy friends, O my daughter, than to drop thy  
'H's'.

Dost thou know a wise woman? yea, wiser than the children of light?  
Hath she a position? and a title? and are her parties in the Morning  
Post?

If thou dost, cleave unto her, and give up unto her thy body and mind;  
Think with her ideas, and distribute thy smiles at her bidding:  
So shalt thou become like unto her; and thy manners shall be "formed,"  
And thy name shall be a Sesame, at which the doors of the great shall fly  
open:

Thou shalt know every Peer, his arms, and the date of his creation,  
His pedigree and their intermarriages, and cousins to the sixth remove:  
Thou shalt kiss the hand of Royalty, and lo! in next morning's papers,  
Side by side with rumours of wars, and stories of shipwrecks and sieges,  
Shall appear thy name, and the minutiae of thy head—dress and petticoat,  
For an enraptured public to muse upon over their matutinal muffin.

Of Reading.

Read not Milton, for he is dry; nor Shakespeare, for he wrote of common  
life;

Nor Scott, for his romances, though fascinating, are yet intelligible:  
Nor Thackeray, for he is a Hogarth, a photographer who flattereth not:  
Nor Kingsley, for he shall teach thee that thou shouldest not dream, but  
do.

Read incessantly thy Burke; that Burke who, nobler than he of old,  
Treateth of the Peer and Peeress, the truly Sublime and Beautiful:

Likewise study the "creations" of "the Prince of modern Romance;"

Sigh over Leonard the Martyr, and smile on Pelham the puppy:

Learn how "love is the dram—drinking of existence;"

And how we "invoke, in the Gadara of our still closets,

The beautiful ghost of the Ideal, with the simple wand of the pen."

Listen how Maltravers and the orphan "forgot all but love,"

And how Devereux's family chaplain "made and unmade kings:"

How Eugene Aram, though a thief, a liar, and a murderer,

Yet, being intellectual, was amongst the noblest of mankind.

So shalt thou live in a world peopled with heroes and master—spirits;

And if thou canst not realise the Ideal, thou shalt at least idealise the  
Real.

**LYCIDAS.**

Yet once more, O ye laurels! and once more  
Ye myrtles brown, with ivy never sere,  
I come to pluck your berries harsh and crude,  
And with forced fingers rude  
Shatter your leaves before the mellowing year.  
Bitter constraint, and sad occasion dear,  
Compels me to disturb your season due;  
For Lycidas is dead, dead ere his prime,  
Young Lycidas, and hath not left his peer:  
Who would not sing for Lycidas? He knew  
Himself to sing, and build the lofty rhyme.  
He must not float upon his watery bier  
Unwept, and welter to the parching wind,  
Without the meed of some melodious tear.

Begin then, sisters, of the sacred well,  
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth spring;  
Begin, and somewhat loudly sweep the string.  
Hence with denial vain, and coy excuse,  
So may some gentle muse  
With lucky words favour my destined urn,  
And, as he passes, turn  
And bid fair peace be to my sable shroud:  
For we were nursed upon the self-same hill,  
Fed the same flock by fountain, shade, and rill.

Together both, ere the high lawns appeared  
Under the opening eyelids of the morn,  
We drove afield, and both together heard  
What time the gray fly winds her sultry horn,  
Battening our flocks with the fresh dews of night,  
Oft till the star that rose, at evening, bright,  
Toward Heaven's descent had sloped his westering wheel.  
Meanwhile the rural ditties were not mute,  
Tempered to the oaten flute;  
Rough satyrs danced, and fauns with cloven heel  
From the glad sound would not be absent long,  
And old Damaetas loved to hear our song.

But oh, the heavy change, now thou art gone,  
Now thou art gone, and never must return!  
Thee, shepherd, thee the woods, and desert caves  
With wild thyme and the gadding vine o'ergrown,  
And all their echoes mourn.  
The willows, and the hazel copses green,  
Shall now no more be seen,  
Fanning their joyous leaves to thy soft lays.

As killing as the canker to the rose,  
 Or taint—worm to the weanling herds that graze,  
 Or frost to flowers, that their gay wardrobe wear,  
 When first the white—thorn blows;  
 Such, Lycidas, thy loss to shepherd's ear  
     Where were ye, nymphs, when the remorseless deep  
 Closed o'er the head of your loved Lycidas?  
 For neither were ye playing on the steep,  
 Where your old bards, the famous Druids, lie;  
 Nor on the shaggy top of Mona high,  
 Nor yet where Deva spreads her wizard stream:  
 Ay me! I fondly dream!  
 Had ye been there, for what could that have done?  
 What could the muse herself that Orpheus bore,  
 The muse herself for her enchanting son,  
 Whom universal nature did lament,  
 When by the rout that made the hideous roar,  
 His gory visage down the stream was sent,  
 Down the swift Hebrus to the Lesbian shore?  
     Alas! what boots it with incessant care  
 To tend the homely slighted shepherd's trade,  
 And strictly meditate the thankless muse?  
 Were it not better done as others use,  
 To sport with Amaryllis in the shade,  
 Or with the tangles of Neaera's hair?  
 Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise  
 (That last infirmity of noble mind)  
 To scorn delights, and live laborious days,  
 But the fair guerdon when we hope to find,  
 And think to burst out into sudden blaze,  
 Comes the blind fury with the abhorred shears,  
 And slits the thin—spun life. "But not the praise,"  
 Phoebus replied, and touched my trembling ears;  
 "Fame is no plant that grows on mortal soil,  
 Nor in the glistening foil  
 Set off to the world, nor in broad rumour lies,  
 But lives and spreads aloft by those pure eyes,  
 And perfect witness of all—judging Jove;  
 As he pronounces lastly on each deed,  
 Of so much fame in Heaven expect thy meed."  
     O fountain Arethuse, and thou honoured flood,  
 Smooth—sliding Mincius, crowned with vocal reeds,  
 That strain I heard was of a higher mood:  
 But now my oat proceeds,  
 And listens to the herald of the sea  
 That came in Neptune's plea;  
 He asked the waves, and asked the felon winds,  
 What hard mishap had doomed this gentle swain?  
 And questioned every gust of rugged wings,  
 That blows from off each beaked promontory:  
 They knew not of his story,

And sage Hippotades their answer brings,  
 That not a blast was from his dungeon strayed,  
 The air was calm, and on the level brine  
 Sleek Panope with all her sisters played.  
 It was that fatal and perfidious bark  
 Built in the eclipse, and rigged with curses dark,  
 That sunk so low that sacred head of thine.

Next Camus, reverend sire, went footing slow,  
 His mantle hairy, and his bonnet sedge,  
 Inwrought with figures dim, and on the edge,  
 Like to that sanguine flower inscribed with woe.  
 "Ah! who hath reft," quoth he, "my dearest pledge?"  
 Last came, and last did go,  
 The pilot of the Galilean lake,  
 Two massy keys he bore, of metals twain  
 (The golden opes, the iron shuts amain).  
 He shook his mitred locks, and stern bespake:  
 "How well could I have spared for thee, young swain,  
 Enow of such as for their bellies' sake  
 Creep, and intrude, and climb into the fold!  
 Of other care they little reckoning make,  
 Than how to scramble at the shearer's feast,  
 And shove away the worthy bidden guest;  
 Blind mouths! that scarce themselves know how to hold  
 A sheep-hook, or have learned aught else the least  
 That to the faithful herdsman's art belongs!  
 What reeks it them? What need they? They are sped;  
 And when they list, their lean and flashy songs  
 Grate on their scrannel pipes of wretched straw;  
 The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed,  
 But swollen with wind, and the rank mist they draw,  
 Rot inwardly, and foul contagion spread:  
 Besides what the grim wolf with privy paw  
 Daily devours apace, and nothing said.  
 But that two-handed engine at the door  
 Stands ready to smite once, and smite no more."

Return, Alpheus, the dread voice is past,  
 That shrunk thy streams; return, Sicilian muse,  
 And call the vales, and bid them hither cast  
 Their bells and flowerets of a thousand hues.  
 Ye valleys low, where the mild whispers use  
 Of shades, and wanton winds, and gushing brooks,  
 On whose fresh lap the swart star sparely looks,  
 Throw hither all your quaint enamelled eyes,  
 That on the green turf suck the honeyed showers,  
 And purple all the ground with vernal flowers.  
 Bring the rathe primrose that forsaken dies,  
 The tufted crow-toe, and pale jessamine,  
 The white pink, and the pansy freaked with jet,  
 The glowing violet,  
 The musk-rose, and the well-attired woodbine,

With cowslips wan that hang the pensive head,  
 And every flower that sad embroidery wears:  
 Bid amaranthus all his beauty shed,  
 And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,  
 To strow the laureate hearse where Lycid lies.  
 For so to interpose a little ease,  
 Let our frail thoughts dally with false surmise.  
 Ay me! whilst thee the shores and sounding seas  
 Wash far away, where ere thy bones are hurled,  
 Whether beyond the stormy Hebrides,  
 Where thou, perhaps, under the whelming tide  
 Visit'st the bottom of the monstrous world;  
 Or whether thou, to our moist vows denied,  
 Sleep'st by the fable of Bellerus old,  
 Where the great vision of the guarded mount  
 Looks toward Namancos and Bayona's hold;  
 Look homeward, angel now, and melt with ruth:  
 And, O ye dolphins, waft the hapless youth.

    Weep no more, woeful shepherds, weep no more,  
 For Lycidas your sorrow is not dead,  
 Sunk though he be beneath the watery floor;  
 So sinks the day-star in the ocean-bed,  
 And yet anon repairs his drooping head,  
 And tricks his beams, and with new-spangled ore  
 Flames in the forehead of the morning sky:  
 So Lycidas sunk low, but mounted high,  
 Through the dear might of him that walked the waves,  
 Where other groves and other streams along,  
 With nectar pure his oozy locks he laves,  
 And hears the unexpressive nuptial song,  
 In the blest kingdoms meek of joy and love.  
 There entertain him all the saints above,  
 In solemn troops, and sweet societies,  
 That sing, and singing in their glory move,  
 And wipe the tears for ever from his eyes.  
 Now, Lycidas, the shepherds weep no more;  
 Henceforth thou art the genius of the shore,  
 In thy large recompense, and shalt be good  
 To all that wander in that perilous flood.

    Thus sang the uncouth swain to the oaks and rills,  
 While the still morn went out with sandals gray,  
 He touched the tender stops of various quills,  
 With eager thought warbling his Doric lay:  
 And now the sun had stretched out all the hills,  
 And now was dropped into the western bay;  
 At last he rose, and twitched his mantle blue,  
 Tomorrow to fresh woods, and pastures new.

## LYCIDAS.

En! iterum laurus, iterum salvete myricae  
 Pallentes, nullique hederæ quæ ceditis ævo.  
 Has venio baccas, quanquam sapor asper acerbis,  
 Decerptum, quassumque manu folia ipsa proterva,  
 Maturescentem prævortens improbus annum.  
 Causa gravis, pia cansa, subest, et amara deum lex;  
 Nec jam sponte mea vobis rata tempora turbo.  
 Nam periit Lycidas, periit superante juventa  
 Imberbis Lycidas, quo non præstantior alter.  
 Quis cantare super Lycida neget? Ipse quoque artem  
 Norat Apollineam, versumque imponere versu  
 Non nullo vitreum fas innatet ille feretrum  
 Flente, voluteturque arentes corpus ad auras,  
 Indotatum adeo et lacrymæ vocalis egenum.  
 Quare agite, o sacri fontis queis cura, sorores,  
 Cui sub inaccessi sella Jovis exit origo:  
 Incipite, et sonitu graviore impellite chordas.  
 Lingua procul male prompta loqui, suasorque morarum  
 Sit pudor: alloquiis ut mollior una secundis  
 Pieridum faveat, cui mox ego destiner, urnæ:  
 Et gressus prætergrediens convertat, et "Esto"  
 Dicat "amoena quies atra tibi veste latenti:"  
 Uno namque jugo duo nutribamur: eosdem  
 Pavit uterque greges ad fontem et rivulum et umbram.  
 Tempore nos illo, nemorum convexa priusquam,  
 Aurora reserante oculos, caepere videri,  
 Urgebamus equos ad pascua: novimus horam  
 Aridus audiri solitus qua clangor asili;  
 Rore recentes greges passi pinguescere noctis  
 Saepius, albuerat donec quod vespere sidus  
 Hesperios axes pronò inclinasset Olympo.  
 At pastorales non cessavere camoenæ,  
 Fistula disparibus quas temperat apta cicutis:  
 Saltabant Satyri informes, nec murmure laeto  
 Capripedes potuere diu se avertere Fauni;  
 Damaetasque modos nostros longævus amabat.  
 Jamque, relicta tibi, quantum mutata videntur  
 Rura—relicta tibi, cui non spes ulla regressus!  
 Te sylvæ, teque antra, puer, deserta ferarum,  
 Incultis obducta thymis ac vite sequaci,  
 Decessisse gemunt; gemitusque reverberat Echo.  
 Non salices, non glauca ergo coryleta videbo  
 Molles ad numeros lætum motare cacumen:—  
 Quale rosis scabies; quam formidabile vermis



Depulso jam lacte gregi, dum tondet agellos;  
Sive quod, indutis verna jam veste, pruinae  
Floribus, albet ubi primum paliurus in agris:  
Tale fuit nostris, Lycidam periisse, bubulcis.

Qua, Nymphae, latuistis, ubi crudele profundum  
Delicias Lycidam vestras sub vortice torsit?  
Nam neque vos scopulis tum ludebatis in illis  
Quos veteres, Druidae, Vates, illustria servant  
Nomina; nec celsae setoso in culmine Monae,  
Nec, quos Dea locos magicis amplectitur undis.  
Vae mihi! delusos exercent somnia sensus:  
Venissetis enim; numquid venisse juvaret?  
Numquid Pieris ipsa parens interfuit Orphei,  
Pieris ipsa suae sobolis, qui carmine rexit  
Corda virum, quem terra olim, quam magna, dolebat,  
Tempore quo, dirum auditu strepitante caterva,  
Ora secundo amni missa, ac foedata cruore,  
Lesbia praecipitans ad litora detulit Hebrus?

Eheu quid prodest noctes instare diesque  
Pastorum curas spretas humilesque tuendo,  
Nilque relaturam meditari rite Camoenam?  
Nonne fuit satius lusus agitare sub umbra,  
(Ut mos est aliis,) Amaryllida sive Neaeram  
Sectanti, ac tortis digitum impediisse capillis?  
Scilcet ingenuum cor Fama, novissimus error  
Illa animi majoris, uti calcaribus urget  
Spernere delicias ac dedi rebus agendis.  
Quanquam—exoptatam jam spes attingere dotem;  
Jam nec opinata remur splendescere flamma:—  
Caeca sed invisita cum forfice venit Erinnyes,  
Quae resecat tenui haerentem subtemine vitam.  
"At Famam non illa," refert, tangitque trementes  
Phoebus Apollo aures. "Fama haud, vulgaris ad instar  
Floris, amat terrestre solum, fictosque nitores  
Queis inhiat populus, nec cum Rumore patescit.  
Vivere dant illi, dant increbescere late  
Puri oculi ac vox summa Jovis, cui sola Potestas.  
Fecerit ille semel de facto quoque virorum  
Arbitrium: tantum famae manet aethera nactis."

Fons Arethusa! sacro placidus qui laberis alveo,  
Frontem vocali praetextus arundine, Minci!  
Sensi equidem gravius carmen. Nunc cetera pastor  
Exsequor. Adest enim missus pro rege marino,  
Seque rogasse refert fluctus, ventosque rapaces,  
Quae sors dura nimis tenerum rapuisset agrestem.  
Compellasse refert alarum quicquid ab omni  
Spirat, acerba sonans, scopulo, qui cuspidis instar  
Prominet in pelagus; fama haud pervenerat illuc.  
Haec ultro pater Hippotades responsa ferebat:  
"Nulli sunt, nostro palati carcere venti.  
Straverat aequor aquas, et sub Jove compta sereno

Lusum exercebat Panope nymphaeque sorores.  
 Quam Furiae struxere per interlunia, leto  
 Fetam ac fraude ratem,—malos velarat Erinnyes, —  
 Credas in mala tanta caput mersisse sacratum."

Proximus huic tardum senior se Camus agebat;  
 Cui setosa chlamys, cui pileus ulva: figuris  
 Idem intertextus dubiis erat, utque cruentos  
 Quos perhibent flores, inscriptus margine luctum.  
 "Nam quis," ait, "praedulce meum me pignus ademit?"

Post hos, qui Galilaea regit per stagna carinas,  
 Post hos venit iturus: habet manus utraque clavim,  
 (Queis aperit clauditque) auro ferrove gravatam.  
 Mitra tegit crines; quassis quibus, acriter infit:  
 "Scilicet optassem pro te dare corpora leto  
 Sat multa, o juvenis: quot serpunt ventribus acti,  
 Vi quot iter faciunt spretis in ovilia muris.  
 Hic labor, hoc opus est, pecus ut tondente magistro  
 Praeripiant epulas, trudatur dignior hospes.  
 Capti oculis, non ore! pedum tractare nec ipsi  
 Norunt; quotve bonis sunt upilionibus artes.  
 Sed quid enim refert, quove eat opus, omnia nactis?  
 Fert ubi mens, tenue ac deductum carmen avenam  
 Radit stridentem stipulis. Pastore negato  
 Suspicit aegra pecus: vento gravis ac lue tracta  
 Tabescit; mox foeda capit contagia vulgus.  
 Quid dicam, stabulis ut clandestinus oberrans  
 Expleat ingluviem tristis lupo, indice nullo?  
 Illa tamen bimanus custodit machina portam,  
 Stricta, paratque malis plagam non amplius unam."

En, Alphee, redi! Quibus ima cohorrui unda  
 Voces praeteriere: redux quoque Sicelis omnes  
 Musa voca valles; huc pendentes hyacinthos  
 Fac jaciant, teneros huc flores mille colorum.  
 O nemorum depressa, sonant ubi crebra susurri  
 Umbrarum, et salientis aquae, Zephyrique protervi;  
 Queisque virens gremium penetrare Canicula parcat:  
 Picturata modis jacite huc mihi lumina miris,  
 Mellitos imbres queis per viridantia rura  
 Mos haurire, novo quo tellus vere rubescat.  
 Huc ranunculus, ipse arbor, pallorque ligustri,  
 Quaeque relicta perit, vixdum matura feratur  
 Pnimula: quique ebene distinctus, caetera flavet  
 Flos, et qui specie nomen detrectat eburna.  
 Ardenti violae rosa proxima fundat odores;  
 Serpyllumque placens, et acerbo flexile vultu  
 Verbascum, ac tristem si quid sibi legit amictum.  
 Quicquid habes pulcri fundas, amarante: coronent  
 Narcissi lacrymis calices, sternantque feretrum  
 Tectus ubi lauro Lycidas jacet: adsit ut oti  
 Saltem aliquid, ficta ludantur imagine mentes.  
 Me miserum! Tua nam litus, pelagusque sonorum

## Verses and Translations

Ossa ferunt, queiscunque procul jacteris in oris;  
Sive procellosas ultra Symplegadas ingens  
Jam subter mare visis, alit quae monstra profundum;  
Sive (negavit enim precibus te Jupiter udis)  
Cum sene Bello, veterum qui fabula, dormis,  
Qua custoditi montis praegrans imago  
Namancum atque arces longe prospectat Iberas.  
Verte retro te, verte deum, mollire precando:  
Et vos infaustum juvenem delphines agatis.

Ponite jam lacrymas, sat enim flevistis, agrestes.  
Non periit Lycidas, vestri moeroris origo,  
Marmorei quanquam fluctus hausere cadentem.  
Sic et in aequoreum se condere saepe cubile  
Luciferum videas; nec longum tempus, et effert  
Demissum caput, igne novo vestitus; et, aurum  
Ceum rutilans, in fronte poli splendescit Eoi.  
Sic obiit Lycidas, sic surrexit in altum;  
Illo, quem peditem mare sustulit, usus amico.  
Nunc campos alios, alia errans stagna secundum,  
Rorantesque lavans integro nectare crines,  
Audit inauditos nobis cantari Hymenaeos,  
Fortunatorum sedes ubi mitis amorem  
Laetitiamque affert. Hic illum, quotquot Olympum  
Praedulces habitant turbae, venerabilis ordo,  
Circumstant: aliaeque canunt, interque canendum  
Majestate sua veniunt abeuntque catervae,  
Omnes ex oculis lacrymas arcere paratae.  
Ergo non Lycidam jam lamentantur agrestes.  
Divus eris ripae, puer, hoc ex tempore nobis,  
Grande, nec immerito, veniens in munus; opemque  
Poscent usque tuam, dubiis quot in aestibus errant.

Haec incultus aquis puer ilicibusque canebat;  
Processit dum mane silens talaribus albis.  
Multa manu teneris discrimina tentat avenis,  
Dorica non studio modulatus carmina segni:  
Et jam sol abiens colles extenderat omnes,  
Jamque sub Hesperium se praecipitaverat alveum.  
Surrexit tandem, glaucumque retraxit amictum;  
Cras lucos, reor, ille novos, nova pascua quaeret.

**IN MEMORIAM.—CVI.**

The time admits not flowers or leaves  
To deck the banquet. Fiercely flies  
The blast of North and East, and ice  
Makes daggers at the sharpen'd eaves,

And bristles all the brakes and thorns  
To yon hard crescent, as she hangs  
Above the wood which grides and clangs  
Its leafless ribs and iron horns

Together, in the drifts that pass,  
To darken on the rolling brine  
That breaks the coast. But fetch the wine,  
Arrange the board and brim the glass;

Bring in great logs and let them lie,  
To make a solid core of heat;  
Be cheerful-minded, talk and treat  
Of all things ev'n as he were by:

We keep the day with festal cheer,  
With books and music. Surely we  
Will drink to him whate'er he be,  
And sing the songs he loved to hear.

**IN MEMORIAM.**

Non hora myrto, non violis sinit  
Nitere mensas. Trux Aquilo foras  
Bacchatur, ac passim pruina  
Tigna sagittifera coruscant;

Horretque saltus spinifer, algidae  
Sub falce lunae, dum nemori imminet,  
Quod stridet illiditque costis  
Cornua, jam vacuis honorum,

Ferrata; nimbis praetereuntibus,  
Ut incubent tandem implacido sali  
Qui curvat oras. Tu Falernum  
Prome, dapes strue, dic coronent

Crateras: ignis cor solidum, graves  
Repone truncos. Jamque doloribus  
Loquare securus fugatis  
Quae socio loquereris illo;

Hunc dedicamus laetitiae diem  
Lyraeque musisque. Illius, illius  
Da, quicquid audit: nec silebunt  
Qui numeri placuere vivo.

**LAURA MATILDA'S DIRGE.**

FROM 'REJECTED ADDRESSES.'

Balmy Zephyrs, lightly flitting,  
Shade me with your azure wing;  
On Parnassus' summit sitting,  
Aid me, Clio, while I sing.

Softly slept the dome of Drury  
O'er the empyreal crest,  
When Alecto's sister-fury  
Softly slumb'ring sunk to rest.

Lo! from Lemnos limping lamely,  
Lags the lowly Lord of Fire,  
Cytherea yielding tamely  
To the Cyclops dark and dire.

Clouds of amber, dreams of gladness,  
Dulcet joys and sports of youth,  
Soon must yield to haughty sadness;  
Mercy holds the veil to Truth.

See Erostratas the second  
Fires again Diana's fane;  
By the Fates from Orcus beckon'd,  
Clouds envelop Drury Lane.

Where is Cupid's crimson motion?  
Billowy ecstasy of woe,  
Bear me straight, meandering ocean,  
Where the stagnant torrents flow.

Blood in every vein is gushing,  
Vixen vengeance lulls my heart;  
See, the Gorgon gang is rushing!  
Never, never let us part.

**NAENIA.**

O quot odoriferi voitatis in aere venti,  
Caeruleum tegmen vestra sit ala mihi:  
Tuque sedens Parnassus ubi caput erigit ingens,  
Dextra veni, Clio: teque docente canam.

Jam suaves somnos Tholus affectare Theatri  
Cooperat, igniflui trans laqueare poli:  
Alectus consanguineam quo tempore Erinnyn,  
Suave soporatam, coepit adire quies.

Lustra sed ecce labans claudo pede Lemnia linquit  
Luridus (at lente lugubriterque) Deus:  
Amisit veteres, amisit inultus, amores;  
Teter habet Venerem terribilisque Cyclops.

Electri nebulas, potioraque somnia vero;  
Quotque placent pueris gaudia, quotque joci;  
Omnia tristiae fas concessisse superbae:  
Admissum Pietas scitque premitque nefas.

Respice! Nonne vides ut Erostratus alter ad aedem  
Rursus agat flammam, sprete Diana, tuam?  
Mox, Acheronteis quas Parca eduxit ab antris,  
Druriam nubes corripere domum.

O ubi purpurei motus pueri alitis? o qui  
Me mihi turbineis surripis, angor, aquis!  
Duc, labyrinthum, duc me, mare, tramite recto  
Quo rapidi fontes, pigra caterva, ruunt!

Jamque—soporat enim pectus Vindicta Virago;  
Omnibus a venis sanguinis unda salit;  
Gorgoneique greges praeceps (adverte!) feruntur –  
Sim, precor, o! semper sim tibi junctus ego.

**"LEAVES HAVE THEIR TIME TO FALL."**

FELICIA HEMANS.

Leaves have their time to fall,  
And flowers to wither at the North-wind's breath,  
And stars to set: but all,  
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death!

Day is for mortal care,  
Eve for glad meetings at the joyous hearth,  
Night for the dreams of sleep, the voice of prayer,  
But all for thee, thou mightiest of the earth!

The banquet has its hour,  
The feverish hour of mirth and song and wine:  
There comes a day for grief's overwhelming shower,  
A time for softer tears: but all are thine.

Youth and the opening rose  
May look like things too glorious for decay,  
And smile at thee!—but thou art not of those  
That wait the ripen'd bloom to seize their prey!



**"FRONDES EST UBI DECIDANT."**

Frondes est ubi decidant,  
Marcescantque rosae flatu Aquilonio:  
Horis astra cadunt suis;  
Sed, Mors, cuncta tibi tempera vindicas.

Curis nata virum dies;  
Vesper colloquiis dulcibus ad focum;  
Somnis nox magis, et preci:  
Sed nil, Terrigenum maxima, non tibi.

Festis hora epulis datur,  
(Fervens hora jocis, carminibus, mero;)  
Fusis altera lacrymis  
Aut fletu tacito: quaeque tamen tua.

Virgo, seu rosa pullulans,  
Tantum quippe nitent ut nequeant mori?  
Rident te? Neque enim soles  
Praedae parcere, dum flos adoleverit.

**"LET US TURN HITHERWARD OUR BARK."**

R. C. TRENCH.

"Let us turn hitherward our bark," they cried,  
"And, 'mid the blisses of this happy isle,  
Past toil forgetting and to come, abide  
In joyfulness awhile.

And then, refreshed, our tasks resume again,  
If other tasks we yet are bound unto,  
Combing the hoary tresses of the main  
With sharp swift keel anew."

O heroes, that had once a nobler aim,  
O heroes, sprung from many a godlike line,  
What will ye do, unmindful of your fame,  
And of your race divine?

But they, by these prevailing voices now  
Lured, evermore draw nearer to the land,  
Nor saw the wrecks of many a goodly prow,  
That strewed that fatal strand;

Or seeing, feared not—warning taking none  
From the plain doom of all who went before,  
Whose bones lay bleaching in the wind and sun,  
And whitened all the shore.

**"QUIN HUC, FREMEBANT."**

"Quin hue," fremebant, "dirigimus ratem:  
Hic, dote laeti divitis insulae,  
Paullisper haeremus, futuri  
Nec memores operis, nec acti:

"Curas refecti cras iterabimus,  
Si qua supersunt emeritis novae  
Pexisse pernices acuta  
Canitiem pelagi carina."

O rebus olim nobilioribus  
Pares: origo Di quibus ac Deae  
Heroes! oblitine famiae  
Haec struitis, generisque summi?

Atqui propinquant jam magis ac magis,  
Ducti magistra voce, solum: neque  
Videre prorarum nefandas  
Fragmina nobilium per oras;

Vidisse seu non poenitet—ominis  
Incuriosos tot praeaeuntium,  
Quorum ossa sol siccantque venti,  
Candet adhuc quibus omnis ora.

**CARMEN SAECULARE.**

MDCCCLIII.

"Quocquid agunt homines, nostri est farrago libelli."

Acris hyems jam venit: hyems genus omne perosa  
Foemineum, et senibus glacies non aequa rotundis:  
Apparent rari stantes in tramite glauco;  
Radit iter, cogitque nives, sua tela, juvenus.  
Trux matrona ruit, multos dominata per annos,  
Digna indigna minans, glomeratque volumina crurum;  
Illa parte senex, amisso forte galero,  
Per plateas bacchatur; eum chorus omnis agrestum  
Ridet anhelantem frustra, et jam jamque tenentem  
Quod petit; illud agunt venti presumque resorbent.  
Post, ubi compositus tandem votique potitus  
Sedit humi; flet crura tuens nive candida lenta,  
Et vestem laceram, et venturas conjugis iras:  
Itque domum tendens duplices ad sidera palmas,  
Corda miser, desiderio prefixa galeri.

At juvenis (sed cruda viro viridisque juvenus)  
Quaerit bacciferas, tunica pendente, { 145a } tabernas:  
Pervigil ecce Baco furva depromit ab arca  
Splendidius quiddam solito, plenumque saporem  
Laudat, et antiqua jurat de stripe Jamaicae.  
O fumose puer, nimium ne crede Baconi:  
Manillas vocat; hoc praetexit nomine caules.

Te vero, cui forte dedit maturior aetas  
Scire potestates herbarum, te quoque quanti  
Circumstent casus, paucis (adverte) docebo.  
Praecipue, seu raptat amor te simplicis herbae, { 145b }  
Seu potius tenui Musam meditaris avena,  
Procuratorem fugito, nam ferreus idem est.  
Vita semiboves catulos, redimicula vita  
Candida: de coelo descendit [Greek text].  
Nube vaporis item conspergere praeter euntes  
Jura vetant, notumque furens quid femina possit:  
Odit enim dulces succos anus, odit odorem;  
Odit Lethaei diffusa volumina fumi.

Mille modis reliqui fugiuntque feruntque laborem.  
Hic vir ad Eleos, pedibus talaria gestans,  
Fervidus it latices, nec quidquam acquirit eundo: { 146a }  
Ille petit virides (sed non e gramine) mensas,  
Pollicitus meliora patri, tormentaue { 146b } flexus  
Per labyrintheos plus quam mortalia tentat,

CARMEN SAECULARE.

## Verses and Translations

Acre tuens, oculisque pilas immittit et aufert.

Sunt alii, quos frigus aquae, tenuisque phaselus  
Captat, et aequali surgentes ordine remi.

His edura cutis, nec ligno rasile tergum;

Par saxi sinus: esca boves cum robore Bassi.

Tollunt in numerum fera brachia, vique feruntur

Per fluctus: sonuere viae clamore secundo:

Et picea de puppe fremens immane bubulcus

Invocat exitium cunctis, et verbera raptō

Stipite defessis onerat graviora caballis.

Nil humoris egent alii. Labor arva vagari,  
Flectere ludus equos, et amantem devia {147a} currum.

Nosco purpureas vestes, clangentia nosco

Signa tubae, et caudas inter virgulta caninas.

Stat venator equus, tactoque ferocior armo

Surgit in arrectum, vix auditurus habenam;

Et jam prata fuga superat, jam flumina saltu.

Aspicias alios ab iniqua sepe rotari

In caput, ut scrobibus quae sint fastigia quaerant;

Eque rubis aut amne pigro trahere humida crura,

Et foedam faciem, defloccatumque galerum.

Sanctius his animal, cui quadravisse rotundum {148a}

Musae suadet amor, Camique ardentis imago,

Inspicat calamos contracta fronte malignos,

Perque Mathematicum pelagus, loca turbida, anhelat.

Circum dirus "Hymers," nec pondus inutile, "Lignum,"

"Salmoque," et pueris tu detestate, "Colenso,"

Horribiles visu formae; livente notatae

Ungue omnes, omnes insignes aure canina. {148b}

Fervet opus; tacitum pertentant gaudia pectus

Tutorum; "pulchrumque mori," dixere, "legendo."

Nec vero juvenes facere omnes omnia possunt.

Atque unum meminisse ipse, deus qui dictus amicis,

Et multum referens de rixatore {148c} secundo,

Nocte terens ulnas ac scrinia, solus in alto

Degebat tripode; arcta viro vilisque supellex;

Et sic torva tuens, pedibus per mutua nexis,

Sedit, lacte mero mentem mulcente tenellam.

Et fors ad summos tandem venisset honores;

Sed rapidi juvenes, queis gratior usus equorum,

Subveniunt, siccoque vetant inolescere libro.

Improbos hos Lector pueros, mentumque virili

Laevius, et durae gravat inclementia Mortis: {149a}

Agmen iners; queis mos aliena vivere quadra, {149b}

Et lituo vexare viros, calcare caballos.

Tales mane novo saepe admiramur euntes

Torquibus in rigidis et pelle Libystidis ursae;

Admiramur opus {149c} tunicae, vestemque {149d} sororem

Iridis, et crurum non enarrabile tegmen.

Hos inter comites implebat pocula sorbis

Infelix puer, et sese reereabat ad ignem,

## Verses and Translations

"Evoe, {150a} BASSE," fremens: dum velox praeterit aetas;  
Venit summa dies; et Junior Optimus exit.

Saucius at juvenis nota intra tecta refugit,  
Horrendum ridens, lucemque miserrimus odit:  
Informem famulus laqueum pendentiaque ossa  
Mane videt, refugitque feri meminisse magistri.

Di nobis meliora! Modum re servat in omni  
Qui sapit: haud ilium semper recubare sub umbra,  
Haud semper madidis juvat impallescere chartis.  
Nos numerus sumus, et libros consumere nati;  
Sed requies sit rebus; amant alterna Camenae.  
Nocte dieque legas, cum tertius advenit annus:  
Tum libros cape; claude fores, et prandia defer.  
Quartus venit: ini, {150b} rebus jam rite paratis,  
Exultans, et coge gradum conferre magistros.

His animadversis, fugies immane Barathrum.  
His, operose puer, si qua fata aspera rumpas,  
Tu rixator eris. Saltem non crebra revises  
Ad stabulum, {151a} et tota moerens carpere juventa;  
Classe nec amisso nil profectura dolentem  
Tradet ludibriis te plena leporis HIRUDO. {151b}

## **TRANSLATIONS FROM HORACE.**

**TO A SHIP.**

OD. i. 14.

Yet on fresh billows seaward wilt thou ride,  
O ship? What dost thou? Seek a hav'n, and there  
Rest thee: for lo! thy side  
Is oarless all and bare,

And the swift south-west wind hath maimed thy mast,  
And thy yards creak, and, every cable lost,  
Yield must thy keel at last  
On pitiless sea-waves tossed

Too rudely. Goodly canvas is not thine,  
Nor gods, to hear thee now, when need is sorest:—  
Though thou—a Pontic pine,  
Child of a stately forest, —

Boastest high name and empty pedigree,  
Pale seamen little trust the gaudy sail:  
Stay, unless doomed to be  
The plaything of the gale.

Flee—what of late sore burden was to me,  
Now a sad memory and a bitter pain, —  
Those shining Cyclads flee  
That stud the far-off main.



**TO VIRGIL.**

OD. i. 24.

Unshamed, unchecked, for one so dear  
We sorrow. Lead the mournful choir,  
Melpomene, to whom thy sire  
Gave harp, and song—notes liquid—clear!

Sleeps He the sleep that knows no morn?  
Oh Honour, oh twin—born with Right,  
Pure Faith, and Truth that loves the light,  
When shall again his like be born?

Many a kind heart for Him makes moan;  
Thine, Virgil, first. But ah! in vain  
Thy love bids heaven restore again  
That which it took not as a loan:

Were sweeter lute than Orpheus given  
To thee, did trees thy voice obey;  
The blood revisits not the clay  
Which He, with lifted wand, hath driven

Into his dark assemblage, who  
Unlocks not fate to mortal's prayer.  
Hard lot! Yet light their griefs who BEAR  
The ills which they may not undo.

**TO THE FOUNTAIN OF BANDUSIA.**

OD. iii. 13.

Bandusia, stainless mirror of the sky!  
Thine is the flower-crown'd bowl, for thee shall die,  
    When dawns again yon sun, the kid;  
    Whose budding horns, half-seen, half-hid,

Challenge to dalliance or to strife—in vain!  
Soon must the hope of the wild herd be slain,  
    And those cold springs of thine  
    With blood incarnadine.

Fierce glows the Dog-star, but his fiery beam  
Toucheth not thee: still grateful thy cool stream  
    To labour-wearied ox,  
    Or wanderer from the flocks:

And henceforth thou shalt be a royal fountain:  
My harp shall tell how from yon cavernous mountain,  
    Topt by the brown oak-tree,  
    Thou breakest babblingly.

**TO IBYCUS'S WIFE.**

OD. ii. 15.

Spouse of penniless Ibycus,  
Thus late, bring to a close all thy delinquencies,  
All thy studious infamy:—  
Nearing swiftly the grave—(that not an early one) —  
Cease girls' sport to participate,  
Blurring stars which were else cloudlessly brilliant.  
What suits her who is beautiful  
Suits not equally thee: rightly devastates  
Thy fair daughter the homes of men,  
Wild as Thyad, who wakes stirred by the kettle—drums.  
Nothus' beauty constraining her,  
Like some kid at his play, holds she her revelry:  
Thy years stately Luceria's  
Wools more fitly become—not din of harpsichords,  
Not pink—petalled roseblossoms,  
Not casks drained by an old lip to the sediment.

**SORACTE.**

OD. i. 9.

One dazzling mass of solid snow  
Soracte stands; the bent woods fret  
Beneath their load; and, sharpest-set  
With frost, the streams have ceased to flow.

Pile on great faggots and break up  
The ice: let influence more benign  
Enter with four-years-treasured wine,  
Fetched in the ponderous Sabine cup:

Leave to the Gods all else. When they  
Have once bid rest the winds that war  
Over the passionate seas, no more  
Grey ash and cypress rock and sway.

Ask not what future suns shall bring,  
Count to-day gain, whate'er it chance  
To be: nor, young man, scorn the dance,  
Nor deem sweet Love an idle thing,

Ere Time thy April youth hath changed  
To sourness. Park and public walk  
Attract thee now, and whispered talk  
At twilight meetings pre-arranged;

Hear now the pretty laugh that tells  
In what dim corner lurks thy love;  
And snatch a bracelet or a glove  
From wrist or hand that scarce rebels.

**TO LEUCONOE.**

OD. i. 11.

Seek not, for thou shalt not find it, what my end, what thine shall be;  
Ask not of Chaldaea's science what God wills, Leuconoe:  
Better far, what comes, to bear it. Haply many a wintry blast  
Waits thee still; and this, it may be, Jove ordains to be thy last,  
Which flings now the flagging sea-wave on the obstinate sandstone-reef.  
Be thou wise: fill up the wine-cup; shortening, since the time is brief,  
Hopes that reach into the future. While I speak, hath stol'n away  
Jealous Time. Mistrust To-morrow, catch the blossom of To-day.

**JUNO'S SPEECH.**

OD. iii. 3.

The just man's single-purposed mind  
Not furious mobs that prompt to ill  
May move, nor kings' frowns shake his will  
Which is as rock; not warrior-winds

That keep the seas in wild unrest;  
Nor bolt by Jove's own finger hurled:  
The fragments of a shivered world  
Would crash round him still self-possesst.

Jove's wandering son reached, thus endowed,  
The fiery bastions of the skies;  
Thus Pollux; with them Caesar lies  
Beside his nectar, radiant-browed.

For this rewarded, tiger-drawn  
Rode Bacchus, reining necks before  
Untamed; for this War's horses bore  
Quirinus up from Acheron,

When in heav'n's conclave Juno said,  
Thrice welcomed: "Troy is in the dust;  
Troy, by a judge accursed, unjust,  
And that strange woman prostrated.

"The day Laomedon ignored  
His god-pledged word, resigned to me  
And Pallas ever-pure, was she,  
Her people, and their traitor lord.

"No more the Greek girl's guilty guest  
Sits splendour-girt: Priam's perjured sons  
Find not against the mighty ones  
Of Greece a shield in Hector's breast:

"And, long drawn out by private jars,  
The war sleeps. Lo! my wrath is o'er:  
And him the Trojan vestal bore  
(Sprung of that hated line) to Mars,

"To Mars restore I. His be rest  
In halls of light: by him be drained  
The nectar-bowl, his place obtained  
In the calm companies of the blest.

JUNO'S SPEECH.

"While betwixt Rome and Ilion raves  
A length of ocean, where they will  
Rise empires for the exiles still:  
While Paris's and Priam's graves

"Are hoof-trod, and the she-wolf breeds  
Securely there, unharmed shall stand  
Rome's lustrous Capitol, her hand  
Impose proud laws on trampled Medes.

"Wide-feared, to far-off climes be borne  
Her story; where the central main  
Europe and Libya parts in twain,  
Where full Nile laves a land of corn:

"The buried secret of the mine,  
(Best left there) resolute to spurn,  
And not to man's base uses turn  
With hand that spares not things divine.

"Earth's utmost end, where'er it be,  
May her hosts reach; careering proud  
O'er lands where watery rain and cloud,  
Or where wild suns hold revelry.

"But, to the soldier-sons of Rome,  
Tied by this law, such fates are willed;  
That they seek never to rebuild,  
Too fond, too bold, their grandsires' home.

"With darkest omens, deadliest strife,  
Shall Troy, raised up again, repeat  
Her history; I the victor-fleet  
Shall lead, Jove's sister and his wife.

"Thrice let Apollo rear the wall  
Of brass; and thrice my Greeks shall hew  
The fabric down; thrice matrons rue  
In chains their sons', their husbands' fall."

Ill my light lyre such notes beseem.  
Stay, Muse; nor, wayward still, rehearse  
God-utterances in puny verse  
That may but mar a mighty theme.

**TO A FAUN.**

OD. iii. 18.

Wooer of young Nymphs who fly thee,  
Lightly o'er my sunlit lawn  
Trip, and go, nor injured by thee  
Be my weanling herds, O Faun:

If the kid his doomed head bows, and  
Brims with wine the loving cup,  
When the year is full; and thousand  
Scents from altars hoar go up.

Each flock in the rich grass gambols  
When the month comes which is thine;  
And the happy village rambles  
Fieldward with the idle kine:

Lambs play on, the wolf their neighbour:  
Wild woods deck thee with their spoil;  
And with glee the sons of labour  
Stamp thrice on their foe, the soil.



**TO LYCE.**

OD. iv. 13.

Lyce, the gods have listened to my prayer;  
The gods have listened, Lyce. Thou art grey,  
And still would'st thou seem fair;  
Still unshamed drink, and play,

And, wine-flushed, woo slow-answering Love with weak  
Shrill pipings. With young Chia He doth dwell,  
Queen of the harp; her cheek  
Is his sweet citadel:—

He marked the withered oak, and on he flew  
Intolerant; shrank from Lyce grim and wrinkled,  
Whose teeth are ghastly-blue,  
Whose temples snow-besprinkled:—

Not purple, not the brightest gem that glows,  
Brings back to her the years which, fleeting fast,  
Time hath once shut in those  
Dark annals of the Past.

Oh, where is all thy loveliness? soft hue  
And motions soft? Oh, what of Her doth rest,  
Her, who breathed love, who drew  
My heart out of my breast?

Fair, and far-famed, and subtly sweet, thy face  
Ranked next to Cinara's. But to Cinara fate  
Gave but a few years' grace;  
And lets live, all too late,

Lyce, the rival of the beldam crow:  
That fiery youth may see with scornful brow  
The torch that long ago  
Beamed bright, a cinder now.

**TO HIS SLAVE.**

OD. i. 38.

Persian grandeur I abhor;  
Linden-wreathed crowns, avaunt:  
Boy, I bid thee not explore  
Woods which latest roses haunt:

Try on nought thy busy craft  
Save plain myrtle; so arrayed  
Thou shalt fetch, I drain, the draught  
Fitliest 'neath the scant vine-shade.

**THE DEAD OX.**

GEORG. IV.

Lo! smoking in the stubborn plough, the ox  
Falls, from his lip foam gushing crimson-stained,  
And sobs his life out. Sad of face the ploughman  
Moves, disentangling from his comrade's corpse  
The lone survivor: and its work half-done,  
Abandoned in the furrow stands the plough.  
Not shadiest forest-depths, not softest lawns,  
May move him now: not river amber-pure,  
That volumes o'er the cragstones to the plain.  
Powerless the broad sides, glazed the rayless eye,  
And low and lower sinks the ponderous neck.  
What thank hath he for all the toil he toiled,  
The heavy-clodded land in man's behoof  
Upturning? Yet the grape of Italy,  
The stored-up feast hath wrought no harm to him:  
Green leaf and taintless grass are all their fare;  
The clear rill or the travel-freshen'd stream  
Their cup: nor one care mars their honest sleep.

**FROM THEOCRITUS.**

IDYLL. VII.

Scarce midway were we yet, nor yet descried  
The stone that hides what once was Brasidas:  
When there drew near a wayfarer from Crete,  
Young Lycidas, the Muses' votary.  
The horned herd was his care: a glance might tell  
So much: for every inch a herdsman he.  
Slung o'er his shoulder was a ruddy hide  
Torn from a he-goat, shaggy, tangle-haired,  
That reeked of rennet yet: a broad belt clasped  
A patched cloak round his breast, and for a staff  
A gnarled wild-olive bough his right hand bore.  
Soon with a quiet smile he spoke—his eye  
Twinkled, and laughter sat upon his lip:  
"And whither ploddest thou thy weary way  
Beneath the noontide sun, Simichides?  
For now the lizard sleeps upon the wall,  
The crested lark hath closed his wandering wing.  
Speed'st thou, a bidd'n guest, to some reveller's board?  
Or townwards, to the treading of the grape?  
For lo! recoiling from thy hurrying feet  
The pavement-stones ring out right merrily."

**SPEECH OF AJAX.**

SOPH. AJ. 645.

All strangest things the multitudinous years  
Bring forth, and shadow from us all we know.  
Falter alike great oath and steeled resolve;  
And none shall say of aught, 'This may not be.'  
Lo! I myself, but yesterday so strong,  
As new-dipt steel am weak and all unsexed  
By yonder woman: yea I mourn for them,  
Widow and orphan, left amid their foes.  
But I will journey seaward—where the shore  
Lies meadow-fringed—so haply wash away  
My sin, and flee that wrath that weighs me down.  
And, lighting somewhere on an untrodden way,  
I will bury this my lance, this hateful thing,  
Deep in some earth-hole where no eye shall see –  
Night and Hell keep it in the underworld!  
For never to this day, since first I grasped  
The gift that Hector gave, my bitterest foe,  
Have I reaped aught of honour from the Greeks.  
So true that byword in the mouths of men,  
"A foeman's gifts are no gifts, but a curse."  
Wherefore henceforward shall I know that God  
Is great; and strive to honour Atreus' sons.  
Princes they are, and should be obeyed. How else?  
Do not all terrible and most puissant things  
Yet bow to loftier majesties? The Winter,  
Who walks forth scattering snows, gives place anon  
To fruitage-laden Summer; and the orb  
Of weary Night doth in her turn stand by,  
And let shine out, with her white steeds, the Day:  
Stern tempest-blasts at last sing lullaby  
To groaning seas: even the arch-tyrant, Sleep,  
Doth loose his slaves, not hold them chained for ever.  
And shall not mankind too learn discipline?  
I know, of late experience taught, that him  
Who is my foe I must but hate as one  
Whom I may yet call Friend: and him who loves me  
Will I but serve and cherish as a man  
Whose love is not abiding. Few be they  
Who, reaching Friendship's port, have there found rest.  
But, for these things they shall be well. Go thou,  
Lady, within, and there pray that the Gods  
May fill unto the full my heart's desire.  
And ye, my mates, do unto me with her  
Like honour: bid young Teucer, if he come,

SPEECH OF AJAX.

## Verses and Translations

To care for me, but to be YOUR friend still.  
For where my way leads, thither I shall go:  
Do ye my bidding; haply ye may hear,  
Though now is my dark hour, that I have peace.

**FROM LUCRETIUS.**

BOOK II.

Sweet, when the great sea's water is stirred to his depths by the storm-winds,

Standing ashore to descry one afar-off mightily struggling:

Not that a neighbour's sorrow to you yields blissful enjoyment;

But that the sight hath a sweetness, of ills ourselves are exempt from.

Sweet 'tis too to behold, on a broad plain mustering, war-hosts

Arm them for some great battle, one's self unscathed by the danger:—

Yet still happier this:— To possess, impregnably guarded,

Those calm heights of the sages, which have for an origin Wisdom;

Thence to survey our fellows, observe them this way and that way

Wander amidst Life's paths, poor stragglers seeking a highway:

Watch mind battle with mind, and escutcheon rival escutcheon;

Gaze on that untold strife, which is waged 'neath the sun and the

starlight,

Up as they toil to the surface whereon rest Riches and Empire.

O race born unto trouble! O minds all lacking of eyesight!

'Neath what a vital darkness, amidst how terrible dangers,

Move ye thro' this thing, Life, this fragment! Fools, that ye hear not

Nature clamour aloud for the one thing only; that, all pain

Parted and past from the Body, the Mind too bask in a blissful

Dream, all fear of the future and all anxiety over!

So, as regards Man's Body, a few things only are needful,

(Few, tho' we sum up all,) to remove all misery from him;

Aye, and to strew in his path such a lib'ral carpet of pleasures,

That scarce Nature herself would at times ask happiness ampler.

Statues of youth and of beauty may not gleam golden around him,

(Each in his right hand bearing a great lamp lustrously burning,

Whence to the midnight revel a light may be furnished always);

Silver may not shine softly, nor gold blaze bright, in his mansion,

Nor to the noise of the tabret his halls gold-corniced echo

Yet still he, with his fellow, reposed on the velvety greensward,

Near to a rippling stream, by a tall tree canopied over,

Shall, though they lack great riches, enjoy all bodily pleasure.

Chiefliest then, when above them a fair sky smiles, and the young year

Flings with a bounteous hand over each green meadow the wild-flowers:—

Not more quickly depart from his bosom fiery fevers,

Who beneath crimson hangings and pictures cunningly broidered

Tosses about, than from him who must lie in beggarly raiment.

Therefore, since to the Body avail not Riches, avails not

Heraldry's utmost boast, nor the pomp and the pride of an Empire;

Next shall you own, that the Mind needs likewise nothing of these things.

Unless—when, peradventure, your armies over the champaign

Spread with a stir and a ferment, and bid War's image awaken,

Or when with stir and with ferment a fleet sails forth upon Ocean —

## Verses and Translations

Cowed before these brave sights, pale Superstition abandon  
Straightway your mind as you gaze, Death seem no longer alarming,  
Trouble vacate your bosom, and Peace hold holiday in you.

But, if (again) all this be a vain impossible fiction;  
If of a truth men's fears, and the cares which hourly beset them,  
Heed not the jav'lin's fury, regard not clashing of broadswords;  
But all—boldly amongst crowned heads and the rulers of empires  
Stalk, not shrinking abashed from the dazzling glare of the red gold,  
Not from the pomp of the monarch, who walks forth purple—apparelled:  
These things shew that at times we are bankrupt, surely, of Reason;  
When too all Man's life through a great Dark laboureth onward.  
For, as a young boy trembles, and in that mystery, Darkness,  
Sees all terrible things: so do we too, ev'n in the daylight,  
Ofttimes shudder at that, which is not more really alarming  
Than boys' fears, when they waken, and say some danger is o'er them.

So this panic of mind, these clouds which gather around us,  
Fly not the bright sunbeam, nor the ivory shafts of the Day—star:  
Nature, rightly revealed, and the Reason only, dispel them.

Now, how moving about do the prime material atoms  
Shape forth this thing and that thing; and, once shaped, how they resolve  
them;

What power says unto each, This must be; how an inherent  
Elasticity drives them about Space vagrantly onward; —  
I shall unfold: thou simply give all thyself to my teaching.

Matter mingled and massed into indissoluble union  
Does not exist. For we see how wastes each separate substance;  
So flow piecemeal away, with the length'ning centuries, all things,  
Till from our eye by degrees that old self passes, and is not.  
Still Universal Nature abides unchanged as aforetime.  
Whereof this is the cause. When the atoms part from a substance,  
That suffers loss; but another is elsewhere gaining an increase:  
So that, as one thing wanes, still a second bursts into blossom,  
Soon, in its turn, to be left. Thus draws this Universe always  
Gain out of loss; thus live we mortals one on another.  
Bourgeons one generation, and one fades. Let but a few years  
Pass, and a race has arisen which was not: as in a racecourse,  
One hands on to another the burning torch of Existence.



**FROM HOMER.**

II. 1.

Sing, O daughter of heaven, of Peleus' son, of Achilles,  
Him whose terrible wrath brought thousand woes on Achaia.  
Many a stalwart soul did it hurl untimely to Hades,  
Souls of the heroes of old: and their bones lay strown on the sea-sands,  
Prey to the vulture and dog. Yet was Zeus fulfilling a purpose;  
Since that far-off day, when in hot strife parted asunder  
Atreus' sceptred son, and the chos'n of heaven, Achilles.

Say then, which of the Gods bid arise up battle between them?  
Zeus's and Leto's son. With the king was kindled his anger:

Then went sickness abroad, and the people died of the sickness:  
For that of Atreus' son had his priest been lightly entreated,  
Chryses, Apollo's priest. For he came to the ships of Achaia,  
Bearing a daughter's ransom, a sum not easy to number:  
And in his hand was the emblem of Him, far-darting Apollo,  
High on a sceptre of gold: and he made his prayer to the Grecians;  
Chiefly to Atreus' sons, twin chieftains, ordering armies

"Chiefs sprung of Atreus' loins; and ye, brazen-greaved Achaians!  
So may the Gods this day, the Olympus-palaced, grant you  
Priam's city to raze, and return unscathed to your homesteads:  
Only my own dear daughter I ask; take ransom and yield her,  
Rev'rencing His great name, son of Zeus, far-darting Apollo."

Then from the host of Achaians arose tumultuous answer:  
"Due to the priest is his honour; accept rich ransom and yield her."

But there was war in the spirit of Atreus' son, Agamemnon;  
Disdainful he dismissed him, a right stern fiat appending:—  
"Woe be to thee, old man, if I find thee lingering longer,  
Yea or returning again, by the hollow ships of Achaians!  
Scarce much then will avail thee the great god's sceptre and emblem.  
Her will I never release. Old age must first come upon her,  
In my own home, yea in Argos, afar from the land of her fathers,  
Following the loom and attending upon my bed. But avaunt thee!  
Go, and provoke not me, that thy way may be haply securer."

These were the words of the king, and the old man feared and obeyed  
him:

Voiceless he went by the shore of the great dull-echoing ocean,  
Thither he got him apart, that ancient man; and a long prayer  
Prayed to Apollo his Lord, son of golden-ringleted Leto.

"Lord of the silver bow, whose arm girds Chryse and Cilla, —  
Cilla, loved of the Gods,—and in might sways Tenedos, hearken!  
Oh! if, in days gone by, I have built from floor unto cornice,  
Smintheus, a fair shrine for thee; or burned in the flames of the altar  
Fat flesh of bulls and of goats; then do this thing that I ask thee:  
Hurl on the Greeks thy shafts, that thy servant's tears be avenged!"

So did he pray, and his prayer reached the ears of Phoebus Apollo.

## Verses and Translations

Dark was the soul of the god as he moved from the heights of Olympus,  
Shouldering a bow, and a quiver on this side fast and on that side.  
Onward in anger he moved. And the arrows, stirred by the motion,  
Rattled and rang on his shoulder: he came, as cometh the midnight.  
Hard by the ships he stayed him, and loosed one shaft from the bow-  
string;  
Harshly the stretched string twanged of the bow all silvery-shining;  
First fell his wrath on the mules, and the swift-footed hound of the  
herdsman;  
Afterward smote he the host. With a rankling arrow he smote them  
Aye; and the morn and the even were red with the glare of the corpse-  
fires.

Nine days over the host sped the shafts of the god: and the tenth day  
Dawned; and Achilles said, "Be a council called of the people."  
(Such thought came to his mind from the goddess, Hera the white-armed,  
Hera who loved those Greeks, and who saw them dying around her.)  
So when all were collected and ranged in a solemn assembly,  
Straightway rose up amidst them and spake swift-footed Achilles:-  
"Atreus' son! it were better, I think this day, that we wandered  
Back, re-seeking our homes, (if a warfare MAY be avoided);  
Now when the sword and the plague, these two things, fight with Achaians.  
Come, let us seek out now some priest, some seer amongst us,  
Yea or a dreamer of dreams—for a dream too cometh of God's hand –  
Whence we may learn what hath angered in this wise Phoebus Apollo.  
Whether mayhap he reprove us of prayer or of oxen unoffered;  
Whether, accepting the incense of lambs and of blemishless he-goats,  
Yet it be his high will to remove this misery from us."

Down sat the prince: he had spoken. And uprose to them in answer  
Kalchas Thestor's son, high chief of the host of the augurs.  
Well he knew what is present, what will be, and what was aforesaid;  
He into Ilion's harbour had led those ships of Achaia,  
All by the Power of the Art, which he gained from Phoebus Apollo.  
Thus then, kindest-hearted, arising spake he before them:

"Peleus' son! Thou demandest, a man heavenfavor'd, an answer  
Touching the Great King's wrath, the afar-off-aiming Apollo:  
Therefore I lift up my voice. Swear thou to me, duly digesting  
All,—that with right good will, by word and by deed, thou wilt aid me.  
Surely the ire will awaken of one who mightily ruleth  
Over the Argives all: and upon him wait the Achaians.  
Aye is the battle the king's, when a poor man kindleth his anger:  
For, if but this one day he devour his indignation,  
Still on the morrow abideth a rage, that its end be accomplished,  
Deep in the soul of the king. So bethink thee, wilt thou deliver."

Then unto him making answer arose swift-footed Achilles:  
"Fearing nought, up and open the god's will, all that is told thee:  
For by Apollo's self, heaven's favourite, whom thou, Kalchas,  
Serving aright, to the armies aloud God-oracles op'nest:  
None—while as yet I breathe upon earth, yet walk in the daylight –  
Shall, at the hollow ships, lift hand of oppression against thee,  
None out of all yon host—not and if thou said'st Agamemnon,  
Who now sits in his glory, the topmost flower of the armies."

## Verses and Translations

Then did the blameless prophet at last wax valiant and answer:  
"Lo! He doth not reprove us of prayer or of oxen unoffered;  
But for his servant's sake, the disdained of king Agamemnon,  
(In that he loosed not his daughter, inclined not his ear to a ransom,) –  
Therefore the Far-darter sendeth, and yet shall send on us, evil.  
Nor shall he stay from the slaughter the hand that is heavy upon you,  
Till to her own dear father the bright-eyed maiden is yielded,  
No price asked, no ransom; and ships bear hallowed oxen  
Chryse-wards:– then, it may be, will he shew mercy and hear us."

These words said, sat he down. Then rose in his place and addressed them

Atreus' warrior son, Agamemnon king of the nations,  
Sore grieved. Fury was working in each dark cell of his bosom,  
And in his eye was a glare as a burning fiery furnace:  
First to the priest he addressed him, his whole mien boding a mischief.  
"Priest of ill luck! Never heard I of aught good from thee, but evil.  
Still doth the evil thing unto thee seem sweeter of utterance;  
Leaving the thing which is good all unspoke, all unaccomplished.  
Lo! this day to the people thou say'st, God-oracles opening,  
What, but that *I* am the cause why the god's hand worketh against them,  
For that in sooth I rejected a ransom, aye and a rich one,  
Brought for the girl Briseis. I did. For I chose to possess her,  
Rather, at home: less favour hath Clytemnestra before me,  
Clytemnestra my wife: unto her Briseis is equal,  
Equal in form and in stature, in mind and in womanly wisdom.  
Still, even thus, am I ready to yield her, so it be better:  
Better is saving alive, I hold, than slaying a nation.  
Meanwhile deck me a guerdon in her stead, lest of Achaians  
I should alone lack honour; an unmeet thing and a shameful.  
See all men, that my guerdon, I wot not whither it goeth."

Then unto him made answer the swift-foot chieftain Achilles:  
"O most vaunting of men, most gain-loving, off-spring of Atreus!  
How shall the lords of Achaia bestow fresh guerdon upon thee?  
Surely we know not yet of a treasure piled in abundance:  
That which the sacking of cities hath brought to us, all hath an owner,  
Yea it were all unfit that the host make redistribution.  
Yield thou the maid to the god. So threefold surely and fourfold  
All we Greeks will requite thee, should that day dawn, when the great  
Gods  
Grant that of yon proud walls not one stone rest on another."

**Footnotes:**

{15a} "The kites know well the long stern swell  
That bids the Romans close."—MACAULAY.

{51a} "Poor moralist, and what art thou?  
A solitary fly."  
GRAY.

{145a} tunica pendente: h. e. 'suspensa e brachio.' Quod  
procuratoribus illis valde, ut ferunt, displicebat. Dicunt vero morem a  
barbaris tractum, urbem Bosporiam in fl. Iside habitantibus. Bacciferas  
tabernas: id q. nostri vocant "tobacco-shops."

{145b} herbae—avena . Duo quasi genera artis poeta videtur  
distinguere. 'Weed,' 'pipe,' recte Scaliger.

{146a} nil acquirit eundo. Aqua enim aspera, et radentibus parum  
habilis. Immersum hic aliquem et vix aut ne vix quidem extractum refert  
schol.

{146b} tormenta p. q. mortalia. Eleganter, ut solet, Peile, 'unearthly  
cannons. (Cf. Ainaw. D. s. v.) Perrecondita autem est quaestio de  
lusibus illorum temporum, neque in Smithii Dict. Class. satis elucidata.  
Consule omnino Kentf. de Bill. Loculis, bene vertas, 'pockets.'

{147a} amantem devio. Quorsum hoc, quaerunt Interpretes. Suspisor  
equidem respiciendos, vv. 19–23, de procuratoribus.

{148a} quadr. rotm.—Cami ard. imo. Quadrando enim rotundum (Ang.  
'squaring the circle') Camum accendere, juvenes ingenui semper  
nitebantur. Fecisse vero quemquam non liquet.

{148b} aure canina. Iterum audi Peile, 'dog's-eared.'

{148c} rixatore. non male Heins. cum Aldina, 'wrangler.'

{149a} Mortis. Verbum generali fere sensu dictum inveni. Suspisor  
autem poetam virum quendam innuisse, qui currus, caballos, id genus  
omne, mercede non minima locaret.

{149b} aliessa quadra. Sunt qui de pileis Academicis accipiunt.  
Rapidiores enim suas fere amittebant. Sed judicet sibi lector.

{149c} opus tunicae, 'shirt-work.' Alii opes. Perperam.

## Verses and Translations

{149d} vestem. Nota proprietatem verbi. 'Vest,' enim apud politos id. q. vulgo 'waistcoat' appellatur. Quod et feminae usurpahant, ut hodiernae, fibula revinctum, teste Virgillo:

'crines nodantur in aurum,  
Aurea purpuream subnectit fibula vestem.'

{150a} Basse. cft. Interpretes illud Horatianum, "Bassum Threica vincat amystide." Non perspexere viri docti alterum hic alludi, Anglicanae originis, neque illum, ut perhibent, a potu aversum.

{150b} Ini. Sic nostri, 'Go in and win.' rebus, 'subjects.'

{151a} crebra r. a. stabulum. "Turn up year after year at the old diggings, (i. e. the Senate House,) and be plucked," c. Peile. Quo quid jejunius?

{151b} Classe—Hirudo. Obscurior allusio ad picturam quandam (in collectione viri, vel plusquam viri, PUNCHII repositam,) in qua juvenis custodem stationis moerens alloquitur.