

SCACCHIA, LUDUS:

*Nich's = A Treatise 176*

P O E M

ON THE

GAME of CHESS.

WRITTEN BY

MARCUS HIERONYMUS VIDA.

AND

TRANSLATED into ENGLISH VERSE

BY

The Rev. SAMUEL PULLEIN, A.

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D U B L I N :

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TO  
HIS GRACE  
*G E O R G E*,  
Lord Archbishop of ARMAGH,  
PRIMATE and METROPOLITAN of  
ALL IRELAND.

**W**HEN Leo's priesthood blest'd Hesperian states,  
And call'd the muses to their antient seats,  
In Latian lands fair science rais'd her head,  
And Learning bloom'd, though liberty lay dead.  
Nor shall a British isle, where freedom reigns,  
Neglected find no Patron for it's strains ;

iv      D E D I C A T I O N .

Nor Phœbus shall forsake Ierne's climes,  
Where Saints and Druids sung in early times ;  
Her mitred Leo fans that antient fire,  
And wakes her isle's hereditary lyre.

Too long our prelates might, with cause, refuse  
To spend life's waneing period with the muse ;  
Patient we view'd those orbs, at setting day,  
Descend unclouded, but with feeble ray ;  
Oft came still ev'ning on, with twilight cool,  
And oft we hop'd a warmer sun might rule ;  
HE shines at last in full meridian height,  
And glads the land at once with heat and light.  
Chear'd by his beams, the muse attempts to sing,  
Yet, conscious of her own unpractis'd wing,  
With caution dares the steep Parnassian hills,  
Supported on the Roman eagle's quills.

Trinity-College, Dublin,  
March 12, 1749-50.

P R E-

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# P R E F A C E.

**S**CACCHIA is derived from Scach, signifying in the Oriental language a King. but Vida gives it a poetical Etymology from Scacchis, a Nymph of the river Serius in Italy, whose name her lover Mercury gave to the game.

Though Vida has described the situation, and motion of the men, with great elegance and perspicuity; yet for the advantage of those who are wholly unacquainted with them, there is a plate annex'd, where the initial letters of each warrior's name stand exactly as they are array'd for battle. but it must be observed that among us three of the names have been changed; the Archer is called a Bishop, the Elephant a Rook, and the Private Soldiers or Foot, Pawns.

**K.** The King moves in ev'ry direction, forward, backward, sideway or obliquely; but only the distance of one square at each motion. but at his first move (if the space between him and the Elephant are clear) he may bring the Elephant up to his side, and then move to the other side of the Elephant. this is called Castling.

**Q.** The Queen moves in every direction, and to any distance.

**A.** The Archer only in the oblique direction, but to any distance.

**H.** The

H. The Horseman or Knight, moves in a kind of curve, from a black square to any the nearest white but one, and from a white to any nearest black but one. his distance is two squares, and he is the only one that can go over another's head.

E. The Elephant has all the powers of the Queen, except her oblique motion.

P. The Private Soldiers or Foot move only strait forward, except when they kill, which they always do by an oblique motion. they go but one square at a time, except at their first onset, when they are allow'd to move two.

Every man stands in the place of him whom he kills.

The battle is only won by killing the King ; this is called Check Mat, from Scach Mat, i. e. the King is dead.

The King is said to be in Stale Mat when he stands safe, but cannot move without being killed ; this also with the Orientals loses him the battle ; the Italians make it only a drawn fight ; but with us it is the loss of the battle to him who reduces his opponent's King to this situation.

When a Queen is killed, a Private Soldier who can advance to the farthest line becomes a Queen ; but there can be but one Queen at once.

It is usual to begin the game by advancing the Soldier who stands before the King or Queen two squares.

MARCI



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MARCI HIERONYMI

V I D Æ

S C A C C I A,

L U D U S.

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**L**UDIMUS effigiem belli, simulataque veris  
Prælia, buxo acies fictas, et ludicra regna :

Ut gemini inter se reges, albusque nigerque,

Pro laude oppositi, certent bicoloribus armis.

Dicite, Seriadès Nymphæ, certamina tanta,

5

Carminibus

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C H E S S :

A POEM OF

MARCUS HIERONYMUS

V I D A.

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**H**OW mimic realms, and pageant hofts engage  
In sportive arms, with wars fictitious rage ;  
And sceptr'd Kings, a fable and a white  
Contend for fame, oppos'd in mortal fight,  
We fing. ye Serian Nymphs assist the lay 5  
Through paths yet unillum'd by Pæan's ray.

Carminibus prorsus vatum illibata priorum.

Nulla via est: tamen ire juvat, quo me rapit ardor,

Inviaque audaci propero tentare juventa.

Vos per inaccessible rupes, et inhospita euntem

Saxa, Deæ, regite, ac secretum ostendite callem. 10

Vos hujus ludi in primis meminisse necesse est:

Vos primæ studia hæc Italis monstrâstis in oris,

Scacchidis egregiæ monumentum insigne fororis.

Juppiter Æthiopum fedes, et Memnonis arva

Iverat, Oceani mensas dignatus amici, 15

Qui sibi tum optatis junxit Tellurem hymenæis.

Affuit una omnis Superûm chorus: omnia festo

Æquoris immensi resonabant littora plausu.

Ut

Vent'rous and bold, with youthful ardor fir'd,  
 We tempt those heights where never bard aspir'd ;  
 O're rocks, and wastes untrod, allur'd to dip  
 In springs untasted by poetic lip. 10

Through the lone wilds, and o'er each rugged mass,  
 O point, ye Naïd train, the secret pass.  
 Ye taught Hesperia first the Scacchian game,  
 Illustrious record of your sister's name.

To Memnon's fields, and peaceful Æthiop lands, 15  
 Where, wide display'd, the watry empire stands,  
 Great Jove descending, shar'd the genial feast  
 Of sage Oceanus, his antient guest ;  
 Just then the Sire appear'd in nuptial pride,  
 To Tellus join'd, his ever-blooming bride ; 20  
 With Jove assembling, all the heav'nly powers  
 To joys immortal gave the blissful hours :  
 Loud rung the deep with hymeneal mirth,  
 And shores re-echo'd from the realms of earth.

When

Ut dapibus compressa fames, mensæque remotæ,

Quo Superûm mentes ludo mulceret inani,

20

Oceanus tabulam afferri jubet interpictam.

Sexaginta infunt et quatuor ordine fedes

Octono ; parte ex omni, via limite quadrat

Ordinibus paribus ; necnon forma omnibus una

Sedibus, æquale et spatium, sed non color unus :

25

Alternant semper variæ, subeuntque vicissim

Albentes nigris ; testudo picta superne

Qualia devexo gestat discrimina tergo.

Tum Superis tacite secum mirantibus inquit :

Marti aptam fedem, ludicraque castra videtis :

30

Hoc campo adversas acies spectare licebit

Oppositis signis belli simulacra ciere ;

Quæ

When, as at length, with sweet refection blefs'd 25  
No more th' Immortals ply'd the sumptuous feast,  
Their social host with sports amusing tries  
To sooth the sacred senate of the skies.  
Straight at his nod, a pictur'd plane was brought,  
In equal squares of white and fable wrought. 30  
Twice thirty two alternate spots appear,  
Varying from black to white, and form a square ;  
Successive chang'd, the diff'rent colours show  
Eight rows of spots, eight spots in ev'ry row ;  
So painted, and with stains contrasting fill'd, 35  
The speckled tortoise bears his horny shield.  
With silent gaze the wond'ring Gods admire  
It's curious form ; when thus the antient Sire :  
Ye now behold the scene of artful wars,  
Fictitious camps, and fields devote to Mars : 40  
Here shall ye see two diff'rent hosts display  
Their mimic standards, and dispute the day ;

A Sport

Quæ quondam sub aquis gaudent spectacula tueri  
 Nereides, vastique omnis gens accola ponti ;  
 Siquando placidum mare, et humida regna quiêrunt. 35  
 En vero simulata adfunt qui prælia ludant.

Sic ait ; et versa in tabulam deprompsit ab urna  
 Arte laboratam buxum, simulataque nostris  
 Corpora, torno acies fictas, albasque, nigrasque ;  
 Agmina bina pari numeroque, et viribus æquis ; 40  
 Bis nivea cum veste octo, totidemque nigranti.  
 Ut variæ facies, pariter sunt et sua cuique  
 Nomina, diversum munus, non æqua potestas.  
 Illic et reges paribus capita alta coronis,  
 Et regum pariter nuptas in bella paratas, 45  
 Cernere erat : sunt qui pedibus certamina inire

Sueti ;

A sport, which every native of the main  
 Views with delight, through all our watry reign,  
 When rougher blasts in rocky caverns sleep, 45  
 And gales soft-breezing lull the silent deep :  
 But lo the troops impatient to engage  
 In wars fierce semblance, and begin the rage.

He spoke ; and from an urn inverted drew  
 Upon the plane the forms of various hue, 50  
 Two sculptur'd hosts a sable and a white,  
 The same in number, and of equal might.  
 Twice eight in black attire, a gloomy foe,  
 Oppos'd an equal train in robes of snow ;  
 The featur'd wood proclaim'd the carver's art, 55  
 And life's warm image glow'd in ev'ry part.  
 Nor yet was ev'ry warrior's pow'r the same,  
 Each office vary'd with each form and name :  
 For sov'reign kings in regal pomp appear,  
 With consort queens advancing to the war ; 60

C

Some

Sueti ; sunt et equis qui malint, quique sagittis ;

Nec deest quæ ferat armatas in prælia turres

Bellua ; utrinque Indos credas spectare elephantés.

Jamque aciem in versum statuunt, structæque cohortes

Procedunt campo, castrisque locantur utrisque. 51

Linea principio sublimes ultima reges

Parte utraque capit, quartis in sedibus ambos

Tractu eodem adversos inter se ; sex tamen æquis

In medio sedes spatii hinc inde relictae : 55

Sede albus sese nigra tenet, ater in alba.

Proxima reginas capit orbita : regibus ambæ

Hærent, quæque suo, dextrum latus altera, lævum

Alter a lege datis tangunt stationibus ; atrumque

Atra tenet campum, spatio stat candida in albo, 60

Et proprium servant prima statione colorem.

Inde sagittiferi juvenes de gente nigranti

Stant

Some wound on foot, and some on courfers light,  
 Others with bows provoke the distant fight ;  
 And elephants, beneath their moving tow'rs,  
 Advance with all the battles missive show'rs.

And now th' encamping armies wide display 65  
 Their glitt'ring files and range in meet array.  
 High o'er their troops the lofty monarchs shine  
 On the fourth station of each hindmost line,  
 In the same pass oppos'd, and o'er the plain,  
 From chief to chief, six stations intervene : 70  
 On fable ground the lucid Monarch stands,  
 A snowy spot the swarthy King commands.  
 Close by her Lord appears each royal bride,  
 One takes the right, and one the weaker side,  
 Each, from her kindred colour, fills a space, 75  
 Match'd to her hue, and tinctur'd like her face.  
 Next to the royal pair, on either hand  
 Two youths select from out their forces stand,

Stant gemini, totidem pariter candore nivali ;  
 Nomen Areiphilos Graii fecere vocantes,  
 Quod Marti ante alios cari fera bella laceffant. 65  
 Continud hos inter rex, necnon regia conjux  
 Clauduntur medii : duo dehinc utrinque corufci  
 Auratis equites fagulis, criftisque decori,  
 Cornipedes in aperta parant certamina Martis.  
 Tum geminae, velut extremis in cornibus, arces 70  
 Hinc atque hinc altis ftant propugnacula muris,  
 Quas dorfo immanes geftant in bella elephantii.  
 Postremo fubeunt octo hinc atque inde fecundis  
 Ordinibus pedites, castrisque armantur utrifque  
 Armigeri partim regis, partimque miniftrae 75  
 Virginis armifonae, qui prima pericula belli,  
 Congressusque ineant primos, pugnamque laceffant.  
 Non aliter campis legio fe buxea utrinque

Skilful with shafts to ply the distant foe,  
And rouse fierce battle with the founding bow. 80  
By these close joining, to the left and right  
On either side, appears a warrior knight,  
In glitt'ring garbs distinguish'd from the rest,  
With broider'd tunic, and a gilded crest ;  
Mounted on prancing steeds their arms they wield, 85  
Prepar'd to scour along the champian field.  
Then rise two elephants with tow'rs, afar  
Fix'd on th' extremes to guard the flanks of war.  
And lastly, eight inferior warriors shine  
Before their chiefs, upon the frontmost line, 90  
Men rang'd with maids of amazonian name,  
Those serve the Prince, and these the royal dame ;  
Foremost advanc'd, the kindling combat dare,  
And brave the foe, and rouse the storms of war.  
Thus stood each host, the sable and the white, 95  
In double range extended for the fight ;

As

Composuit duplici digestis ordine turmis,  
 Adversisque ambæ fulgere coloribus alæ, 80  
 Quam Gallorum acies, Alpino frigore lactea  
 Corpora, si tendant albis in prælia signis,  
 Auroræ populos contra, et Phaethonte perustus  
 Infano Æthiopus, et nigri Memnonis alas.

Tum pater Oceanus rursus sic ore locutus : 85  
 Cœlicolæ, jam quænam acies, quæ castra, videtis :  
 Discite nunc (neque enim sunt hæc sine legibus arma)  
 Certandi leges, nequeant quas tendere contra.  
 Principio alterni reges in prælia mittunt  
 Quem pugnæ numero ex omni elegere suorum. 90  
 Si niger arma ferens primus processit in æquor,  
 Continuò adversum semper se candidus offert ;  
 Nec plures licet ire simul, factò agmine, in hostem.  
 Propositum cunctis unum, studium omnibus unum,

As when the banner'd force of Gaul alarms  
 The realms of Memnon with its northern swarms,  
 And snowy squadrons, bleach'd with Alpine air,  
 Front the fierce legions' of the sultry sphere, 100  
 A gloomy race, with lasting fable dy'd  
 By madding Phaethon's presumptuous pride.

Then thus began the hoary fire again :  
 Ye see the battle form'd, cœlestial train ;  
 Now learn the steady laws of martial right, 105  
 For sacred laws are umpires of the fight,  
 If then advancing from the fable bands  
 A warrior first in threatful posture stands,  
 Immediate from the standards of the white  
 One champion only moves to meet the fight ; 110  
 No crowds detach'd from either army go,  
 Nor press in numbers on a single foe,  
 One mighty purpose fills each warriors breast,  
 Fast to confine their rival king distress'd,

Doom'd

Obsessos reges inimicæ claudere gentis, 95

Ne quo impune queant fugere, atque instantia fata

Evitare : etemim capiunt ita prælia finem.

Haud tamen interea cuneis obstantibus ultro

Parcunt ; sed citius quo regem sternere leto

Desertum evaleant, cædunt ferro obvia passim 100

Agmina : rarefcunt hîc illic funere semper

Utraque castra novo, magis ac magis area belli

Piçturata patet ; sternuntque caduntque vicissim.

Sed cædentem opus est sublati protinus hostis

Successisse loco, et conatus vindicis alæ 105

Sustinuisse semel : mox, si vitaverit ictum,

Inde referre licet se in tutum præpete planta.

At pedites prohibent leges certaminis unos,

Cum semel exierint, (facilis jactura) reverti.

Nec vero incessus cunctis bellantibus idem, 110

Pugnandive

Doom'd to the sword, and from assistance far: 115  
 This ends the fortune, and the toils of war.  
 For this the work of death is hotly ply'd,  
 And paths still widen'd to the monarch's side,  
 The thinn'd battalions less obstruct the fight,  
 And more and more appears the field of fight; 120  
 From side to side retorted slaughter bounds,  
 And death returns for death, and wounds for wounds.  
 Nor fearful must they give the fatal blow,  
 Then swift retiring shun the vengeful foe;  
 The laws decree, that every warrior stand 125  
 Seiz'd of his post who felt his slaughter'ring hand;  
 There must he once withstand the stroke of fate,  
 And if he 'scape the blow, may then retreat.  
 Not so the foldiers of the vulgar train,  
 These, once advanc'd, can ne'er return again, 130  
 Nor yet alike each warrior gives the wound,  
 Nor equal treads along the hostile ground:

D

The

Pugnandive modus : pedites in prælia euntes  
 Evaleant unam tantum transmittere sedem ;  
 Inque hostem tendunt adversi, et limite recto.  
 Congressu tamen in primo fas longius ire,  
 Et duplicare gradus concessum : at comminus hostem  
 Cum feriunt, ictum obliquant, et vulnera furtim 116  
 Intentant semper lateri, cavaque ilia cædunt.  
 Sed gemini claudunt aciem qui hinc inde elephantii,  
 Cum turres in bella gerunt, ac prælia miscent ;  
 Recta fronte valent, dextra, lævaque, retroque, 120  
 Ferre aditum contra, campumque impune per omnem  
 Proruere, ac totis passim dare funera castris.  
 Ne tamen obliquis occultent nixibus ictum ;  
 Qui tantum mos concessus pugnantibus arcu,  
 Dilectis Marti ante alios : nam semper uterque 125  
 Fertur in obliquum, spatiis nigrantibus alter,

The foot battalions, flinted in their gait,  
 Proceed by single steps, and forward straight,  
 Save at the first, when o'er the nearest row 135

They stride advancing to the distant foe :  
 But when they strike, their wounds oblique impress  
 Pierce where the shorter ribs forsake the chest.

The huge-limb'd elephants that guard the flanks,  
 And move with nodding turrets thro' the ranks, 140

From right to left, or front, or backward go,  
 And wound afar each quarter of the foe ;

But never indirectly march, nor strike  
 With unsuspected blows impress'd oblique ;

This movement, and this only, is allow'd. 145

To the keen youths that aim the feather'd wood :

Through all the camp their sloping strides are trac'd,

Fix'd to that colour where they first were plac'd,

One treads the white, and one the sable path

Unchang'd, and sends afar the flying death. 150

Alter candenti semper se limite versat ;

Directisque ineunt ambo fera bella sagittis.

Nec variare licet, quamvis fas ire per omnem

Hinc atque hinc campum, atque omnes percurrere sedes.

Insultat sonipes ferus, atque repugnat habenis : 131

Nunquam continuo stipata per agmina ductu

Procurrit : tantum sursum sese arduus effert

Semper, et in gyrum gressus magno impete lunat

Curvatos, duplicemque datur transmittere sedem. 135

Si nigrante prius campo expectaverit, album

Mox petere, et sedis semper mutare colorem

Lex jubet, ac certo semper se sistere saltu.

At regina, furens animis, pars optima belli,

In frontem, in terga, ac dextram, laevamque movetur,

Itque iter obliquum, sed semper tramite recto 141

Procedit ; neque enim curvato insurgere saltu

Th' impatient courser, struggling on the rein,  
 Bends to the fight, and eager views the plain ;  
 Nor springs direct, but rising from the ground,  
 Wheels on his patterns with a circling bound ;  
 High o'er the files appears his winding track, 155  
 Alternate vary'd still from white to black ;  
 Each vig'rous leap a double space commands,  
 And steady fixing on the third he stands.  
 The furious Queen, the soul of all the fight,  
 Through all the field exerts superiour might ; 160  
 From side to side, from front to rear she flies,  
 Or rushes where the sloping passage lies,  
 Yet still direct, by virgin shame forbid  
 To bound o'er heroes like the circling steed :  
 But skill'd in ev'ry other art of war, 165  
 She darts like light'ning, and destroys afar,  
 If from her own, or from th' opposing train,  
 Fix'd in her road, no warrior intervene ;

For

Cornipedum de more licet : non terminus olli,  
 Nec cursûs meta ulla datur : quocunque libido  
 Impulerit, licet ire ; modò ne ex agmine quisquam 145  
 Hostilive, suove aditus occludat eunti.  
 Nulli etenim super educto fas agmina saltu  
 Transiliisse : equiti tantum hæc concessa potestas.  
 Cautiùs arma movent gentis regnator uterque,  
 In quibus est omnis spes, ac fiducia belli. 150  
 Omnibus, incolumi rege, stat cernere ferro ;  
 Sublato, pugna excedunt, et castra relinquunt :  
 Ille adeo in bello captus secum omnia vertit.  
 Ergo, hærens cunctatur ; eum venerantur, et omnes  
 Agmine circumstant denso, mediumque tuentur : 155  
 Utque armis sæpe eripiant, sua corpora bello  
 Objiciunt, mortemque optant pro rege pacisci.  
 Non illi studium feriendi, aut arma ciendi :

For this alike bounds all the pow'rs of fight,  
 Save the proud steed that bears th' impetuous knight. 170  
 Cautious the rival princes tempt the fray,  
 For on their safety hangs the doubtful day :  
 The King preserv'd, the lab'ring war relies  
 On arts and arms, with him the combat dies ;  
 With him each chief desponding quits the strife : 175  
 So dear, so fatal is their Monarch's life.  
 Careful he moves, his subjects circle round,  
 And thick protect him with a living mound ;  
 Snatch him from fate, and slain in his defence,  
 Pour out their lives, a ransom for their prince. 180  
 His study lies not to annoy the foe,  
 But skilful guard against th' impending blow :  
 Yet not the boldest may provoke his might,  
 Or daring stand confronted in his fight ;  
 His power in all directions awes the plain, 185  
 Nor bears his hand the sov'reign sword in vain.

But,

Se tegere est fatis, atque instantia fata cavere.

Haud tamen obtulerit se quisquam impune propinquum

Obvius ; ex omni nam summum parte nocendi 161

Jus habet : ille quidem haud procurrere longiùs aufit ;

Sed postquam auspiciis primis progressus ab aula

Mutavit sedes proprias, non ampliùs uno

Ulteriùs fas ire gradu, seu vulneret hostem, 165

Seu vim tela ferant nullam, atque innoxius erret.

Hic mos certandi, hæc belli antiquissima jura.

Nunc aciem inter se certantes cernite utramque.

Sic ait : at quoniam, quoties fera bella fatigant

Mortales, Superi, studiis diversa foventes, 170

Ipsi etiam inter sese odiis bellantur iniquis,

Maximaque interdum toto ardent prælia cœlo ;

Juppiter omnipotens folio rex fatus ab alto

Omnes

But, limited by laws, he stands debarr'd  
 Of wide excursions from his faithful guard,  
 And, when the lab'ring war demands his aid,  
 His efforts all by single steps are made, 190  
 Whether he moves to wound the hostile train,  
 Or harmless wanders o'er th'embattled plain.  
 Such are the rights, preserv'd from earliest date,  
 And such the laws that rule each rival state,  
 Now turn, Cœlestials, to a nobler fight, 195  
 Attend the moving hosts, and view the fight.

He ended ; but, because, when mortal fray  
 Fatigues with lab'ring strife the sons of clay,  
 The warring Gods in factious parties join,  
 And mix with human force their pow'rs divine ; 200  
 Left gath'ring strength infectious wrath shou'd rise,  
 And rage begun on earth invade the skies,  
 High from his throne all-pow'rful Jove commands  
 That no Immortal join the list'd bands,

E

Nor

Omnes abstinuisse jubet mortalibus armis ;

Atque minis, ne quem foveant perterret acerbis. 175

Tum Phœbum vocat intonsum, Atlantisque nepotem,

Egregium furto peperit quem candida Maia,

Insignes ambos facie, & florentibus annis.

Nondum Mercurius levibus talaria plantis

Addiderat : nondum Titania lumina agebat 180

Per liquidum curru gemmato Phœbus Olympum,

Tantum humeros pharetrâ insignis, et crinibus aureis.

Hos Pater adversis solos decernere jussit

Inter se studiis, et ludicra bella fovere,

Ac partes tutari ambas, quas vellet uterque : 185

Necnon proposuit victori præmia digna.

Dii magni federe : Deûm stat turba minorum

Circumfusa ; cavent sed lege, et fœdere pacto,

Ne quisquam, voce aut nutu, ludentibus ausit

Prævisos

Nor favour either host with partial care ; 205  
 And binds his fix'd decree with threats severe ;  
 Then calls Latona's offspring, and the boy  
 For cunning fam'd, Atlantian Maia's joy ;  
 Equal in years, of equal beauty both,  
 E'er manhood dawn'd upon the bloom of youth. 210  
 Nor Hermes' feet had yet improv'd their flight,  
 With wings smooth-gliding through the realms of light ;  
 Nor Phœbus, on the glitt'ring car of day,  
 Steer'd his swift courfers through the solar way ;  
 His shoulders only bore the quiver's pride, 215  
 And locks of gold fell waving by it's side.  
 To these sequester'd from the sons of light,  
 Their Sire commits the conduct of the fight ;  
 With skill oppos'd to guide each favour'd host,  
 And rich rewards await the victor's boast. 220

The chief were seated, while th' inferior crowd  
 Of Gods around the rival armies stood ;

Prævisos monstrare ictus. quem denique primum 190

Sors inferre aciem vocet, atque invadere Martem,

Quæsitum : primumque locum certaminis albo

Ductori tulit, ut quem vellet primus in hostem

Mitteret : id sanè magni referre putabant.

Tum tacitus secum versat, quem ducere contra 195

Conveniat, peditemque jubet procedere campum

In medium, qui reginam dirimebat ab hoste.

Ille gradus duplices superat : cui tum arbiter ater

Ipse etiam adversum recto de gente nigranti

Tramite agit peditem, atque jubet subsistere contra 200

Advenientem hostem, paribusque occurrere in armis.

Stant ergo adversis inter se frontibus ambo,

In mediis campi spatiiis, ac mutua tentant

Vulnera, nequicquam : neque enim vis ulla nocendi est

Armigeris,

But first enjoin'd, each whisper to confine,  
 And each expressive look, and private sign.  
 And now the lots decide, no trivial chance, 225  
 Which eager foe shall first in arms advance :  
 The urn decrees, that from the snowy train  
 A champion first impell'd shou'd dare the plain :  
 Their leader straight surveys his troops with care ;  
 Weighs all their pow'rs ; then singles to the war 230  
 A soldier light of foot who stood between  
 The rival army and his lucid Queen :  
 Prompt he obeys, and o'er a double row  
 Leaps from his station, and defies the foe.  
 To check his boasting, from the sable bands 235  
 Advanc'd in equal arms a warrior stands.  
 Thus front to front oppos'd, with fruitless shew  
 They raise their swords, and meditate the blow ;  
 On the same pass each safe maintains his ground,  
 For vulgar arms, are thus forbid to wound. 240

And

Armigeris, tractu dum miscent prælia eodem. 205

Subsidio focii dextra, lævaque frequentes

Hinc atque hinc subeunt, late et loca milite complent,

Alternantque vices : necdum tamen horrida miscent

Prælia, sed placidus mediis Mars ludit in armis ;

Excurfusque breves tentant, tutique tenent se. 210

Jamque pedes nigri rectoris, qui prior hostem

Contra iit, obliquum læva clam strinxerat ensẽm,

Atque album e mediis peditem citus abstulit armis,

Illiusque locum arripuit præstantibus ausis :

Ah miser ! instantem lateri non viderat hostem ; 215

Ipse etiam cadit, et pugnas in morte relinquit.

Tum cautus fuscæ regnator gentis ab aula

Subduxit sese media, penitusque repõstis

Castrorum latebris extrema in fauce recondit,

Et peditum cuneis stipantibus abditus hæsit. 220

Nec

And now from either host, to left and right,  
Their friends advancing fill the plains of fight ;  
Nor yet fell slaughter stalks with horrid jar,  
But Mars still gently sports amidst the war :  
By turns they tempt, by turns they shun the foe, 245  
And seem to dare, but still avoid the blow ;  
Till he, who foremost from the fable lord  
Advanc'd, unsheaths oblique his secret sword,  
And hurls a vulgar warrior to the dead,  
And fills the vacant seat his arms had made : 250  
Ah ! blind to fate, nor sees the vengeful foe  
Close by his side with meditated blow ;  
Gash'd with a deadly wound he rolls along,  
And quits the field to join the Stygian throng.  
At this the Monarch of the fable crew, 255  
Cautious from out the royal tent withdrew  
Far to the camps extreme, and stood secur'd,  
By fronting files, and flanking tow'rs immur'd.

And

Nec mora, surgit eques bellator lævus utrinque,  
 Et mediis hinc inde insultant cœtibus ambo,  
 Alternique ruunt, et spargunt fata per hostes.  
 Sternuntur pedites passim, miseranda Juventus,  
 Quòd nequeant revocare gradum : sonat ungula campo  
 In medio, et totis miscentur funera castris. 226  
 Dum vero peditum intentus Latonius heros  
 Cædibus instat atrox, equitemque per agmina versat  
 Vastatorem alæ piceæ ; longè Arcada major  
 Ardor agit tacitis jamdudum invadere furtis 230  
 Magnum aliquid ; peditumque ultro sæpe obvia transit  
 Agmina, cornipedem ducens in prælia lævum,  
 Qui regi insidias tendens huc vertitur, atque huc,  
 Per mediosque hostes impunè infrenis oberrat.  
 Constat, optataque diu statione potitus 235  
 Letum intentabat pariter regique, elephantique,

Alæ

And now, detach'd from each sinister wing,  
 The bounding courfers to the combat spring ; 260  
 Smote by their solid hoofs, the pavement founds,  
 And trampled foldiers groan with livid wounds,  
 Unhappy youths ! that forward rufh on fate,  
 Forc'd to advance, but fetter'd from retreat.  
 But while Apollo chears his fteed along, 265  
 And fcatters terror through the vulgar throng ;  
 Th' Arcadian youth a bold exploit defign'd,  
 And the deep project labour'd in his mind :  
 Slow to the left advanc'd, his fable knight  
 Winds o'er the ranks, and circles through the fight, 270  
 Bent on the King, he fhifts from row to row,  
 And fcorns each conquest of a vulgar foe :  
 At length, unhurt, he gains th' important ground,  
 Which wide expos'd the Monarch to his wound ;  
 And where the elephant, whose threatful tow'rs 275  
 Rose on the right, and teem'd with miffive Show'rs ;

F

Though

Alæ qui dextro cornu turritus in auras

Attollens caput, ingenti se mole tenebat.

Delius ingemuit, clauso succurrere regi

Admonitus ; namque indefensum in morte elephantem

Linquere se videt, atque ambos non posse periclo 241

Eripere, et fati urgeri cernit iniquis.

Cura prior sed enim est trepidum defendere regem,

Quem rapit in dextrum latus : at niger emicat ense

Stricto eques, et magnis elephantem intercipit ausis, 245

Damnum ingens ; neque enim est, sævæ post virginis arma,

Bellantum numero ex omni magis utilis alter.

Non tamen impunè evades, ait acer Apollo ;

Et peditum cuneis densaque indagine cingit.

Ille igitur trepidare metu, certique pericli 250

Frustra

Though built of giant limb, and matchless strength,  
 Now trembling stood within his lances length.  
 Apollo look'd, and saw his king distress'd,  
 And in the reach of death his warrior best :      280  
 Inward he groan'd, reduc'd to direful streight,  
 To succour both surpass'd the pow'r of fate :  
 The monarch therefore feels his aiding arm  
 Born to the right, beyond the reach of harm :  
 While the keen faulcion of the sable knight      285  
 Meets the huge brute, and lops him from the fight ;  
 Great was the loss ; for great his pow'rs excell'd,  
 Next to the Queen, and bulwark of the field.  
 Yet shalt thou not escape, Apollo cries ;  
 Fierce rage vindictive darting from his eyes ;      290  
 Then straight began to close his thick'ning files,  
 And hem the steed within the moving toils,  
 Shudd'ring he stands, convuls'd with sudden fright,  
 Expos'd to numbers, and depriv'd of flight :

Frustra velle fugam : nam, hinc fata minatur Amazon,

Inde obstat conferta phalanx : tandem altiùs actò

Virginis ense cadit, pulchræ folatia mortis.

Æstuat alba cohors latere heu ! minùs utilis uno,

Et magis atque magis furit acri accensa dolore. 255

Sicut ubi dextrum taurus certamine cornu

Amisit, dum se adverfo fert pectore in hostem,

Sævior in pugnam ruit, armos fanguine, et altè

Colla animosa lavans : gemitu omnis fylva remugit.

Talis erat facies, cæsi post fata elephantis, 260

Candentis turmæ ; hinc furiis majoribus ardet

Phœbus, et ultrices hortatur in arma cohortes,

In ferrum et cædes pronus, cupidusque nocendi ;

Incautusque

Here, dense with spears, a threatful phalanx stood, 295  
And there the Queen of Amazonian blood,  
The Queen, at length, inflicts the fatal blow,  
A death made glorious by so great a foe.  
Now vex'd, and vengeful, rag'd the squadron white,  
With wounded wing, unballanc'd in the fight. 300  
As when a jealous bull, with furious haste,  
Impetuous rushing on his rival's breast,  
Feels hanging on his brow the bloody horn  
Wrench'd by the shock, and from it's socket torn,  
Fiercer he burns, and frantic to engage, 305  
Supports th' unequal war with doubled rage,  
Thick down his shoulders falls the clotted gore,  
And his hoarse groanings make the forest roar.  
So rag'd the snowy troops, and such the fight,  
When death had wrapt their elephant in night : 310  
Incens'd Apollo scorns each cautious art,  
Revenge alone impetuous swells his heart,

Careless

Incautusque ambas perdit sine lege phalangas :

Dumque hostes pariter cernat procumbere victos, 265

Ipse suos morti indefensos objicit ultro.

Mercurius, melior furto, cunctatur, et hærens

Usque alium ex alio spectando prævidet ictum.

Sæpe ille, ex longo meditatus fata superbæ

Reginæ, peditem perdendum comminus offert, 270

Diffimulatque dolos ; mox pœnitet, et trahit alto

Improbus, errorem fingens, suspiria corde.

Jamque sagittiferi è dextro spicula cornu

Virginis in latus albentis tendebat : id hostis

Haud primùm sensit, peditemque trahebat in atram 275

Læva aciem, rerum ignarus : verum improba cladem

Et tantas Erycina Venus miserata ruinas,

Incauto juveni furtim tacito innuit ore,

Atque

Careless of schemes, to blood and slaughter prone,  
 He blends his foes destruction with his own,  
 And, void of fear, and guardless in the strife, 315  
 Gives wound for wound, and squanders life for life.  
 But Hermes, vers'd in fraud, with caution slow,  
 Foresees, prevents, and ponders ev'ry blow ;  
 Oft, while his plots advance, with distant aim,  
 And urge fly mischief tow'rd the royal dame, 320  
 He offers to the sword some vulgar breast,  
 Then feigns deception, and appears distress'd ;  
 Shrouds his deep treason in a labour'd sigh,  
 And mourns the warrior whom he wish'd to die.  
 At length, his subtle archer on the right 325  
 Had bent his bow, and strung his shaft for flight  
 Full on the Queen, nor Phœbus saw the blow,  
 But careless on the left annoy'd the foe ;  
 Just then a footman of the vulgar train  
 His heedless hand was cheering o'er the plain, 330  
 Nor

Atque oculis ; Phœbo nam forte adverſa fedebat :

Nulla mora, ad nutus Divæ tremefactus Apollo 280

Conſtitit, atque oculis late agmina circumſpexit ;

Et ſubitò infidias ſenſit, peditemque retraxit,

Quem contra impulerat dextra impiger ; atque periclo

Reginam eripuit. tum Maia Atlantide cretus

Littoreum caveæ conſeſſum vocibus implet, 285

Reginam captam ingeminans : fremit undique turba

Cœlicolûm ſtudiis variis, ſeſeque tuetur

Phœbus, et his alto fatur de littore verbis.

Quæ porrò invidia eſt dextram ludicra petenti

Præmia corrigere incautam, in meliusque referre, 290

Cum nec pacta vetent ? Quòd ſi, Maia fate, poſthac

Id fedet omnino prohiberi ; lege caveto :

Quique prior fuèrit digitis impuſus in hoſtem,

Sive

Nor yet dismifs'd : when Venus, where she sat  
 Oppos'd, and mourn'd his Queen's impending fate,  
 Prompt to prevent the slaughter of the fair,  
 With nod expressive, spoke the danger near.  
 Quick, by the Goddess warn'd, Apollo starts, 335  
 And wide surveys the war in all it's parts ;  
 Spies the deep ambush, and with active aid  
 Retracts his man, and saves the trembling maid :  
 But Maia's son makes echoing shores exclaim,  
 Loud raging, and demands the captive dame : 340  
 The murm'ring Gods in factious parties join,  
 While Phœbus thus accosts the pow'rs divine.

In sportful combat, where's the mighty fault  
 To check th' incautious hand with better thought ?  
 No law forbids, nor am I yet afraid, 345  
 If Hermes wills it, let the law be made,  
 Whatever warrior feels th' impulsive hand,  
 That warrior mov'd shall change his former Stand,

G

Shall

Sive albus, piceusque fuat, discrimine nullo

Ille eat, et dubii fubeat discrimina Martis.

295

Dixit, et hæc toto placuit sententia circo

Cœlicolis : Venerem obtutu clam versus acerbo

Juppiter increpuit ; nec sensit filius Arcas :

Sed puer ingemuit labefactus corda dolore

Ingenti ; vix se tenuit, quin ludicra castra,

300

Injēctisque acies manibus confunderet ambas.

Tum secum statuit furtis certare, dolisque

Omnibus, ac totis fraudes innectere castris.

Jam tum igitur juvenem pharetratum in prælia ducens,

Cornipedis simulare gradus jubet : ocius ille

305

Emicat, atque albæ reginæ fata minatur.

Non Phœbum latuere doli : subrisit, et ore

Versus

Shall try the chance of war, without recall ;  
 He spoke ; his sentence pleas'd the croud'd hall : 350  
 While Jove's stern aspect met the Cryprian Queen,  
 And chid with frowns, by Maïa's boy unseen.  
 Marr'd in his plot, and frustrate of his spoils,  
 The baffled youth regrets his fruitless toils ;  
 Rage shakes his reason, and he scarce refrains 355  
 From mingling all the legions o'er the plains.  
 But, stern revenge close-working in his heart,  
 He now resolves on each deceitful art,  
 And summons ev'ry fraud, and ev'ry wile,  
 And close besets the camp with various guile. 360  
 Thus fix'd, he leads his archer to the fight,  
 Train'd to the wheeling movement of a knight :  
 Circling he bounds, and draws his arrow keen,  
 And points the treach'rous weapon at the Queen.  
 Nor 'scap'd the fraud Apollo's watchful look, 365  
 He smil'd, and, turning to th' assembly spoke.

Versus ad astantes, quamvis accommoda furtis  
 Mercurio fit dextra, inquit; fraudique, dolisque,  
 Callide Atlantiada, invigiles; haud me tamen ultra 310  
 Fallere erit: jamque, improbe, iniquam corrige dextram.  
 Spectantum cunei ingenti risere theatro,  
 Atque Arcas, veluti deceptus imagine falsâ,  
 Summisit buxum concesso in prœlia gressu  
 Arcum intendentem: vigilat jam cautus Apollo, 315  
 Fraudisque, insidiasque timens, occultaque furta.  
 Ille etenim persæpe, manu dum ducit in hostes  
 Alternam buxum, jus contra et fœdera pacta,  
 Implicitans celeres digitos duo corpora bello  
 Objiciat simul, observet nisi providus hostis. 320

Jamque

Although our rival boasts the thieving trade,  
 And all his tricks with dextrous skill are play'd,  
 Yet we have felt his secret arts before,  
 And, once detected, he deceives no more : 370  
 Then, crafty friend, relax thy treach'rous bow,  
 And teach thine archer, how he ought to go :  
 While thus Apollo mock'd th' Arcadian frauds,  
 Loud laughter shook th' assembly of the Gods :  
 The subtle youth detected, feigns surprize, 375  
 Affects mistake, and blames his heedless eyes ;  
 His archer, from th' illegal post he draws,  
 And bids him move, obedient to the laws :  
 But Phœbus watchful, by his dangers made,  
 Suspects each spot of fraud, and ambuscade : 380  
 Nor guards in vain, for else his rival's hands  
 Entangled sily with the crouded bands,  
 Wou'd urge the men by pairs, with dext'rous sleight,  
 Unaw'd by justice, or the rules of fight.

And

Jamque equitem contra nigrantem candidus arcum

Intendens sese opposuit pharetratus, et arcet

Reginæ jugulo intentum : tum dexter oberrat

Huc atque huc elephas, niveisque exultat in armis.

Hæserat in medio, dominæ, regique minatus 325

Albus eques, ratus impunè, et jam forte superbus

Nequicquam spoliorum animum pascebat amore.

Non tulit hanc speciem juvenis pharetratus, et arcu

Contendit calamum, seseque immittit in hostem,

Fata licèt pedes intentet, moriturus in armis 330

Insigni pro laude : alvo mediæ hæsit arundo

Stridula, et ima chalybs descendit in ilia adactus.

Volvitur

And now a knight, from out the fable crew, 385  
 Fierce threat'ning, keeps the lucid Queen in view,  
 Till stopt, reluctant, by a threatful bow,  
 He wheels his steed, and shuns the feather'd blow :  
 Whilst the right elephant exulting moves,  
 Protecting from his tow'rs the snowy droves. 390  
 High on his courser, now, a champion fair,  
 Secure in thought, attack'd the royal pair ;  
 Fix'd by them both he stood, and long'd to toil  
 In deeds of death, and fed his mind with spoil.  
 This fight an archer of the fable crew 395  
 Indignant view'd, and strung his pliant yew ;  
 Ev'n though he saw the hostile sword unsheath,  
 Impatient in the springs of life to bathe ;  
 Yet glory calls, and terrors lose their weight,  
 He'll die in arms, and share a warrior's fate : 400  
 Thus undismay'd, he steps from out the throng,  
 And fits the shaft, and strains the struggling thong ;

Quick

Volvitur ille excussus humique, et calcibus auras

Verberat ; in ventos vita indignata recessit.

Inde sagittiferum sternit pedes : hunc pedes alter 335

Hostili de plebe necat : pugna aspera surgit.

Turribus occurrunt ingenti mole elephantis :

Sæva pharetrigeri contendunt spicula nervis ;

Quadupedumque gemit bicolor sub verbera campus.

Incaluere animi parte ex utrâque, et in armis 340

Concurrunt densi : simul omnis copia gentis

Albæque piceæque, duces, ambæque phalanges,

Confusæque acies magno certamine totis

Densantur campis ; virtus, fortunaque in unum

Conveniunt :

Quick from the founding bow the plummy spear  
 Shrill hissing issu'd through the liquid air ;  
 Fix'd in the groin the feather met the skin, 405  
 The bearded iron tore the parts within :  
 Prone falls the knight ; his legs inverted rise  
 Quiv'ring in air, and pointed to the skies ;  
 Pitch'd on the plain, he leaves his life behind,  
 A breath unbody'd mixing with the wind ; 410  
 The soldier then, who long had aim'd the blow,  
 Sent the keen archer to the realms of woe ;  
 While one of equal rank, with vengeful blade,  
 Dislodg'd his soul, to join the bowman's shade :  
 Fierce grows the fight : the elephants from far 415  
 With clashing turrets meet, and hideous jar ;  
 The quiver'd youth the twanging sinew strain,  
 And hoofs thick rattling thunder o'er the plain ;  
 Men, leaders, courfers, mix'd, dispute the day,  
 And every pow'r of war augments the fray ; 420

H

While

Conveniunt : hi nunc victores agmina versa 345

Æquore agunt toto ; versis referuntur habenis

Nunc iidem, variantque vices, et fluctuat omnis

Area bellorum : vasti velut æquoris undæ,

Siquando inter se, recluso carcere, sæva

Bella cient animosi Euri, vertantque profundum, 350

Ionio in magno, aut undifono Atlanteo,

Alternos volvunt procurva ad littora fluctus.

At medias acies inter crudescit Amazon

Candida, plena animis, multifque in millibus ardet.

Namque sagittiferum incurfans, rediensque elephantem,

Nigrantes sternit ; dextra, lævaque per alas 356

Fulminat, atque manu spargens hastilia sævit.

Bellanti dant tela locum, retroque residunt

Hinc, atque hinc inimicæ acies : per tela, per hostes

Illa

While chance and valour, skill and force unite,  
 And strain for conquest with collected might ;  
 Now these pursue, the rival squadrons yield,  
 Now swift pursu'd, those float along the field.  
 So, when with warring rage the winds unbound, 425  
 From coasts opponent heave the deep profound,  
 As each prevails, th' unstable ocean roars,  
 And waves alternate lash the distant shores,  
 Plung'd in the thickest of the hostile crowd,  
 The fair-fac'd Amazon, all bath'd in blood, 430  
 With fiery mien conspicuous from afar,  
 Shines forth distinguish'd in the blaze of war.  
 And now an archer through the files of fight  
 Swift she pursues, and death o'ertakes his flight ;  
 Then turning short, she meets the tow'ring beast, 435  
 And hides her faulcion in his brawny chest,  
 From side to side, her quivering jav'lins spring,  
 And wound the battle in each distant wing ;

Illa ruit pulchram in mortem ; simul ultima tentat 360

Castra, fugæ fidens, animosque in bella viriles

Sæva gerit ; penetrat cuneos, aperitque viam vi.

Tandem fusca cohors, nigrantisque arbiter alæ

Ipse etiam arma suæ trepidus, viresque, animosque

Virginis implorat : nulla est mora, fervida Amazon 365

Emicat, atque ardens paribus se sistit in armis.

Quem primum hasta, aut quem postremum, bellica virgo

Demetis ; aut quot humi candentia corpora linquis ?

Semianimes volvuntur equi niveique nigrique,

Et peditum cunei, dilectaque pectora Marti 370

Aligerâ juvenes incuntes bella sagittâ.

Quis cladem fando illius, quis funera pugnæ,

Prostratosque duces speret se æquare canendo ?

Sternitur omne solum buxo, atque miserrima cædes

Exoritur : confusa inter sese agmina cædunt, 375

Implicitæque

The strength of heroes withers at her threats,  
 And where she rages all the war retreats : 440  
 Far to the camp through foes, and darts she speeds,  
 And courts illustrious death by glorious deeds ;  
 With spirits fraught, and might of manly source  
 Tears thro' the ranks, and bears down force with force.  
 At length, the swarthy legions, and their lord, 445  
 Harrafs'd with toil, their Queen's relief implor'd ;  
 Swift sprung the dame of Amazonian race,  
 Oppos'd in equal arms, with gloomy face :  
 Fierce maid of war, what numbers then lay slain  
 Mow'd by thy sword, and bleaching on the plain ? 450  
 Ranks white, and sable, roll with wounded steeds,  
 And youths that vex the war with feather'd reeds.  
 What thought can equal, or what tongue display  
 The rout, the wounds, the tumult of the fray ?  
 Men pent in heaps, by flound'ring coursers bruis'd, 455  
 Files discompos'd, and battle all confus'd ;

Undisciplin'd

Implicitæque ruunt albæ, nigræque phalanges :  
Sternuntur pedites, & corpora quadrupedantum.

Nam versæ inter se jactantes mutua tela

Fœmineis ambæ nituntur Amazones armis,

Usque aded certæ non cedere, donec in auras 380

Aut hæc, aut illa effundat cum sanguine multo

Sævam animam, solâ liquentes prælia morte.

Interea amborum populorum rector uterque

Captivos hostes, et victa cadavera bello

Carcere fervabant castris vicina, caventes 385

Ne capti semel, aut obita jam morte jacentes,

In vitam revocati, iterum certamina inirent.

At lateri innixus Phœbeo Threicius Mars,

Junctus amicitia puero Arcadi, si quid amico

Fata sinant prodesse, animum per cuncta volutat, 390

Observatque

Undisciplin'd retreat, and rash advance,  
 Entangling hosts, and slaughter dealt by chance :  
 For fierce the Amazonian dames engag'd,  
 And shovr'd their jav'lins thick, and mutual rag'd ;  
 Fix'd to the stubborn conflict on the field, 461  
 And each proud heart determin'd not to yield,  
 Till one in purple streams has pour'd her life  
 O'er the ting'd plain, and death dissolv'd the strife.

Mean time the lord of each contending train 465  
 In prison safe secur'd the captive slain,  
 Fast by their camps, afraid, lest haply sped  
 To night's dark shades, and number'd with the dead,  
 Their arms again shou'd aid the lengthen'd strife,  
 Stol'n from the grave, and re-inspir'd with life. 470  
 But Mars, close leaning on Apollo's side,  
 Yet strict in friendship to th' Arcadian ty'd,  
 Watching with busy thought, if chance might lend  
 Some lucky juncture to assist his friend,

Now

Observatque omnes casus : tum corpora bina  
 Capta, pharetratum juvenem, peditemque nigrantes,  
 Cœtibus è functis jam vita, atque æthere cassis  
 Surripit, et castris rursus clam immittit apertis.  
 Ergo iterum gemini captivi prælia inibant ; 395  
 Miscebantque manus animosi, atque arma ferebant.  
 Haud fecus (ut perhibent) cùm Colchis nacta cadaver,  
 Aut virgo Massylla recens ; cantuque triformem  
 Sæpe ciens Hecaten, ac magni numina Ditis,  
 Falsam animam infinuat membris, aurasque loquaces ;  
 Continuo erigitur corpus, loquiturque, videtque, 401  
 Et vivos inter fruitur cœlestibus auris.  
 Non tulit indignum facinus Junonia proles  
 Mulciber, (ille dolum solus deprendit) et ore  
 Inclamat, Phœbumque monet : Thrax palluit heros 405  
 Deprensus : Phœbo exarsit dolor ossibus ingens.

Tum

Now silent drew from out the prison's hold 475  
 Two sable bodies, lifeless all and cold ;  
 An archer one, and one of vulgar name,  
 And softly rang'd them in the lists of fame :  
 Thus then the captives rescu'd into light  
 Again advance, and threat, and urge the fight. 480  
 As when Medea, by the midnight gloom,  
 Draws forth a shrouded carcass from the tomb ;  
 And, mutt'ring o'er and o'er the magic spell,  
 Cites the dread pow'rs of Hecate and Hell,  
 A foreign soul the bloodless body warms, 485  
 And mimic voice obeys th' inspiring charms,  
 The pallid corse immediate starts from death,  
 And speaks, and fees, and shares cœlestial breath.  
 The shameful deed sage Mulciber alone  
 Perceiv'd, and warn'd aloud Latona's son ; 490  
 Deep stung with sorrow, Phœbus view'd the fraud,  
 While pale, detected, sat the Thracian God.

I

But

Tum Marti Pater omnipotens iratus, iniqua  
 Præsidia abduci, atque indebita corpora bello  
 Protinus è castris jubet, atque retexere falsos  
 Hinc atque inde ictus, et cuncta in pristina reddit. 410

Jamque duces furiis ambo majoribus instant,  
 Reginasque ambas conversâ per agmina mittunt :  
 Cæde madent illæ toto æquore fata ferentes :  
 Confidunt tandem obversæ, regesque tuentur  
 Quæque suum : ecce, autem bellatrix agminis albi  
 A tergo ferro invasit, stravitque nigrantem 416  
 Ignaram : verùm ipsa etiam cadit icta sagittâ,  
 Ah misera ! et spoliis haud longum exultat opimis.  
 Convertere oculos ambæ hinc, atque inde cohortes ;  
 Atque

But Jove incens'd at Mars, severe commands  
 Th' unlawful succours, from the living bands  
 Withdrawn, to reassume their captive state, 495  
 Disqualify'd for war, and claim'd by fate ;  
 Then bids each side th' unravel'd strokes restore,  
 And range their warriors as they stood before.  
 And now the chiefs returning, fierce engage,  
 And mix the battle with reviving rage ; 500  
 The Queens advancing, show'r their spears around,  
 And slaughter'd bodies strow the hostile ground ;  
 Each halts at length protective of her lord,  
 And for a moment rests the toiling sword ;  
 When lo ! the fair-fac'd Amazon unseen 505  
 Gores through her back th' unwary fable Queen  
 With mortal wound ; but falls amidst her boast,  
 Pierc'd by an arrow from the rival host.  
 To this sad scene each army turns it's care,  
 And solemn shews of grief suspend the war ; 510

Atque acies lachrymis et fœmineo ululatu 420

Ambas incubuisse putes, dum funera ducunt.

Tum reges mœstos ipsa ad prætoria densi

Agglomerant sese circum ; timor omnibus idem

Incumbit, par tempestas, par hausit utrosque

Diluvium populos ; et sunt sua vulnera cuique. 425

Haud profus tamen ambobus defecerat omne

Robur : opes restant, et adhuc intacta juvenus,

Tres pedites tibi, Phœbe, sagittifer alter, et ingens

Bellua turrato dorso ; totidemque tibi, Arcas,

Excepto elephante, alta qui nuper in aula, 430

Pace fruens, cecidit, positus inglorius armis,

Eminus aligerâ percussus arundine pectus.

Sed

Tears seem to fall from ev'ry warriors eyes,  
 And fun'ral trains proceed with mournful cries.  
 Each monarch now withdraws his trembling host,  
 Thick circling round him, to the farthest coast;  
 Dismay on ev'ry face, and dire affright 515  
 Each visage harrow'd by the storms of fight;  
 Alike the flood of war had swept their pow'rs,  
 And wounds had fall'n on each in equal show'rs.  
 Yet still some few, some dauntless hearts remain'd,  
 Nor were the springs of vigour wholly drain'd: 520  
 One archer, and one turret-bearing beast,  
 With three stout foot the Delian squadron grac'd;  
 The same appear'd upon th' Arcadians side,  
 An equal troop, with equal arms supply'd,  
 Except his elephant, who whilst afar 525  
 He skulk'd inglorious from the toils of war,  
 Pierc'd by a well-fledg'd arrow in the breast,  
 Sunk with his usefess arms in endless rest:

But

Sed dexter tibi restat eques imperditus : haufit

Cetera bellantum Mars impius agmina, bellique

Alea, florentes et defolaverat aulas.

435

At Cyllenæo juveni spes occidit omnis.

Æstuat, amiffæ gentis memor, et suspirat

Heroas magnos tot fato corpora functâ.

Non tamen excedit pugna : fracta agmina bello,

Relliquias tenues immitis Apollinis, astu

440

Cautior in pugnam mittit, post funera tanta

Si qua fata finant gentis farcire ruinas.

It nigrum campis agmen, stat ubique morari,

Fortunamque omnem tentare, aditusque nocendi.

Exultat contrâ non æquo prælia motu

445

Cynthius

But in his place, a knight of gallant shew  
 Still made his numbers equal to the foe. 530  
 The rest are nam'd no more, consign'd to night,  
 And deep o'erwhelm'd beneath the gulphs of fight ;  
 While, by the waste of war, the crouded halls  
 Depopulate extend their naked walls.

O'er his thin host sad Hermes casts his eye, 535  
 Desponding deep, and draws a lab'ring sigh ;  
 Laments his heroes, rank'd in war no more,  
 But shades pale wand'ring on the Stygian shore.  
 Yet quits he not the field, his shatter'd bands,  
 Sad reliques of Apollo's slaught'ring hands ; 540  
 Cautious he guides along the dang'rous plain,  
 If haply, though his choicest pow'rs lay slain,  
 Some lucky moment might emerge from fate  
 To spring fresh hopes, and save a sinking state.  
 Thus march'd the sable troop, with wise delay, 545  
 Slow moving, watchful of the doubtful day ;

Revolv'd

Cynthus invadens : facies indigna cohortum,

Heu ! facies miseranda ducum ; raro agmine aperta

Castra patent latè, viduatæ et civibus aulæ.

Mœrebant vacuis thalamis regnator uterque

Jamdudum exosi sine conjuge tædia lecti. 450

Primus amor maneat quamvis immotus utrifque,

Sors tamen ad nova conjugia, atque novos hymenæos

Flectit iniqua. igitur primùm rex agminis albi

Reginæ comites olim, fidæque ministras

Regali invitat thalamo ; quæ, funera mœstæ 455

Post fera bellatricis heræ, tela irrita bello

Jactabant, acies inter cuneosque nigrantes,

Oppetere, amissæ dominæ pro cæde, paratæ.

Sed

Revolv'd each chance, and pry'd in ev'ry path  
 Pervious to mischief, or expos'd to death.  
 Oppos'd the Cynthian stands, and braves the fight  
 With equal numbers, but superiour might : 550  
 Alas ! what troops, what chiefs, the face of war,  
 How chang'd, how wretched ! naked camps afar ;  
 And men thin scatter'd o'er forsaken plains,  
 And regal seats reduc'd to wilder'd scenes.  
 Each widow'd King a life of forrow led, 555  
 And loath'd the silence of the lonely bed ;  
 True to their former loves they both remain'd,  
 But fate severe to second vows constrain'd :  
 And first the snowy Prince to Hymen's rites  
 The lov'd companions of his Queen invites, 560  
 These still, with loyal hearts, her name rever'd,  
 And prompt with fruitless arms, the battle dar'd ;  
 Lavish of life, defy'd the threatful blade,  
 And toil'd to die revengeful of her shade.

K

But

Sed priùs explorare ausus fedet, atque viriles

Cunctorum spectare animos, ut digna cubili 460

Intret : in hostiles fedes, atque ultima castra

Hortaturque, jubetque supremam apprehendere metam.

Nulli fas etenim regis sperare cubile,

(Pacta vetant) nisi quæ per tela inuenta, per hostes,

Transactis spatiis cunctis impunè suprema 465

Attigerit priùs adversi penetralia regis.

Arrexere animos famulæ, pariterque per hostes

Limitibus properant rectis : tamen ocior anteit

Tertia quam dextro ducebat femita cornu,

Exultatque, agitaturque animo connubia regis : 470

Nam comites spe sublapsâ cessere volentes.

**Ille**

But still some bold exploit must first be shown      565  
 To prove the worthy consort of the throne,  
 What spirits lift the maid, what active fires,  
 Who nobly to a monarch's bed aspires.  
 She then, who first with dauntless courage gains  
 The farthest limits of the hostile plains,      570  
 And safe, through darts, and stern opposing bands,  
 Treads where the rival Kings encampment stands,  
 Thus prov'd superiour to her rival dames,  
 Is chos'n to light her prince's second flames.  
 Swift start th' impatient maids direct along      575  
 Through spears protended, and a hostile throng ;  
 But one, before the rest directs her flight  
 O'er the third pass that stretches to the right ;  
 Exulting thought anticipates her state,  
 Already in her mind a monarch's mate ;      580  
 Her hopeless rivals own superiour force,  
 And willing stop, and quit th' unequal course :

Illa volat cœptis immanibus ; addidit alas

Gloria præpetibus plantis, et plurima merces.

Nulla obstat mora, nec facinus prohibere tyranno

Cura nigro est ; novaque ipse etiam connubia tentat,

Et vacuis thalamis alias inducere nuptas. 476

Ergo iter alternæ accelerant ; famulamque finiftram

Quarto limite agit, saltu sed tardior uno,

Parrhasius juvenis : jamque imperterrita virgo

Candida, facta potens voti, penetraverat omnes 480

Sedes, atque alacris metâ confederat altâ.

Tum rector jubet afferri fellamque, tiaramque,

Extinctæ ornatus, necnon fulgentia scepra,

Dignaturque toro meritam, optatisque hymenæis.

Gaudet cana cohors, insultatque eminus atræ. 485

Hand

Fame wings her speed, hope ev'ry nerve employs,  
 And her big heart dilates with princely joys ;  
 Nor strove the fable tyrant to prevent 585  
 The nuptial tye, for he himself intent  
 On Hymen's rites, with equal ardor, led  
 A second consort to the royal bed ;  
 Prompt to his love advanc'd his future bride  
 Through the fourth pass, on the sinister side ; 590  
 Far tow'rd the goal her ample strides were seen,  
 Yet one step slower than the snowy Queen,  
 Who, now successful in her great design,  
 Had pass'd secure, and gain'd the utmost line,  
 And proud receiving at the royal hand 595  
 The robes, the crown, the scepter of command,  
 In all the pomp of pow'r majestic shone,  
 Bless'd in her love, and seated on the throne,  
 While each glad subject glow'd with loyal flame,  
 And brav'd the foe, and hail'd the royal dame. 600

But

Haud lacrymas cohibet Maia fatus, æthera voce

Incessens, pictosque à pectore rupit amictus.

Nigranti famulæ tantùm gradus unus ad ipsam

Restabat metam ah miseræ ! sed limite recto

Turritus fera fata elephas impunè minatur 490

Infurgens, si supremam contingere sedem

Audeat, et toto castra obsidet ultima tractu,

Et pavidam observans extremis sedibus arcet.

Interea nova regali dignata virago

Connubio exultans, toto dat funera campo. 495

Illam tollit honos novus, et fortuna tumentem ;

Fulminis in morem ruit, atque nigrantia sævit

Castra per, et sedes, ac sidera territat armis.

Horrescunt faciem invisam nigra agmina crudæ

Virginis, atque imæ exoptant telluris hiatus. 500

Diffugiunt

But Maïa's son his broider'd garment tears,  
 And his moist eye the mark of sorrow wears ;  
 His fable maid swift-speeding o'er the plains,  
 While but one step to future joy remains,  
 Unhappy virgin ! fees the trunky beast 605  
 Foe to her blifs, of all the path possess'd :  
 Dreadful he stands, his nodding turret shakes,  
 And threatens death, the next advance she makes.

Mean time, the white virago lately led,  
 With new-felt honours to the royal bed, 610  
 To swell'd ambition gives the slacken'd reins,  
 Like lightning rushing through the hostile plains ;  
 Fills all the fable camp with dire alarms,  
 And heav'ns high concave ecchoes to her arms :  
 Her form terrific o'er the fanguine field 615  
 Makes leaders tremble, and whole squadrons yield :  
 Far to the fields extreme dimensions, where  
 The regal standard waves aloft in air ;

In

Diffugiunt trepidi vasto irrumpente fragore

Hoste, metuque omnes acti glomerantur in unum,

Aulaï in medio juxta latera ardua regis.

Haud secus alta boves sparsæ per pascua quondam,

Ut sensere lupum venientem, protinus omnes 505

Conveniunt trepidæ, et fortem facto agmine taurum

Ductorem armenti implorant, ipsique propinquant

Certatim inter se trudentes cornua, rauco

Murmure ; mugitu longè nemora alta resultant.

At regina furens trepidos toto agmine victrix 510

Impingens in terga, ipsique ante omnia regi

Fata parans, pugnas alta ad prætoria miscet :

Nunc ruit huc, nunc huc ; tunc et, nisi læva fuisset

Mens illi, poterat candentem invadere sedem

Limite in obliquum quarto, et concludere fauces. 515

Ultimus

In heaps they roll confus'd, a routed band,  
 And sue protection at the royal hand. 620  
 As when in some rich vale the lowing breed  
 Crop the soft verdure, and enjoy the mead ;  
 If from afar the prowling wolf appears,  
 Driv'n from their sweet repast, with instant fears  
 About the lordly bull they croud, they hide, 625  
 Implore his aid, and squeefing side by side,  
 Their horns mix rattling, and their hollow found  
 Makes ev'ry eccho of the hills rebound.  
 The Queen thus raging, fills the camp with fear,  
 Drives the black croud, and thunders in their rear ; 630  
 But chief she seeks the fable Monarch's fall,  
 And spreads the battle round the palace wall :  
 And now, if rashness had not seal'd her eyes,  
 Where the fourth pass oblique allow'd surprisè,  
 One skilful movement had his person seiz'd, 635  
 His nation conquer'd, and his palace raz'd,

L

And

Ultimus ille labor regi, gentique fuisset

Nigranti, et fatis Arcas lugeret iniquis :

Nempe erat hinc leti facilis via in ilia regis ;

Nec poterat quisquam se tantæ opponere cladi.

Sensit Atlantiades tacitus, dubioque tremebant 520

Corda metu : accelerare hostem jubet improbus, ictum

Ne videat, verbisque rapit per inania mentem,

Castigatque moras, Adeon' juvat usque morari,

Nec pudor est ? quæ tanta animis ignavia ? sic nos

Increpitas semper cunctantes impiger ipse ? 525

Scilicet expectas dum nox certamina tollat ?

His actus, peditem imprudens dum captat Apollo,

Præteriit fortunam : alacer vocem extulit astris

Lætitia

And Maia's son had wept the last disgrace,  
 The last misfortune of the fable race ;  
 For all defenceless to the stop'ing blow 640  
 His monarch stood, and nought oppos'd the foe.  
 Th' Arcadian youth perceiv'd the direful strait,  
 His Prince unguarded, and impending fate :  
 Quick beat his heart, alarm'd with flutt'ring fear,  
 While artful mov'd his speech, and void of care, 645  
 Urging the foe, and striving to provoke  
 His hurry'd reason to neglect the stroke :  
 And is it thus, he cries, that we must stand  
 Inactive, and attend thy ling'ring hand ?  
 In us the smallest pauses meet with blame, 650  
 While thy slow pond'rings are devoid of shame :  
 Yet, wise perhaps, your fears expect till night,  
 Withdraw the champions, and dismiss the fight.  
 Chaf'd with his words, the God advanc'd in haste,  
 And pass'd the King, and pierc'd a vulgar breast. 655

Lætitiâ exiliens Cyllenius : inde periclo

Regem ipsum eripiens, opponit Amazonis armis 530

Haud invitum equitem, qui sævos arceat ictus.

Tum secum meditans candenti letum elephantî,

Qui metâ arcebat famulam ne regis iniret

Concessos thalamos, curvato perculit arcu :

Concidit, atque ictu tellurem bellua vasto 535

Pulsavit moriens ; dum regi intentat Apollo

Nequicquam exitium : tum metam impunè ministra

Nigra tenet, (nec Phœbus obest) jam regia conjux.

Jamque alacres paribus certamina viribus ambo

Rursum ineunt, nuptasque ferunt in bella secundas. 540

Tum, quanquam ambiguae spes sint, incertaque belli

Alea adhuc, tamen, ac si palmæ certus, et omne

Discrimen positus sit supra, gaudia ficto

Ore puer Maïæ simulat, verbisque superbit

Improbis,

Cyllenius bounds, with quick'ning joys elate,  
And wrests his Monarch from the hands of fate,  
Then, fixing a courageous knight between,  
Repels the fury of the martial Queen.

And now while Phœbus toils with fruitless pain, 660  
And strives to take the rescu'd king in vain ;  
The threatful elephant, whose wayward force  
Stop'd the black maiden in her nuptial course,  
From a fleet arrow feels the deadly wound,  
And cumb'rous falling shakes the solid ground ; 665  
Then swift the virgin, freed from all her dread,  
Leaps to the goal, and gains the royal bed.

And now, with equal arms on either side,  
Each Monarch brings to war his second bride ;  
When, though as yet no certain hopes prevail, 670  
And the pois'd battle hangs in even scale,  
The son of Maïa, with dissembled boast,  
Insults the guardian of the snowy host ;

Pursues

Improbus, insultans, astûs genus, et sua creber 545

Vocibus extollens, albæ premit arma cohortis.

Quem sic deprensa juvenis Latonius arte

Increpatat : nondum extremam dubio ûltima bello

Impofuit fortuna manum, et jam voce superbis.

Proinde mihi insulta, et tumidis reple omnia verbis, 550

Certa tuum annuerit tibi cùm victoria Martem.

Sed jam nulla mora est ; tua nunc, nunc irrita faxo

Dicta manu. hæc fatus, reginam hortatur in hostes.

Continuò exoritur magnum certamen, et ingens

Hinc atque hinc rabies ; dum fixum vincere utrifque.

Audentes in tela ruunt : stat multus ubique 556

Terror, ubique pavor, mortisque fimillima imago.

Nituntur cuncti adversi, seseque viro vir

Obtulit : invigilant castris avertere pestem

Quisque

Pursues him with the craft of airy threats,  
 And vaunts himself superiour to the fates : 675  
 But Phoebus, long acquainted with his art,  
 Retorting thus, corrects his pride of heart.  
 At least, coy fortune has not yet reveal'd  
 Whose conqu'ring forces shall possess the field,  
 Some heroes unapall'd yet stand their ground, 680  
 Nor deem to fly before thy boastful sound ;  
 Then vaunt thy prowess, and insult at will,  
 When victory secure, has crown'd thy skill ;  
 But mark how thus our arms restrain thy tongue ;  
 He spoke, and urg'd his glitt'ring Queen along. 685  
 Now the rous'd battle roars with martial cry,  
 Each party fix'd to conquer, or to die ;  
 Dauntless they meet, they rush upon the wound,  
 And fear, and terror course the hostile ground ;  
 Man charges man, and shield opposes shield, 690  
 And death's dark shadow low'rs upon the field :

By

Quisque suis, hostemque fugant, hostiliaque ipsi 560

Castra petunt, variantque vices, fortunaque ludit

Spe cupidos, et corda moræ impatientia torquet.

Funera spargebat fuscæ regina cohortis

Per medias animosa acies : non æmula contrà

Opposuit sese virgo, sed calle per hostes 565

Secreto interea regis tendebat ad alta

Limina : dein subito captis custodibus arcis

Irruit, atque aditus irrumpens obsidet aulam,

Intentatque necem regi. tum nigra virago,

Postquam altis vidit canam in penetralibus hostem, 570

Cæde madens strages citò linquit, et imperfecta

Funera, et acta pedem retro exanimata repressit ;

Nec timuit mediam se certæ opponere morti,

Et patriæ, et trepido properans succurrere regi.

Hic

By turns they guard their camps remotest row,  
 By turns explore the quarters of the foe ;  
 Shift stations, vigorous charge, or shrink afar,  
 As changing fortune turns the wheel of war : 695  
 The sable princess, raging far and wide,  
 Distributes plenteous death on ev'ry side ;  
 Nor to oppose her march'd the rival Queen,  
 But, passing through the foe by ways unseen,  
 Works to the palace gates her secret path, 700  
 Secures the guards, and threatens the King with death.  
 The black virago, when she spy'd afar  
 The royal mansion made the scene of war,  
 Stop'd her rais'd sword, nor made the blow compleat,  
 But left the foe beneath unfinish'd fate ; 705  
 All bath'd in blood, with slaughter out of breath,  
 Fearless she rushes through the roads of death ;  
 Her nerves with more than mortal vigour spring,  
 To save her nation, and protect her King.

M

But

Hic aliud majus Phœbo, graviusque dolendum 575

Objicitur : nam cornipedem Cyllenius atrum

Huc illuc agitans campo insultabat aperto.

Ardet equus, saltuque furit ; nec desinit ausis,

Donec, reginæ pariter regique minatus,

Optatam tenuit sedem, exitioque futurus. 580

Aut huic, aut illi, nigrantibus obstitit armis.

Ut vidit, tristi turbatus pectore Apollo

Ingemuit ; largusque genis non defuit humor.

Et jam jam labi, atque retro sublapsa referri

Spes omnis, fluxæ vires, averſa Deûm mens. 585

Arcas ſucceſſu exultans, ac munere Divûm

Lætus, ovanſque, animum vocemque ad ſidera tollit ;

Et tandem rediit vigor in præcordia victo.

Protinus

But now a deeper scene of grief appears, 710  
 And shakes Latona's son with boding fears,  
 A fable knight by Maia's youth impell'd,  
 Wheels with indenting curvet o'er the field ;  
 The trampled infantry resist in vain,  
 He drives o'er heroes, and insults the plain ; 715  
 Then stops, and waves his sword with sudden gleam  
 O'er the pale Monarch, and his royal dame,  
 One doom'd, at least, to mingle with the dead,  
 Snatch'd from short pleasures, and the nuptial bed.  
 Apollo fees, and groans with inward woes, 720  
 While down each cheek the drop of sorrow flows ;  
 His hopes roll back, his fancy'd laurels die,  
 And fortune frowns, and heav'n averts it's eye.  
 Not so th' Arcadian, his exulting voice  
 Makes ev'ry eccho with his soul rejoice ; 725  
 Rais'd to the topmost spoke his fortunes roll,  
 And dawning conquest beams upon his soul ;

Protinus inclusam feriens sub tartara mittit

Reginam, et spoliis potitur non segnis opimis : 590

Tantum olli bellator equus cadit, ilia fossus

Ultoris ferro regis. nondum tamen expes

Phœbus abit, sed pugnat adhuc : atque agminis albi

Reliquiæ, pedites duo, et arcu insignis eburno

Martis amor juvenis, nequicquam bella laceffunt. 595

Audentes facit amissæ spes lapsa salutis,

Succurruntque duci labenti in funera : sed non

Talibus auxiliis, nec defensoribus istis

Tempus eget : toto Maia fatus æquore sævit.

Instat vi multâ nigra virgo, septaque regis 600

Circuit, excidium intentans, hac perfurit, atque hac :

Nec requievit enim, donec certamine iniquo

Reliquias

The helpless maid he hurls to Pluto's reign,  
 And tears the regal trappings from the slain,  
 While his pierc'd courser feels the monarch's blade, 730  
 Too mean a victim for a princely shade.  
 Nor yet the heart of Phœbus deigns to yield,  
 But still with shatter'd force maintains the field ;  
 Two common soldiers still resist the foe,  
 And one bold champion with the bended bow ; 735  
 These circling round their sinking monarch rear,  
 And stern exert the vigour of despair :  
 But war, now struggling in it's last decays,  
 Resumes no spirits from such helps as these ;  
 The son of Maia, raging far and wide, 740  
 Awes the deserted Field from side to side ;  
 His gloomy princess, storming o'er the plain,  
 Hems in the monarch, and his feeble train,  
 Nor stops, relentless till th' unequal strife  
 Had swept his poor remains of aid from life, 745

Torn

Reliquias gentis candentis, et ultima bello

Auxilia absumpsit. medio rex æquore inermis

Constitit amissis fociis ; velut æthere in alto, 605

Expulit ardentes flammæ ubi lutea bigis

Luciferis Aurora, tuus pulcherrimus ignis

Lucet adhuc, Venus, et cœlo mōx ultimus exit.

Nulla salus illi superat, spes nulla salutis :

Non tamen excedit victus, sed claudere sese 610

Hostiles inter cuneos, impunè per enses

Actus, avet, donec nusquam spatia ulla supersint

Effugiis. nam si nemo illi fata minetur,

Nec

Torn from their lord, and in oblivion lost,  
 A nameless nation, and a lifeless host.  
 Sole on the plain a hapless prince appears  
 Expos'd, unguarded to a host of spears,  
 As when high-rais'd in heav'n's serene expanse, 750  
 Aurora's steeds the saffron morn advance,  
 And, distant beaming, with superior light  
 Put ev'ry lesser fire of heav'n to flight,  
 Thy lamp, fair Venus, sparkles yet on high,  
 And still disputes the empire of the sky; 755  
 With fainting rays supports a feeble reign,  
 And last extinguish'd shuts the spangled scene:  
 Thus stands the monarch in distresses great,  
 Robb'd of defence, of hope, the wretch of fate;  
 Yet stoops he not beneath th' impending blow, 760  
 But, active rushing through the crouded foe,  
 Attempts some shelter'd station to secure,  
 Where hostile bands his further flight immure.

For

Nec superet fedēs, quam impunè capessere possit ;

Nil tantorum operum impensis foret omnibus actum ;

Sed labor effusus frustra, viresque fuissent ; 616

Nec titulos quisquam, aut victoris nomen haberet.

Ergo per vacuas fedes, defertaque castra

Nunc huc, rursus illuc, incertos implicat orbis

Diffugiens : niger insequitur rex æquore toto, 620

Atque fugæ semper spatiumque abitumque relinquit.

Pòst, ubi supremo tendentem limite gressum.

Vidit, reginam fedes servare secundas

Iussit, ab angustiis ne se ille abducere possit

Ordinibus ;

For thus the stated rules of arms declare,  
 That when the Prince maintains unequal war ; 765  
 If then, surrounded with superior might,  
 He stands secure, but perishes by flight ;  
 His eager rival must suspend the blow,  
 Nor wreak mean vengeance on th' imprison'd foe ;  
 No laurels then are gain'd, no victor's boast, 770  
 But all the labours of the field are lost.  
 For this, through empty camps, and desert ways,  
 With tim'rous steps th' unstable Monarch strays,  
 This way, and that, with wand'ring error wheels,  
 While the black tyrant close pursues his heels, 775  
 Still leaving to his flight some pervious path  
 Deceitful, leading to the realms of death.  
 At length he sees his feeble foe compell'd  
 To take the farthest line that bounds the field,  
 When straight his warrior dame receives command 780  
 On the next pass to take her watchful stand,

N

There

Ordinibus ; tantumque fugæ misero ultima restat 625

Linea : tum sese contrà niger æmulus infert

Dux gentis propiore gradu ; sedes tamen una

Alterum ab alterius contactu summovet usque.

Ut verò contra exultantem victus, et expes

Constitit invitus, fortunam nacta virago 630

Extremam infiliit sedem, totoque minatur

Limite : nec misero restat locus ampliùs usquam.

Tandem illum surgens virgo crudelis in enses

Immolat, et finem imposuit fors aspera pugnæ ;

Ingenti Superùm plausu, et clamore secundo. 635

Victor Atlantiades exultat littore toto

Improbis,

There guard left he escape, and close confine  
 His narrow wand'rings to the utmost line :  
 Then moves the monarch on with near advance,  
 And threats his rival with extended lance : 785  
 Yet still one station's length prevents the blow,  
 And wretched respite racks the trembling foe.  
 While thus confin'd before th' exulting lord,  
 He stood desponding, destin'd to the sword,  
 The black virago seiz'd the utmost feats, 790  
 And death hung threatful o'er his last retreats ;  
 Not long, for fierce the Amazonian maid,  
 By fortune favour'd, on her pointed blade  
 Impales the victim, and concludes the fray,  
 The Gods acclaiming to the well fought day. 795  
 Th' Atlantian victor, loud exulting, roars,  
 And triumph ecchoing rolls along the shores :  
 With scornful smiles he mocks his conquer'd foe,  
 Insults his tears, and wantons in his woe :

Improbus, et victo insultat, ridetque dolentem :

Quem Pater omnipotens ad se vocat, et dat habere

Felicem virgam, quâ puras evocet umbras

Pallenti Styge, ut infectum scelus eluit ignis ; 640

Quaque Erebo damnet fontes, et carcere cœco ;

Detque adimatque oculis fomnos ; et funere in ipso

Lumina lethæo claudat perfusa sopore.

Mox verò gratum ludum mortalibus ipse

Ostendit Deus, et morem certaminis hujus 645

Italiæ primùm docuit celebrare colonos.

Namq; olim, ut perhibent, dilectam Scacchida, quâ non

Inter Seriadas præstantior altera Nymphas,

Compressit

Him the great ruler of th' Olympian hill 803

Calls to his Throne, and thus rewards his skill.

“ Thine be the prize, to wave with awful hand

“ Twisted in magic wreaths a wond'rous wand,

“ With this to rescue from infernal ire

“ Pale shades refin'd from dross by penal fire, 805

“ The guilty soul in Stygian chains to tye,

“ Or banish sleep, or seal the watchful eye ;

“ In fates hard grasp, to calm the struggling breath,

“ And pour soft slumber on the hour of death.

Thus from the Gods the game derives it's birth, 810

The gift of Hermes to the sons of earth.

Hesperia's sons, first patrons of the sport,

From sage-recorded story thus report :

That lovely Scacchis, once the fairest dame

Of all the Nymphs that haunt the Serian stream, 815

As fearless on it's flow'ry banks she stood,

And fed her silver swans that skim'd the flood,

Surpriz'd

Compressit ripâ errantem, et nil tale putantem,

Dum pascit niveos herbofa ad flumina olores. 650

Tum bicolorem illi buxum dedit, atque pudoris

Amisssi pretium, vario ordine picturatam

Argentique auriqve gravem tabulam addidit, usumqve

Edocuit : Nymphæque etiam nunc servat honorem,

Et nomen ludus, celebrat quem maxima Roma, 655

Extremæque hominum diversa ad littora gentes.

Omnia quæ puero quondam mihi ferre solebant

Seriades, patrii canerem dum ad flumina Serii.

F I N I S.

Surpriz'd unguarded, lost her virgin charms,  
Clasp'd in the fon of Maia's forceful arms.

Th' enamour'd youth to expiate the deed, 820

And sooth the blushing sorrows of the maid,

Presented to the fair a curious frame,

The scene of mimic war, and field of fame ;

(It's silver rim, with figur'd gold emboss'd,

Enclos'd an ebon, and an iv'ry host ;) 825

Then taught the laws that rule the subtle game,

And crown'd his present with the virgin's name.

The sport records the virgin's honours still,

Dear to the mistress of the sev'n-fold hill,

And, celebrated wide, her fame displays, 830

Where earth's extremes are wash'd by distant seas.

This, from the Nymphs that guard the Serian stream,

In Life's fresh period to their Poet came,

While youthful o'er their silver springs he hung,

And sportive by his native waters sung. 835

F I N I S.