THE CENTAUR'S BOOTY; THE GAZELLES
AND OTHER POEMS; TO LEDA AND
OTHER ODES; PAN'S PROPHECY; THE
ROUT OF THE AMAZONS; THESEUS
MEDEA AND LYRICS

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THE CENTAUR'S BOOTY

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THE CENTAUR'S BOOTY

On one that stands out above a waste of boulders, the old Centaur, PHOLUS, lies gazing forth into the deepening twilight; at last, having sighed, he speaks:] Black my thoughts are, black the hills and mountains, Ocean a sombre grey, And the sky darkens. There ! lights are there; yea, torch-light flashes, Travelling the wide way Forth from yon city: Men shake them, ah! the crowd pursues him: Wildly they glance and flare By mob rage shaken; They stop, collect—ah, ah, an hundred! Two! out-numbered, there, He must be taken. They slay him, slay my friend, my brother; He bleeds there—faints there—dies— Even now his throes are bitter. I of centaurs am the last then; Why should I longer live? To die were fitter: Never shall mine eyes behold What soothed my father's gaze when his grew old; Never watch young bodies that renew. The pleasant memories of mine early years