THE ODES OF HORACE; BOOKS I AND II

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The Odes of Horace; Books I and II by J. Howard Deazeley

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J. HOWARD DEAZELEY

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J. HOWARD DEAZELEY, M.A. WERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

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BOOK I.

ODE I.

To Maecenas.

MAECENAS, son of sires who wore a crown, At once my shelter and my sweet renown: Some joy to gather in the chariot-course Olympic dust, and goal-mark grazed by force Of fiery wheels and palm of wondrous worth Uplift them high as gods who rule the earth; So joys another, if the fickle crowd With threefold honours strive to make him proud; And so a third, who in his garner stores The sweepings of the Libyan threshing-floors. The man who loves to hoe his father's field For wealth of Attalus would never yield

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His lot, a craven mariner to be And cleave in Cyprian bark Myrtoan sea. The South Wind battling with Icarian waves The trader dreads and restful landscape craves That rings his township; soon his shattered fleet Refits he, poverty untaught to meet. One man at least the wine of Massic brand Age-mellowed scorns not, nor to steal a strand From warp of daily toil, 'neath arbute's shade, Or by some hallowed stream's calm cradle laid. To many camps bring joy, and trumpet's blare With clarion blent, and wars too rich in care For mothers. Tarries in the freezing air The hunter heedless of his help-mate fair, If doe is sighted by a trusty hound, If boar has burst the taper mesh that bound. Me ivy, guerdon of the poet's brow, To heaven exalts; and I am severed now From common crowd by coolness of the grove Where Nymphs with Satyrs gaily dancing rove, If neither doth Euterpe hush her flute Nor Polyhymnia fail to tune her lute. Midst lyric bards if you shall give me place, My lofty head will strike to starry space.

THE ODES OF HORACE.

ODE II.

To Augustus Caesar.

Snow on the earth enough now hath sent the Sire, Snow and fell hail enough, and, with hand of fire Scathing the shrines that were once the gods' desire, Scared he the town;

Scared he the nations too, lest again should rise Dread scenes of Pyrrha's age viewed with tearful eves.

When Proteus drove his herd where from lofty skies Mountains look down;

While all the race of fish in the elm-tops rest Where doves in other time made their well-known nest.

Does too, as spread the floods, sore affrighted breast Watery plain.

Saw we in tawny tide Tiber rush and roar, Backward his billows flung from the Tuscan shore, Halls of a king to wreck and to tumble o'er Vesta's own fane.

Vengeance for Ilia's tears—sighs at length can move—

Boasts he that thus he seeks, and inflamed to rove O'er his left bank he strays, in despite of Jove,

Husband too true.

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