

ΒΙΟΥ ΟΛΟΦΥΡΣΙΣ.

φεῦ φεῦ, νεάζων ἄλλος ἄλλ' ἀμαρτάνει
 ἀνδρούμενον δὲ δυσπαλῆς τρύχει πόνος.
 τρίτον δὲ πῆμα, πρέσβυς ὦν τὰ πρὶν ποθεῖ.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the EDITOR of the CLASSICAL REVIEW.

DEAR SIR.—In reference to the note you forwarded to me discussing the metre of the third line of the Alcaic stanza, I should say that the true metre is trochaic

υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ υ

The weight however thrown on to the line in the stanza induced Horace absolutely to abolish the central short syllable, and to make the centre of the line strong and weighty with a big word, e.g.

audita Musarum sacerdos
 clari Giganteo triumpho
 fastidit umbrosamque ripam

This abolition of the central short syllable which is common in Greek alters the whole character of the line, and especially makes Horace object to such marked trochaic endings as would be produced by (1) the use of two dissyllables or (2) a quadrisyllable.

In 317 stanzas only three have the third line ending with a quadrisyllable and only eight ending with two dissyllables. Of these eleven exceptions *none* occur in the third or fourth books. Moreover of the eight cases of two dissyllables *five* are very peculiar, namely where the first of two dissyllables is repeated as first word of the fourth line, as

ponés iámbis síve flámma
 síve mari

where the peculiar emphasis on the repeated word seems to account for the exception.

I think Horace's rule is clear, viz. to make the third line of few and weighty words and to avoid the marked trochaic endings, such as

pósse rívos
 víperino.

or

Put side by side

Clari Giganteo triumpho
 and Alcaeus'

μέλιχρον, αὐτὰρ ἀμφὶ κόρσα

and you will see the difference which Horace has introduced.

Whether the line begins with a word of two or three syllables seems to me a matter of pure accident. Of course if it begins with a dissyllable you must have such a word as *Giganteo* or *triumphata* to follow or else a trisyllable followed by such an ending as

(Tactu leonem), quem cruenta.

If you have to avoid two dissyllables at the end you have very little choice at the beginning, and I think the figures I have given *show* that Horace detests two dissyllables at the end. There are only *three* simple cases in 317 stanzas and of these *one* (pronos relabi posse rivos) is for special effect.

T. E. PAGE.

NOTES.

CIC. *Ep. ad Fam.* x. 18. 2.—Sciebam enim, etsi cautius illud erat consilium, expectare me ad Isaram, dum Brutus traiceret exercitum, et cum collega consentiente, *sicut milites faciunt*, hostibus obviam ire, tamen, si quid Lepidus bene sentiens detrimenti cepisset, hoc omne assignatum iri aut pertinaciae meae aut timori videbam etc.

The correction *etsi* for *et* of Lambinus etc. results in what Orelli terms an 'ἀνακόλουθον Planco invidendum.' If it were worth while to deprive Plancus of this enviable figure of speech, where the sense is quite clear (*videbam* merely taking up *sciebam* which he had forgotten writing or dictating), it would be easy to read *esse* instead of *etsi* and omit *erat*. But