

EPODE II.

THE PRAISES OF A COUNTRY LIFE.

BEATUS ille, qui procul negotiis, ut prisca
Happy he, who far from business, like the ancient
gens mortalium, exercet paterna rura suis
race of mortals, cultivates his paternal fields with his own
bobus, solutus omni fœnore: nec
oxen, being free from every (kind of) usury: neither
miles excitatur truci classico, nec
as a soldier is he roused by the harsh trumpet-blast, nor
horret iratum mare; vitatque forum,
does he dread the angry sea; he also avoids the forum,
et superba limina potentiorum civium.
and the proud thresholds of the more powerful citizens.
Ergo aut maritat altas populos
Therefore he either weds the lofty poplars
adulta propagine vitium; amputansve
with the mature tendril of the vines; or lopping off
inutiles ramos falce, inserit
the useless branches with his pruning-hook, ingrafts
feliciores; aut reducta valle prospectat
more fruitful ones; or in a remote valley beholds
errantes greges mugientium; aut condit
his wandering flocks of lowing cattle; or stores up
pressa mella puris amphoris; aut tondet infirmas
his pressed honey in clean jars; or shears his tender
oves: vel, cum Autumnus extulit arvis
sheep: or, when Autumn has reared up in the fields
caput decorum mitibus pomis, ut gaudet
his head adorned with mellow apples, how he rejoices
decerpens insitiva pyra, et uvam
while gathering the grafted pears, and the grape
certantem purpuræ, qua muneretur te,
vying with purple, with which he may reward thee.
Priape, et te, pater Sylvane, tutor
Priapus, and thee, father Sylvanus, guardian
finium! Libet jacere modo sub
of his boundaries! He delights to lie sometimes under
antiqua ilice, modo in tenaci gramine:
an aged oak, sometimes on the thickly-matted grass:
interim aquæ labuntur altis rivis;
meanwhile the waters glide along in their deep channels;
aves queruntur in silvis; que fontes
the birds sing plaintively in the woods; and fountains
obstrepunt manantibus lymphis, quod invitet
murmur with their flowing streams, which invites

leves somnos. At cum hibernus annus
gentle slumbers. But when the wintry season
tonantis Jovis comparat imbres nivesque; aut
of thundering Jove collects rains and snows; he either
trudit apros hinc atque hinc multa
drives the boars from this and from that part with many
cane in obstantes plagas; aut tendit rara
a hound into the opposing toils; or spreads his fine
retia levi amite, dolos edacibus
nets on a smooth hunting-staff, as traps for the greedy
turdis; captatve laqueo pavidum leporem,
thrushes; or catches in his noose the timorous hare,
et advenam gruem, jucunda præmia.
and the foreign crane, pleasing rewards (for his labor.)
Quis, inter hæc, non obliviscitur malarum,
Who, amidst these, is not forgetful of those anxious
(curarum), curas quas amor habet? Quod
(cares) (namely,) the cares which love has (creates)? But
si pudica mulier in partem juvans
if a chaste wife on her part managing (tending)
domum atque dulces liberos, (qualis Sabina, aut
the house and sweet children, (as a Sabine, or
uxor pernicis Appuli perusta solibus)
the spouse of an industrious Appulian tanned by the sun)
exstruat sacrum focum vetustis lignis,
piles up the sacred hearth (a sacred fire) with old faggots,
sub adventum lassivi viri; claudensque
against the coming of her weary husband; and shutting up
lætum pecus textis cratibus, siccet
the contented flock in wattled hurdles, drains
distenta ubera; et promens horna vina
their distended udders; and drawing this year's wines
dulci dolio, apparet inemptas dapes; non
out of the sweet cask, prepares unbought repasts; no
Lucrina conchylija juverint me magis, rhombusve, aut
Lucrine oysters shall please me more, or turbot, or
scari, si hiems, intonata Eois fluctibus,
scars, if a tempest, thundering upon Eastern waves,
vertit quos ad hoc mare: non Afra avis
drives any towards (to) this sea: no African bird
descendat in meum ventrem, non Ionius attagen
can go down into my stomach, no Ionian woodcock
jucundior, quam oliva lecta de
more delicious, than the olives gathered from
pinguissimis ramis arborum, aut herba
the most fruitful branches of the trees, or the herb
lapathi, amantis prata, et malvæ salubres
of sorrel, loving the meadows and mallows healthful

gravi corpori, vel agna cæsa festis
to a sickly body, or a lambken slain for the feasts
Terminalibus vel hædus ereptus lupo. Inter
of Terminus, or a kid rescued from the wolf. Amidst
has epulas, ut juvat videre pastas
these repasts, how it delights one to see the well-fed
oves properantes domum! videre fessos boves
sheep hastening home! to see the weary oxen
trahentes inversum vomerem languido collo:
dragging the inverted plough-share with drooping neck;
vernasque, examen ditis domus,
and the home-born slaves, the swarm of a wealthy mansion,
positos circum residentes lares! Ut
seated around the shining domestic gods! As soon as
fœerator Alphius locutus hæc, jam jam
the usurer Alphius spoke these words, now already
futurus rusticus, relegit omnem
about to become a countryman, he calls in all
pecuniam Idibus; quærit ponere
his money on the Ides; (but) seeks to lay it out again (at
Calendis.
interest) on the Calends.