

SATIRE VI.

HORACE'S WISH.

He sets the conveniences of a country retirement in opposition to the troubles of a life in town.

Hoc erat in votis: modus agri
 This was (ever) among my wishes: a portion of land
 non ita magnus, ubi foret hortus, et
 not very large, where there could be a garden, and
 jugis fons aquæ vicinus tecto, et
 a never-failing spring of water close to my house, and
 paulum sylvæ super his. Di
 a little (patch) of wood (a grove) besides these. The gods
 fecere auctius atque melius.
 have done more abundantly and better for me (than this.)
 Est bene: Nate Maia, oro nihil
 It is well: O thou descended of Maia, I crave nothing
 amplius, nisi ut faxis hæc munera
 more, but that you would make these blessings
 propria mihi. Si neque feci
 permanent (lasting) to me. If I have neither made
 rem majorem mala ratione; nec
 my estate greater by any dishonest means; nor
 sum facturus minorem vitio culpave:
 am in a way to make it less by vice or culpable neglect:
 si stultus veneror nihil horum: "O si
 if I foolishly pray for none of these things: "O if
 ille proximus angulus accedat, qui nunc
 that neighboring corner were added, which now
 denormat agellum! O si quæ fors monstret
 disfigures my little field! O if any chance would show
 mihi urnam argenti! ut illi, qui
 me an urn (full) of money! as (it did) to him, who
 invento thesauro mercenarius mercatus
 having found a treasure when he was a hireling bought

aravit illum ipsum agrum dives
 (and) ploughed that same field when he became rich
 amico Hereule." Si quod adest,
 by the friendship of Hercules." If what there is,
 juvat gratum, oro te hac prece:
 contents me grateful, I supplicate thee with this prayer:
 Facias pingue pecus domino,
 Make fat the cattle to me their owner (belonging to me,)
 et cætera, præter ingenium; utque
 and everything else, except my genius; and as
 soles, adsis mihi maximus custos.
 you are wont, be present to me as my chief guardian.
 Ergo ubi removi me ex urbe in
 Then, when I have withdrawn myself from the city to
 montes et in arcem, quid
 the hills and to my stronghold (castle,) what should I
 prius illustrem satiris pedestrique musa?
 sooner polish up than my satires and my prosaic muse?
 Nec mala ambitio perdit me, nec plumbeus
 Neither evil ambition destroys me, nor the leaden
 Auster; gravisque autumnus, quæstus
 (heavy) south wind; and the sickly autumn, the gain
 acerbæ Libitina. Pater matutine, seu
 of ruthless Libitina. Father of the morning, or if
 libentius audis, Jane,
 with more pleasure you hear (yourself called) Janus,
 unde homines instituunt primos labores
 from whom men begin the first labors
 operum vitæque (sic placitum dis,)
 of their business and life (thus it is agreeable to the gods,)
 esto tu principium carminis. Romæ rapis
 be thou the beginning of my song. At Rome, you hurry
 me sponsorem.
 me off as a security.
 Eja, urge, ne quisquam respondeat
 Quick, make haste (you cry,) lest any one answer

prior officio; est necesse ire,
 before you to the friendly office; it is necessary to go,
 sive Aquilo radit terras, seu
 whether the north wind sweep the lands (earth,) or
 bruma trahit nivalem diem interiore
 winter leads on (contracts) the snowy day into a narrower
 gyro.
 circle.

Postmodo, locuto clare certumque,
 Soon after, having spoken distinctly and expressly (in
 quod obsit mi,
 the legal form,) which may be hurtful to (ruin) me,
 luctandum in turba, injuria facienda
 I must jostle through the crowd; an insult must be given
 tardis.
 to the tardy.

"Quid vis tibi, quas res agis, insane?"
 "What do you mean, what are you about, madman
 (impudent fellow?)" a surly fellow loads (accosts) me
 iratis precibus: "Tu pulses omne
 with angry imprecations. "You would knock down everything
 quod obstat, si recurras ad Mæcenatem
 that obstructs you, if you are running to Mæcenatē
 memori mente."
 with an unforgetful mind (to meet an appointment.)"

Hoc juvat, et est melli, non
 This pleases (me,) and is honey to me; I would not
 mentiar. At simul est ventum atras
 tell a lie. But as soon as we are come to (reach) the black
 Esquilias, centum negotia aliena saliant per
 Esquilias, a hundred affairs of other people leap through
 caput, et circa latus.
 my head, and round my side (encompass me on every side.)
 "Roscius orabat adesses sibi
 "Roscius begged you would be present with him