

about to make a second attempt. Cleopatra enters with her women and runs to him. —

Ant. Art thou living
Or am I dead before I knew, and thou
The first kind ghost that meets me?

Cleo. Help me seat him.

Send quickly, send for help!

Ant. I am answer'd.
We live both. Sit thee down my Cleopatra:
I'll make the most I can of life, to stay
A moment more with thee.

(358 ff.)

The whole scene of the farewell is too long to quote; Antony says they have had their time: 'ten years' love, And, not a moment lost'; Cleopatra promises to follow quickly, and Antony dies. She sends her women for 'the aspics' and, when she is alone, speaks her farewell:—

'Tis sweet to die, when they would force life on me;
To rush into the dark abode of Death,
And seize him first; if he be like my love,
He is not frightful, sure.
We're now alone, in secrecy and silence;
And is not this like lovers? I may kiss
These pale, cold lips: Octavia does not see me:
And O! 'tis better far to have him thus,
Than see him in her arms.

(442 ff.)

The aspics are brought in, and Cleopatra, after a momentary recoil, applies one to her arm and is soon dead. The women, Iras and Charmion, follow her example. The Egyptians enter with Alexas bound, and the final tableau is much as in Shakespeare's play, but without the presence of Caesar.