

Mar.—Yes, and is addressing the Senate.

Cap.—That is well.

Vir.—[*Aside*].—Good!

Cap.—Virginia, Regulus is now wearing the Senatorial robes—so surely the dove of peace has spread her wings above your villa.

Vir.—It gives me great happiness to think so, Capella. (*Taking up sword.*) For I would rather see this used as an ornament than as a weapon. But is it not beautiful? [*Pointing to hilt.*] Look, here is the pearl I gave my lover when he won his first battle.

Cap.—A jewel indeed, my sister—and white as the giver's heart.

Vir.—And lovingly he has cherished both.

Cap.—But what news does your letter bring?

Vir.—Most pleasant. Listen! [*Waves Marcius aside, and reads aloud.*]

“Regulus to Virginia:

“Most noble wife, greeting:

“I will return to our home to-day, shortly after the setting of the sun.

“Farewell, for a few hours.

“Regulus.”

Cap.—And now, Virginia, let all shadows be banished.

Vir.—From both our lives, my sister. For Regulus promised me that after this war he would settle down in Rome and devote his life to the affairs of the city. [*Going out.*] I will return very soon. [*Exit.*]

Mar.—Capella.

Cap.—Yes.

Mar.—Do you remember that first time we met?

Cap.—Let me see—I think I do.

Mar.—The army was just about to embark for Egypt.

Cap.—What a grand thing it must be to be a soldier!

Mar.—Since that bright day we have been together on river and in grove many hours, and I have been through many wars.

Cap.—What a glorious thing it must be to go to war! [*Aside*] But I wish—

Mar.—And since then, Capella, whether on Roman or for-