

no need to turn his thumbs down, as no quarter is given." The well-known Canadian author and classical scholar, Mr. George Murray, to whom I am deeply indebted for information on this most interesting subject, suggests that, "If some ignorant people object to Huxley's being quoted on a classical question, we have proof that he was perfectly acquainted with the terms of the Roman arena. In an essay published in *The Reader*, of May 20th, 1865, and afterwards in his *Lay Sermons*, etc., page 21, the following is to be found: "Let us have sweet good graduates by all means. They will be none the less sweet for a little wisdom; and the golden hair will not curl less gracefully outside the head by reason of there being brains within. Nay, if obvious practical difficulties can be overcome, let those women who feel inclined to do so descend into the gladiatorial arena of life, not merely in the guise of 'retiarie' as heretofore, but as bold 'sicariae' breasting the open fray."

In speaking of Mr. George Murray, I am reminded that one of his friends at Oxford, the distinguished Oriental scholar, Sir Edwin Arnold, favoured the opinion with which this portion of my article more especially deals—the opinion that "thumbs down" signified mercy. Before passing to the contrary view, some additional references may be given to show how varied and extensive is the literature in which the depressed thumb is taken to be a sign of clemency. It comprehends not merely the works of popular writers, but also those of recognized scholars. In his *Roman Antiquities*, John Lankre writes as follows (p. 11): "Looker-on had a strange way of expressing the approbation or disapprobation of the manner in which the gladiator fought. If they thought favourably of a man who lowered his arms in token of submission, they raised their hands and pressed their thumbs downwards, and by this means saved his life; but, if they were unfavourable, they turned up their thumbs, and by this sign ordered his antagonist to slay him." The same view is held by Robert Hunter, A.M., F.G.S., and Professor Charles Morris in the new Revised Encyclopædic Dictionary (1898) and it can, I think, be sustained by a quotation from Gahl & Komer's *Life of the Greeks and Romans* (p. 562): "In case the spectators lifted their clinched fists (verso pollice) the fight had to be continued; the waving of handkerchiefs was the sign of mercy granted." Among scholars of high repute who should be placed in the same list must be included Professor Mayor, with whom, I may add, Professor Glover, of Cambridge, a recent occupant of a classical chair in Queen's University, Kingston, agrees. Professor Mayor's opinion is clearly stated in the following words: "Those who wished the death of a conquered gladiator turned