

ODE XIII

THE LOVER'S LEAP¹

METHINKS I'll seek Leucadia's sombre steep
To there essay the lover's leap;
And either with my life or sorrows part,
For hopeless love distracts my heart.

ODE XIV

THE FLIGHT FROM BATTLE

HARD by the river's shelving banks
I left the broken, scattered ranks;
And having cast away my burnished shield,
I fled apace from the red battle-field.

¹ This fragment has been supposed by some to refer to the tradition that the ardent and gifted Sappho committed suicide by throwing herself into the sea from the Leucadian rock, on account of unrequited love for Phaon.