

VI

(Attributed to the Same ¹)

O GREEN-TRESSED mantling sorrow-swageing
vine,
Let thine aspiring tendrils gently twine
Around the mound and pillared stone where
lies

¹ Simonides was born at Iulis, the chief city of Ceos, 556 B.C. He was carefully educated in music and poetry. In his early manhood he instituted a school, the object of which was to train the youths of noble and distinguished families to take part in the public choruses, which were a feature of solemn and sacred rites. From Ceos he fared to Athens, which was already "the eye of Greece—mother of arts and eloquence." Here he was so fortunate as to secure the patronage of Hipparchus, who bestowed on him rich rewards.

After the expulsion of Hippias in 510 B.C., Simonides went to Thessaly, where he lived for some time with the Aleuads and Scopads. While in that country his life was saved by a special providence operating in his favour; for, being at a banquet when the roof of the building fell in with fatal results, he alone escaped. In length of time he returned to Athens, and the stirring events of the Persian wars now furnished him with themes worthy of his muse. He obtained a prize for an elegy on those slain at Marathon, and composed epigrams for the tombs of the immortal Three Hundred, who