

There Cilnius of Arretium

On his fleet roan³⁷ was seen ;

And Astur of the fourfold shield,³⁸

Girt with the brand none else may wield ;

Tolumnius with the belt of gold,

And dark Verbenna from the hold

By reedy Thrasymene.³⁹

XXIV

Fast by the royal standard,

O'erlooking all the war,

Lars Porsena of Clusium

Sat in his ivory car.

By the right wheel rode Mamilius,

Prince of the Latian name ;

And by the left false Sextus,

That wrought the deed of shame.

XXV

But when the face of Sextus

Was seen among the foes,

A yell that rent the firmament

From all the town arose.

On the house-tops was no woman

But spat towards him and hissed,

No child but screamed out curses,

And shook its little fist.

³⁷ roan. A roan horse is of a reddish colour, with white hairs thickly interspersed.

³⁸ fourfold. With four thicknesses of leather.

³⁹ Thrasymene. Lake Trasimenus (modern Lake of Perugia). It is only about twenty feet deep.