

Then, too, they saw, where the Roman Forum was afterwards to appear, herds of cattle straying at large and lowing in what was to be that magnificent square.

“*Passimque armenta videbant.*”
“*Romanoque foro, et lautis mugire Carinis.*”

Even here, too, the parallel holds good; for that celebrated place is at the present day the *Campo vacino* or cattle field.

The spectator in Virgil, as he looks on the quiet scene before him, throws a prophetic view forwards to the future glories of Rome. Other poets surveying the actual splendour of the eternal city, take us back, by a similar description, to its primitive state of rural simplicity. Thus Propertius—

*Hoc, quodcumque vides, hospes, quam maxima Roma est,
Ante Phrygem Enecam collis et herba fuit,
Atque ubi navali stant sacra palatia Phœbo,
Evandri profugæ procubuerunt boves.*

—*Prop. lib. 4. El. 1.*

So Tibullus—

*Romulus æternæ nondum formaverat urbis
Mœnia consorti non habitanda Remo.
Sed tunc pascebant herbosa palatia vacæ,
Et stabant humiles in Jovis arce case.*

—*Tib. lib. 2. El. 5.*

See also Ovid. lib. 5. *Pastorum*, 93.

One of the most striking objects which now remain in their neighbourhood, is a group of three fine marble columns standing erect between where the Forum stood and the base of the Capitoline. The building to which they belonged has been the subject of controversy, some supposing it to have been the Temple of Jupiter Tonans, built by Augustus, and others, that of Vespasian. Perhaps their very existence, is some evidence that it was the building of the later age, as that would have the greater chance of survivorship; close by them was the Temple of Concord of which some very slight remains are still discoverable, though they can scarcely be those of the original building, which was erected by Camillus after his expulsion of the Gauls. It fell a sacrifice to the same fire which destroyed the Capitol, but was subsequently rebuilt. It was in that fane that Cicero assembled the alarmed Senate to hear the details of the great Cataline conspiracy, which his care and vigilance had detected, and his promptitude finally suppressed. You may remember that several of the leading men who had joined in that part—(one of them of an illustrious family and of consular rank, Lentulus,) who had been condemned, it must be owned, in a somewhat extra judicial manner, were severally dispatched in prison, a transaction by the way, which was the cause of Cicero's exile some years later. It was on his return to the Forum, after their execution, passing through the crowd, among whom were some suspected of favouring the treasonable designs, that Cicero glancing his eye on them, put an end to their plottings and their hopes, as he uttered the single significant word, “*vixerunt*,” which spoke of *life*, indeed, but in the *past tense* or time.

B.

THE DYING DISCIPLE.

AGED disciple! thou art lying,
Lonely on the couch of death,
Peace to thee —
Mind not replying —
Shorter, shorter is thy breath!