

Are they not here in the host, from the shores of loved Lakedaimon,
Or, though they came with the rest in ships that bound through the
waters,

Dare they not enter the fight, or stand in the council of Heroes,
All for fear of the shame and the taunts my crime has awakened ?

So said she ;—they long since in Earth's soft arms were reposing,
Here in their own dear land, their Fatherland, Lakedaimon."

There could be no more conclusive proof of the possibilities of the hexameter than this ; and yet the hexametrical translations of Homer are easily the worst we possess. But the subject of the proper metre for this task is an interminable one, and I shall not approach it. Of Dr. Maginn's Homeric ballads, which are also fragments, I have given you probably as much as you want. Mr. Worseley gives us some interesting hexameter fragments, which shew how much harder sailing he finds it than in the smooth sea of Spenserian stanza.

"Come thou hither and rest, Olyseus, glory of Argos ;
Stay thy bark for a while, give ear to the Siren-singers.
Never hath mortal man yet passed in a black ship from us,
Ere he a strain first hear from the sweet, sarill voice of the Sirens ;
So he rejoicing goes in the light of a larger wisdom.
Yea all things we know which once by divine appointment
Argive men and people of Troy were fated to suffer,
We know all that is wrought in the wide earth, feeder of all things."

But the field of Homeric translation it will easily be seen is an inexhaustible one, and I am not going to apologize for not touching all sides of so gigantic a subject. I have not considered the pedantic view of translation ; I have only mentioned a very few out of a vast army of translators, and my judgments on these have been of a very *ex pede Herculem* character. In conclusion, let me recommend you all to read the papers "On Translating Homer" by Matthew Arnold. I can do nothing more self-deny-ing than this, for I am indebted to Mr. Arnold for nearly all the ideas expressed in this essay. If, however, you read them, and are not sincerely grateful to me for mentioning them, you are incapable of appreciating good criticism.