

ODE X

CONTENTMENT

I CRAVE not Amalthæa's horn;¹
O'er Arganthonius' ² domain
Long weary years I'd scorn to reign,
And be with cares of kingcraft worn.
One little hour of wine-bred bliss
To me indeed much better is.

¹ It was fabled that this horn became filled with whatever the possessor desired. It was the original of the cornucopia as a general symbol of plenty. Cf. the pipe and wishing cap of Fortunatus, the lamp of Aladdin, the carpet of Prince Ahmed, the helmet of Pluto, and the ring of Ixion.

² Arganthonius, who flourished in the sixth century before Christ, was a king of Tartessus in Spain. It was said that he occupied the throne for eighty years, and lived according to Pliny, one hundred and twenty, or according to the more credulous Italicus, three hundred years.