

flowing turbidly with wintry waters) they pitch their camp in the place, and having drawn their swords they march through the Tuscan line with valiant bravery.

Not otherwise than from African rock, lions invade the flocks scattered through the broad fields.

The enemy fly in different directions and receive disgraceful wounds in back; the ground grows red with Tuscan blood. So again, so time after time they fall. When it is not given them to conquer openly, they prepare snares and ambushes. There was a plain; and hills shut in the extremities of the plain, and a wood convenient to hide the beasts of the forest. They leave a few men and cattle scattered at wide intervals in the middle, and the rest of the band hides concealed by the brushwood. Behold, as a torrent, increased by rain water or snow which having been conquered by the west wind, suddenly flows through the corn-fields and is borne over the roads, nor as it was wont before does it confine its waters between its banks, so the Fabii filled the valley with scattered men: and those whom they saw they were not afraid of; nor was there any other fear in their minds. Whither are you going, O noble family? Ill it is to trust your foe; simple nobility, guard against treacherous weapons. Virtue perishes by fraud; the enemies leap out on the open plain on all sides, and hold the flank. What can a few brave men do against so many thousands? And what have they remaining in this wretched crisis? Like as a boar that has been run down far from his covert in the Laurentine forest, scatters the swift dogs with his shining tusks; soon nevertheless he himself perishes, so they do not die unrevenged; but give and take wounds alternately hand to hand.

One day had seen all the Fabii sent to war; one day saw the destruction of all those sent to the war.

Yet nevertheless the seed of the race of Hercules survived, and it is credible that the gods themselves had a hand in this.

For a boy under age and up to this time not able to bear arms, was the only one that remained out of the Fabian