

"Fair Queen of men, power bideth not in sloth,
But is a charge of ever watchful care,
And when it loiters as the sluggard doth,
The governed land oft times becometh bare
And faint subjects neither do nor dare,
But in their discontent like serpents hiss
In environs plotting. What sayest thou to this?"

CLEOPATRA.

"What wars were waged? what draft of fighting men?
What sands with gore were moistened in my reign?
Boats swum, steeds ramped, slaves builded, and the
pen

Papyrus wrote. Corn yellowed on the plain,
None said the monarch's case was people's bane,
Men lived and toiled at craft or trade and died,
Nor 'gainst me up to heaven their ghosts have cried."

ACCUSER.

"Accused! the gods claim worship."

CLEOPATRA.

"Through my land
The gods *had* worship. At the feasts of state
I oft was present, nay and with my hand
Did pet the white bull Apis, nor abate
The wine libations where the godheads sat,
Nor fail to place fresh flowers upon the lids
Of the kings' tombs are in the pyramids,

"If that I shuddered at the sight of gore
Of fawns and cooling doves and did recoil
From blood of living innocent things, the more
Did I bring to the alters corn and oil,
Fruits, flowers, and products of the soil,
Gum and frankincense and the woods of trees
My sea-ships brought from many lands and seas.

"The temples' walls I tinted with hieroglyph
And sculptured sacred figures on the fanes;
Made alters misty with the pungent whiff
Of spikenard; fed the priests and ibis cranes,
And placed new sphinxes on the avenue lanes
At temple gates, and lengthened out the line
Of mystic obelisks and forms divine.

"As woman I revealed the Women Gods,
Author the lady of the dance and gle,
Mistress of turquoises,—as say her odes,
Isis the mother veiled in mystery,
Full-bosomed Isis, for ~~Isis~~ is she,
These I adored by loving all things fair,
For adoration is in praise, not prayer."

ACCUSER.

"Wanton! once of Two Egypt's crowned queen,
In thy luxurious and voluptuous life
Leman of sea-barbarians hast thou been,
Thus bringing luxury on the land, and strife."

CLEOPATRA.

"How could a Queen Egypt stoop to wife?
If that my hot blood surged as doth the sea
The blame lay with the gods and not with me."

The crowd of the spectator dead stayed still
Nor did they, at demand and countermand,
Lay on the soul at bar ought charge of ill
Nor yet did tell good deeds done in the land;
Nor advocate did take the cause in hand,
But the accused stood, no one by her side,
Calm, proud, imperious, haught and monarch-eyed

Then Thoth the writer took his tablet up
Where he had writ the record clear and fair,
And Anubis the weigher placed the cup
Of good deeds done in one scale to compare,
And in the other laid the brazen square