

40-2. A reference to the battle of Thermopylae (470, B.C.) in which Leonidas with 300 Spartans and several hundred auxiliaries held the whole Persian army in check.

43. He has called upon the dead heroes of Greece to return (ll 39-42); and now he listens for a reply.

49. In vain. It is in vain that we look for even one living hero to arise to lead the Greeks.

50-2. Samos, Chios, and other islands were famous for their wines.

53-4. Bacchanal. A follower of Bacchus, the god of wine.

55-6. The Pyrrhic dance was so named from Pyrrhichus, who invented it. The Pyrrhic phalanx derives its name from Pyrrhus, king of Epirus. A phalanx is a serried formation of troops.

59. The alphabet is said to have been introduced into Greece by Cadmus, a Phœnician, who lived about 1450, B.C.

63-5. Polycrates, who ruled over the Island of Samos, was the patron of Anacreon. *Tyrant* in the Greek sense meant simply "ruler" or "master," and as here used the word does not imply harshness or cruelty.

68. Chersonese. The word literally means a peninsula. Here it refers to the Tauric Chersonnesus, the modern Crimea.

72. That is, he bound the Greeks together to resist their enemies.

74. Suli. A mountainous district inhabited by a mixed Greek and Albanian people.

Parga. A fortified town on the coast of Albania.

76. Doric mothers. Spartan mothers. The Spartans belonged to the Dorian race.

78. Heracleidan blood. The descendants of Heracles (Hercules).

might own. Might not be ashamed of. Supply *that* or *which* at the beginning of the line.

79. the Franks. The French.

80. Louis XVIII was at this time king of France. Perhaps Byron is referring to Napoleon, who entered into alliance with the Turks.

89. mine own. Mine own eyes.

91. Sunium. The southern promontory of Attica.

marbled steep. The temple of Athena stood on this promontory.

94. swan-like. See *Morte D'Arthur*, line 267, and note.