

*His
residences.*

Through the munificent kindness of his patrons he was raised to luxury and affluence. He had a magnificent house in Rome on the Esquiline near the residences of Horace and Maecenas, estates in Sicily, and in Campania, near Naples. The mild climate and clear skies of Southern Italy suited his delicate constitution, and till his death, his Campanian residence was his favorite abode.⁹ From the date of his early Eclogues till his death, little need be said of his life except that he devoted himself to study and to the completion of his immortal works. In the year B.C. 19, he went to Greece, possibly with a view to restore his health, and to give a finish to his great work, the *Aeneid*. At Athens he met Augustus who had just returned from Samos. Vergil returned to Italy in company with the Emperor, but died at Brundisium three days after he landed, 22nd September, 19 B.C. He was buried near Naples, on the road leading to Puteoli (*Pozzuoli*). His epitaph, said to have been dictated by himself in his last moment, was as follows:—

Death.

Epitaph.

*Mantua me genuit; Calabri rapuere; tenet nunc
Parthenope. Cecini pascua, rura, duces.¹⁰*

Vergil is generally described as of tall stature, delicate frame, homely features, and dark complexion, abstinent in the use of food, shy, and fond of retirement. Horace is said to have had Vergil in his mind's eye when he wrote¹¹ the lines thus rendered by Conington:

"The man is passionate, perhaps misplaced
In social circles of fastidious taste;
His ill-trimmed beard, his dress of uncouth style,
His shoes ill-fitting, may provoke a smile;
But he's the soul of virtue; but he's kind,
But that coarse body hides a mighty mind."

He was so pure and chaste that the Neapolitans gave him the name of Parthenias, or the maiden.¹² He is said to have been shy and even awkward in society, and these traits

⁹ Geo. IV., 563. *Illo Vergilium me tempore dulcis alebat
Parthenope, studiis florentem ignobilis ott.*

¹⁰ Some have taken the last line to refer to the Eclogues, the Georgics, and the *Aeneid*.

¹¹ Hor.: Sat. I. 3, 29-34.

¹² *παρθενος*, a maiden.