

Stands in the center, eager to invade 740
 The lord of lowing herds ; but not before
 The ground, with cautious tread, is traversed o'er,
 Lest aught unseen should lurk to thwart his speed :
 His arms a dart, he fights aloof, nor more
 Can man achieve without the friendly steed— 745
 Alas! too oft condemned for him to bear and bleed.

LXXV.

Thrice sounds the clarion ; lo ! the signal falls,
 The den expands, and Expectation mute
 Gapes round the silent circle's peopled walls.
 Bounds with one lashing spring the mighty brute, 750
 And, wildly staring, spurns, with sounding foot,
 The sand, nor blindly rushes on his foe :
 Here, there, he points his threatening front, to suit
 His first attack, wide waving to and fro
 His angry tail ; red rolls his eye's dilated glow. 755

LXXVI.

Sudden he stops ; his eye is fixed : away,
 Away, thou heedless boy ! prepare the spear ;
 Now is thy time to perish, or display
 The skill that yet may check his mad career.
 With well-timed croupe the nimble courses veer ; 760
 On foams the bull, but not unscathed he goes ;
 Streams from his flank the crimson torrent clear :
 He flies, he wheels, distracted with his throes ;
 Dart follows dart ; lance, lance ; loud bellowings speak his woes.

LXXVII.

Again he comes ; nor dart nor lance avail, 765
 Nor the wild plunging of the tortured horse ;
 Though man and man's avenging arms assail,
 Vain are his weapons, vainer is his force.
 One gallant steed is stretched a mangled corse :
 Another, hideous sight ! unseamed appears, 770
 His gory chest unveil's life's panting source ;
 Though death-struck, still his feeble frame he rears ;
 Staggering, but stemming all, his lord unharmed he bears.

758. NOW IS THY TIME TO PERISH, OR DISPLAY ; that is, to "do or die."
 760. CROUPE. Fr. hind-quarters ; here applied to the action of veering a horse round on its hind-legs.
 770. UNSEAMED. Note the figure here used, unseaming a garment.