

THE VESTAL VIRGIN

ACT ONE.

SCENE I.

A room in the interior of the mansion of the patrician Lepidus at Rome. The patrician and his daughter Nysia sitting, he in his chair, she at his feet.

LEPIDUS. Hast heard from Lucio, child?

NYSIA. Not yet, my lord.
Thrice hath great Dian climbed the azure sky,
Rolling her silver round from crescent unto orb,
Since last he brake the silence.

LEPIDUS. It is strange.

NYSIA. And yet my mind misgives me not, the bloom

On each last message is so sweet, the next
Knocks like a suitor at my bosom's door,
Or e'er my heart-beat from the first hath ceased.
This campaign should subdue the Parthian
princess

Razing her citadels and pledging prosperous war.
His safety knows no danger if the kind gods
List to the breath of maiden's nightly prayer.
It is not strange.

LEPIDUS. I would thy mother were alive tonight.

NYSIA. My mother!