

LIFE OF HORACE.

his prediction was verified; for the poet survived the patron only three weeks. He died B. C. 8, in the 59th year of his age, bequeathing all his possessions to Augustus.

The subjoined remarks on the character of Horace and his writings are from "Elton's Specimens of the Classic Poets."

"The writings of Horace have an air of frankness and openness about them; a manly simplicity, and a contempt of affectation, or the little pride of a vain and mean concealment, which at once takes hold on our confidence. We can believe the account which he gives of his own character, without scruple or suspicion. That he was fond of pleasure is confessed; but, generally speaking, he was moderate and temperate in his pleasures; and his convivial hours seem to have been far more mental, and more enlightened by social wit and wisdom, than are those of the common herd of Epicurean poets. Of his amorous propensities, with the contamination of his times clinging about them, we may, out of respect to his good qualities, be silent: for let it never be forgotten, that Horace forms an honourable exception to the class of voluptuaries, and that he has left us much the more valuable and praiseworthy to redeem his errors."

The works of Horace consist of his Odes, Epodes, Satires, and Epistles. In the first he has imitated Pindar and Anacreon. Of the Satires and Epistles, the chief characteristics are good sense, and simplicity of style. The Epistle to the Pisos, or Art of Poetry, contains many valuable rules for composition, the majority of which are taken from Aristotle.